



Wanjigi calls for economic reforms, issue-based politics at Saba Saba forum
Safina Party leader Jimi Wanjigi has called for a fundamental shift in Kenya's politics and economic governance, urging leaders to abandon ethnic and personality-driven politics

Page 11



CS Kagwe: Kenya risks losing global meat markets over misuse of veterinary drugs
Kenya could lose access to lucrative international meat markets if it fails to address the growing threat of anti-microbial resistance caused by the misuse of veterinary medicines

Page 12

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

Thursday, July 9, 2026

No. 01587 KSh 60 (TSh 1,700 : US\$ 2,700 : RFr 900)

[f](#) [ig](#) [tw](#) themtkenytimes

Voice of the People

The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

www.mountkenytimes.co.ke

Advocates deaths Two lawyers dead within 48 hours, a nationwide march called for tomorrow and a profession asking who is next

LSK demands urgent security guarantees for advocates

The Law Society of Kenya has demanded urgent security guarantees for advocates after two lawyers died within 48 hours of each other, LSK President Charles Kanjama said yesterday. Advocate Esther Wairimu Keige, manager of legal services at the Kenya Forest Service, was found dead on Monday night, nearly a month after she went missing in Juja. Advocate Edward Muthee Kariuki was found murdered outside his Athi River home on July 5, days before Keige's body was discovered.

Kanjama, flanked by members of the LSK Council, addressed the press at the society's offices in South C, Nairobi, announcing that lawyers nationwide will hold a peaceful march tomorrow in honour of the two advocates. "The Law Society of Kenya has received confirmation of the death of our colleague, Advocate Esther Wairimu Keige, after weeks of anxious searching and fervent hope that she would be found alive," Kanjama said. He described Keige's death as coming "an agonisingly brief forty-eight hours" after the legal fraternity was thrown into mourning by Kariuki's killing.

Page 9



Law Society of Kenya (LSK) President Charles Kanjama, flanked by members of the LSK Council

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY
"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438
+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

business@exponentialinternational.com

SCAN TO REGISTER

"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"

Ruto signs Sovereign Wealth Fund law to safeguard Kenya's natural resource wealth

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto yesterday signed into law the Sovereign Wealth Fund Bill, 2026, establishing a national investment vehicle aimed at preserving proceeds from Kenya's natural resources and strategic investments for future generations.

The President said the new law marks a historic milestone in ensuring that wealth generated from petroleum, minerals and other strategic assets is invested sustainably rather than consumed by the current generation.

Ruto said the Sovereign Wealth Fund would create mechanisms to protect Kenya's resources while supporting economic stability, national development and job creation.

The fund establishes three key components: the Stabilisation Fund, which will cushion the economy against external shocks; the Strategic Investment Window, which will finance priority development projects; and the Future Generations pillar, known as the Urithi Fund, which will preserve a share of resource revenues for future citizens.

Under the law, 30 per cent of revenues generated from petroleum and mineral resources will be channelled into the Urithi Fund, while the remaining proceeds will support economic stability and strategic investments.

The Sovereign Wealth Fund becomes the second major financial institution established under the government's economic transformation agenda after the National Infrastructure Fund, launched in March 2026 to mobilise private capital for development projects.

Ruto said the fund would ensure Kenya's natural resource wealth contributes to long-term prosperity and benefits future generations.



Editor's Desk




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

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-mwangi-1b47446b/>

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mtkenyatimes.co.ke

Facebook: Mt. Kenya Times, **Instagram:** Mt. Kenya Times, **Twitter:** @themtkenyatimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mt-kenya-times-a07999115/>

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



SCAN TO REGISTER

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438



+254 706 237 040 / +254 721 274 369

+254 724 613 401 / +254 100 423 971

+254 724 613 401



business@exponentialinternational.com



www.businessavaibale.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



The Dedan Kimathi Foundation has praised the Kenya Defence Forces for expanding its role beyond national security to become a key partner in environmental conservation. The foundation said the military has demonstrated discipline, commitment and strategic planning in driving environmental restoration initiatives across the country. It noted that the KDF's ambitious target of planting 450 million trees by 2032 to help Kenya attain 30 per cent national tree cover has significantly accelerated conservation efforts. The foundation said it has benefited from working alongside the military, drawing lessons from its effective planning and execution of environmental activities. It pledged to continue collaborating with the KDF to promote environmental conservation, improve agricultural productivity, protect biodiversity and wildlife, enhance the country's natural beauty and mitigate the impacts of climate change under the #DKFGreenLegacy initiative.



The Nakuru County Assembly has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting climate-smart agriculture through increased funding, legislation and policy oversight aimed at improving food security and building resilience to climate change. Assembly Clerk Joseph Malinda said the county has operationalised its Agroecology Policy and is advancing laws to promote sustainable farming, protect key water catchments and strengthen agricultural extension services. Agriculture Committee Chairperson Isabella Makori urged farmers, especially youth, to adopt modern farming technologies, drought-resistant crops and value addition. She said the Assembly is promoting partnerships to expand climate-smart innovations, improve productivity, boost farmers' incomes and enhance food and nutrition security.



The Green Belt Movement has initiated discussions with the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association to strengthen collaboration on environmental conservation and sustainable natural resource management. The strategic engagement brought together Green Belt Movement Executive Director Dorothy Aseyo, Finance Manager Joshua Nzola, KWCA Chief Executive Officer Dickson Kaelo, Chief Operations Officer Linet Misiko and the association's advocacy team. Discussions focused on enhancing joint advocacy, promoting integrated natural resource management and exploring collaborative fundraising opportunities to support shared conservation objectives. The Green Belt Movement also acknowledged the support of Maliasili for facilitating the engagement and helping strengthen partnerships aimed at building resilient landscapes and communities.



Mombasa governor Abdulsamad Nassir has urged boda boda riders in county to reject tribal politics, violence and criminal activities as the country heads towards the 2027 General Election. Speaking during an empowerment forum, the governor said the boda boda sector brings together people from different communities and should remain a symbol of unity rather than ethnic division. He cautioned riders against being used to fuel political violence and encouraged peaceful coexistence. Nassir also announced plans to train riders in areas including first aid and establish a revolving fund, alongside partnerships with financial institutions to help operators acquire motorcycles on affordable terms. He added that minor traffic offenders would receive guidance instead of harsh punishment where appropriate.

More than 200 widows in Kibiri Ward, Karachuonyo Constituency, have received irrigation equipment to improve farming and boost their incomes. The Nyikoma and Chako Tek self-help groups were donated with two water pumps and two generators to address water challenges affecting agricultural activities. Kibiri Ward MCA aspirant Kennedy Ongati said the initiative aims to economically empower vulnerable women through agriculture. Chako Tek CBO Chairperson Tabitha Dudi said the equipment will ease irrigation challenges, improve production of vegetables such as kale, onions and tomatoes, and enable members to increase sales, incomes and support their families.

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Profile For Nicholus, the journey has been shaped by persistence, continuous learning and a desire to build technology that not only works but also protects those who use it

From Machakos to Cybersecurity: How curiosity shaped Nicholus Mulei's career in technology

BY Edwin Macharia

@themtkenyatimes

Born and raised in Machakos County, Nicholus Nzioka Mulei grew up with a simple but powerful curiosity: how do things work?

Whether it was a gadget, a computer or an emerging piece of technology, the young boy from the county's rolling hills wanted to understand what happened behind the scenes.

Today, that curiosity has evolved into a career in software development and cybersecurity, placing the 26-year-old at the intersection of two of the most critical areas of the digital economy, innovation and security.

For Nicholus, the journey has been shaped by persistence, continuous learning and a desire to build technology that not only works but also protects those who use it.

As the eldest in a family of four, responsibility came early in life.

"Being the firstborn taught me leadership, discipline and accountability from a young age," he says. "Those values have guided me both personally and professionally."

Like many young people entering higher education, Nicholus did not immediately know where his career path would lead. He explored different academic interests before discovering that information technology was where his passion truly lay.

"My passion was in IT," he says. "I wanted to understand

technology better and become part of the people creating solutions that improve lives."

His studies at Mount Kenya University introduced him to computing, programming, networking, database management, systems analysis and software engineering. But it was outside the classroom where the lessons became real.

During his industrial attachment in the ICT Department at Newline Media and Training Agency, Nicholus gained his first taste of how technology powers organisations and supports everyday operations.

The attachment exposed him to practical ICT environments, systems management and real-world problem solving, helping him bridge the gap between theory and practice.

"The experience gave me an opportunity to apply what I had learned in class in a professional setting," he says. "It strengthened my technical skills and gave me confidence in pursuing a career in technology."

He also credits the mentorship and workplace exposure he received during the attachment with helping shape his career direction and reinforcing his interest in software development and cybersecurity.

Following the attachment, Nicholus immersed himself in practical projects to sharpen his skills and expand his knowledge.

Among the projects he is most proud of is the development of a movie booking and streaming platform fea-

turing user registration, movie browsing, seat reservation, ticket booking and content streaming services. An integrated administrative dashboard manages users, bookings, events and content.

The project helped him gain experience in backend development, database design, REST API development, authentication systems, cloud deployment and secure application development.

"It taught me how to think through an entire software project from idea to deployment," he explains. "It also strengthened my problem-solving skills and ability to manage complex systems."

Today, his technical toolkit includes HTML, CSS, JavaScript, SQL, PostgreSQL, Git, GitHub, REST APIs and cloud technologies. He is also expanding into mobile application development through Flutter and Dart.

Yet as his software development skills grew, another question began to emerge.

What is the value of innovation if the people using technology are not protected?

As cyber threats became increasingly sophisticated and data breaches became more common, Nicholus realised that security could no longer be treated as an afterthought.

"My interest in software development was driven by the desire to solve problems and improve lives," he says. "But there is little value in creating digital solutions if users cannot trust them with their information."

That realisation sparked a



Software Developer Nicholus Nzioka Mulei

growing interest in cybersecurity.

He began studying secure coding practices, network security, vulnerability assessments, authentication systems and traffic analysis using tools such as Wireshark. He also immersed himself in understanding emerging threats such as phishing attacks, malware, SQL injections and brute-force attacks.

"I believe every developer should understand security principles," he says. "Security should be part of the develop-

ment process from the very beginning, not something added later."

Nicholus is also candid about the challenges that come with working in technology.

He describes himself as a perfectionist, a trait that often pushes him to spend extra time refining his work.

"I always want to produce the best possible results," he says. "Over time, I have learned the importance of balancing quality with deadlines and prioritising tasks effectively."

Looking ahead, he sees him-

self growing into a seasoned software engineer and cybersecurity professional working on high-impact projects across Africa and beyond.

His ambitions extend beyond personal success. He hopes to earn professional certifications, mentor upcoming developers and eventually take on leadership roles within the technology industry.

"I want to contribute to building secure digital solutions that people and businesses can trust," he says.

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Where Investors Get Returns

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



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

CSs The opinion poll, titled “Driving Development: The Cabinet Secretaries Leading the Way”, placed Kagwe ahead of his Cabinet colleagues

Kagwe tops Cabinet Secretaries’ performance ranking for third consecutive survey

BY DMS

@themkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe has been ranked Kenya’s best-performing Cabinet Secretary for the third consecutive time, cementing his position as the country’s top-rated minister in the latest Kenya Track Survey released yesterday.

The opinion poll, titled “Driving Development: The Cabinet Secretaries Leading the Way”, placed Kagwe ahead of his Cabinet colleagues, citing his leadership in agricultural reforms, food security, farmer empowerment and implementation of programmes under the government’s Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The survey, conducted between June 13 and July 5, interviewed 6,547 adults across the country through telephonic interviews using random sampling proportionate to population size.

It has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at a 95 per cent confidence level.

According to the survey, Kagwe has continued to earn public confidence through aggressive implementation of reforms that have revitalized Kenya’s agriculture sector, including the expansion of subsidized fertilizer and certified seed distribution, strengthening agricultural extension services and promoting climate-smart farming.

The survey also credits the Agriculture ministry with reforms across coffee, tea, dairy, sugar, horticulture and livestock value chains that have sought to improve market access, eliminate exploitative middlemen, strengthen cooperatives and increase farmers’ earnings through value addition.

Kagwe has in recent months spearheaded several flagship programmes, including the Coffee Revitalization Programme that targets raising Kenya’s annual coffee production from about 50,000 metric tonnes to 150,000 metric tonnes by 2028.

The ministry has also rolled out millions of certified coffee seedlings, expanded livestock vaccination campaigns and intensified disease surveillance while promoting irrigation and climate resilience.

His ministry has also led reforms aimed at boosting food production, reducing dependence on food im-

ports and positioning agriculture as a key driver of economic growth.

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes Geoffrey Ruku was ranked second.

The survey attributes Ruku’s strong performance to accelerated digitization of government services, reforms to improve efficiency and accountability within public institutions, capacity building for civil servants and coordination of programmes supporting vulnerable communities and disaster response.

Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eric Mugaa secured third place following investments in dams, boreholes, water supply systems and irrigation projects aimed at expanding access to clean water and supporting agricultural production.

Former Kakamega Governor and Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSMEs Wycliffe Oparanya was ranked fourth.

Respondents cited his efforts to reform cooperative societies, improve governance, expand affordable financing for micro, small and medium enterprises, promote entrepreneurship among youth and women and digitize cooperative services.

Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports Salim Mvurya rounded off the top five.

The survey notes that Mvurya has revitalized Kenya’s sports sector through investments in stadiums and training facilities, improved athlete welfare, strengthened grassroots talent development and expanded opportunities within the creative economy by supporting musicians, filmmakers and digital content creators.

National Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi was ranked sixth, with respondents recognizing his stewardship of the economy amid global fiscal pressures. His ministry was credited with reforms in tax administration, strengthening domestic revenue collection, promoting prudent public financial management and maintaining fiscal discipline.

Cabinet Secretary for Defence Soipan Tuya took seventh position for modernizing the Kenya Defence Forces, improving the welfare of military personnel and strengthening Kenya’s participation in regional and international peacekeeping missions.

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Sec-

retary Rebecca Miano ranked eighth after leading campaigns to revive tourism, market Kenya internationally, encourage domestic tourism and promote wildlife conservation through anti-poaching and community-based conservation programmes.

Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration Kipchumba Murkomen was placed ninth. The survey cites his ministry’s intensified operations against banditry, terrorism and organized crime, modernization of security systems and expansion of community policing initiatives.

Completing the top ten was Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Hassan Joho, whose ministry was recognized for reforms aimed at attracting investment into mining, promoting mineral value addition, expanding fisheries and aquaculture and strengthening Kenya’s maritime infrastructure.

The Kenya Track Survey says Cabinet Secretaries remain central to delivering the government’s Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda by translating policy into measurable development outcomes.

According to the report, the ranking assessed Cabinet Secretaries based on their contribution to national development, effectiveness in implementing government programmes, responsiveness to emerging challenges and overall impact on the country’s social and economic well-being.

The survey concludes that while substantial progress has been recorded across sectors, sustaining the gains will require continued innovation, accountability, prudent management of public resources and responsive leadership capable of addressing the evolving needs of Kenyans.

For Kagwe, the latest ranking marks a third consecutive appearance at the top of various polls, reinforcing his standing as one of the most visible and highly rated performers in President William Ruto’s Cabinet as the government continues implementing its economic transformation agenda.



Mutahi Kagwe



Hassan Joho



Kipchumba Murkomen



Rebecca Miano



Soipan Tuya



John Mbadi



Sam Mvurya



Wycliffe Oparanya



Eric Muuga



Geoffrey Ruku

National Assembly invites public views on 10 bills as legislative reforms gather pace



The National Assembly building | Photo: Courtesy.

BY DMS

@themtkenyatimes

The National Assembly has invited members of the public and stakeholders to submit memoranda on ten Bills currently before Parliament, in line with the constitutional requirement for public participation in the legislative process.

In a notice issued by Clerk of the National Assembly Samuel Njoroge, the House said the Bills had already undergone First Reading and were referred to the relevant departmental committees for consideration before being tabled for debate and possible passage.

The public has until Tuesday, July 21, to submit written memoranda to the Clerk of the National Assembly through email or other designated channels.

The invitation is issued pursuant to Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution, which requires Parliament to facilitate public participation in its legislative business, and Standing Order 127(3), which obligates parliamentary committees considering Bills to seek public views.

Among the key proposals is the Crop Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, sponsored by Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah, which seeks to amend the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Act, the Tea Act and the Sugar Act by removing lending functions from sector-specific agricultural bodies.

Under the proposed changes, agricultural lending funds would instead be channelled through the Kenya Agribusiness Development

Corporation Limited (KADCD) to streamline agricultural financing.

The House is also considering the Regional Development Authorities Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2026, which proposes the dissolution of regional development authorities and the transfer of their assets, liabilities, rights and obligations to the National Treasury through a designated State department.

According to the Bill, the move is intended to align national and county government functions with the Constitution, reduce budgetary pressure, improve efficiency and enhance service delivery.

Another significant proposal is the Films and Stage Plays (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to dissolve the Kenya Film Classification Board and transfer its functions back to the parent ministry as part of ongoing government reforms aimed at restructuring State corporations and reducing operational costs.

The East African Development Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2026 proposes strengthening parliamentary oversight by requiring the National Assembly to approve any authorization by the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury to issue or charge public funds from the Consolidated Fund to the East African Development Bank.

Parliament is also considering reforms in the water and irrigation sectors through two separate Bills.

Contd page 13



From left; KCB Sahl Banking head, Hemed Hassan Wangalwa, KCB Group Director Strategy and Innovations Mark Mwongela, Shariah Advisory Council Chairman, Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome and Mastercard Senior Vice President and Country Manager for EA and Indian Ocean Islands, Shehryar Ali pose for a photo during the Kcb Sahl Banking card & agency launch at Radisson Blu Hotel in Nairobi yesterday.

KCB, Mastercard launch Shariah-compliant payments solution under Sahl Banking

BY Peter John

@themtkenyatimes

KCB Bank has partnered with Mastercard to introduce an Islamic finance payments solution aimed at expanding access to Shariah-compliant banking services in Kenya.

The bank has rolled out the Sahl Card under its Sahl Banking offering, providing customers with a secure and convenient platform to manage spending while enjoying lifestyle and travel benefits aligned with Islamic finance principles.

KCB has also unveiled the Sahl Agency Banking network, enabling customers to deposit funds, withdraw cash, make payments and access essential banking services through agents across the country.

The new solutions have been developed in line with Islamic finance principles, allowing customers to make everyday purchases and payments while remaining aligned with their values and financial preferences.

"We remain committed to developing financial solutions that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of our customers. The Sahl Card represents an important step in expanding access to Shariah-compliant banking solutions by providing customers with a secure, convenient and values-driven payment option that supports their everyday financial and lifestyle needs," said Mark Mwongela.

The Sahl Card offers benefits tailored to modern lifestyles, particularly for customers seeking Muslim-friendly travel and lifestyle experiences. Mastercard World Elite and Gold Credit Card holders will enjoy access to exclusive offers on accommodation, dining, shopping and leisure experiences through Mastercard's global network.

According to Shehryar Ali, the partnership is designed to support greater financial inclusion through value-based payment solutions.

"We are actively powering an inclusive digital economy where ev-

ery individual and community can pay with confidence. Our collaboration with KCB gives consumers a payment solution built around their values and lifestyle. By combining our global network with KCB's deep local expertise, we are connecting the Islamic banking community to the experiences and passions that matter most to them," he said.

Eligible cardholders will also gain access to The Mastercard Collection, a premium suite of curated dining, travel and lifestyle experiences available to World Elite Mastercard customers.

The offering includes exclusive dining privileges, travel benefits and curated experiences designed to enrich customers' lives both locally and internationally where available.

Additional features include spend management controls, transaction alerts, concierge services and an Islamic-themed card design that reflects the values and preferences of its target market.

Advocates deaths Keige, 54, had been missing for nearly a month before her family confirmed on Tuesday that she had been found dead

LSK demands urgent security guarantees for advocates

Two lawyers dead within 48 hours, a nationwide march called for tomorrow, and a profession asking who is next

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

The Law Society of Kenya has demanded urgent security guarantees for advocates after two lawyers died within 48 hours of each other, LSK President Charles Kanjama said yesterday. Advocate Esther Wairimu Keige, manager of legal services at the Kenya Forest Service, was found dead on Monday night, nearly a month after she went missing in Juja. Advocate Edward Muthee Kariuki was found murdered outside his Athi River home on July 5, days before Keige's body was discovered.

Kanjama, flanked by members of the LSK Council, addressed the press at the society's offices in South C, Nairobi, announcing that lawyers nationwide will hold a peaceful march tomorrow in honour of the two advocates. "The Law Society of Kenya has received confirmation of the death of our colleague, Advocate Esther Wairimu Keige, after weeks of anxious searching and fervent hope that she would be found alive," Kanjama said. He described Keige's death as coming "an agonisingly brief forty-eight hours" after the legal fraternity was thrown into mourning by Kariuki's killing.

Keige, 54, had been missing for nearly a month before her family confirmed on Tuesday that she had been found dead. Police have not yet disclosed where her body was found or the circumstances of her death. Kariuki, who practised under the firm Edward Kariuki Law Advocates on Kiambu Road, was discovered outside his Athi River residence on July 5 by a security guard, after failing to return home two days earlier. Police said he had a visible cut above his right eye and a deep wound to the back of his head, believed to have been inflicted with a sharp object.

The Society said the two deaths, coming within a single week, could not be treated as an unfortunate coincidence. "An attack on an advocate is an attack on the administration of justice itself," Kanjama said, describing the killings as a direct assault on the legal profession, the administration of justice and the rule

of law.

LSK has called for the immediate formation of a multi-agency investigative team, involving the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the Internal Affairs Unit, to establish whether the two cases are connected. Because Keige's work involved forest conservation, land and environmental disputes at a public institution frequently entangled in questions over land, the Society has demanded a comprehensive forensic audit of all active land acquisition, leasing and alienation files handled by the Kenya Forest Service's legal department over the past 12 months, to determine whether corporate or political interests were connected to her death.

The Society also wants immediate security interventions for advocates serving in public institutions and regulatory bodies, who it says are increasingly exposed to threats from criminal syndicates and corrupt networks while defending public assets. "The Executive must immediately provide institutional security and protective coverage for all advocates serving in public regulatory bodies who face illicit pressure and structural threats while defending public assets from corruption," the Society said in its statement. It further demanded a transparent mechanism through which the DCI, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and other state agencies provide regular updates on investigations, arrests and prosecutions arising from both cases.

Friday's march will begin at the Milimani Law Courts, where advocates are expected to assemble from 9am before proceeding to the National Police Service headquarters, where the Society plans to hand a petition to the Inspector-General of Police demanding action on advocates' safety and speedy investigations into the two murders. Participants have been asked to wear formal attire and purple ribbons in a show of unity and remembrance. Similar marches are planned in LSK's regional branches across the country, under the leadership of local officials. Kanjama has appealed to other Kenyans, including civil society groups, to join the



Law Society of Kenya (LSK) President Charles Kanjama

march as a statement that violence against officers of the court has no place in a constitutional democracy.

The killings of Keige and Kariuki are the latest in a troubling pattern that has unsettled Kenya's legal community over the past year. In September 2025, lawyer Mathew Kyalo Mbohu was shot dead in a drive-by attack along Lang'ata Road. In April this year, advocate Tom Ouya Imbukwa died in intensive care at Kenyatta National Hospital after being found badly assaulted at a Nairobi estate, having reportedly told colleagues he had received threats from a police officer weeks earlier. Each case prompted the same demands from LSK for swift, impartial investigations; none has yet produced a public breakthrough or a named suspect.

That pattern is what now troubles the profession most. Advocates interviewed by the Society in recent days describe a growing unease about representing clients in disputes touching public land, corruption or politically sensitive matters, and a sense that the state has not moved quickly or transparently enough to reassure them that the law will protect those



Late Advocate Esther Wairimu Keige

who uphold it. LSK's Lawyer-Police Liaison Committee says it has been engaging both the Keige and Kariuki families directly and will continue pressing investigators for updates as the inquiries proceed. The Society has also urged members of the public with any information relevant to either case to come forward, assuring them that their safety and anonymity will be protected.

For a profession whose members are meant to be guarantors of due process, the killings of two colleagues

in a single week have become something closer to a warning. Friday's march is intended as both tribute and pressure: a public reminder that when advocates are threatened, harassed or killed for the work they do, the rule of law itself is placed in jeopardy. Kenya's courts will continue to sit and its lawyers will continue to argue their cases, but the question the legal fraternity is now asking publicly, and insistently, is whether the state can guarantee that they will be safe to do so.

Politics During the meeting, Gachagua criticised the Othaya MP, referring to him as a “sellout” and a “Standard Two dropout,” while questioning his political credentials and leadership

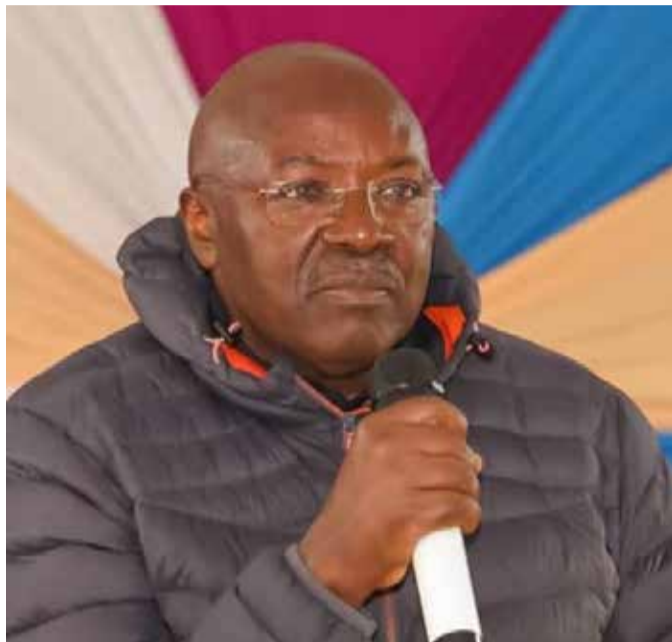
Othaya MP hits back at Gachagua's remarks, urges issue-based politics

BY WMW

@themkenyatimes

A fresh political row has erupted in Nyeri County after Othaya Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina responded to remarks by former Deputy President and Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua, dismissing claims about his political journey and calling for civility in political discourse.

The exchange follows a public meeting held by Gachagua at his Wamunoro residence on Monday as part of his ongoing political consultations ahead of the 2027 General Election, where he hosted delegations from different



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina addressing faithful in his constituency last Sunday. | Photo: Courtesy.



DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua addressing party supporters from Othaya on Monday.

parts of the country, including representatives from Othaya constituency.

During the meeting, Gachagua criticised the Othaya MP, referring to him as a “sellout” and a “Standard Two dropout,” while questioning his political credentials and leadership.

In a press statement issued on Tuesday, Wambugu rejected the allegations, describing the remarks as unfortunate and intended to misrepresent his character, political journey and service to the people of Othaya.

“I wish to respond to the unfortunate remarks made by Hon. Rigathi Gachagua during yesterday's public function in Wamunoro. I am deeply disappointed by the statements directed at me, which I believe were intended to misrepresent my character, my political journey, and my service to the people of Othaya,” the MP said.

Wambugu defended his political career, saying he had earned his place in leadership through years of dedication and service.

He recalled that he was among the loyal supporters and point persons of the late President Mwai Kibaki in Othaya long before Kibaki's historic victory in the 2002 General Election, adding that he stood with the former Head of State during difficult political moments and remained committed to advancing his vision for both the country

and Othaya Constituency.

The legislator dismissed suggestions that Gachagua played a role in his election, insisting that every candidate sought support independently during the 2022 General Election.

“It is therefore inaccurate for anyone to claim credit for my political journey or suggest that they campaigned for me. In the run-up to the 2022 General Election, every aspirant pursued his or her own political ambitions and sought the support of the electorate. The people of Othaya made their choice freely and democratically,” he said.

Wambugu maintained that he remains the duly elected Member of Parliament for Othaya and will continue serving until the expiry of his constitutional term.

He said his priority remains delivering development projects, representing the interests of constituents and fulfilling the promises he made during the election campaign.

The MP further argued that leadership should be judged by integrity, performance and the tangible impact made in the lives of citizens rather than personal attacks and insults.

“Ultimately, it is the people of Othaya who will judge all leaders based on the work they have done, the projects they have delivered, and the values they uphold,” he said.

He urged political leaders to embrace respectful engagement and focus on issues af-

fecting wananchi instead of engaging in divisive rhetoric.

“I remain committed to serving the people of Othaya with diligence, humility and unwavering dedication,” he said.

The public exchange underscores the growing political rivalry in Nyeri County as leaders position themselves ahead of the 2027 elections.

Gachagua has in recent weeks intensified political consultations from his Wamunoro residence, where he has hosted delegations from across the country and beyond as part of what he describes as consultations on “the liberation of the country” and the formation of a future administration.

The former Deputy President has also been rallying support for the Democracy for the Citizens Party while criticising leaders he accuses of abandoning the interests of the Mt Kenya region.

The latest war of words between the two leaders is expected to further heighten political temperatures in Othaya, a constituency that has historically held significant political influence as the home turf of the late President Mwai Kibaki. While Gachagua continues to consolidate his political base in the Mt Kenya region, Wambugu has maintained that his mandate comes directly from the people of Othaya and that he remains focused on service delivery rather than political confrontation.

Tembu Kenya | KENYA Tourism Board

Where Moments Become Memories

Use Promo Code **TOURISM26**

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

ENJOY
6% OFF
DOMESTIC ROUTES

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

www.kenya-airways.com

@KenyaAirways KQ mobile

Kenya Airways
The Pride of Africa

Politics “It is a great honour to be here on Saba Saba Day. It is our Second Liberation Day and our multiparty democracy day,” Wanjigi .

Wanjigi calls for economic reforms, issue-based politics at Saba Saba forum

BY WMW

@themtkenyatimes

Safina Party leader Jimi Wanjigi has called for a fundamental shift in Kenya’s politics and economic governance, urging leaders to abandon ethnic and personality-driven politics in favour of issue-based leadership focused on improving livelihoods.

Speaking during a Saba Saba Town Hall meeting in Nakuru on Tuesday, Wanjigi said the country had entered a new phase of its democratic journey where economic freedom, job creation, affordable healthcare, quality education and accountable governance should dominate the national conversation ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Addressing more than 430 delegates drawn from professional groups, the business community and youth organisations at the Waterbuck Hotel, Wanjigi said Kenya had secured political freedoms through the struggle for multiparty democracy but had yet to achieve economic liberation for its citizens.

“It is a great honour to be here on Saba Saba Day. It is our Second Liberation Day and our multiparty democracy day,” Wanjigi said after leading participants in observing a minute of silence in honour of those who fought for democratic freedoms.

He paid tribute to veteran democracy activists including Koigi wa Wamwere, Rumba Kinuthia, Mirugi Kariuki and the Mothers of Political Prisoners, describing Nakuru as one of the country’s historical centres of the struggle for constitutionalism and democratic governance.

Wanjigi also described Nakuru as one of Kenya’s leading economic hubs, saying it contributes between 5.2 and 5.7 per cent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product through agriculture, manufac-

turing, trade and green energy investments.

He argued that Kenya’s politics must move away from ethnic mobilisation and personality cults towards competition based on ideas, policies and national development.

“The old politics of regionalism, ethnic kingpins and ‘Mtu Wetu’ is dying. It is over,” he said.

Drawing parallels between Kenya’s past liberation struggles, Wanjigi said the fight against colonial rule, the agitation for multiparty democracy in the 1990s and the Gen Z-led protests of June 2024 represented successive phases of the country’s liberation journey.

According to him, the Gen Z demonstrations marked the beginning of a struggle for economic justice that should now translate into structural reforms capable of improving the living standards of ordinary Kenyans.

“Political freedoms alone have proved inadequate to change the material conditions and living standards of Kenyans. We must now wage an economic freedom struggle,” he said.

He said Kenya requires a new constitutional economic order anchored on secure jobs, sustainable incomes, affordable

“It is a great honour to be here on Saba Saba Day. It is our Second Liberation Day and our multiparty democracy day,” Wanjigi said after leading participants in observing a minute of silence in honour of those who fought for democratic freedoms.

living costs and expanded opportunities for young people.

Wanjigi used the forum to unveil what he termed the FISTA Agenda, outlining proposals he said would transform the country’s economy and governance.

Among the proposals is suspension of payment of what he termed illegal public debt, implementation of a debt brake to limit excessive government borrowing and reforms aimed at freeing capital for investment, entrepreneurship and essential public services.

He also proposed replacing the current Value Added Tax (VAT) with a five per cent sales tax, arguing that the change would reduce the tax burden on households and businesses while making Kenya a more competitive destination for investment.

On education, Wanjigi pledged free basic education and subsidised university and technical college education, accompanied by increased investment in public school infrastructure.

He also advocated tax-funded universal healthcare, say-



Safina party leader Jimmi Wanjigi in Nakuru on Tuesday | Photo: Courtesy.

ing quality healthcare should be treated as a public good rather than a commercial commodity.

The Safina leader said his administration would prioritise food sovereignty by supporting small-scale farmers, expanding agricultural production and promoting local value addition.

He further proposed investment in technology, innovation and manufacturing to revive Kenya’s industrial base and position the country to benefit from shifting global supply chains.

On energy, Wanjigi said Kenya should leverage its renewable energy resources to become a regional hub for clean energy production and ex-

ports through comprehensive long-term policies governing investment and regulation.

He also called for far-reaching governance and security reforms, including restructuring policing institutions to increase accountability and public participation in local security management.

During the meeting, Wanjigi also confirmed that Safina, which he said now stands for the Party for Economic and Social Advancement (Safina-PESA), will field him in the 2027 presidential election, saying the party intends to champion a new political and economic order focused on constitutionalism, economic transformation and accountable leadership.

He maintained that the 2027 General Election should be more than a contest for political office and instead become an opportunity to redefine Kenya’s development agenda. “What the country needs in 2027 is not just a new President. It must be about the country’s future. For Kenya to rise and prosper, our politics must radically change. 2027 is the turning point,” he said.

The Nakuru town hall meeting formed part of Wanjigi’s ongoing nationwide public engagement campaign, with discussions centred on economic reforms, governance, youth empowerment and the future direction of Kenya’s political leadership ahead of the 2027 General Election.



Some of the people who attended the meeting.

Veterinary Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms become resistant to medicines designed to eliminate them, making infections harder to treat.

CS Kagwe: Kenya risks losing global meat markets over misuse of veterinary drugs

BY DMS

@themkenyatimes

Kenya could lose access to lucrative international meat markets if it fails to address the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance caused by the misuse of veterinary medicines, Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has warned.

Speaking yesterday during the opening of the Kenya Meat Conference 2026 at Chaka Ranch, Nyeri, Kagwe said antimicrobial resistance (AMR) had evolved from being a livestock health concern into a major national challenge affecting public health, food security, trade and economic growth.

The CS said countries across the world were increasingly demanding proof of food safety, traceability and responsible use of medicines before allowing access to their markets, warning that failure to comply with international standards could reverse gains made in expanding Kenya's meat exports.

"Responsible use of veterinary medicines is becoming a passport to international markets," Kagwe said, adding that antimicrobial residue concerns could undermine years of negotiations aimed at opening new markets for Kenyan livestock products.

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms become resistant to medicines designed to eliminate them, making infections harder to treat. Kagwe noted that global estimates associate AMR with millions of deaths annually, with Kenya among countries facing significant impacts.

To strengthen controls, the government is enhancing the role of regulatory institutions, including the Kenya Veterinary Board and the Veterinary

Medicines Directorate, to ensure veterinary drugs are prescribed and administered under the guidance of licensed professionals.

Kagwe said the government was also implementing reforms aimed at improving livestock health, productivity and market competitiveness.

Among the initiatives is the National Livestock Vaccination Programme, increased investment in the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI) and expansion of livestock traceability systems.

He said investment in KEVEVAPI would increase annual vaccine production capacity from about 45 million doses to more than 70 million doses, helping strengthen disease prevention among livestock farmers.

The Cabinet Secretary said the rollout of the Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS) and the Animal Identification and Traceability System (ANITRAC) would improve tracking of animals from farms to markets, enhancing consumer confidence and supporting export requirements.

"Modern consumers demand traceability, food safety and transparency. These are no longer optional requirements but key conditions for participation in international trade," he said.

Kagwe also raised concern over illegal donkey slaughter, describing the practice as a threat to food safety, animal welfare and Kenya's ambitions to expand livestock exports.

Although commercial donkey slaughter was banned in 2020, the CS said illegal operations continue, with reports indicating that hundreds of donkeys are slaughtered every month.

He directed the ministry to strengthen enforcement mea-

asures and develop additional interventions to curb illegal activities within the sector.

On meat value addition, Kagwe challenged investors and stakeholders to increase investment in modern processing facilities, branding and certification to enable Kenya to earn more from its livestock resources.

He said the government was working with county governments and private sector players to modernize abattoirs and expand export-ready meat processing capacity.

The livestock sector, he noted, remains a critical component of Kenya's economy, with the government targeting an increase in its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product from the current levels to



CS Mutahi Kagwe making his speech.

20 per cent.

The country also aims to nearly double annual meat production to approximately 990,000 metric tonnes by 2028, creating an estimated KSh450 billion annual industry.

Kagwe called for stronger collaboration between national and county governments, researchers, financial institutions and private investors to

transform Kenya into a leading African exporter of safe, traceable and high-quality meat products.

The two-day Kenya Meat Conference 2026 brought together stakeholders from across the livestock value chain to deliberate on strategies for improving production, strengthening food safety standards and expanding Kenya's presence in interna-

tional meat markets.

Among those attending were Principal Secretaries Jonathan Mueke and Caroline Karugu, Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga and his Garissa counterpart Nathif Jama Adam, KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge alongside other government officials and livestock sector leaders.



A livestock expert explaining a point to CS Mutahi Kagwe (right) and Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga (centre). | Photo: Courtesy.

Bills The public has until Tuesday, July 21, to submit written memoranda to the Clerk of the National Assembly through email or other designated channels.

National Assembly invites public views on 10 bills as legislative reforms gather pace

Contd from page 13

The Water (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Irrigation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, seek to merge the National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority with the National Irrigation Authority to create a single entity known as the National Irrigation and Water Harvesting Authority.

The proposed merger is expected to streamline water storage, irrigation management and harvesting functions while improving efficiency and reducing duplication of roles.

In the trade and investment sector, the Investment and Export Promotion Authority Bill, 2026 proposes merging the Kenya Investment Authority and the Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency to

establish the Kenya Investment and Export Promotion Authority.

The government says the new institution would modernise Kenya's investment promotion and export development framework while strengthening the country's competitiveness in international markets.

The National Assembly is also considering the Kenya Intellectual Property Bill, 2026, which proposes establishing the Kenya Intellectual Property Authority through the merger of the Kenya Industrial Property Institute, Kenya Copyright Board and the Anti-Counterfeit Authority.

The Bill also seeks to consolidate laws governing patents, industrial designs, utility models, copyright and anti-counterfeiting into a single legal framework.

The Tourism (Amendment) Bill,

2026 proposes restructuring the tourism sector by abolishing the Tourism Research Institute and transferring some of its functions to the Kenya Tourism Board.

It also seeks to repeal provisions establishing the Tourism Finance Corporation and transfer its assets, liabilities and functions to the Kenya Tourism Board in a move aimed at improving efficiency and accountability.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Information and Communications (Amendment) Bill, 2025, sponsored by Aldai MP Marianne Kitany, seeks to introduce mandatory metered internet billing by Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

If enacted, the Bill would require ISPs to develop systems capable of accurately monitoring internet consumption, generate invoices based on actual data usage, provide cus-

tomers with readable consumption records and align billing with the value of services consumed.

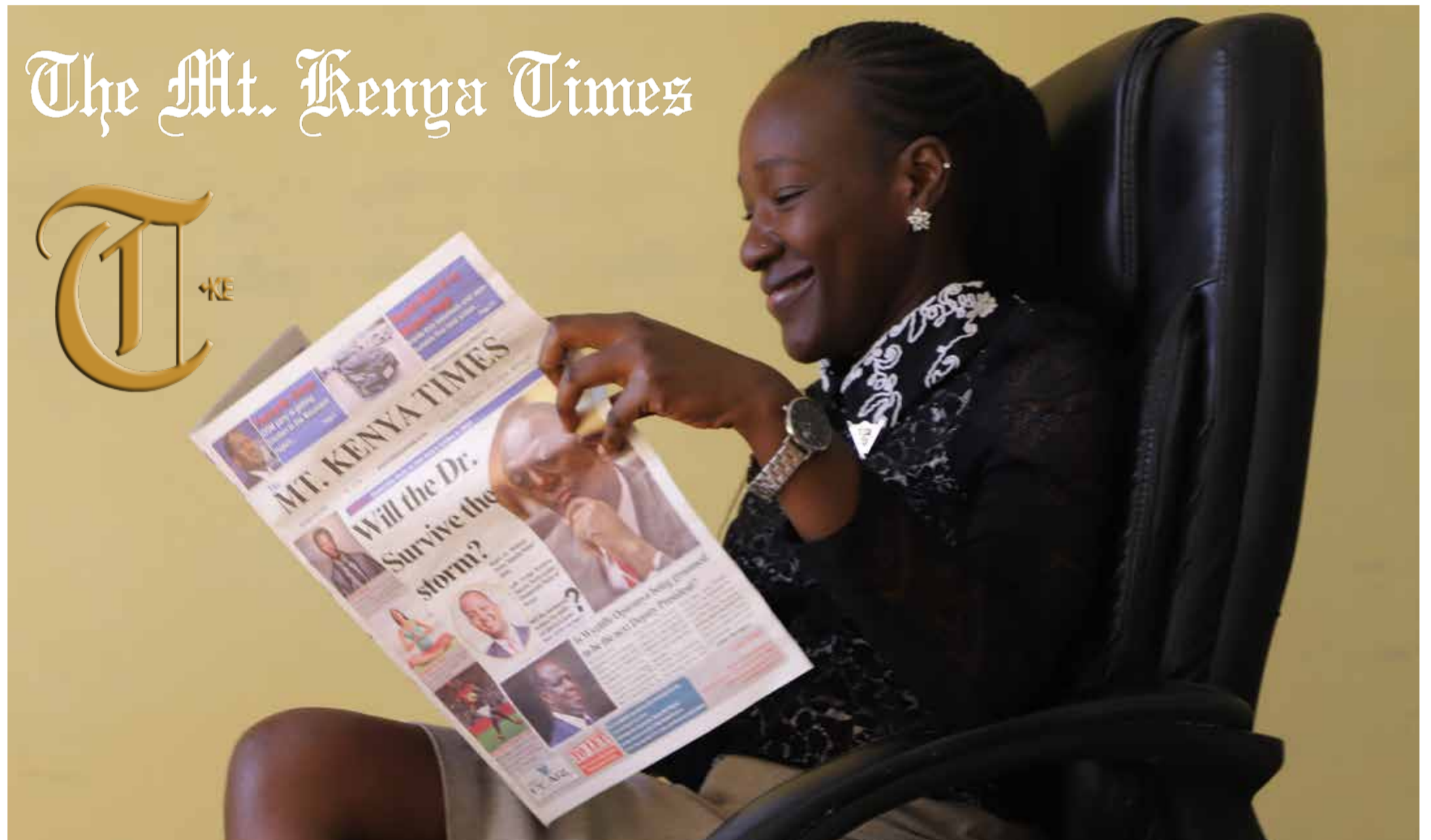
The proposal is intended to protect consumers from unfair internet billing practices by ensuring subscribers only pay for the data they actually use.

The Bills have been referred to various departmental committees, including those on Agriculture and Livestock, Regional Development, Sports and Culture, Finance and National Planning, Blue Economy, Water and Irrigation, Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Tourism and Wildlife, and Communication, Information and Innovation.

Copies of the Bills are available at the National Assembly Table Office and on Parliament's website. Members of the public may submit their views through the Office of the Clerk

of the National Assembly, by post, hand delivery or email before the set deadline.

The National Assembly said public participation remains a critical pillar of law-making and encouraged Kenyans and interested stakeholders to take advantage of the opportunity to influence legislation that could have far-reaching implications for governance, agriculture, trade, communications, tourism, intellectual property and public sector reforms.



The Weight of the headlines



"If you read no news, you're left unaware,
If you read it all, truth grows rare."

So goes the paradox of our age,
Ink once penned wisdom, now scripts a stage.
News from North, East, West, and South
Was meant to be truth on every mouth.

They say, "Knowledge is power," and rightly so,
For informed minds help civilizations grow.
Yet knowledge, when buried beneath endless
noise,
Can rob the heart of its simple joys.

Headlines thunder with fear and despair,
Clouding the sunshine already there.
A thousand stories compete to be heard,
Yet silence often speaks the wisest word.

Too much information, too little light,
Too many opinions, too little insight.
The mind becomes a crowded street,
Where peace and panic endlessly meet.

So I laid the newspaper gently aside,
Not from ignorance, nor wounded pride,
But to guard the garden within my soul,
Where calm and clarity make me whole.

For not every whisper deserves our ear,
Nor every alarm should awaken fear.
Choose your thoughts as a gardener sows,
The heart becomes what the mind bestows.

The world still turns, the dawn still breaks,
Beyond the headlines and the quakes.
To stay informed is noble indeed,
But wisdom decides what truths we need.

As the Bhagavad Gita (2.50) reminds us:

"Yogah karmasu kausalam"
"Yoga is excellence in action."

Excellence is not in knowing everything,
But in discerning what each day should bring.
Read with reason, reflect with grace,
And let inner peace set the pace.

For the greatest news the soul can hear,
Is not what shouts, but what grows clear.
When truth is filtered through a tranquil mind,
The finest headlines are those we find within.

Nandini AnandKumar
Educator Writer Motivator Freelancer
(In Service of Education)

Many people are educated but not totally mannered



Many colorful flowers are everywhere
They spread its fragrance everywhere.
But most of them do not offering to God.
But only a few of them are valued .

Though there are many apples on the tree
We intended to pick the finest as free.
Nature helps to spread the seeds in various ways
to sow
But only a few of them are sown and grow.

Many flowers bloom on a tree.
Among them few became fruits.
From the fruits we get some seeds,
Not all the seeds are sown and a few grow with
weeds.

Rajesh Kanna B N

RAJESH KANNA .B N
M.Sc.,M.A.,
PGDG&C,B.Ed., CELT.
BT Asst.
GMHSCHOOL, TIRUR.
TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT.
Tamil Nadu
India.
Creative Writers.
Educationist.

If you seek peace, talk less



If you seek wisdom, listen more.
A peaceful life is a wonderful gift from God.
Listening is one of the best qualities a person can
have.

If you talk less, you will find more peace. It
protects you and keeps many problems away.
If you listen more, you will gain more knowledge
from others.
Many people seek a peaceful life, but they do not
practice speaking less.
As a result, they face many unnecessary
problems.

Wise people listen more, learn from others, and
grow in knowledge.

The four language skills—listening, speaking,
reading, and writing—are important for everyone.
Listening is the first step in learning.
Children learn to listen before they learn to
speak.

These two skills are especially important in
childhood, and the other two skills develop
naturally afterward.

So, talk less and listen more.
These are wonderful qualities that bring peace,
wisdom, and goodness into your valuable life.

__G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt.

My mother



And guides me gently on my way.

Her smile is bright like the morning sun,
She makes everyone happy and full of fun.
She is my teacher, friend, and guide,
With her love always by my side.

I am thankful for all she does,
For her care, support, and endless love.
My mother is special in every way,
And I love her more each passing day.

B.Nijasri
9th B, GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

My mother is loving, kind, and sweet,
She makes my life happy and complete.
She cares for me every day and night,
And fills my world with joy and light.

Sometimes she is angry when I am wrong,
But her love for me is always strong.
She helps me learn and grow each day,

Practice leads to success



Try once more if you make mistakes,
Practice is the best advice.

Sing a song and sing again,
Practice makes your voice strong.
Learn new things a little each day,
And keep moving along.

Mistakes may come, and that's okay,
They help us learn and grow.
Keep on trying, do your best,
And success will surely show.

Practice opens every door,
And helps us reach our dreams.
With patience, effort, and hard work,
Nothing is as hard as it seems.

R.Rithika
9th B,GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

Practice is very important,
We cannot do without it.
If you want to reach the top,
Work hard and never quit.

Speak in English every day,
Do not be shy or afraid.
Practice helps your words to grow,
And makes your future bright.

Write a word and write again,
Soon your writing will look nice.

My best friend



And always treats me with care.
She is honest, gentle, and thoughtful.

She gives me good advice
When I am confused or worried.
We study side by side
And help each other learn.

She makes me happy every day.
I like my best friend very much.
I love my best friend,
And I never want to lose her.

My friend is my happy place,
And I am grateful for her friendship.

S. Janani
9th B, GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

My best friend is very sweet and kind.
She speaks to everyone with kindness.
She always believes in me
And encourages me to do my best.

We share our dreams and secret fears.
She is like a sister to me.
She helps me whenever I need her
And stands by my side every time.

We play games together every day.
She never hurts my feelings

The dreams left waiting

Thousands qualified for university, yet many stand at a crossroads — is Kenya's education system creating opportunity or producing uncertainty?

By: Hadassah Karangu

@themkenyatimes

Across Kenya, a familiar scene is unfolding in homes, villages, towns and cities. A parent sits quietly, holding a placement letter. A student scrolls through their phone, searching for information about a course they barely know. One family celebrates admission into university after years of sacrifice. Elsewhere, another stares at the same results with confusion and unanswered questions.

For many young Kenyans, university placement is supposed to be a moment of triumph — the reward for years of waking before dawn, attending lessons, sitting examinations, and believing that education remains the key to a better future. Yet behind the celebrations lies a growing concern: are we preparing students for opportunity, or for disappointment?

This year's placement exercise has once again raised important questions about the future of education in Kenya. While thousands secured places in universities and colleges, many qualified students chose alternative paths, or remained uncertain about their next step. The numbers tell one story. The emotions tell another.

For decades, university admission was viewed as the ultimate prize. Parents dreamed of seeing their children become doctors, teachers, lawyers, engineers, journalists and accountants; an admission letter was treated as a ticket out of poverty and into a stable future. But today's reality looks different. Many young people are no longer asking whether they will join university — they are asking what happens after it. Will there be jobs? Will the degree be relevant? Will employers value the skills acquired? Will years in lecture halls translate into a meaningful career? These questions grow louder with every graduating class.

Walk through any Kenyan town and you are likely to meet degree holders searching for employment — some running small businesses, others working in fields unrelated to their qualifications, many still sending out applications year after year, hoping for a breakthrough. This reality is reshaping how young people view

higher education. A generation that once saw university as the final destination is beginning to see it as only one stop on a much longer journey.

Perhaps the most striking feature of this year's placement is the continued popularity of education courses. Thousands of students are still choosing teaching as a profession. At first glance, this may seem surprising: teachers have repeatedly voiced concerns about delayed employment, heavy workloads and the broader challenges facing the sector. Yet many young people continue to choose it anyway. The answer may lie beyond employment statistics altogether. Teaching remains one of the few professions that allows someone to shape generations. A teacher does not simply deliver lessons — a teacher inspires dreams, builds confidence, identifies potential, and changes lives. Every successful Kenyan carries the memory of at least one teacher who made a difference, an influence that cannot be measured by salary alone.

Yet admiration for the profession should not blind us to the challenges ahead. If universities continue producing large numbers of education graduates, are enough opportunities being created to absorb them into the workforce? Will classrooms be waiting for them, or will many join the long queues of qualified graduates seeking employment? These are difficult questions, but they deserve honest answers.

The placement exercise also points to a broader issue Kenya must confront: for too long, society has measured success through a narrow lens. Students who joined university were celebrated; those who pursued technical training were often overlooked, and those who chose alternative pathways were sometimes viewed as failures. But the modern economy tells a different story. The electrician restoring power to homes, the mechanic repairing vehicles, the software developer building digital solutions, the entrepreneur creating jobs, the technician maintaining critical systems — all are equally vital to national development. The future belongs not only to degree holders, but to skilled problem-solvers of every kind.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing Kenya today is not access to education, but alignment. Are students being trained for the jobs that actu-



The dreams left waiting.

ally exist? Are institutions equipping learners with practical skills? Are universities adapting quickly enough to a fast-changing world? Technology is transforming industries, artificial intelligence is reshaping workplaces, and digital skills are becoming ever more essential. Employers are demanding creativity, adaptability and innovation. The world is moving quickly, and education must move with it.

At the heart of this conversation are young people carrying enormous hopes. Some are the first in their families to reach university. Others come from homes where parents sold livestock, borrowed money, or worked extra hours to fund an education. For these families, university is more than an institution — it rep-

resents sacrifice, hope and possibility. That is why placement should never be reduced to numbers on a spreadsheet. Behind every admission letter is a dream. Behind every course selection is a young person imagining a future. Behind every application is a family praying for a breakthrough.

As Kenya marks another placement cycle, perhaps the most important conversation is not about how many students were admitted, but about what kind of future awaits them. Will they graduate into opportunity? Will their talents be nurtured? Will their skills meet the needs of a changing economy? Will they leave university equipped not only with certificates, but with the ability to solve real problems? These are the questions

that matter — because the true success of education is not measured by how many students enter lecture halls, but by how many lives are transformed after they leave them.

As thousands prepare to begin a new chapter, the nation must ensure their dreams do not end at admission. The placement letter should mark the beginning of opportunity, not the beginning of uncertainty. For every student stepping into university this year carries something far more valuable than a certificate: the hopes of a family, the ambitions of a generation, and the future of a nation.

Politics A reflection on principled leadership, and why Zimbabwe cannot afford political opportunists

When integrity is abandoned, nations pay the price

BY Alice Nyamande

@themtkenyatimes

Zimbabwe has reached a point where many citizens are growing weary of what can only be described as “pop-up saviours” — individuals and groups who emerge at moments of political opportunity, often after critical decisions have already been made, claiming to offer solutions to problems they neither prevented nor consistently opposed.

Many Zimbabweans have watched major national decisions unfold, only to see new voices emerge afterwards, presenting themselves as the answer. But genuine leadership is not defined by showing up once the headlines are made. It is measured by consistency, courage, and a willingness to stand with the people before, during and after difficult mo-



Zimbabweans

ments.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing our nation today is not only poor governance, but the erosion of principled leadership itself. Too often,

individuals who begin as defenders of justice and accountability abandon those principles the moment they are confronted with personal gain, political convenience, or ma-

terial inducement. Such betrayals weaken public confidence and leave citizens wondering whether integrity still has a place in our politics.

Patriotism cannot be measured by speeches or slogans. It is demonstrated through sacrifice, honesty and an unwavering commitment to the national interest, even when that commitment comes at personal cost. Zimbabwe deserves leaders whose loyalty cannot be bought, and whose convictions are not for sale.

It is deeply troubling that our nation has become the subject of ridicule beyond our borders. That should not provoke anger alone; it should inspire honest national reflection. Every Zimbabwean has a responsibility to ask what kind of country we are building, and what legacy we intend to leave for the generations who come after us.

The wealth of Zimbabwe belongs

to its people, not to a privileged few. Resources acquired through corruption, abuse of public office, or political patronage can never replace the trust that is lost when leaders place personal enrichment above national service.

Zimbabwe does not need more temporary political messiahs. It needs credible, principled and accountable leadership, prepared to serve consistently rather than appear only when circumstances are convenient.

The future of our nation will not be secured by personalities or political theatre. It will be secured by citizens who refuse to surrender their values, and by leaders who understand that public office is a sacred trust, not a pathway to privilege.

Zimbabwe is worth fighting for — not through hatred or division, but through integrity, unity, accountability, and an unwavering commitment to rebuilding our nation.

Alice Nyamande is President of the Action Democratic Movement (ADM).

Xenophobia Families are sleeping in open spaces without food, water or transport home as anti-foreigner violence spreads across South Africa

“It is unbearable”: Zimbabweans stranded in South Africa plead for help amid xenophobia tensions

BY Norman Mwale

@themtkenyatimes

“People are stranded at various open spaces, with little children, no water to bathe, no transport to ferry them back home. The situation is unbearable.” — Mistopher Ncube, Zimbabwean community advocate

Zimbabwean nationals living in South Africa are facing growing desperation as xenophobia-driven attacks and mass displacements leave families stranded in open spaces without food, water or transport home, a community representative has warned.

Mistopher Ncube, who has lived and worked in Cape Town for more than 20 years, told SABC this week that the situation facing his compatriots has reached crisis levels. Ncube, who has spent two decades advocating for migrant rights, said he has been moving between communities to assist those affected.

“People are stranded at various

open spaces, with little children, no water to bathe, no transport to ferry them back home,” Ncube said. “They left their homes with nothing. The situation is unbearable. Women are sleeping on the ground with babies. Men do not know where to go in the morning.”

Ncube said the displacements follow a wave of anti-foreigner sentiment in several townships and inner-city areas, where Zimbabweans, Malawians and Mozambicans have been accused of taking jobs and straining public services. In recent weeks, videos circulating on social media have shown shops being looted and foreign nationals ordered to leave their accommodation with immediate effect.

South Africa’s Department of Home Affairs has not released official figures on how many Zimbabweans have been displaced, but community leaders estimate hundreds are currently sleeping in churchyards, taxi ranks and municipal halls across Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. Many of those affect-

ed are undocumented, making them reluctant to approach police stations for fear of arrest and deportation.

For Ncube, the crisis is personal. Having arrived in South Africa more than 20 years ago and built a life in Cape Town as a documented migrant, he says he has made it his mission to defend the dignity of Zimbabweans abroad. “I am fighting this struggle for my fellow brothers and sisters,” he told SABC. “We are not criminals. We came here to work, to feed our families back home, to build. We deserve to be treated as human beings.”

Human rights organisations have called on both the South African and Zimbabwean governments to intervene urgently. The Zimbabwean Consulate in Johannesburg has confirmed it received reports of nationals stranded at border posts and in urban centres, and said it was working with South African authorities to establish safe shelters and facilitate repatriation for those wishing to return.

Analysts warn the timing could not



Mistopher Ncube

be worse. With Zimbabwe’s economy still fragile and unemployment high, a mass return of migrants would place additional pressure on already stretched services at home. At the same time, remittances from South Africa remain a critical lifeline for thousands of families in Zimbabwe.

Ncube urged calm and dialogue. “We are asking the South African government to protect everyone who is legally here. And to those who are attacking, we are saying: we are your neighbours. We share the same streets. Let us find a way to live together,” he said.

He also appealed to the diaspora and to well-wishers to donate food, blan-

kets and transport money. “A mother with three children cannot walk from Johannesburg to Beitbridge. She needs help today, not tomorrow.”

As night falls in the makeshift shelters, the uncertainty continues. For now, community leaders like Ncube remain on the ground, offering what comfort they can while awaiting government intervention.

The South African Police Service says it is monitoring hotspots and has deployed additional officers to prevent further attacks. Whether that will be enough to restore safety and dignity for Zimbabweans caught in the crisis remains to be seen.

Conservation The significance of this milestone lies not simply in the years that have passed, but in the philosophy that has guided every stage of the programme's growth

A decade of hope: How the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme become a National model for Restoration, Sustainability and Community prosperity



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyaintimes

There are few achievements more enduring than restoring forest. Roads may age, buildings may crumble and institutions may evolve, but a restored ecosystem continues to nurture life for generations. It purifies the air, protects biodiversity, secures water sources, moderates climate, enriches soils and sustains livelihoods long after those who planted the first seedlings have departed. This enduring legacy is precisely what the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme (KICP) celebrates as it marks its Tenth Anniversary- a decade of purposeful leadership, environmental stewardship and community transformation that has elevated Kaptagat from a conservation initiative into a national symbol of sustainable development.

From 4th to 11th July 2026, the Kaptagat ecosystem became the focal point of a national celebration reflecting on ten years of remarkable progress. The commemorative activities culminated at Kaptarkok Primary School in the pennon Forest Block, where the president of Kenya, William Samoei Ruto, joined government, leaders, conservation agencies, development partners, corporate institutions, local communities and environmental champions in celebrating a programme whose impact now extends far beyond the boundaries of the Kaptagat Forest.

The significance of this milestone lies not simply in the years that have passed, but in the philosophy that has guided every stage of the programme's growth. From its inception, the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme recognized that successful conservation cannot be achieved by protecting forests alone. It must also protect the people who depend upon them. It understood that environmental restoration becomes sustainable only when communities experience tangible improvements in their quality of life.



This integrated approach has transformed conservation from purely ecological undertaking into a comprehensive development model that simultaneously safeguards nature, strengthens livelihoods and builds climate resilience.

The anniversary celebrations reflected the scale and maturity that the programme has attained over the past decade. National preparations were coordinated through extensive consultations led by head of public service Felix Koskei, bringing together Governors of Elgeyo Marakwet and Uasin Gishu, principal secretaries, members of parliament, members of county Assembly and implementing agencies to review progress and ensure seamless delivery of the landmark event. Such high-level coordination demonstrates the strategic importance the Government of Kenya attaches to environment conservation as a cornerstone of sustainable national development.

One of the defining achievements recorded during the anniversary activities was the successful planting of substantial amount of trees across the Kaptagat landscape. While impressive in number, the true significance of these trees lies in what they represent. Every seedling planted strengthens degraded ecosystems, restores biodiversity, captures atmospheric carbon, protects fragile water catchments and contributes to Kenya's ambitious national target of growing fifteen billion trees. More importantly, each tree embodies a

shared national commitment to leave future generations with a healthier environment than the one inherited today.

The celebrations also embraced innovation through the Kaptagat cycling conservation challenge, which successfully united sport, environmental awareness and public participation. The event demonstrated experts; it is collective duty that calls upon every citizen to participate in protecting the nation's natural heritage. Equally encouraging was the continued support from the private sector, with Stanbic Bank Kenya and Sidian Bank contributing resources towards forest restoration activities, reaffirming that environmental sustainability has become a shared national responsibility requiring collaboration across all sectors of society.

Perhaps the programme's most remarkable achievement has been the successful implementation of its four pillars of integrated community development. Through Mazingira Safi, KICP has restored degraded landscapes, protected indigenous forests and strengthened biodiversity while promoting environmental awareness among surrounding communities. Under Kawi Safi Nyumbani, the programme has promoted clean household energy solutions that reduce dependence on firewood, improve public health and lessen pressure on forest ecosystem. Through Maji Nyumbani, restored catchments have enhanced access to clean and reliable water for households, agri-

culture and livestock, reinforcing the critical relationship between healthy forests and water security. Finally, pesa Mfukoni has demonstrated that conservation can be a powerful driver of economic empowerment by supporting beekeeping, tree nurseries, climate-smart agriculture, ecotourism and other sustainable income-generating enterprises that improve household resilience while encouraging environmental stewardship.

These four pillars have become the defining strength of the Kaptagat integrated conservation programme because they recognize an essential truth: conservation is most successful when environmental restoration, social wellbeing and economic prosperity advance together. Rather than viewing forests as protected spaces isolated from human development, KICP has shown that healthy ecosystems are the very foundation upon which thriving communities are built.

The success of this transformative journey has been made possible through visionary leadership and enduring partnerships. The strategic support of H.E President William Samoei Ruto, the coordination provided by Felix Koskei, the policy leadership of cabinet secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa, the technical guidance of forestry principal secretary Gitonga Mugambi, the operational stewardship of Kenya forest service under Chief conservatory Alex Lemarkoko, and the visionary commitment of Dr. Chris Kiptoo-whose

leadership has been instrumental in nurturing KICP over the past decade-have collectively positioned the programme among Kenya's most successful conservation initiatives. Equally deserving of recognition are the countless local communities, community forest associations, schools, youth groups, women's organisations, persons with disabilities, conservation volunteers, development partners and corporate sponsors whose dedication has translated policy into measurable environmental and social impact.

As the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme enters its second decade, it offers an inspiring blueprint for Kenya and the wider region. It demonstrates that restoration is possible where ecosystems have been degraded; that conservation flourishes where communities become partners rather than spectators; and that sustainability is achieved when environmental protection, economic empowerment and social inclusion are pursued as complementary goals rather than competing priorities.

The story of Kaptagat is no longer merely the story of a forest. It is the story of a people who chose stewardship over exploitation, partnership over isolation and hope over environmental decline. It is living proof that when government, communities, conservation experts and development partners unite around a shared vision, landscapes can recover, livelihoods can flourish and future generations can inherit a richer, greener and more resilient nation.

As Kenya celebrates this remarkable tenth anniversary, the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme stands not only as a monument to what has been accomplished, but as a promise of what remains possible. Its legacy is already rooted in the forests it has restored, the rivers it has protected, the families it has empowered and the enduring belief that sustainable development begins with caring for the natural world that sustains us all.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
PWD

Chairperson, Jiamini Disability network Community Based organization

Email: jiamini.network@gmail.com

Goons From the KANU Youth Wing under Daniel arap Moi, which harassed dissenters, to the infamous “Men in Black” disrupting ODM events in 2014

The shadow of the goon: How hired violence erodes Kenya’s democratic promise



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor
Odhiambo

@themkenyentimes

A grim economy thrives in plain sight within the nation and it is baffling. For as little as 500 Kenyan shillings, unemployed youths can be hired to hurl stones, disrupt rallies, or shout down speakers at public gatherings. Those guarding a politician’s convoy might earn up to 1,500 shillings, while more dangerous tasks intimidating rivals, seizing land, or “disciplining” opponents command 2,000 to 5,000 shillings per operation. Reports from the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) paint a stark picture: Mombasa leads with 73 active criminal gangs, Nairobi follows with 56, and Kilifi with 47. Over 120 of these groups have documented links to politicians, who recruit them especially during election cycles for security, crowd mobilization, or suppression of dissent.

This is not a new phenomenon. Kenya’s political history is laced with such tactics. From the KANU Youth Wing under Daniel arap Moi, which harassed dissenters, to the infamous “Men in Black” disrupting ODM events in 2014, and echoes of Mungiki and other militias in the deadly 2007-2008 post-election violence that claimed over 1,000 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands, the pattern repeats. Recent incidents attacks on Senator Godfrey Osotsi in Kisumu, disruptions of Rigathi Gachagua’s rallies, stoning of opposition gatherings in Nakuru and Kikuyu underscore how deeply embedded this machinery remains as the 2027 elections loom.

For a nation yearning for genuine progress, these hired enforcers represent a betrayal of the aspirations that fueled independence and the 2010 Constitution. Kenya’s youth, brimming with energy and ideas, deserve opportunities to build, not destroy. Nevertheless, desperation born of unemployment turns them into tools for elites who prioritize power over people. Imagine a young man from Mathare or Kayole, promised quick cash and a sense of belonging, stepping into the fray not out of ideology



The shadow of the goon

but survival. The activist in me burns at this waste talent squandered, futures mortgaged to fleeting political battles while ordinary citizens, mothers shielding children during chaotic protests, bear the scars of a system that normalizes fear.

The mechanics are efficient and shadowy. Politicians or their proxies identify local mobilizers respected figures in informal settlements who recruit cells of youths organized like informal armies. Tasks escalate from heckling to vandalism and physical assaults. Confessions from reformed participants reveal a tiered payment system tied to the hirer’s status: MCAs pay least, governors and business interests more. Impunity seals the deal; arrests are rare, and interventions by powerful patrons embolden the gangs. The NCRC warns that leaders directly or indirectly enabling these networks must be held accountable, yet the cycle persists.

This violence threatens more than immediate victims. Peaceful gatherings, rallies, protests, even church services become battlegrounds. Property is vandalized, businesses torched, and public discourse poisoned by intimidation. National cohesion frays as communities retreat into ethnic or factional silos, echoing the land-driven mobilizations of past clashes. Democracy requires debate, not disruption; it demands citizens exercise rights without terror. When goons infiltrate demos to manufac-

ture chaos or stone convoys, they erode trust in institutions. Police sometimes stand by, or worse, allegations swirl of coordination, further blurring lines between state authority and criminal enterprise.

Even so, a fuller picture demands nuance. In a competitive political landscape, where resources are scarce and stakes high, some argue that “protection” is a pragmatic necessity. Politicians face real threats in volatile areas; informal security fills gaps where formal forces falter or are perceived as partisan. Youth unemployment hovering at alarming levels creates a ready pool, and quick payments offer immediate relief in neglected neighborhoods. From this vantage, goons are not mere villains but symptoms of deeper failures: weak institutions, patronage politics, and an economy that sidelines the majority. Supporters of various

camp, across the political divide, decry opponents’ tactics while quietly justifying their own as defensive or necessary mobilization. History shows both government and opposition figures have dabbled in these shadows, from multiparty transitions in the 1990s to recent by-elections marred by clashes.

This devil’s advocate lens reveals uncomfortable truths. Blaming one side ignores the bipartisan rot. If every leader decries goonism yet the practice endures, the problem lies in systemic incentives: short-term power grabs over long-term nation-building. Entrenched gangs evolve into community fixtures, offering “services” beyond politics land grabs, business protection sustained by the very impunity politicians provide. Reports highlight how figures across divides have been implicated, suggesting a shared culture

rather than isolated excess.

Still, the cost weighs heaviest on Kenya’s collective dream. Public order crumbles when lawlessness becomes tactical. National cohesion, that fragile thread binding diverse peoples, unravels amid retaliatory cycles. Democracy itself is mocked when ballots and ideas yield to machetes and stones. The activist heart aches for a Kenya where vibrant youth channel energy into innovation, entrepreneurship, and accountable governance not hired chaos. We have the Constitution, Vision 2030 blueprints, and a youthful population poised for greatness. What we lack is the collective will to dismantle patronage networks that treat citizens as pawns.

Reform is possible but demands courage. Strengthening independent institutions, enforcing accountability regardless of status, investing in youth through education and jobs, and fostering issue-based politics could starve the goon economy. Civil society, media, and ordinary Kenyans must amplify voices rejecting violence, celebrating leaders who win through persuasion, not coercion. International scrutiny and domestic prosecutions of kingpins those who fund and shield would signal seriousness.

As tensions build toward 2027, Kenya stands at a crossroads familiar from its past. The shadow of the goon tests our resolve: will we perpetuate a republic of fear, or forge one of shared prosperity and genuine contestation? The streets whisper of desperation, but the soul of the nation resilient, hopeful, defiant yearns for better. For the mothers in Kibera, the traders in Kisumu, the dreamers in Eldoret, we must choose disruption of this cycle over its normalization. Only then can Kenya truly rise, not on the broken backs of its youth, but on their untapped potential. The path is arduous, yet the prize a cohesive, democratic homeland is worth every principled stand.

The writer is a social commentator



Book Gogo Sekai did not move. She let the tea cool. She knew the weight of certain words before she understood them.

A Law Is A Seed

“A law is not a stone. It is a seed. Plant it wrong, and it grows thorns.”

BY Norman Mwale

@themtkenyatimes

The wind came down from the red hills of home that Tuesday with dust in its mouth and old songs caught between its teeth. It pushed through the jacaranda on Samora Machel, rattled the zinc roofs in Mbare, and found Gogo Sekai on her veranda in Highfield with a chipped enamel mug of tea. The radio coughed, then spoke.

“...Parliament has gazetted Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3...”

Gogo Sekai did not move. She let the tea cool. She knew the weight of certain words before she understood them.

In the yard, Tafara was sweeping — twenty-four, a law degree from UZ, a suit jacket he wore even when the sun pressed down like a hand.

“Gogo, what did they say?”
“They said Bill Number 3,” she answered. “They said it like a drum at a funeral.”

Tafara had read it at midnight under a library bulb that flickered like a tired eye. Thirty-seven pages. Judges. Tenure. Power moved from one hand to another with language smooth as oil.

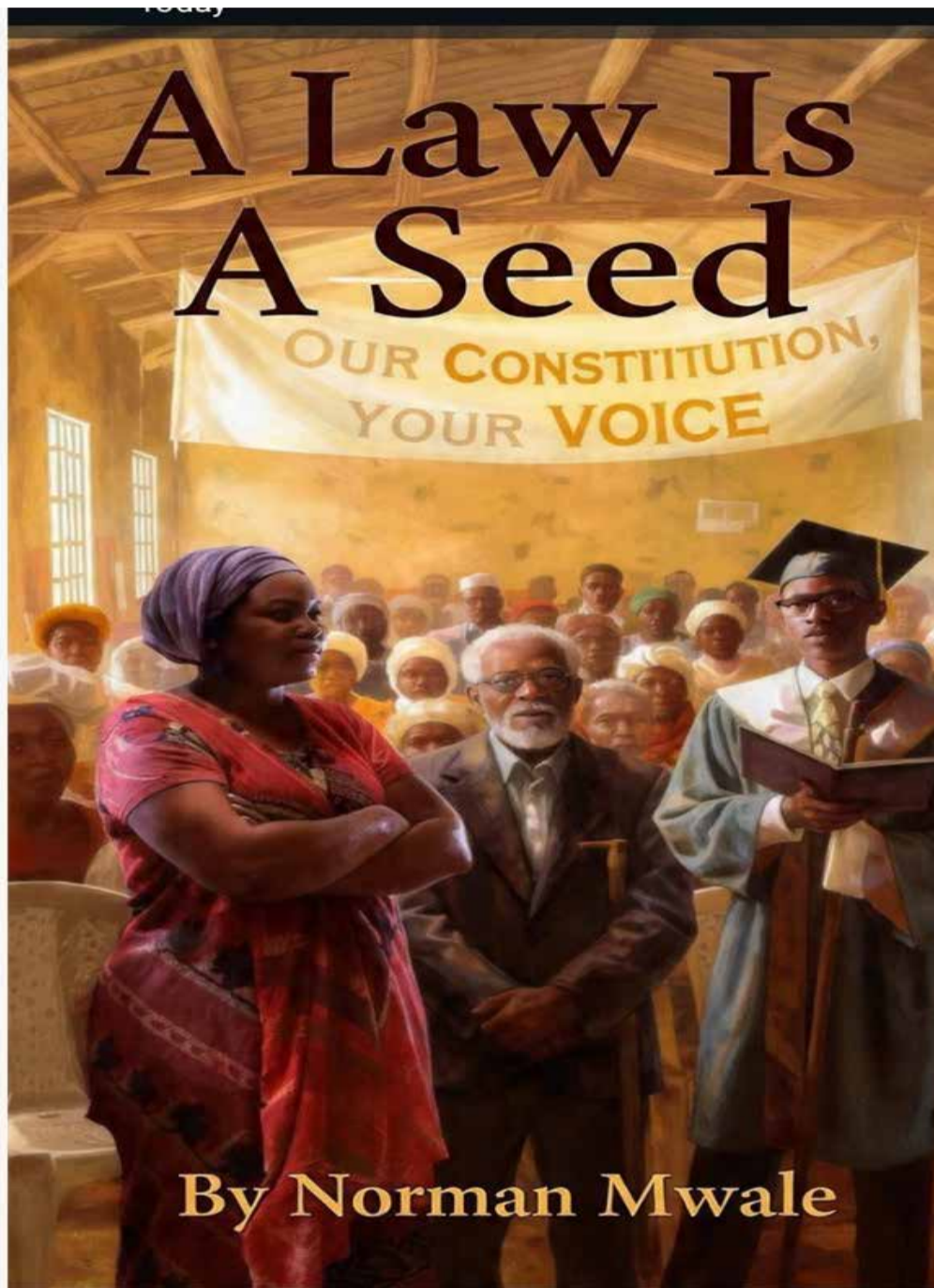
Across town, in a glass building that threw the sky back at itself, Minister of Justice Tendai Madzivanyika stood at his window — a man from Murewa who still folded paper the way his nurse mother taught him, into neat squares. On his desk: the Bill. On his wall: his father in a worn hat, beside maize that stood like soldiers.

His aide Rudo came in fast. “Sir. Lawyers are waiting. Churches are waiting. Students are waiting. Twitter is already on fire.”

“Then we must not answer with silence,” Madzivanyika said. “Silence is also an answer.”

“Which one are we giving?”
“The one that lets people sleep tonight.”

That evening the Anglican hall in Mbare smelled of sweat, paraffin, and hope. A generator complained under



a banner reading Our Constitution, Our Voice. Mai Chipo, who sold tomatoes at Mupedzanhamo, sat front row with arms folded. Beside her, Sekuru Bango, a war veteran, leaned on his stick.

Tafara stood when the chair called for speakers. “Comrades,” he said, and the word still meant something here. “Bill Number 3 is about who decides, and for how long. My grandmother taught me you don’t change the roof while people are sleeping under it. You ask if the rain is still coming in.”

Sekuru Bango rose slowly, and the room leaned with him. “I did not carry a gun so that a paper could be changed

while we are looking at football. I carried it so my grandchildren could argue in a hall, not in a bush.” He pointed his stick at Tafara. “Read it to us. In Shona. The kind we use when someone has died and we must tell the truth.”

Tafara read, clause by clause. When he reached the judiciary section, someone hissed. When he reached tenure, Mai Chipo said only, “Aah.” The generator sputtered and died, and in the dark Sekuru Bango’s voice was clearer than ever: “Power is like sadza. If one person eats from the pot alone, everyone else gets hungry.”

Outside, Madzivanyika walked home without an es-

cort. A woman at a maize roast called to him. “Minister! Will you carry our voice?”

“I will carry it,” he said, buying two cobs. “But voices must also walk. One man’s back breaks.”

“Then we will walk,” she said, turning the maize.

The next morning Parliament was full — red t-shirts, church uniforms, press pens clicking. Madzivanyika spoke without notes.

“Honourable Speaker, a constitution is not a shirt. You do not change it because fashion has changed. It is skin. When you cut it, the nation bleeds.” He spoke of his father’s field, of weeding, of waiting for rain. “Bill 3 has good inten-

tions. But good intentions without the people’s hands are rain on concrete. They run off and make puddles for mosquitoes.”

From the back: “Whose side are you on?”

“Zimbabwe’s,” he said. “All of it. The kombi driver and the judge. The teacher and the miner. The living and the one not yet born.”

He proposed three things: public hearings in every province, an independent panel to review the judicial clauses, and sixty days for the Bill to return to the people. The Speaker adjourned.

The weeks that followed moved like a river in rainy season — tents in Bulawayo, microphones in Mutare, a hall in Masvingo with no chairs, so people stood. A teacher in Gweru said, “Do not make the law a rope.” A nurse in Bindura said, “We need panadol more than new paragraphs.” A miner in Hwange said, “Let the courts be free, so we can breathe.” The comments filled boxes. The boxes filled cars. The cars came to Harare.

Rudo brought Madzivanyika coffee at midnight as he read summaries in blue ink. “Why are you killing yourself over this?”

He tapped his father’s photo. “Because he planted maize and told me leadership is weeding. You do it when no one is clapping. You do it so something else can grow.”

The Bill returned thinner, cleaner — some clauses gone, others rewritten in plain English and plain Shona, with one new line: No amendment affecting the independence of the judiciary shall take effect without a referendum.

Parliament voted. It was not quiet. It was not unanimous. But it was enough.

Outside, Gogo Sekai stood in her blue headwrap, Mai Chipo with a bag of oranges, Sekuru Bango with his stick, Tafara with his notebook. The result came over the radio. No ululation — just breath, a country exhaling.

“So? Did we win?” Mai Chipo asked.

Gogo Sekai looked at the

hills turning purple. “In Africa we do not win against each other. We survive together, or the wind takes us all.”

Sekuru Bango tapped his stick on the ground. “Then let us go home and weed.”

Two months later, as the new clause demanded, a referendum was announced. People grumbled, then organised. Tafara printed flyers at his own cost. Gogo told the story at the hair salon. Mai Chipo wrote on her tomato crates: Ask me about the Bill. Madzivanyika sat among the crowd at hearings rather than at the high table, passing tissues to those who cried.

A journalist asked him, “Minister, are you afraid this will weaken the government?”

“I am more afraid,” he said, “of a government that is afraid of its people.”

On voting day the queues were long, the sun hot, women bringing water, men sharing umbrellas. The amendment passed — not unchanged, not perfect, but with the people’s fingerprints on it.

That night Madzivanyika left the Bill on his desk with a note in blue ink: Return to sender. The owners have read it.

In Highfield, Gogo Sekai folded the newspaper and tucked it beneath the table leg that was short. “See,” she told Tafara. “Even law can be useful.”

He laughed — the first real laugh in weeks. Outside, the wind moved again over the red hills, over the fields, over the cities, like a question and an answer both.

A child asked, “Gogo, what happens next?”

And Gogo answered, “Next, we water the seed.”

Author Bio:

Norman Mwale is a Zimbabwean writer and commentator whose work explores governance, memory, and everyday resilience in Southern Africa. His essays and short stories have appeared in diaspora and local publications across Africa and Europe. He writes from the Gold City of Kwekwe. *A Law Is A Seed* is his first short story on constitutional democracy.

Tanzania Kahwa was among hundreds of visitors who thronged the pavilion on Monday, drawn by the promise of innovation and the possibility of practical solutions to local challenges

China pavilion draws crowds with high-tech solutions at Tanzania's international trade fair

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themtkenyatimes

On Monday, at the heart of the 50th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, a steady stream of visitors flows into one of the most vibrant sections of the exhibition grounds, the China pavilion.

From high-tech agricultural machinery to sleek electric vehicles and advanced industrial technologies, the pavilion has been a focal point since the fair opened on June 28. Running through July 13, the annual event, popularly known as Sabasaba, has drawn thousands of visitors eager to explore new ideas, partnerships, and opportunities. For Dawson Kahwa, a businessman from Temeke district in the port city of Dar es Salaam, the China pavilion offered more than just a display of products, but it was a glimpse into the future. "I have seen high-tech agricultural machinery such as irrigation pumps that could transform farming in Tanzania if adopted by our farmers," Kahwa told Xinhua during China Day, a special promotional event of the trade fair dedicated to showcasing China's trade, investment, technology, and cultural cooperation with Tanzania.

Kahwa was among hundreds of visitors who thronged the pavilion on Monday, drawn by the promise of innovation and the possibility of practical solutions to local challenges. Across the exhibition space, rows of modern equipment and digital technologies illustrated the breadth of China's industrial capabilities. Demonstrations of irrigation systems, agro-processing tools and smart technologies attracted particular interest from farmers, entrepreneurs and policymakers seeking to boost productivity and efficiency. China Day, held as part of the trade fair, provided a platform for government officials, business leaders and investors from both countries to reflect on the progress of bilateral cooperation and explore new avenues for growth. Dennis Londo, Tanzania's deputy minister for industry and trade, emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships that deliver tangible benefits. "As we celebrate China Day, let us renew



President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Mozambique's President Daniel Chapo during the official opening of the 50th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) on July 3, 2026, at the Julius Nyerere Trade Fair Grounds, marking the exhibition's Golden Jubilee.

our commitment to building stronger trade and investment partnerships that deliver real outcomes for our people," he said. He noted that China has become one of Tanzania's most important trade and investment partners, contributing significantly to industrial growth, infrastructure development, technology transfer and job creation. He also highlighted the significance of China's recent zero-tariff policy for African countries, including Tanzania, describing it as a transformative opportunity. "The zero-tariff arrangement provides our producers and exporters with direct access to one of the world's largest consumer markets," he said. "It creates favorable conditions for Tanzanian products to compete more effectively and expand their presence in China."

Technology and innovation, he added, will be critical in enabling Tanzania to fully benefit from these opportunities. He called for deeper cooperation with Chinese enterprises in areas such as advanced manufacturing, digital transformation, renewable energy and agro-processing. Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian highlighted the strong and growing economic ties between the two countries. "China

has been Tanzania's largest trading partner for 10 consecutive years," she said, adding that bilateral trade reached 5.12 billion U.S. dollars in the first five months of 2026. Chen noted that more than 300 Chinese companies are currently operating in Tanzania across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and services, contributing to the country's industrialization. Chen also pointed to the popularity of Tanzanian products such as coffee, cashew nuts and gemstones among Chinese consumers, particularly at international trade expos in China. She reaffirmed China's commitment to expanding openness and promoting trade liberalization, emphasizing that such efforts would create new opportunities for cooperation with Tanzania and the broader African continent.

Wang Xiangyun, chairperson of the East Africa Commercial and Logistics Center (EACLC), the main sponsor of the 50th DITF, said the China-Tanzania partnership is one rooted in shared vision and mutual benefit. "DITF is more than an exhibition," she said. "It is where ideas become partnerships, partnerships become investments, and investments create jobs. Over the past six

years, EACLC has organized more than 700 Chinese enterprises at Sabasaba, successfully helping many establish local factories to drive Tanzania's manufacturing sector." This year, the China Pavilion spotlights "New Energy, High-Tech, and Eco-Friendliness". Indoors, it features LED optoelectronics, solar photovoltaic equipment, water purification, and medical equipment. Outdoors, a specialized "Smart Manufacturing from China" pavilion showcases engineering machinery, agricultural equipment, electric vehicles, and motorcycles.

Wang expressed high confidence in Tanzania's strategic assets, noting that EACLC, officially opened on Aug. 1, 2025, is concrete proof of this potential. With an investment approaching 200 million U.S. dollars, the 75,000-sqm complex features over 2,000 shops and 1,000 parking spaces, hailed by local media as a pivotal national commercial project. "We are building a multi-functional bridge between China and East Africa," Wang said. Participation from Chinese provinces such as Shandong further underscored the depth of economic engagement. Wang Hong, deputy director general of the Department of Commerce of Shandong

Province, said the province's strong manufacturing base aligns well with Tanzania's industrialization needs. "Shandong has a complete industrial chain covering sectors such as agricultural machinery, automobiles, and textiles," she said. "These strengths complement Tanzania's development priorities." She noted that trade between Shandong and Tanzania has grown rapidly, driven by increasing demand for Tanzanian products and expanding Chinese investment.

The province has also supported infrastructure and industrial projects in Tanzania, contributing to improvements in transportation, healthcare and logistics, said Wang. Looking ahead, Wang outlined priorities for cooperation, including expanding trade, deepening industrial investment and strengthening institutional collaboration. Back at the exhibition grounds, the impact of these high-level discussions was evident in the enthusiasm of visitors like Kahwa. As he moved from one display to another, examining machinery and speaking with exhibitors, he reflected on the possibilities. "What we are seeing here can change how we work and produce," he said. "If we adopt these technologies, we can increase productivity and improve livelihoods." For many Tanzanians, the China pavilion is not just a showcase of foreign technology but a source of inspiration and practical solutions. Farmers see tools to increase yields, entrepreneurs identify business opportunities, and policymakers gain insights into industrial transformation.

At the same time, the pavilion reflects the evolving nature of China-Tanzania relations, moving beyond traditional cooperation to embrace innovation, sustainability and shared growth. As the fair continues, the steady flow of visitors shows no sign of slowing. Under the bright lights of the exhibition halls and the open skies of the fairgrounds, conversations continue about trade, technology, and the future. For Kahwa and many others, the experience has been both eye-opening and motivating. "This is not just about seeing new products," he said. "It is about learning, connecting, and finding ways to move forward."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Babu Owino defends arrested Gen Z protesters

By Alex Muthui

Embakasi East Member of Parliament Paul Ongili, popularly known as Babu Owino, appeared at the Milimani Law Courts on Wednesday to defend Gen Z activists arrested during Tuesday's Saba Saba anniversary commemorations in Nairobi.

Owino, alongside advocate John Ndegwa, led the defence as six protesters denied charges of obstructing motor vehicles on a public road. Before Senior Principal Magistrate Paul Mutai, the accused pleaded not guilty and were released on cash bail of KSh 2,000 each, with a hearing date yet to be set.

Speaking outside the courtroom, Owino said his legal team's presence was meant to guarantee the accused a fair hearing and safeguard their constitutional rights.

The arrests were among sev-



eral made across Nairobi as police moved to contain demonstrations marking the annual Saba Saba anniversary, held each July 7 to commemorate Kenya's pro-democracy movement.

Human rights groups renewed calls for due process, urging authorities to handle the cases strictly within the law.

Owino's intervention continues a pattern set during earlier Gen Z demonstrations, when he and fellow lawyers pledged

free representation to protesters, arguing that no Kenyan exercising the right to peaceful assembly should stand alone in the dock.

For the six freed on bail, Wednesday's ruling offered brief relief. For the wider protest movement, it was another marker in a long, unresolved contest between the streets and the state.

Are abductions back?

By Jesse Mumo

Are abductions back? For many Kenyans, the question is no longer rhetorical. A string of disappearances and alleged abductions has reignited national alarm over citizen safety, dragging families, rights groups and the courts into a grim search for answers.

The most closely watched case is that of missing Nakuru fisherman Brian Odhiambo. Six Kenya Wildlife Service officers face charges of abducting and unlawfully confining him. This week, defence witness Evans Kimaiyo denied arresting Odhiambo but admitted apprehending a man matching his description, testimony that did little to quiet public suspicion.

The Odhiambo case is not isolated. The "Mlolongo Four" disappearance earlier sparked outrage after four men vanished under suspicious circumstances, prompting the High Court to order security agencies to produce them, dead or



alive. An attempted abduction involving a senior journalist, following critical reporting on government affairs, has deepened fears for press freedom.

Kenya's Constitution guarantees every person freedom, security and due process. No one should vanish without explanation, whatever allegations they face. Where crimes are suspected, arrests must be lawful and transparent, followed by court appearances, not silence.

The burden now falls on investigators and the justice system to establish the truth, without presuming guilt before trial. Families deserve answers, victims deserve justice, and Kenyans deserve certainty that no citizen can simply disappear.

Isolated incidents or a resurging trend, the message is the same: transparency and accountability cannot be optional.

The silent cost of survival

Beyond the noise of politics and protest, ordinary Kenyans are quietly buckling under the weight of the everyday

By John Muthui

Forget the headlines. The real crisis in Kenya is not unfolding on the streets or in Parliament, but at kitchen tables, where families are skipping meals, delaying hospital visits and pulling children out of school activities simply to make ends meet.

While politicians trade accusations and commentators dissect the latest opinion polls, millions of households are engaged in a far less glamorous struggle: stretching a shrinking shilling across rent, food, school fees and fuel. For them, survival is not a metaphor. It is arithmetic, recalculated daily, with little room for error and even less room for hope.

Official growth figures may point upward, but growth on



paper rarely translates into relief at the market stall. A mother forgoing her own meal so that her children can eat is not merely a statistic; she is the truest measure of an economy's health, and by that measure, Kenya is failing too many of its people.

This is the quiet emergency policymakers keep missing. It does not trend on social media or dominate prime-time debate,

yet it is reshaping the country from the inside, one skipped meal, one deferred clinic visit, one dropped extracurricular activity at a time.

Kenya does not simply need louder political contests. It needs an honest reckoning with the cost of living, before survival itself becomes the only ambition left to its people.

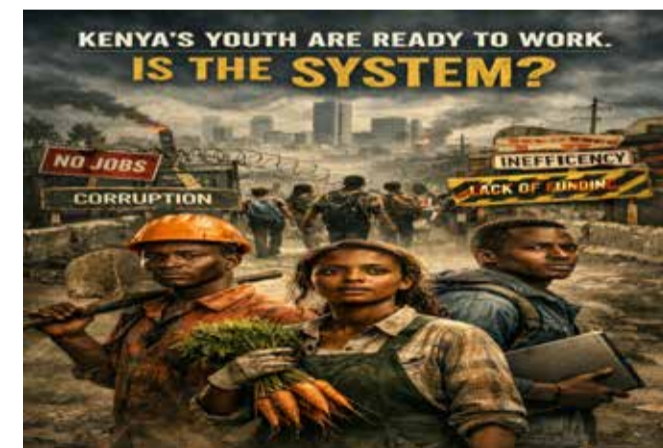
Kenya's youth are ready to work. Is the system?

By Sheila Juliet

Kenya has a workforce it is failing to use. Across the country, graduates and skilled young people leave college with qualifications but no clear route into meaningful work. This is not a shortage of talent. It is a shortage of opportunity.

Youth unemployment remains one of Kenya's most stubborn economic problems, and its cost is rarely counted in official statistics. Every idle graduate represents lost productivity, delayed household income, and fading faith in a system meant to reward hard work.

The solutions are not mysterious. Vocational training must be expanded and modernised to produce workers equipped for jobs that actually exist, not just certificates. Entrepreneurship support, from accessible credit to mentorship, needs to move from policy speeches



into the hands of young people ready to build businesses. Deliberate job-creation strategies, particularly in manufacturing, agribusiness and the digital economy, must treat youth employment as a national priority, not an afterthought.

Polytechnics already sit at the frontline of this challenge, training thousands of young Kenyans in practical, employable skills. What they need is stronger partnership with

industry and government, so training translates directly into jobs rather than more idle qualifications.

Kenya cannot afford to keep producing graduates for opportunities that do not exist. Investing in vocational training, entrepreneurship and job creation is not charity. It is how a country builds its future, one skilled young person at a time.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Defending champion Njoroge Kibugu produced a brilliant second-round performance to storm to the top of the leaderboard at the Absa Invitational

Kibugu tightens grip on Absa Invitational lead ahead of final round



Njoroge Kibugu tees off during the second round of the Absa Invitational, the fourth leg of the Sunshine Development Tour at the Nyali Golf & Country Club

By: **Capital Sport**

Defending champion Njoroge Kibugu produced a brilliant second-round performance to storm to the top of the leaderboard at the Absa Invitational, the fourth leg of the Sunshine Development Tour – East Africa Swing, setting up an exciting final-round showdown at Nyali Golf & Country Club on Thursday.

The Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club professional, who began the day tied for 13th on level par, carded a composed 4-under par 67 on the par-71 course to move to 4-under par overall, reaffirming his status as one of the favourites on a course where he claimed victory last season.

Kibugu's impressive round featured seven birdies on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 11th, 13th, 15th and 18th holes, with his only dropped shots coming on the 4th, 14th and 17th.

A confident Kibugu said he was pleased with how he managed his round and will remain fo-

cused heading into the decisive final day.

"I played solid golf today and gave myself plenty of opportunities. I hit the ball really well early on and got off to a good start. At some point, fatigue started to set in and I wasn't hitting the driver as well off the tee, but overall, it was a solid round. I really like this golf course. It holds a special place in my heart. I'm excited to get back out there tomorrow and see what the final round has in store," he said.

Hot on his heels are Greg Snow of Muthaiga Golf Club and Mohit Mediratta of Sigona Golf Club, who are tied for second place on 3-under par overall, just one shot behind the leader.

Snow carded a solid 2-under par 69, highlighted by birdies on the 5th, 7th and 10th, before producing a spectacular eagle on the par-five 11th.

Despite a bogey on the 2nd and a costly double-bogey on the 9th threatening to derail his charge, the experienced professional stayed composed to remain firm-

ly in contention.

Mediratta also remained in the hunt after signing for a 1-under par 70.

He enjoyed a flying start with birdies on the 1st, 4th, 5th and 9th, making the turn atop the leaderboard.

Although the back nine proved more challenging, with birdies on the 11th and 16th offset by bogeys on the 10th, 12th, 13th and 14th, he stayed within striking distance heading into the final round.

A further five players share fourth place on 2-under par overall, namely Rwanda's Celestin Nsanuwera, Michael Karanga, Taimur Malik, David Waku and first-round leader Eric Ooko, ensuring the title race remains wide open.

Meanwhile, Samuel Njoroge produced the round of the day, firing a superb 5-under par 66 to erase his opening-round deficit and climb to ninth place on 1-under par overall.

His outstanding round featured birdies on the 1st, 5th, 7th, 11th,

12th and 17th, with his only blemish coming on the 4th hole.

After his impressive recovery, Njoroge said he was delighted to bounce back after a difficult opening round.

"I came into today determined to play well after yesterday's round, which I wasn't very happy with. I went back to the range after the round for some extra practice, and it paid off. Everything came together today, especially off the tee and on the greens, and I'm happy to have played myself back into contention. We'll see how it goes tomorrow," he said.

Nigeria's Godwin Okoko also impressed, returning the second-best round of the day with a 4-under par 67.

His scorecard featured birdies on the 1st, 5th, 9th, 12th and 14th, with his only dropped shot coming on the 6th hole, lifting him back into contention ahead of the final day.

Okoko said consistency will be key if he is to challenge for the title.

"I stayed patient throughout the round and gave myself chances. It's a good position to be in heading into the final day, and I'll be looking to finish strongly," he said.

A total of 34 players made the cut to play in the final round tomorrow where the leading players will battle it out over the final 18 holes for the Absa Invitational title, a share of the tournament's KES 2 Million prize purse, as well as valuable Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR), World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) and Sunshine Development Tour Order of Merit points, which are crucial in the race for qualification to the main Sunshine Tour.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Mutare Polytechnic's Shepherd Kukudzarema clinched individual gold in men's chess at the Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Association, (CUCSA) Games in Gaborone

Tertiary champion: Mutare Poly's Kukudzarema crowned Chess Champion in Botswana

By Pierre Makusha

MUTARE — A polytechnic student has checkmated the old order.

Mutare Polytechnic's Shepherd Kukudzarema clinched individual gold in men's chess at the Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Association, (CUCSA) Games in Gaborone, Botswana, as Zimbabwe's team also secured the overall men's title.

The 22nd edition of the CUCSA Games was hosted by the University of Botswana in Gaborone. The Games ran from 28 June to 5 July and featured various sporting disciplines ranging from indoor games and ball games to track and field events.

The Diesel Plant Fitting first year student's Southern African triumph caps a breakthrough season that began with gold at the Technical Education Sports Arts and Recreation Games (TESAR) in Bulawayo in April, continued with a starring role at the Zimbabwe Tertiary Sports (ZiTS) Games in Harare in May, and culminated on the regional stage.

In what makes the achievement even more groundbreaking, TESAR was the first tournament Kukudzarema had ever participated in. He taught himself and trained at home before stepping onto the national and regional stages.

For Mutare Poly, the win is historic. The institution became the first polytechnic to win men's chess gold at ZiTS earlier this year — breaking years of dominance by universities and teachers' colleges.

"The support from Mutare Polytechnic meant a lot to me. Knowing that the principal, the sports director, coach, and the entire institution believed in me gave me extra motivation to perform

well," Kukudzarema said.

"This victory is not just mine, it belongs to the whole Mutare Polytechnic family."

Chess coach Mandla Ndaba said the result was no fluke.

"After years of dominance by universities and teacher's colleges, a polytechnic has broken the jinx and won gold in chess. This is not a one-off. The talent pool has widened," Ndaba said.

"With sustained investment across disciplines and students committing time outside class, we have built a structure that delivers."

Kukudzarema said each tournament sharpened him.

"After TESAR, I realized I was playing good and strong chess but I continued to improve my consistency. Before ZiTS, I worked harder on my openings and tactics. By the time CUCSA came, I was mentally stronger and more confident," he said.

The competition in Gaborone was fierce.

"Every game was important because the level of competition was very high. When I realized I had secured enough points to win the gold medal, it was an unforgettable moment. All the hard work and sacrifices had finally paid off," he said.

The 21-year-old is already eyeing bigger stages.

"My goal is to keep improving and compete at even higher levels. I want to represent Mutare Polytechnic and Zimbabwe in bigger international competitions and continue raising the country's flag," Kukudzarema said.

"I also hope our success inspires more students to take up chess."

He dedicated the achievement to his parents.

"I would like to thank my parents for their endless love and support. Their belief in me has



Mutare Polytechnic's Shepherd Kukudzarema

been my greatest motivation."

CUCSA brings together tertiary institutions from across Southern Africa. Zimbabwe topped the men's chess standings overall. Mutare Poly will now look to build on the momentum ahead of next year's games.

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



CAB3 and the road ahead: Mnangagwa's signature reshapes Zimbabwe's political future



By Norman Mwale
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- That view is not shared across the political spectrum. Opposition parties and civic organisations have described the President's signature as a retreat from democratic principle. Citizens Coalition for Change spokesperson Promise Mkwanzu said ZANU-PF was "afraid of the ballot" and was "hiding behind constitutional amendments" instead of facing voters. CCC leader Nelson Chamisa called the move "a national error" that "will be corrected by citizens."

- From the benches of Parliament, Madzivanyika has been among the Bill's earliest and most consistent critics, warning throughout the process that it represented "constitutional manipulation" rather than reform, and that it stripped a fundamental right from voters. "They are taking away your right to choose your president," he has said. "We are moving from one-man rule to one-party rule."



Corban Madzivanyika, MP for Mbizo Constituency

"This is not constitutionalism, this is constitutional manipulation. CAB3 is an ugly bill meant to kill democracy." — Corban Madzivanyika, MP for Mbizo Constituency

President Emmerson Mnangagwa's assent to the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill has closed one chapter in Zimbabwean politics and opened another, far more contested one. The law, gazetted this week after passing through Parliament by 226 votes to 41, extends the presidential term from five years to seven, replaces the direct popular vote for president with election by Parliament, and postpones the next general elections for the presidency, Parliament and local authorities to 2030.

Government officials have framed the amendments as necessary for policy continuity and stability. Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi told Parliament the Bill was "progressive legislation" designed to align the constitution with the country's developmental agenda. For ZANU-PF legislators, the argument has been consistent: that frequent electoral

cycles distract from long-term planning, and that a seven-year term will allow the administration to complete projects without interruption. Within party structures, the mood has been one of consolidation, with leaders arguing the changes offer certainty at a time when the economy is undergoing structural reform.

That view is not shared across the political spectrum. Opposition parties and civic organisations have described the President's signature as a retreat from democratic principle. Citizens Coalition for Change spokesperson Promise Mkwanzu said ZANU-PF was "afraid of the ballot" and was "hiding behind constitutional amendments" instead of facing voters. CCC leader Nelson Chamisa called the move "a national error" that "will be corrected by citizens." From the benches of Parliament, Madzivanyika has been among the Bill's earliest and most consistent critics, warning throughout the process that it represented "constitutional manipulation" rather than reform, and that it stripped a fundamental right from voters. "They are taking away your right to

choose your president," he has said. "We are moving from one-man rule to one-party rule."

Civil society has echoed those concerns and pushed further on process. A coalition of rights groups urged Mnangagwa to subject CAB3 to a referendum, invoking his own past pledge that "the voice of the people is the voice of God." The request was declined. Instead, Parliament was recalled from recess for an extraordinary sitting to finalise Senate amendments, a procedure critics argue curtailed public consultation. Legal analysts have also weighed in. Constitutional lawyer Alex Magaisa argued before assent that "a constitution is not a ZANU-PF party document," and that amending it for the benefit of one man and one party amounted to a desecration of the supreme law. For many in the legal fraternity, the central issue is not merely the content of the amendments, but the precedent they set for how the constitution can be altered without broad consensus.

Political analysts are divided on what the signature means for Zimbabwe's trajectory toward 2030. Some

see it as a calculated move to give the executive room to implement economic reforms without the pressure of an imminent electoral cycle, pointing to currency instability, power cuts and public sector wage disputes as challenges the government believes continuity will help manage. Others see it differently, arguing that moving presidential selection to Parliament and extending the term concentrates power within party structures and weakens accountability to voters. In that reading, CAB3 is less about governance efficiency and more about political survival.

The implications are already rippling through policy and diplomatic circles. Regional observers note that Zimbabwe's credibility on democratic governance will be tested as it seeks investment and re-engagement abroad. Domestically, the question is how institutions respond: Parliament now holds a greater role in selecting the head of state, shifting leverage to the majority party, while citizens face a longer wait before they can register approval or disapproval at the ballot box.

What happens next will depend on whether the political space accommodates contestation or narrows further. Government will likely emphasise delivery, arguing that the extended term must be justified by results in service delivery, job creation and currency stability. The opposition and civic groups, meanwhile, are expected to mobilise around demands for a referendum and broader constitutional dialogue.

Mnangagwa's signature has done more than amend eighteen clauses — it has reset the terms of political competition. Whether that reset is remembered as reform or entrenchment will be decided not only in Parliament, but in how the economy performs and how citizens experience governance between now and 2030. The law is now in force. The test of its legitimacy will play out in the years ahead.