

Sat & Sun, August 1-2, 2026

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WEEKEND ePAPER

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KSh 60 (TSh 1,700 : USh 2,700 : RFr 900)

No. 0304    themtkenyatiimes

Kenya's new police order

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Mudavadi highlights Kenya's role in driving Africa's peace, investment agenda

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyetimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi has reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to advancing peace, women's leadership and economic growth across Africa. Mudavadi said Africa's full potential cannot be achieved without the active participation of women in peacebuilding, mediation and decision-making processes. He made the remarks after holding talks with African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security Liberata Mulamula, where they discussed strengthening women's role in conflict prevention, peace processes and post-conflict recovery. Mulamula congratulated Kenya for attaining Tier One status in assessed contributions to the African Union, describing it as a demonstration of the country's commitment to African ownership and sustainable financing of continental institutions. Mudavadi also met South Sudan's Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister James Pitia Morgan to review bilateral ties and explore cooperation in trade, regional integration and economic development. He said a peaceful South Sudan remains critical to Kenya's strategic interests, noting that regional stability supports security, investment and shared prosperity. Meanwhile, Mudavadi held discussions with Bloomberg representatives on a proposed inaugural Bloomberg Africa Business Conference in Nairobi, saying the initiative would enhance Kenya's position as a leading hub for finance, innovation and enterprise while attracting investment and creating opportunities for businesses.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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Group Executive Chairman

M. Danson

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

Our Contacts

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

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

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Democratic Party of Kenya has welcomed former Kisii County Woman Representative aspirant Beatrice Barongo, who has declared her interest in vying for the Kisii Woman Representative seat on the party's ticket in the 2027 General Election. Barongo said she chose the party because of its longstanding presence in Kisii County and its people-centred ideology, which she said reflects the aspirations of local residents. She also acquired her DP Life Membership Certificate, formally joining the party ahead of the elections. Barongo was received by the party's Secretary General, Jacob Haji, who welcomed her to the party. The Democratic Party said it remains committed to attracting leaders focused on integrity, service and transformative leadership.



Residents of Migori County have appealed to authorities to address the poor condition of the Zam-zam-Nyamware road, saying excessive dust from heavy traffic is disrupting businesses and posing health risks. The murram road has become a major alternative route for motorists travelling to Isebana, Kisii and Homa Bay following the closure of the Migori Bridge by the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) in February after its structural integrity was compromised by rising River Migori waters. Residents say the increased flow of trucks, public service vehicles and private cars has worsened dust pollution, especially during the dry season. They want the county government to regularly sprinkle water on the road as a temporary measure while seeking a permanent solution.



Low-income earners can access homes under Kenya's Affordable Housing Programme through social housing and rent-to-own tenant purchase schemes at monthly payments starting from KSh3,000. The Social Housing category targets low-income households, informal sector workers and residents relocating from informal settlements. While applicants are generally required to pay a 10 per cent deposit of the unit cost to book and select a house, those with a verified monthly income below KSh20,000 may qualify for an exemption from the upfront deposit under selected project rollouts. Applicants can register through the Boma Yangu portal or by dialing *832#, pay the required KSh200 registration fee and monitor their allocation and payment status through their profiles.



President William Ruto has fulfilled his KSh10 million pledge for the renovation of St Paul Primary School in Kutus, Kirinyaga County. Mwea MP Mary Maingi announced the release of the funds, which will be used to renovate classrooms, repair leaking roofs and improve sanitation facilities. The funding is expected to transform the school, whose ageing infrastructure has affected learning for years. President Ruto made the commitment during an earlier development tour of Kirinyaga County after his helicopter landed at the school's playground, where he witnessed the poor condition of the institution. The renovation is expected to provide pupils and teachers with a safer, more conducive learning environment.



A woman from Meru County has been discharged from Kenyatta National Hospital after successfully undergoing a complex eight-hour open graft repair surgery for a thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm. Judith Karwitha left the hospital on Thursday, just 10 days after the operation, pain-free and in stable condition following months of severe abdominal pain that had disrupted her daily life. According to the hospital, she had suffered persistent abdominal pain radiating to her back for nearly a year before seeking specialised treatment. Doctors diagnosed her with a dangerous enlargement of the body's main artery extending through the chest and abdomen. The condition weakens the aortic wall and can rupture without warning, causing life-threatening internal bleeding if left untreated.



Kenya is set to adopt new World Health Organization (WHO) treatment guidelines for visceral leishmaniasis (Kala-azar) and post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL), introducing shorter, safer and more effective treatment regimens. Kala-azar, a life-threatening parasitic disease spread by infected sandflies, affected 3,577 people across 12 endemic counties in 2025, double the cases recorded in 2024. The Ministry of Health says it is incorporating the revised WHO recommendations into the country's national treatment guidelines. Head of the Division of Vector Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases Wycliff Omondi said Kenya, which contributed to developing the new treatments through the Leishmaniasis East Africa Platform, expects the updated therapies to improve patient outcomes and support disease elimination efforts.

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Tourism Miano promised closer attention to housing and other welfare needs of officers

Miano vows better pay and housing for wildlife rangers

BY John Kariuki

@themtkenyatices

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano yesterday pledged to push for improved welfare, housing and remuneration for wildlife rangers, saying the government must do more to recognise the sacrifices made by officers protecting Kenya's natural heritage.

Speaking during World Ranger Day celebrations in the Tsavo Conservation Area, Miano said the government would progressively review ranger welfare and improve working conditions in recognition of the risks officers face on the job.

"As our economy grows and resources allow, we shall continue pursuing improvements in salaries and benefits as a demonstration of our appreciation for the invaluable service our rangers render to the nation," she said.

Miano promised closer attention to housing and other welfare needs of officers deployed across Kenya's conservation areas. "Our commitment is unwavering because we recognise that investing in rangers is investing in Kenya's future," she added.

The pledge came as Kenya continues to position wildlife conservation as a key pillar of the tourism industry and the broader economy. Miano said the contribution of wildlife goes well beyond conservation — the sector creates employment, supports com-



Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano

munity livelihoods, protects water towers, enhances climate resilience and strengthens Kenya's national identity. "Protecting wildlife is therefore not only a conservation responsibility — it is an investment in Kenya's economic future and sustainable development," she said.

Miano said the government would continue investing in ranger recruitment, professional training, modern technology and operational equipment to strengthen the country's response to wildlife crime and human-wildlife conflict. She acknowledged that the conservation environment had grown increasingly complex, with climate change, biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, illegal wildlife trade and human-wildlife conflict all intensifying the demands placed on rangers in the field. "Today's ranger must be more than a law enforcement officer. You are conservationists, first responders, environ-

mental educators, community partners and ambassadors of Kenya's rich natural heritage," she told those gathered.

The CS said her ministry would continue supporting the Kenya Wildlife Service in strengthening surveillance and intelligence-led operations, expanding aerial capabilities, enhancing digital monitoring systems and improving rapid response to wildlife crime and human-wildlife conflict incidents. She commended KWS for progress in recruitment, professional development and the acquisition of modern equipment — investments she said had helped cement Kenya's standing as a global leader in wildlife conservation and nature-based tourism.

Miano also paid tribute to rangers who had died in the line of duty and those living with the physical and emotional toll of their work, describing them as "silent

guardians of our biodiversity, defenders of our tourism economy and custodians of a natural heritage that belongs not only to Kenya but to the world."

She called for stronger partnerships between national and county governments, local communities, conservation organisations, development partners and the private sector, arguing that conservation cannot succeed without the active involvement of communities living alongside wildlife.

Closing her address, Miano offered a direct message to rangers serving across the country. "To every ranger serving across Kenya, we salute your courage, your sacrifice and your unwavering patriotism. You truly are the guardians of a changing world," she said.

The celebrations were held under the theme: Rangers: Guardians of a Changing World.

Shot dead on her way to work



Dr Victoria Mutiso

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatices

A mother and her son were on Friday arraigned at Milimani Law Courts as suspects in the murder of prominent psychologist Dr Victoria Nthunya Mutiso, shot dead in Nairobi's Upper Hill while travelling to work in a taxi on Wednesday.

Rose Mbithe Mulwa, also known as Rose Mbithe Ndeti, and her son Chris Mulwa appeared before Senior Principal Magistrate Geoffrey Onsarigo but did not take a plea after the Directorate of Criminal Investigations sought orders to detain them for 30 days to complete investigations.

The court heard a chilling trail of alleged threats. On 7 July, two armed men on a

motorcycle allegedly pointed a firearm at Dr Mutiso near Junction Mall on Ngong Road. She escaped, reported the incident at Kilimani Police Station and told investigators she had recognised the pillion passenger as Chris Mulwa. On 27 July, she again reported being trailed by motorcycle riders on her way to work — two days before she was killed.

An autopsy confirmed she was shot three times, twice in the head. Investigators told the court that a land dispute — a civil suit filed at Machakos Law Courts by Rose Mbithe against the deceased's family — forms part of the emerging motive. Rose Mbithe is the former wife of Dr Mutiso's husband.

The court rules on Monday.

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Jumwa's exit and what it means for the Coast



Former Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa

BY Fatuma Ali

@themtkenyatimes

Former Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa yesterday quit the United Democratic Alliance, the party she helped found, citing humiliation, political marginalisation and broken promises — and immediately began talks with opposition figures eyeing her considerable influence in Kilifi County ahead of the 2027 general election.

Standing before journalists, Jumwa was unsparing. “From today, Aisha Jumwa Katana is no longer a member of the United Democratic Alliance. This decision is not an act of anger. It is an act of conscience,” she said. Fighting back tears, she said she was among the founders of UDA but no longer held any position in government — not even that of a sweeper — yet the President wanted her to campaign for his re-election on the promise of a Cabinet slot.

She claimed she had been turned away from State House during a meeting between the President and Coast leaders, and that her attempts to have grievances addressed by President William Ruto had repeatedly fallen on deaf ears. The specific grievance driving her exit was the gubernatorial race: Jumwa says pressure from broad-based coalition leaders to block a UDA candidate for the Kilifi governorship left her with no reason to stay.

The day after her resignation, Siaya Governor James Orengo vis-

ited Jumwa at her Kakuyuni home in Kilifi County, formally welcoming her to the Linda Mwananchi movement — a fast-growing opposition outfit that has been making inroads along the Coast and in Western Kenya. Orengo offered her a principal position, describing her as “a courageous leader who has demonstrated the ability to mobilise people and articulate issues affecting wananchi.” Jumwa has not yet committed, saying she is still consulting before announcing her next political home.

Her departure adds to a growing list of senior politicians who have recently exited UDA, including former Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi, Nyandarua Governor Moses Kiarie Badilisha and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro — a pattern that points to fractures inside the ruling coalition that are widening, not narrowing, as 2027 approaches.

For Kilifi, Jumwa's next move matters enormously. She has built a support base spanning local government, Parliament and the national executive over nearly three decades in politics, first entering elective office at just 22 years old. A politician of that reach, now unmoored from the ruling party and courted by the opposition, is precisely the kind of figure who can redraw a county's political map.

She has made one thing clear: she intends to contest the Kilifi governorship regardless of which party she chooses. The party may still be undecided. The ambition is not.



Imenti North Sub-county Police Commander Ambrose Kyalo addresses the press | Photo: Brian Gitonga

Meru man dies after drinking ethanol from farm drum

Thirteen others hospitalised with blurred vision after siphoning liquid from industrial containers delivered for a farmers' field day

BY Brian Gitonga

@themtkenyatimes

A Meru man has died and thirteen others are hospitalised after consuming a substance suspected to be ethanol residue siphoned from industrial drums that had been delivered to Kambakia area in North Imenti ahead of a farmers' field day. Imenti North Sub-county Police Commander Ambrose Kyalo identified the deceased as Martin Muriki, alias Mauru, and said he was among a group of workers who discovered that drums delivered on 24 July for the Annual Farmers' Field Day still contained a liquid with a strong alcoholic smell. The drums had been earmarked to be cut in half and converted into cattle feeding troughs.

“They recovered between five litres and more from the drums. Since July 24, they have been consuming the substance, which we

suspect to be ethanol,” Kyalo said.

Workers reportedly drained the remaining liquid before taking it home in small containers, believing it to be alcohol. Kyalo said Muriki had kept roughly five litres for himself, sharing only small amounts with others while consuming most of it on his own.

The consequences were swift and severe. On Thursday morning, Muriki told his wife he could not see daylight despite it being broad morning — a sign, police say, that he had already lost his sight. “He asked his wife why there was no sunlight. She was shocked because he had apparently lost his sight. He had also not eaten because he had fallen ill,” Kyalo said.

Muriki was rushed to a hospital in Nkubu, where he died while receiving treatment.

The thirteen others who had consumed the same substance later presented themselves at Kambakia Police Station complaining of

blurred vision, tongue discolouration and related symptoms. They were referred to Consolata Gitoro Mission Hospital in Makutano for treatment and observation.

The case has been handed to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, which has opened a formal inquiry into the incident. The remaining suspected ethanol, recovered from the deceased's brother, has been taken into police custody for laboratory analysis to determine its composition.

Kyalo urged the public to exercise caution. “It is reckless and very risky to consume substances whose contents are unknown. Members of the public must desist from such behaviour,” he said.

He also called on parents to keep a close eye on their children during the school holidays, warning that unsupervised young people could easily be exposed to similarly harmful substances.

Security The changes, published in Legal Notice No. 138 in the Kenya Gazette on 30 July, form part of ongoing efforts to reform the National Police Service

Kenya's new police order

Inspector-General Douglas Kanja has gazetted four specialised units in the most significant restructuring of the National Police Service in nearly a decade — and the implications for how Kenya is policed are profound

BY David Kimani

@themtkenyaintimes

Kenya's National Police Service yesterday unveiled four new specialised police formations — the Nairobi Metropolitan Police, the Judiciary Police Unit, the Kenya Police Quick Response Unit and the Kenya Police Marine Unit — in the most sweeping reorganisation of the country's policing architecture since the 2017 Standing Orders.

The changes, published in Legal Notice No. 138 in the Kenya Gazette on 30 July, form part of ongoing efforts to reform the National Police Service, strengthen its organisational structure and improve operational efficiency. Inspector-General Douglas Kanja signed the amendments, which repeal Chapter 7 of the 2017 Service Standing Orders and replace it with a new framework governing how police formations, units and components are structured, deployed and held accountable.

"The National Police Service has introduced a new organisational structure following the publication of the National Police Service Standing (Amendment) Orders, 2026. The changes form part of ongoing police reforms aimed at reorganising the Service to improve efficiency, coordination, accountability and operational effectiveness," the NPS said in a statement.

The centrepiece of the reforms is the Nairobi Metropolitan Police — a formation that has been months in the making and whose creation reflects the government's growing recognition that Kenya's capital can no longer be policed the way it was a generation ago. Nairobi has grown into a major regional, commercial, financial and diplomatic hub, and its security needs have grown right along with it. President William Ruto has described the new unit as a community-led security model that will improve collaboration between law enforcement agencies and Nairobi residents, bringing together community leaders, the National Police Service, Nairobi County Government and other key stakeholders to jointly identify security priorities. The operational blueprint is ambitious. Kamukunji Police Station

has been identified as the proposed headquarters of the unit, which will anchor an Integrated Command and Communication Centre — known as IC4 — to coordinate operations in real time, alongside a Multi-Agency Liaison Office to strengthen coordination with other national and county security actors. The government is also upgrading Nairobi's entire surveillance network from NC3 to NC4 to expand the system's analytical reach and data-processing power, with Artificial Intelligence playing a central role in helping police identify crime hotspots and enabling a smarter, more targeted approach to enforcement.

The scale of the deployment is considerable. At least 2,500 officers from Nairobi County inspectorate will join the Nairobi Metropolitan Police Unit once it is unveiled, according to Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaia, with all officers undergoing specialised training before deployment. Construction at Kamukunji to accommodate the expanded workforce is scheduled to begin in August.

The groundwork for this moment stretched across several continents. Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen and Inspector-General Kanja carried out a series of benchmarking tours of the New York Police Department and London police units, as well as the Japan National Police Agency and the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department. Kanja led a high-level delegation to Japan in June, holding consultations with the Japan National Police Agency and the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department as the government studied how major metropolitan forces manage rapid urbanisation, high-density populations and the increasingly sophisticated nature of urban crime. Those lessons are now being written into Kenyan law.

Beyond Nairobi, the reforms address two other critical gaps that have long drawn criticism from legal professionals and security analysts alike. The Judiciary Police Unit has been created to enhance security within the Judiciary by providing dedicated protection for courts, judicial officers, court users and judicial facilities — an acknowledgement that Kenya's courts have operated without adequate or consistent se-



Inspector-General Douglas Kanja

curity cover, leaving judges, magistrates and witnesses unnecessarily exposed. The unit sits within the Administration Police Service and its creation signals that the state now treats the protection of judicial independence as an operational priority, not an afterthought.

The Quick Response Unit will serve as a rapid deployment team to respond to emergencies, high-risk incidents and other situations requiring immediate police intervention, while the Kenya Police Marine Unit will strengthen security and law enforcement along the country's coastal waters, lakes and other inland waterways, supporting efforts to combat marine crime. The marine unit addresses a dimension of Kenyan security that has historically been under-resourced — illegal fishing, smuggling, cross-border criminal activity on Lake Victoria and security risks along the Indian Ocean coastline have all grown in recent years without a dedicated enforcement response.

The amended Standing Orders also significantly consolidate the Inspector-General's authority. Under the new framework, Kanja gains the power to integrate, merge or reorganise police formations, units, investigative commands and bureaus — with any such direction required to be issued in writing. He must also approve all operational guidelines and standard operating procedures before implementation, and will be responsible for resolving conflicts where different formations have overlapping mandates. The Deputy Inspectors-General, meanwhile, will determine command structures and deployment for their respective services in consultation with the Inspector-General.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations retains its own distinct command architecture. The amended orders preserve key DCI formations including the Counter-Terrorism Bureau, National Anti-Narcotics Investigations Bureau, Crime Research and Intelligence Bureau, National

Police Service Forensic Laboratory and the INTERPOL National Central Bureau — all of which continue to operate under the DCI's direction, in consultation with the Inspector-General.

The creation of specialised formations such as the Nairobi Metropolitan Police, Judiciary Police Unit, Quick Response Unit and Kenya Police Marine Unit is expected to strengthen rapid response capabilities, enhance the protection of key national institutions and critical infrastructure, and improve the Service's ability to address increasingly complex security challenges across the country.

Whether the ambition survives contact with the realities of funding, political will and institutional culture remains the question that Kenyans — and the criminals who prey on them — will be watching closely. The gazette notice is the beginning, not the end. What matters now is execution.

Politics Ndubai argued that businesses, farmers, youth and entrepreneurs were increasingly finding it difficult to secure loans

DP chairman raises alarm over public debt, calls for austerity measures

BY Wilfred Muchire

@themtkenyatomes

The Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) has expressed concern over Kenya's growing public debt, saying the country's debt burden, now estimated at about KSh12.8 trillion, poses a serious threat to the economy and future generations.

In a statement on Friday, DP National Chairman Peter Ndubai said the government's continued reliance on borrowing, particularly from the domestic market, was crowding out private sector access to affordable credit.

Ndubai argued that businesses, farmers, youth and entrepreneurs were increasingly finding it difficult to secure loans because the government was competing for the same financial resources, limiting investment, job creation and economic growth.

He said a government committed to transforming the economy should focus on empowering citizens to create wealth instead of restricting access to financing. According to him, thriving businesses would generate employment, increase production and ultimately expand the country's tax base.

The opposition party also

criticised what it described as continued wasteful public expenditure despite rising borrowing levels, urging the government to reduce unnecessary spending and implement strict austerity measures across ministries, departments and state agencies.

Ndubai called for greater accountability in the management of borrowed funds, insisting that Kenyans have a constitutional right to know how every public shilling is spent and whether it delivers value for money.

He urged the National Treasury, Parliament and constitutional oversight institutions to strengthen transparency, con-



Peter Ndubai

duct independent audits and hold public officers accountable for the management of public resources.

The DP chairman said those found to have misused public funds should face the law

without fear or favour.

Ndubai who is seeking to be the next Tigania West MP maintained that Kenya requires leadership that lives within its means, prioritises productive investments,

supports local enterprise and safeguards the country's long-term economic future through prudent fiscal management.

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Politics “There is no problem with Prof Kindiki. He will only have a problem if you do not support him,” Murkomen said, calling on the region to back one of its own

The battle for Ruto’s running mate

As 2027 draws closer, a fierce contest over the deputy presidency is exposing the fault lines inside Kenya’s broad-based government — and the outcome will define the shape of the next election

BY Brenda Atieno

@themtkenyatimes

A public power struggle has broken out inside Kenya’s broad-based government over who will run alongside President William Ruto in the 2027 general election, with the Orange Democratic Movement demanding the deputy presidency as the price of its continued support and UDA leaders rallying to defend the incumbent, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki.

The contest — conducted largely in public, across rallies, television studios and party gatherings — has moved faster than most political observers expected. What began as quiet coalition negotiations has become an open confrontation over one of the most consequential decisions any sitting president must make: who stands beside him when he asks the country for another five years.

ODM’s position has hardened noticeably in recent days. The party has made the deputy president’s slot a non-negotiable condition for backing Ruto’s re-election bid, demanding a 50-50 power-sharing arrangement with UDA as its irreducible minimum. “UDA should produce the president while ODM will produce the deputy president, and we will present Wycliffe Oparanya,” National Assembly Minority Leader Junet Mohamed said at a rally in Malava, Kakamega County. The statement was not a trial balloon. It was a declaration.

ODM Deputy Party Leader Simba Arati went further still at the party’s Turkana delegates meeting. “Since Ruto is on UDA vying for president in 2027, ODM will produce

the Deputy President,” he said, framing the claim in language that left little room for ambiguity. Arati added that the only way Kindiki could remain in the position was if he left UDA and joined ODM — a condition nobody seriously expects to be met. “Our party ODM and UDA, we will go 50-50, no shortcut about it. Without that, no story,” he said.

The ODM candidate of choice is Cooperatives and MSMEs Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya, the former Kakamega Governor and one of the most senior surviving figures in Raila Odinga’s inner circle. Junet described Oparanya as politically mature and the most experienced option, citing his long-standing closeness to Raila and his track record as both governor and cabinet secretary. Oparanya himself has adopted a carefully calibrated posture — distancing himself from the lobbying while reaffirming his commitment to ODM and his support for President Ruto, conscious that as a sitting cabinet secretary he cannot openly campaign for a position still occupied by the Deputy President.

Beyond Oparanya, ODM has assembled a roster of alternatives. The party has also floated Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga and Mining Cabinet Secretary Ali Hassan Joho as potential candidates, with Coast-based leaders particularly vocal in their backing for Joho. Some senior ODM figures have gone so far as to suggest that party leader Raila Odinga himself could be considered — a prospect that, if it materialised, would represent the most dramatic political reversal in Kenya’s post-inde-

pendence history.

The arithmetic behind ODM’s demand is straightforward and not without logic. Western Kenya — the Mulembe nation of the Luhya community — delivered significant numbers in 2022, and its leaders argue those numbers must be reflected in any genuine coalition arrangement. Khwisero MP Christopher Aseka put it plainly: “Let the votes be counted. Whoever has the most votes should put them on the table. As the Mulembe community, we have five million votes behind Wycliffe Oparanya.” Whether that figure is precise or aspirational, the underlying point is real: Western Kenya is a bloc that no winning coalition can afford to ignore.

The UDA response has been equally forceful. Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku drew a firm line, saying ODM should be told “in no uncertain terms that the deputy president’s seat already has an occupant, Prof Kithure Kindiki, who will be President Ruto’s running mate in 2027.” Ruku, who like Kindiki hails from the Mt Kenya region, dismissed Oparanya’s bid and maintained that Kindiki had delivered in the position and deserved to be retained.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen also urged Mt Kenya leaders to rally behind the Deputy President, dismissing suggestions that the position should shift to another region. “There is no problem with Prof Kindiki. He will only have a problem if you do not support him,” Murkomen said, calling on the region to back one of its own.

Kindiki himself has not left



Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki and Cooperatives and MSMEs Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya.

the matter to his defenders. Addressing more than 45,000 farmers at the Meru Central Dairy Cooperative Union’s feeds factory launch in Imenti, he was characteristically direct. “I want to state it clearly that I will be President William Ruto’s running mate in next year’s general elections. Those who are salivating for that position should forget it because the Ruto-Kindiki ticket will be on the ballot, and we shall win,” he said.

The numbers, for now, support him. A July 2026 Infotrak survey placed Kindiki as the preferred running mate for President Ruto with a 34 per cent national rating, topping regional preferences including in Nyanza, where he attracted 28 per cent support, ahead of Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga’s 21 per cent. Wanga polled 11 per cent nationally, followed by ODM leader Oburu Oginga at five per cent, Mining Cabinet Secretary Hassan Joho at four per cent, and Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru at three per cent. Over 37 per cent of respondents remained undecided,

however, suggesting the race is far from settled.

Political analysts note that President Ruto may, paradoxically, benefit from keeping the question open for as long as possible. “Ruto needs Kindiki right now more than ever before,” Professor Gitile Naituli observed. “He can use him to promise everyone that position. He can use the Rigathi Gachagua example and say he can replace him. He can tell that to the Luos, Coast and Western residents.” It is a cold calculation, but in Kenyan politics, cold calculations tend to age better than warm promises.

The broader context adds another layer of complexity. Gachagua has emerged as a leading opposition figure, with the Democracy for Citizens Party seeking to consolidate support in the Mt Kenya region — placing Kindiki under growing pressure to demonstrate his ability to retain the mountain for President Ruto. Murang’a Governor Irungu Kang’ata has put the dilemma starkly: “The biggest problem is that the mountain appears

to have largely moved away from President Ruto to align with Mr Gachagua and the DCP. The running mate position ideally is used to marshal critical numbers. Doubts abound whether Prof Kindiki can manage that task and, if not, what to do with him.”

It is precisely that uncertainty — Mt Kenya’s loyalty suddenly no longer guaranteed, ODM demanding its price, the Coast restless, Western Kenya counting its votes — that makes the deputy presidency the most fought-over political prize in Kenya today.

ODM and UDA have already appointed five-member technical teams that have begun drafting a joint manifesto, expected to be completed before the end of the year. A manifesto can be negotiated by committee. A running mate cannot. That decision belongs to one man — and William Ruto has not yet shown his hand.

When he does, the map of Kenyan politics in 2027 will snap into focus. Until then, the battle for his right hand will only grow louder.



President William Ruto

Politics That, in many ways, was the experience of millions of Kenyans who faithfully tuned in to President William Ruto's address to the nation

The president announced a journey. Kenyans are still looking for the bus



By: Gitile Naituli
@themtkenyatimes

There is something uniquely Kenyan about attending an event where everyone waits for the main announcement, only to discover that the announcement is that another announcement is coming.

That, in many ways, was the experience of millions of Kenyans who faithfully tuned in to President William Ruto's address to the nation.

The setting was presidential. The tone was solemn. The references were global. Singapore appeared. South Korea made an appearance. Vietnam was invited into the conversation. China was acknowledged. One almost expected Japan to wave from the sidelines.

The destination was magnificent.

Vision 2060

Unfortunately, somewhere between State House and the First World, the vehicle disappeared.

By the time the address ended, many Kenyans were still searching for the actual announcement.

After careful listening, the country's collective conclusion appeared to be this: Vision 2060 has not actually been launched. What has been launched is a conversation about creating Vision 2060, with another important an-

nouncement expected on 12 August.

It was rather like inviting the nation to a wedding only to announce the engagement.

Nobody is opposed to long-term planning. Serious nations think in decades, not election cycles. The problem begins when planning itself becomes the product.

Kenya has become extraordinarily gifted at launching conversations, unveiling committees, appointing task forces and producing beautifully bound reports whose greatest contribution to national development is keeping shelves from looking empty.

If paperwork alone created prosperity, we would already be competing with Switzerland.

The President repeatedly asked why countries like Singapore have overtaken Kenya.

That is indeed an excellent question.

But before booking tickets to Singapore, perhaps we should first account for the luggage we abandoned at Vision 2030. Whatever became of that ambitious national blueprint?

It promised industrialisation, modern infrastructure, globally competitive manufacturing, expanded employment and a transformed economy.

Did it succeed?

Did it fail?

Did it simply wander off one afternoon and never return?

Before introducing Vision 2060, surely the country deserves a post-mortem of Vision 2030.

How much was achieved?

How much remained on paper?

How much public money was spent?

Which flagship projects crossed the finish line?

Which ones are still appearing faithfully in speeches while stubbornly refusing to appear on the ground?

In ordinary life, sensible people do not begin constructing a second house before discovering why the first one has no roof.

Governments should not be different.

The speech also produced one curious political subplot. Many observers expected former President Uhuru Kenyatta to feature prominently in the discussion, given that Vision 2030 was the defining long-term development framework during his presidency.

Instead, his name never arrived.

One could almost imagine the scene.

The passengers had assembled.

The destination had been announced.

The invitation had been extended.

The former President quietly examined the vehicle, looked at the driver, politely smiled and decided the stage was probably a safer place than the passenger seat.

Whether that imaginary scene reflects reality is almost beside the point.

It perfectly captures the questions many Kenyans were left asking.

A development vision, however inspiring, is only as credible as the confidence people have in those expected to implement it.

That confidence is earned through performance.

And here lies Kenya's recurring difficulty.

Our problem has never been a shortage of visions.

Our problem has been an abundance of unfinished jour-



President William Ruto addressing the Nation on Thursday evening.

neys.

Every administration arrives carrying a fresh slogan.

A new economic philosophy.

A new transformation agenda.

A new national conversation.

A new destination

The previous blueprint quietly joins its predecessors in the National Archives, where abandoned dreams enjoy peaceful retirement.

Meanwhile, ordinary Kenyans continue asking stubbornly practical questions.

Where are the jobs?

Why is the cost of living still rising?

Why does corruption remain such a persistent companion of public expenditure?

Why are hospitals struggling?

Why are schools pleading for funding?

Why does every generation inherit another vision before completing the previous one?

Those questions were waiting patiently outside the speech.

Unfortunately, they were never invited in.

Perhaps that explains why comparisons with Singapore provoke such mixed emotions.

Singapore did not become wealthy because it constantly announced new destinations.

It became wealthy because governments finished what they started.

Policies survived political transitions.

Institutions outlived personalities.

Projects reached completion. Citizens gradually learned that when government promised something, there was a reasonable chance it would eventually exist outside a PowerPoint presentation.

That consistency became national culture.

Kenya's national culture, regrettably, often resembles an endless groundbreaking ceremony.

Every few years the ribbon changes.

The speeches become longer. The promises become grander.

The completion date quietly moves further into the future.

Then another blueprint arrives to explain why the previous blueprint requires replacement.

Somewhere along the way, implementation lost the argument to presentation.

That is why the President's speech left many citizens with an uncomfortable feeling.

Not because Vision 2060 is a bad idea.

Far from it

Every serious nation requires long-term planning.

But long-term planning cannot become an escape route from short-term accountability.

The road to 2060 begins with an honest conversation about 2026.

A government asking citizens to believe in the next thirty-four years must first demonstrate that it can faithfully account for the last twenty.

Otherwise, visions risk becoming political poetry rather than public policy.

The lesson is remarkably simple.

Strong governments are remembered for the projects they complete.

Weak governments are remembered for the destinations they announce.

Kenyans did not switch on their televisions merely to be told where the country might be in 2060.

They wanted to know where the country is today, why it is there, and how, step by measurable step, it intends to move forward.

A destination, however attractive, is not a journey.

And a journey without a vehicle remains exactly what it is, a speech.

Prof. Gitile Naituli teaches Constitutionalism and Governance at Multimedia University of Kenya and is a Fellow of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences

Award The General Manager for Supply Chain scoops a continental honour in Lagos for reshaping Kenya’s energy procurement

Kenya Power’s Ngeno crowned Africa’s top procurement chief

BY John Kariuki
@themkenyaintimes

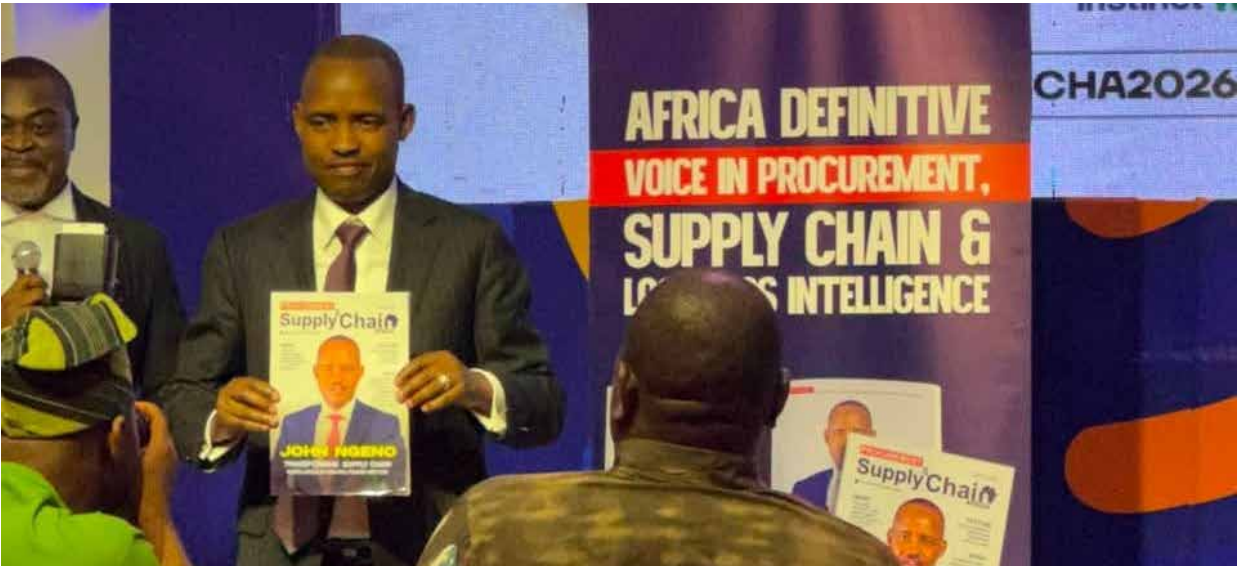
Kenya Power’s General Manager for Supply Chain, Dr. John Ngeno, was yesterday named Africa’s Public Sector Procurement Trailblazer of the Year at the 8th Africa Procurement and Supply Chain Conference and Awards (APSCHA 2026) in Lagos, Nigeria.

The award recognises Ngeno’s leadership in repositioning procurement as a strategic driver of economic growth, sustainability and institutional performance. He is widely regarded as one of Africa’s leading procurement professionals, and has championed supply chain innovations that have strengthened Kenya’s energy sector while raising the bar for public procurement across the continent.

His achievements have also earned him the cover of Procurement and Supply Chain Africa Magazine, which spotlights his role in transforming supply chain management within Kenya’s power sector.

Accepting the award, Ngeno said procurement goes far beyond buying goods and services. “When procurement creates jobs, empowers local enterprises, supports clean mobility and strengthens regional connectivity, it becomes a catalyst for shared prosperity and inclusive development across Africa,” he said.

Under his watch, Kenya Power has adopted modern, transparent and efficient procurement practices that have improved operational performance and delivered better value for customers. His approach has demonstrated that procurement is not a back-office function — it is a pillar of organisational success and nation-



Kenya Power’s General Manager for Supply Chain, Dr. John Ngeno

al development.

Kenya Power congratulated Ngeno on the honour, describing it as a reflection of his professionalism, integrity and drive for excellence, adding that his leadership continues to inspire a new generation of procurement professionals across the continent.



Oh Mother, the ways of the world are a lie...



Oh Mother, the ways of this world are a lie...
I ran and I fell, for its illusions I burned,
From those I called friends, cruel betrayals I learned.
Though I forgot you, you still waited for me,
My refuge in storms, where my sorrows would flee,
The only one weeping whenever I cried, my mother.
My closest of friends sold me out in the end,
With smiles on their faces, but knives from behind.
Only in your eyes, pure devotion I find,
You loved me for just who I am, without pride,
Walking through fire to stay by my side, my mother.

I am the reason your hair turned so white,
Bringing you burdens, ignoring your worth.
Today my blind eyes have finally seen the light,
Accept my late penance, forgive me this night,
Your river of mercy flows endless and bright, my mother.
With you, I have wealth; at your feet, heaven lies,
Without you, this life is a hollow disguise.
From others, I only saw favors and pride,
You read all my heartaches with no words inside,
The heart that beats only for me in your chest, my mother.
May you be unharmed, that is all that I need,
To press your dear feet to my eyes as I pray.
Your presence alone makes this life whole indeed,
My one in the world, heaven's path on my way,
My precious, my confidant, forever my stay, my mother.
I am Sarvinoz Khushvaqtova, born on April 25, 2002, in the Qumkurgan district. Currently, I am a 5th-year student at Termez University of Economics and Service."

Life is like riding a bicycle



Life is like riding a bicycle
To keep your balance you must keep moving
.....
There is a rock and a sapling.
The rock is a non living thing,
That neither grows nor moves,
It stands still and never improves.

The sapling is a living thing.
That endures all the climate to prove,
Its existence by growing and moving,
Its roots to tap the water to improve.
A river keeps moving and improving,
It never stops until it reaches its destination.
But the water in a pond stands still.
It makes the water kill the chill.
Our life is like a boat riding in a sea,
The boat glides through water in high degree.
If the boat becomes motionless, it will be sinking.
To keep moving forward should be our thinking.
...
Penned by
RANGANATHAN E, B.T.Asst(Eng)
Marwar Govt. Boys Hss, Acharapakkam

Life Is Like a Bicycle



"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."
God has given each of us a unique life,
Yet we compare our journey with others
And fill our hearts with unnecessary strife.
To ride a bicycle,
We must learn to keep our balance.
Only then can we move forward with confidence.
Likewise, in life,

We must balance our physical health
And our mental well-being.
A healthy body alone is not enough.
Without a healthy mind,
Even simple tasks become difficult.
When the body is strong
And the mind is peaceful,
Life becomes meaningful, joyful, and successful.
So, keep moving,
Keep believing,
And keep your balance
For that is the secret to a beautiful life.
V. Jayanthi
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
Chengalpattu district

Believe you can, and you're halfway there



You should walk your path with courage.
Life has its ups and downs.
However, once you begin your journey, never turn back.
Always say, "I can do it."
It is the motto of a successful life.
When you take one step forward with confidence,

you will continue with courage, and it will lead you to success.
Every step is important in your beautiful journey of life.
So, walk wisely and steadily.
__G. Yasmin Sirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it



With every task you do each day
You build your dreams along the way
Keep your heart both strong and true
And give your best in all you do
The seeds of hard work slowly grow
Through at first they hardly show
With patience, courage, hope and. Cheer
Your finest moments will appear
So stay busy, kind and wise
Success will find them shining bright.
RENUKAGANDHI.D
GHSS, MULLAINAGAR, HOSUR, KRISHNAGIRI
D.T.,
Graduate Teacher English

Sun set



Every sunset
is not the end.

It is the beginning
of a new sunrise.
Every problem
lasts only for a while.
Just as the sun rises again,
hope returns
with a new morning.
Every new day
is a fresh beginning,
a new opportunity,
and a new chance
to move forward.
Take a deep breath,
believe in yourself,
and start again.
V. S. NITHYASRI
VIII-D
JOHN DEWEY MAT. HR. SEC. SCHOOL, LINK
ROAD, PANRUTI, CUDDALORE.

GBV The silent toll of family conflict on Kenya’s children demands urgent attention from every parent

When parents fight, children bleed

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themkenyaintimes

When parents fight, separate or divorce without thought for their children’s emotional wellbeing, it is the children — not the adults — who carry the deepest wounds.

There is a Kiswahili proverb that captures this truth with quiet precision: Nyasi ndizo humia tembo wawili wanaopigana — when two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. In countless homes across Kenya, that grass is a child.

Children are innocent. They do not choose the families they are born into, nor do they have any say in the conflicts that erupt around them. Yet they routinely pay the highest price. While adults may eventually rebuild their lives and move forward, children can carry emotional scars for years — sometimes well into adulthood — with little understanding of why the weight feels so heavy.

Every child deserves a home that feels safe, warm and pre-



dictable. Home should be a refuge, not a battlefield. Yet many children grow up surrounded by arguments, insults, violence and emotional neglect. They watch the two people they love most turn into strangers — sometimes enemies — and are left confused, frightened and utterly powerless to change anything.

Divorce and separation are sometimes unavoidable and, in cases involving abuse or serious harm, can be the safest and healthiest option for everyone. No one should remain in a dangerous relationship for

the sake of appearances. But even when a marriage ends, parenthood does not. The responsibility to love, protect and support a child does not dissolve with the relationship. One of the most damaging mistakes parents make is drawing their children into adult conflict. Some speak disparagingly about the other parent within earshot of the children. Others use their sons and daughters as messengers, or worse, force them to choose sides. No child should ever have to decide which parent deserves their love. That is an

emotional burden no young heart is built to carry.

The effects are rarely loud or obvious. Some children become withdrawn and silent. Others struggle at school, develop anxiety or depression, or grow angry and rebellious without quite knowing why. Many lose trust in relationships entirely, because the very people who were supposed to model love instead modelled conflict.

Parental absence compounds the danger. When children are left without adequate care or supervision, they become vul-

nerable to abuse, exploitation and neglect — sometimes at the hands of trusted relatives, neighbours or domestic workers. The person who commits any such act bears full responsibility for that crime. But parents and caregivers carry a vital duty: to create safe environments, yet those given access to their children and stay alert to any change in behaviour, however subtle.

Children rarely disclose abuse immediately. Fear, shame or threats from an abuser keep them silent far longer than any parent would wish. That is why open, trusting communication at home is not a luxury — it is a lifeline. A child who knows they will be heard is far more likely to speak before irreversible harm is done.

Parenting is about far more than school fees and meals on the table. It is about being emotionally present — listening, comforting, guiding and consistently reminding a child that they are loved, regardless of whatever storm the family is weathering.

To every parent reading this: your children are watching. Every single day, they are learning how to communicate, how to handle disagreement and how to love by watching you. The words you choose, the respect you show — or withhold — and the decisions

you make become lessons they may carry for the rest of their lives.

Before reacting in anger, pause and ask: how will my child remember this moment? Before making a decision that could alter your family forever, consider the small eyes watching and the small hearts depending on you.

Children do not ask for perfect parents. They ask for parents who will love them, protect them and place their wellbeing above pride, revenge and the need to win. Even when relationships fail, parenthood must not.

The greatest gift a parent can give a child is not wealth or possessions. It is the quiet, unshakeable security of knowing they are loved and safe. Families will always face storms. But children should never become casualties of battles they did not start.

When two elephants fight, the grass suffers. In our homes, when parents fight without thought for the consequences, it is the children who bleed — silently, invisibly, and often alone. Their tears may not always be visible, but their hearts remember everything. As a society, we owe it to them to do better, because the children we raise today will shape the nation we become tomorrow.

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Agribusiness Rice farmers across the country produce 230,000 to 260,000 metric tons of rice annually against a demand of about 1.3 million metric tons

Multi-million project to boost Kenya's rice production takes shape as demand for grain soars

BY John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Kenya is currently faced by a persistent rice deficit, driven by high production costs, poor weather, inferior seeds among other factors, forcing the country to rely hugely on imports.

Rice farmers across the country produce 230,000 to 260,000 metric tons of rice annually against a demand of about 1.3 million metric tons. This translates to 20 percent of the country's rice demand, creating an annual shortage of exceeding 800,000 metric tons.

A recent economic survey indicated that Kenya's spending on rice imports reached a historic high of sh 55.11 billion, surpassing wheat imports for the first time. The country imports the grain from Asian and regional markets including Pakistan, India, Thailand and Tanzania.

These imports have faced a backlash from local farmers who face heavy market competition from the imported grain.

However the government together with development partners have embarked on diverse projects aimed at improving the country's rice production and reducing reliance on imports.

Among the projects is the Development of Africa Rice Seed Cultivation Complex dubbed as K-Rice Belt Project that is being undertaken at Kirogo Farm in Kimbimbi, Mwea constituency in Kirinyaga County.

The state-of-the-art certified rice seed cultivation and processing project commenced on August 2024 and is set to be complete by December 2028. It is funded by the Korean Government through the Korea Program for International Cooperation in Agricultural Technology (KOPIA), to



KOPIA Kenya Country Director Dr Ji Gang Kim speaking at the project site in Mwea, Kirinyaga County.

a tune of about KSh580 million.

The project, according to KOPIA Kenya Country Director Dr Ji Gang Kim, is expected to transform rice farming by ensuring adequate supply of affordable and high-quality certified seeds to thousands of rice farmers across the country.

Dr Kim who spoke during an inspection tour at the facility said that the project, that sits on a 200-acre piece of land, will ensure that Kenya is self-reliant on rice and reduce the import burden while enabling farmers to increase productivity through access to quality seeds.

The Director divulged that the facility has been equipped with advanced processing technology including Korean rice driers and rice dressers and modern storage systems. It has the capacity to produce 40 tonnes of certified rseed daily, translating to approximately 700 tonnes annually.

According to Dr. Kim, the increased availability of certified seeds will ensure farmers have reliable access to quality planting materials, leading to higher yields and improved incomes.

"We are also training rice

farmers on latest farming technologies including mechanisation and use of high-quality certified seeds to boost their production and income. We are optimistic that Kenya will soon be rice self-sufficient," Dr Kim said.

Through the collaboration between KOPIA and the Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organization (KALRO), the facility is now producing various rice varieties that are high-yielding and disease-resistant. They include Mkombozi, Komboka and Tongil.

Anita Ijayi, a seed researcher at KALRO, divulged that they have been training farmers on the new seed varieties noting that they can produce up to seven tonnes per acre.

She noted that KALRO will work closely with cooperatives and farmers' organizations to ensure widespread distribution of certified seeds adding that the facility will play a pivotal role in capacity building among farmers from rice-growing areas and especially Mwea and Bura.

"We have already roped in about 75 farmers in Mwea and Bura schemes who are cultivating these seeds. We are also calling on all farmers

to use the right certified seeds because they are available unlike before when we couldn't meet the demand," Ijayi said.

Mathew Kamanu, a rice farmer in Mwea said the region has long struggled with

seed production challenges but expressed confidence that the new facility will resolve the problem.

Kamanu said that inadequate and low-quality seeds has been one of the reasons be-

hind low rice production in the area adding that now with introduction of new varieties and proper farmer training on latest farming technologies, most local farmers are maximizing on their production.

"We have been growing Basmati variety for decades for economic purposes and most of the times we were left buying other cheap varieties for local consumption. However, since the Komboka variety was introduced to us, we have witnessed improved production and better returns," Kamanu said.



Officials at the certified rice seed facility in Mwea, Kirinyaga County.




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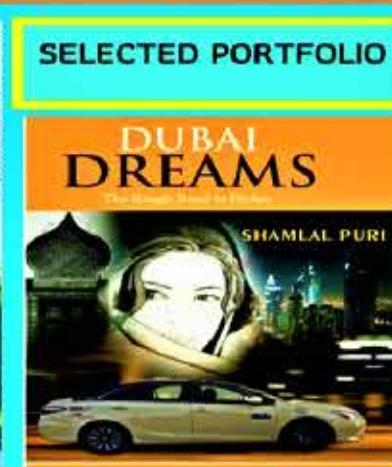
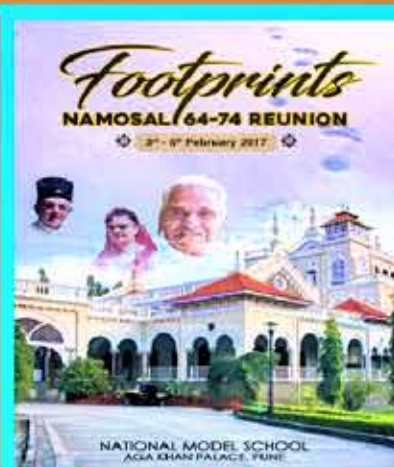
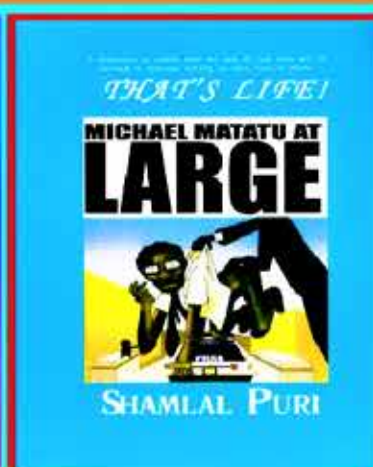
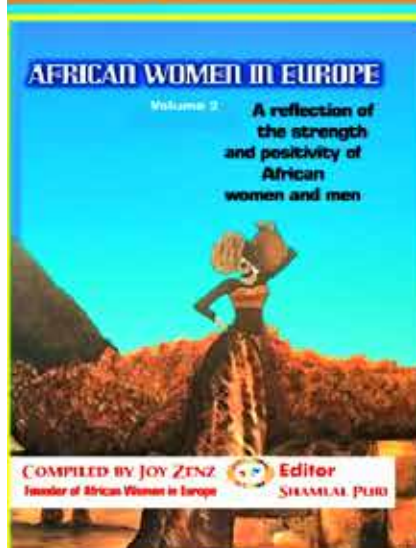
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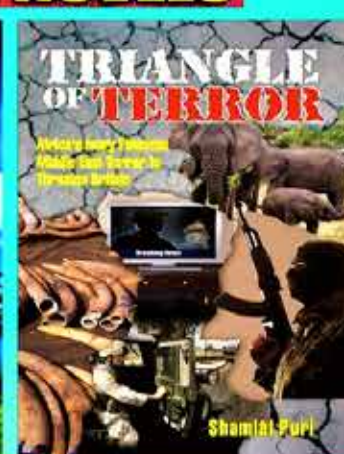
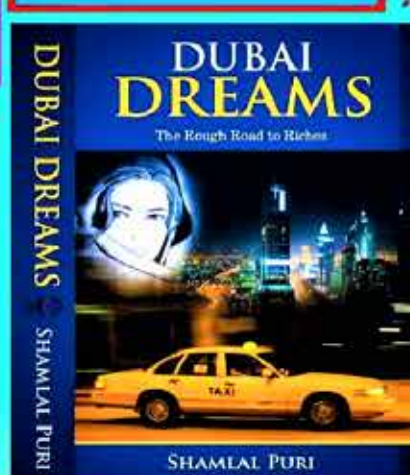
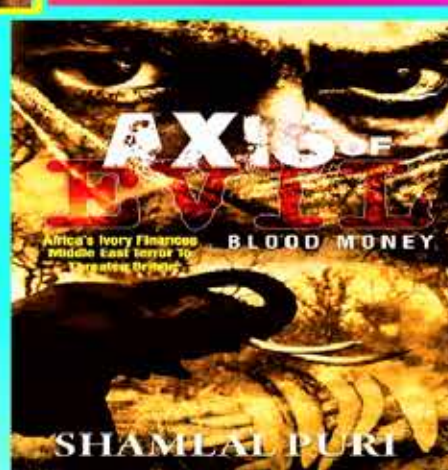
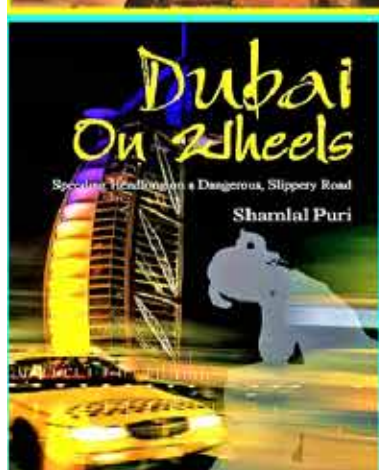
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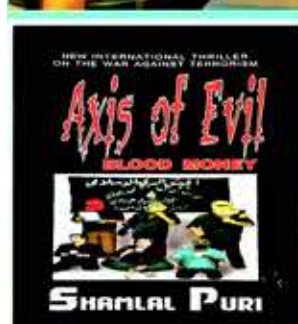
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Politics “The trouble with our new nation... is that none of us has been able to outgrow the habits of the old.” Chinua Achebe, *A Man of the People*

When the people’s house (parliament) becomes the people’s auction house in Kenya



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor
Odhiambo

@themkenyatimes

“The trouble with our new nation... is that none of us has been able to outgrow the habits of the old.” Chinua Achebe, *A Man of the People*

There is a particular kind of nausea that rises when a republic begins to treat its own Constitution as optional stage dressing. Kenya’s Parliament was conceived as the living embodiment of popular sovereignty. It has instead perfected the choreography of a high-end auction house, where conscience is knocked down to the highest bidder, loyalty is rented by the hour, and constitutional duty is treated as a negotiable commodity. This is not mere political decay. It is moral decomposition conducted in full public view and with the calm assurance of those who believe the people have grown too weary to notice the stench.

Article 1 of the Constitution is not poetry. It is a legal and moral declaration: all sovereign power belongs to the people and is only delegated to State organs. Parliament does not own power. It holds it on loan, a temporary trusteeship. Every Member of Parliament and every Senator is a custodian, not a proprietor. The ballot is not a blank cheque for personal enrichment; it is a solemn transfer of trust. That trust was never meant to be monetized.

Yet this week the country was forced to listen as the custodians themselves described the terms of the sale. At a public rally, Suna East MP Junet Mohamed alleged that Members of the National Assembly received payments to secure the impeachment of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, naming Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot as the accounting officer of the transaction. The confession did not arrive wrapped in deniable innuendo. It was delivered with the casual confidence of a man recounting the price of cattle. Days later, Makueni Senator Dan Maanzo added his own testimony with clinical precision:



Parliament of Kenya

he was offered ten million shillings to vote yes. The offer came with an explicit menu of consequences. Take the money and vote yes, and you are safe. Take it and disappear, or take it and vote no, and you may not reach home. He declined the silver and voted according to his conscience. Two serving legislators, speaking days apart, have placed on the public record allegations that one of the most consequential constitutional processes in recent years was lubricated by cash and enforced by threat.

If these assertions are true, what occurred was not legislative deliberation. It was constitutional prostitution conducted in the very chambers meant to guard the Republic. Language must not grow timid when institutions grow shameless. The 2010 Constitution was not the product of elite consensus or donor workshops. It was extracted through decades of authoritarian excess, detention without trial, assassinations, torture, electoral theft, and the systematic abuse of State power. The road to that charter was watered by sacrifice. Men and women lost livelihoods, freedom, and lives. Nearly seven out of every ten Kenyans 68.55 percent endorsed it in a referendum that was itself an act of collective exhaustion with the old order. They yielded their sovereignty into a transformative document that promised institutions would finally answer to cit-

izens rather than to political patrons. Today one is forced to ask whether those sacrifices are being sold off in instalments, parcel by parcel, vote by vote.

The Constitution imagined Parliament as the crucible of public reason. Instead, too often, it functions as an extension of executive arithmetic. Numbers matter more than principles. Inducements speak louder than constitutional conscience. Debate is replaced by choreography. Oversight yields to obedience. Representation dissolves into patronage. That is why legislation carrying heavy economic consequences for ordinary households so frequently sails through despite overwhelming public opposition. Tax measures that deepen household suffering. Fiscal policies that tighten the noose around struggling families. Laws that appear written by people who have never stood in a supermarket queue or waited for a delayed salary. One begins to understand the growing popular conviction that Parliament inhabits a different republic entirely, a republic insulated from empty shopping baskets, collapsing businesses, unemployed graduates, and taxpayers who are asked to finance their own dispossession.

If public office becomes an investment vehicle, legislation inevitably becomes a return on that investment. Corruption does not merely steal

money. It steals meaning. It hollows out institutions while leaving their buildings, their ceremonial robes, and their official stationery intact. Parliament still convenes. Hansard is still published. Votes are still counted. But constitutional legitimacy begins to rot the moment private interest consistently eclipses the public good.

And then there is the studied silence of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. Where is the institutional fury that should greet multi-million-shilling bribery allegations involving one of the most consequential processes of the decade? Why do spectacular claims involving political elites so reliably dissolve into procedural fog while minor offenders are pursued with theatrical efficiency? Selective accountability is simply impunity dressed in judicial robes. An anti-corruption body that appears vigorous only against the politically expendable gradually becomes a performance rather than a deterrent. Public trust does not collapse in a single dramatic moment. It dies by accumulation every unexplained silence, every abandoned file, every politically convenient delay, every investigation that evaporates the moment it approaches the powerful.

Institutions do not lose credibility because citizens become cynical. Citizens become cynical because

institutions repeatedly earn that cynicism. These allegations also revive a larger national anxiety: whether independent offices remain independent or now operate beneath the long shadow of political will. Former Treasury Cabinet Secretary Professor Njuguna Ndung’u, speaking abroad, described a presidency intent on dominating institutions, shutting down dissent, and ensuring that its will endures. Officials, he suggested, conform out of fear. Whether one accepts every detail of his assessment is secondary. What matters is that the diagnosis resonates with a widespread popular perception of shrinking institutional autonomy.

Democracy rarely dies in a single dramatic coup. More often it dies politely. It dies when watchdogs become lapdogs. It dies when oversight becomes theatre. It dies when fear replaces fidelity. It dies when institutions preserve the appearance of constitutional form while surrendering constitutional substance.

Perhaps the most grievous casualty is Chapter Six, the chapter on Leadership and Integrity. It was never intended as ornamental constitutional poetry. It was designed as a living creed, an ethical compass demanding honesty, accountability, selfless service, and the maintenance of public confidence. Today it often seems more vibrant in civic education booklets than in the actual conduct of public life. Integrity cannot co-exist comfortably with transactional politics. Constitutionalism cannot flourish where morality is treated as an inconvenient ideological accessory.

What we are witnessing is the quiet consolidation of tumbocracy government not by constitutional principle but by perpetual political bargaining, patronage, inducement, and expediency. Under tumbocracy, loyalty is purchased rather than earned. Convictions are leased for the duration of a vote. Public office becomes private enterprise. Citizens are reduced to spectators financing a theatre staged against their own interests. The tragedy is not merely that some leaders may have failed the Constitution. The greater tragedy is that constitutional betrayal risks becoming culturally acceptable. That is how republics decay not through military coups or the public burning of constitutions, but through ordinary people becoming accustomed to extraordinary misconduct.

Even so, responsibility cannot be permanently outsourced to the political class. The electorate also stands

Politics Beyond the rally stage and the campaign slogan lies a simple demand: results that reach people's homes

What Kenyans really want to hear

BY Levis Wangamati
@themtkenyentimes

For years, Kenyan politics has been a competition of microphones — louder rallies, grander promises, catchier slogans — yet when the crowds disperse and the campaign stages come down, the ordinary citizen returns to the same unanswered questions: Will tomorrow be any easier than today? Will my children have better opportunities? Will hard work finally be enough?

Kenyans have reached a point where speeches alone no longer inspire confidence. They have heard promises of transformation, empowerment and economic revival before. What they crave now is something far more powerful than eloquence: credibility.

The average Kenyan does not wake up thinking about political rivalries. They wake up wondering whether their salary will last the month, whether their business will survive another week, whether school fees can be paid on time, and whether a visit to the hospital will spiral into a financial crisis. These are the conversations happening around breakfast tables, inside matatus, at marketplaces and in village centres. They are the quiet, daily realities against which every political promise is measured — and too often found



Illustration

wanting.

Young people are not asking for shortcuts. They are asking for a fair chance — an economy where qualifications matter, where innovation is rewarded, and where success depends more on effort than on connections. They are tired of being celebrated as the leaders of tomorrow while watching tomorrow get perpetually postponed.

Farmers want predictable markets, not unpredictable policies. Entrepreneurs want room to grow without being suffocated by uncertainty. Workers want wages that sustain families with dignity. Parents want

schools that open doors rather than close them. Patients want hospitals that restore health rather than deepen financial hardship.

Kenyans also want a different kind of language from those in power — less blame, less political theatre, less triumphalism, and considerably more humility, accountability and genuine listening. Leadership is not measured by how often a leader speaks. It is measured by how deeply a leader understands the people they serve.

The fight against corruption remains another unfinished conversation. Every public shilling lost to greed is

a classroom never built, a hospital never equipped, a road never completed, or an opportunity stolen from a deserving young person. Citizens no longer want dramatic announcements followed by silence. They want accountability that is visible, measurable and consistent enough to be trusted.

Perhaps most importantly, Kenyans want to hear words that bring people together rather than pull them apart. Elections should determine governments, not permanently divide neighbours. The future of this nation cannot rest on surnames, regions or political camps. It must rest on com-

petence, integrity and a shared conviction that every Kenyan deserves an equal shot at a decent life.

Hope, however, cannot be manufactured by speeches alone. It is built when food prices become manageable, when graduates find meaningful work, when businesses expand instead of closing, and when families begin to feel that their sacrifices are producing something real. Hope is not what politicians promise from a podium. Hope is what citizens experience at home.

The challenge before Kenya's leaders is, at its core, a simple one. Speak honestly. Deliver consistently. Admit mistakes when they happen. Let policy matter more than public relations, and let service matter more than political survival. Citizens are no longer impressed by applause at rallies. They are impressed by results that actually reach their lives.

In the end, Kenyans are not asking for perfect speeches. They are asking to hear the truth, to witness integrity, and to experience leadership that makes everyday life measurably better. The most convincing address will never be delivered from a podium. It will be written in affordable food, decent jobs, quality healthcare, thriving businesses and a national atmosphere in which every citizen genuinely believes that tomorrow holds more promise than today.

When that day comes, leaders will no longer need to persuade Kenyans that they are working. The lives of the people will speak louder than any microphone ever could.

Politics “The trouble with our new nation... is that none of us has been able to outgrow the habits of the old.” Chinua Achebe, A Man of the People

When the people's house (parliament) becomes the people's auction house in Kenya

Contd from page 18

before a mirror. Every election asks a moral question before it asks a political one. Do we reward integrity or celebrate theatrics? Do we examine character or merely applaud charisma? Do we elect constitutional guardians or tribal champions? Do we entrust sovereign power to statesmen or to merchants of convenience?

Nations rarely obtain leaders radically different from the values they consistently reward. If voters re-

peatedly elevate individuals whose political philosophy begins and ends with personal advancement, Parliament cannot suddenly transform into a sanctuary of constitutional virtue. Institutions ultimately reflect the ethical quality of those entrusted to inhabit them. Kenya deserves legislators who understand that parliamentary privilege is inseparable from parliamentary responsibility; leaders who recognise that public office is stewardship rather than entitlement; representatives who measure success not by the size of their accumulated wealth but by the depth of public trust they still command. The Constitution entrusted Parlia-

ment with protecting the Republic. It was never meant to protect political cartels. If the recent allegations prove true, they constitute not merely corruption but constitutional desecration. If they prove false, they must still be investigated with urgency so that truth not political convenience prevails. Either outcome demands action, because democracies cannot survive indefinitely on unresolved rumours that corrode public faith.

Perhaps one day Kenya will become the constitutional republic imagined in August 2010. That future will not be gifted by those who profit from institutional decay. It will be built by citizens who refuse to normalize



Parliament of Kenya

dishonor, who reject moral relativism disguised as political strategy, and who insist that integrity is not an electoral slogan but a governing obligation.

Until then, the saddest irony remains: the House built to guard the

people's sovereignty risks becoming the marketplace where that sovereignty is sold, openly and without shame, to the highest bidder.

The writer is a social commentator

Justice The Judicial Service Commission yesterday called on Kenya's lawyers to end their boycott of selected judges and judicial officers

Justice under siege

Kenya's lawyers and judges are locked in the most serious confrontation the bar and bench have seen in a generation — and ordinary Kenyans are paying the price

BY Grace Wanja

@themkenyentimes

The Judicial Service Commission yesterday called on Kenya's lawyers to end their boycott of selected judges and judicial officers, warning that the action is paralyzing courts, delaying justice and denying citizens their constitutional right to have cases heard without unnecessary delay.

The appeal came after a consultative meeting between the JSC, the Law Society of Kenya and the Senior Counsel Bar — the latest in a series of engagements that have so far failed to resolve what has become the most serious rupture between Kenya's bar and bench in recent memory. The dispute cuts to the heart of a question that has shadowed the Kenyan judiciary for years: who holds the judges accountable?

The LSK's answer, delivered on 22 July, was blunt. Protesting what its leadership described as entrenched corruption, persistent administrative failures and a severe lack of accountability, advocates withdrew their services in a highly coordinated, nationwide boycott that paralyzed court registries and stalled thousands of cases across the country. The following day, the targeted boycott began — indefinite, surgical and unprecedented in its scope.

LSK President Charles Kanjama named 12 judges and one magistrate subject to the targeted action, directing advocates not to appear before the listed officers until court orders restraining the JSC, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations from investigating them were set aside. The list was extraordinary. It included Chief Justice Martha Koome, Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu and all four other sitting Supreme Court judges — effectively placing the apex court under siege.

The LSK's central grievance is that certain judicial officers have used court orders to shield themselves from accountability proceedings. In the lawyers' view, judges who obtain injunctions blocking the JSC, the EACC or the DCI from investigating them are not defending judicial independence — they are abusing



Chief Justice Martha Koome

it. The East Africa Law Society and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association backed the LSK's position, arguing that judicial independence must be matched by credible accountability and cannot be used as a shield from legitimate scrutiny.

The JSC has pushed back, defending its record with considerable vigour. The Commission revealed that it has received 506 petitions and complaints against judges and judicial officers this year alone, of which 417 have already been processed. The remaining cases are at various stages of investigation, including hearings and formal responses from the officers concerned. "Since 2011, the Commission has recommended the removal of ten judges from office and recommended the appointment of constitutional tribunals to investigate their conduct," the JSC said in a statement. "Of these, four judges were subsequently removed from office." The Commission maintained that all complaints are handled independently, fairly and in accordance with the law.

JSC Chairperson Koome said the Judiciary would continue discharging its constitutional mandate without fear or favour while strength-

ening integrity, transparency and accountability, assuring Kenyans that it remains committed to delivering fair, impartial and people-centred justice while protecting judicial independence as a cornerstone of the rule of law. It was a careful formulation — firm enough to signal that the JSC would not capitulate to what it characterised as institutional pressure, but measured enough to keep the door to dialogue open.

That door remains the only realistic

path forward. The JSC and LSK have now agreed to work together to combat corruption and unethical conduct within both the judiciary and the legal profession — a commitment that, if honoured, would represent meaningful progress. As a concrete step, the Commission has developed the Judicial Service (Petition for Removal of a Judge) (Procedure) Regulations, 2026, currently before Parliament, which would provide a clearer and more transparent process

for handling removal petitions.

But the structural problem runs deeper than any single regulation can fix. Despite the Judiciary claiming to have held at least five major institutional engagements with the LSK over the past two years, the society maintains these meetings have produced no tangible improvements. Advocates continue to cite technological failures in the e-filing system, inconsistent case management and open hostility from certain judicial officers. The gap between what the JSC says it is doing and what lawyers say they are experiencing has become a chasm — and it is Kenyans with pending cases who fall into it.

The wider political context cannot be ignored. Kenya is edging towards a 2027 election cycle in which the courts will almost certainly be called upon to adjudicate high-stakes disputes. A judiciary perceived as compromised, and a bar that has lost confidence in the bench, is a dangerous combination heading into that period. The credibility of Kenya's democratic institutions depends, in no small part, on courts that are both genuinely independent and genuinely accountable — not one at the expense of the other.

During the general boycott, Koome announced the immediate suspension of Senior Principal Magistrate Martin Kinyua Mutege of the Kangema Law Courts following his arrest by the EACC on allegations of soliciting and receiving a bribe — a gesture that suggested the JSC is capable of swift action when the pressure is sufficient. The question is whether that pressure can be sustained through institutional channels rather than courtroom walkouts.

The lawyers have made their point loudly. The judges have defended their record firmly. Somewhere between those two positions lies an accountable, functional judiciary — the kind Kenya deserves, and the kind its people are still waiting for.



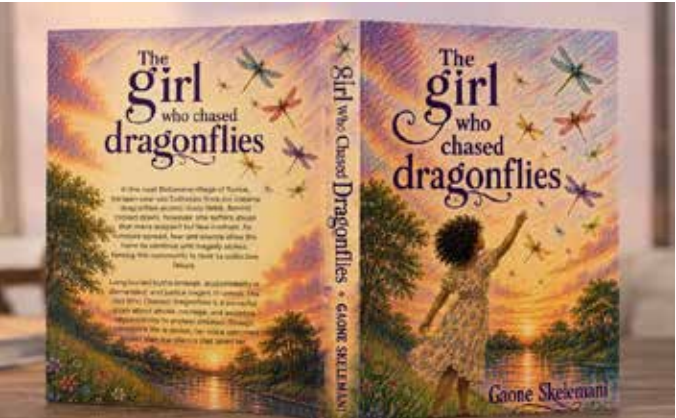
LSK President Charles Kanjama (centre) addressing journalists in the past.



BOOKS & LITERATURE

with Paula O. M. Otukile

Book Interview:



1. When did you start writing?

I have been writing for as long as I can remember. People often tell me that I live in my head, and I suppose that is true. Long before I put pen to paper, I am constantly creating scenarios, characters, conversations, and stories in my mind. Writing has always been a natural extension of the way I see and process the world.

Even during my primary school years, I showed a strong interest in creative writing. I remember my compositions being used in class as examples for other learners, which gave me confidence and encouraged me to continue developing my craft. Looking back, I realize that storytelling has always been a part of who I am. What began as a childhood passion has grown into a lifelong commitment to telling stories that entertain, educate, and inspire meaningful conversations.

2. What inspired you to write?

One of my greatest sources of inspiration came from my childhood when I lived with my grandparents in the village. My grandmother played a significant role in nurturing my love for words. She would often encourage me to write letters to my mother and insisted that I make them as descriptive and engaging as possible. She taught me that writing is not simply about conveying information; it is

about making people feel as though they are experiencing the story alongside you.

The village itself was also a place of discovery. My uncles and aunts who had moved to the city had left behind collections of books, and I spent countless hours reading them. Those books opened up new worlds and introduced me to the power of storytelling. Through reading, I realized that stories could entertain, heal, educate, and challenge society. It was during those years that I first dreamed of writing stories of my own.

2. Do you see growth in book sales?

I believe book sales are closely linked to visibility and marketing. No matter how good a book may be, readers cannot buy what they do not know exists. In today's environment, authors must recognize that writing the book is only half the journey. The other half is ensuring that the book reaches its intended audience. Book marketing is not linear. It cannot rely solely on traditional book launches or bookstore placements. A successful book should be able to tell its story across multiple platforms, whether through workshops, speaking engagements, community outreach programs, social media, interviews, or educational forums. Readers engage with books differently today, and authors must be willing to meet them where they are. As awareness of local literature continues to grow, I believe there is

tremendous potential for increased book sales across Botswana and the region.

4. What are your plans for marketing the book?

I have developed a marketing strategy that targets different audiences through a variety of platforms. Social media has already proven to be a powerful tool for increasing visibility, generating conversations around the book, and securing pre-orders. Platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, and other digital spaces allow authors to engage directly with readers and create communities around their work.

Beyond social media, I intend to participate in podcasts, radio interviews, literary discussions, school visits, and community engagements. I have already been featured in educational newsletters, which has helped introduce the book to educators and parents. My goal is to ensure that the conversation around the book extends beyond the pages and reaches people who may benefit from its message.

5. Advocacy: Will you partner with others to speak out, or does the message end with the book?

For me, advocacy can never end on ink. Writing a book is only one part of creating awareness. A book can start a conversation, but meaningful change requires continuous engagement with communities, institutions, and policymakers.

I look forward to partnering with like-minded organizations, advocates, educators, and individuals who are committed to addressing gender-based violence and child protection issues. My hope is that *The Girl Who Chased Dragonflies* will serve as a catalyst for broader conver-

sations and action. We are currently exploring initiatives, including a cycling awareness event during the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. I welcome opportunities to collaborate with partners both within Botswana and internationally because gender-based violence is not confined to one country. It is a global challenge that requires collective action and shared responsibility.

6. Gender-Based Violence is rife in Southern Africa. What do you think is the cause, and can literature make a difference?

Gender-based violence is a complex issue with no single cause. It is influenced by a combination of factors, including family dynamics, economic pressures, substance abuse, social norms, trauma, and the growing challenges surrounding mental health. These factors often intersect and create environments where violence can thrive.

I also believe that while significant efforts have been made to empower girls and women, we must ensure that boys and men are not left behind in the conversation. We need to raise boys who understand respect, emotional intelligence, healthy relationships, and accountability. When we focus on one side of the equation and neglect the other, we risk missing opportunities to address the root causes of violence.

7. Can literature make a difference?

Absolutely. Literature has the power to humanize statistics and put faces to issues that might otherwise feel distant. Stories allow readers to walk in someone else's shoes, develop empathy, and con-



Gaone Skelemani- Botswana Author

front uncomfortable truths. While a book alone cannot end gender-based violence, it can challenge perceptions, inspire dialogue, and encourage people to take action. Social change often begins with awareness, and literature remains one of the most powerful tools for creating that awareness.

8. What word of encouragement would you give to a young woman facing Gender-Based Violence?

My message extends not only to women but to anyone experiencing abuse. While women are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence, we must also acknowledge that men can be victims. Unfortunately, societal expectations often discourage men from speaking out, leaving many to suffer in silence.

To anyone experiencing abuse, I want you to know that your life, your safety, and your dignity are more valuable than any relationship. No one has the right to harm you physically, emotionally, financially, or psychologically. Do not suffer in silence. Reach out to trusted family members, friends, community leaders, support organizations, or the relevant authorities. Seeking help is not a sign of weakness; it is an act of courage. You deserve to live free from fear and violence. Above all, choose yourself. Protect your well-being and remember that love should never come at the cost of your safety. Your story does not have to end in pain. There is hope, there is support, and there is a future beyond abuse.

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Points deduction overturned on appeal as club closes final chapter on historical rule breaches

Chelsea fined £10M, handed suspended transfer ban over agent rule breaches

By Martin Weche

Chelsea were fined £10 million (\$13.4 million) and given a suspended two-window transfer ban yesterday after an appeal hearing overturned a points deduction imposed for multiple breaches of Football Association rules.

The Premier League club had initially been handed a suspended six-point deduction alongside the fine, but an appeal board has now replaced that penalty with the suspended registration ban, to run over the same period, until the end of June 2027. The fine itself was not subject to appeal and stands in full.

The sanctions relate to 74 breaches of FA regulations covering the use of agents, dealings with intermediaries and third-party investment in players, all of which Chelsea admitted to. The breaches were self-reported to football authorities in 2022 by owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, during the process of acquiring the club from Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich.

An independent commission that first heard the case imposed the six-point deduction, prompting Chelsea to appeal. The appeal board's decision to substitute a transfer ban for the points penalty leaves the club's league position unaffected, though its recruitment activity will face restrictions if the suspension is triggered by further breaches before mid-2027.

The £10 million fine will be directed into grassroots football, the regulatory commission said. The FA confirmed it was continuing to investigate individual misconduct arising from the case, indicating that the matter is not entirely closed even as the club's own sanctions are resolved.

Chelsea have previously reached separate settlements over the same underlying issues



with the Premier League and with UEFA, European football's governing body, meaning yesterday's ruling draws a line under the last of three parallel regulatory processes triggered by the 2022 disclosures.

The club welcomed the outcome, describing it as a "final decision" on the matter. "In 2022, the club self-reported potential historical rule breaches to all applicable regulators," Chelsea said in a statement. "Following that report, it has worked openly and transparently with all regulators, including voluntarily and proactively disclosing many thousands of documents."

The statement added: "The club is pleased to confirm that, now the FA process has concluded, this brings all regulatory proceedings against the club to a close."

The case has become a reference point in English football for how clubs are treated when they

identify and report their own historical failings, rather than having breaches uncovered through external investigation. Chelsea's voluntary disclosure, undertaken as new ownership sought to draw a line under the Abramovich era, was widely seen within the game as a mitigating factor in how sanctions were ultimately calculated, even as the scale of the breaches — spanning agent payments and third-party investment rules — was substantial.

The switch from a points deduction to a transfer ban will nonetheless carry consequences should Chelsea find themselves in breach again before the suspension period lapses. A triggered two-window ban would restrict the club's ability to register new signings at a time when Premier League squads are increasingly shaped by early transfer activity, making the suspended sanction a meaningful deterrent even in the absence of

an immediate points penalty.

For the FA, the case underlines the regulatory scrutiny now applied to ownership transitions and agent dealings across English football, an area that has drawn increasing attention as investment structures around top-flight clubs have grown more complex. The continuing investigation into individual conduct suggests further findings could yet emerge, even as the club's own liability has been formally settled.

Chelsea's regulatory position, at least as a club, is now clear. Whether the individuals whose conduct remains under FA scrutiny face further sanction is a question still to be answered.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Governing body ends sanctions imposed after Ukraine invasion, clearing Russian athletes to compete under their flag and anthem

World Boxing lifts restrictions on Russian boxers

By Martin Weche

World Boxing lifted its restrictions on Russian athletes yesterday, ending more than three years of sanctions and clearing fighters to compete under Russia's flag and anthem at international events.

The decision, confirmed by the sport's Olympic-recognised governing body, marks the most significant step yet in the gradual return of Russian athletes to global competition since they were barred following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Belarusian athletes, sanctioned alongside their Russian counterparts over Minsk's support for the war, have also been subject to phased reinstatement under neutral arrangements in several sports.

"The ExCo (executive committee) accepted that Russian athletes would now take part in World Boxing competitions like boxers from any other national federation," World Boxing said in a statement. The organisation added that it would "strictly monitor the behaviour of Russian delegations during events as well as compliance with anti-doping protocols."

The move follows a decision by the International Olympic Committee in early July to lift the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee, easing restrictions that had barred Russian athletes from qualifying for the Los Angeles 2028 Games. World Boxing's own position had already begun to shift in April, when it agreed to allow Russian fighters to compete under a neutral banner — a halfway step that yesterday's announcement has now superseded in full.

World Boxing was founded in 2023 by Kazakh former middleweight world champion Genady Golovkin, after the International Boxing Association lost IOC recognition amid long-run-



ning governance and financial disputes. The new body has since been recognised by the IOC as boxing's global governing authority, giving its rulings direct bearing on Olympic qualification pathways.

Russia's Sports Minister, Mikhail Degtyarev, welcomed the decision in a message posted on Telegram. "Russian boxing is returning to the international stage," he said. "World Boxing has authorised our athletes — across all age categories — to compete in all international events with the national flag and anthem."

The announcement is likely to reignite debate within the international sporting community over the pace and terms of Russia's reintegration. Since 2022, sports federations have taken markedly different approaches: some have maintained blanket bans, others have permitted competition only under neutral colours and without national symbols, and a smaller number have now moved to full reinstatement. Ukrainian officials and athlete groups have consistently opposed such steps, arguing that

restoring flags and anthems normalises Russia's continued presence on the international stage while the war persists.

World Boxing's leadership has framed its position differently, arguing that sport and geopolitics should be kept separate wherever possible, while insisting that oversight of Russian delegations will be tightened rather than relaxed. The reference to anti-doping compliance is notable given Russia's troubled history with the World Anti-Doping Agency, whose findings led to years of blanket bans and neutral-athlete arrangements across multiple disciplines.

For Russian boxers, many of whom have competed only sporadically or under neutral status since 2022, the reinstatement restores a pathway to major tournaments, including world championships and Olympic qualifiers, without the symbolic constraints that neutral status imposed. It also strengthens the country's hand as it seeks similar concessions in other sports still weighing their own reinstatement decisions ahead of the 2028 Games.

Whether the decision holds without further challenge remains to be seen. Olympic and international federation policy on Russian participation has shifted repeatedly over the past three years, often in response to developments on the battlefield and in diplomatic negotiations over Ukraine. World Boxing's own about-turn — from a neutral-flag compromise in April to full reinstatement now — suggests the position could yet be revisited, particularly if scrutiny from Ukrainian federations or Western governments intensifies.

For now, Russian boxers have been handed back what was taken from them in 2022: the right to step into the ring under their own flag, to their own anthem, representing their country rather than a neutral designation. How the rest of the sporting world responds to that reversal will shape the debate over Russia's return to international competition long after the final bell.

SPORTS NEWS



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Literature as a Catalyst for Change: Confronting Gender-Based Violence in Southern Africa



By: Anila Bukhari
@themkenyatimes

Zeï Khauli is an accomplished Canadian actor, dancer, performer, choreographer, educator, therapist, environmental advocate, and internationally celebrated pageant queen whose inspiring journey reflects excellence, compassion, and purpose. Hailing from Montreal, Canada, she has successfully combined artistic achievement, academic excellence, humanitarian service, and international representation, establishing herself as one of Canada's inspiring ambassadors on the global stage.

Renowned for her dynamic presence in the performing arts, Zeï has built a distinguished career as an actor, professional dancer, performer, and choreographer. Her passion for movement and artistic expression has enabled her to inspire audiences while promoting creativity, confidence, and cultural appreciation. Through years of dedication to the performing arts, she has demonstrated that dance is more than entertainment—it is a universal language capable of connecting people across cultures and communities while inspiring self-expression and confidence.

Her commitment to education is equally impressive. Zeï holds a Master's Degree in Dance Studies, reflecting her dedication to advancing the art of dance through both academic knowledge and professional excellence. She also earned a Postgraduate Diploma with Merit in Special Education and Inclusion, demonstrating her passion for creating supportive and inclusive environments for individuals with diverse learning needs. Her educational achievements reflect a lifelong commitment to learning, leadership, and service.

Beyond the stage and classroom, Zeï has devoted herself to improv-

ing the lives of others. As a therapist working with children on the Autism Spectrum, she provides compassionate guidance and individualized support, helping children develop communication, social, and life skills. Her work reflects patience, empathy, and a deep belief that every child deserves opportunities to thrive in an inclusive and supportive environment. Through her dedication, she continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and their families.

Environmental conservation remains one of the defining pillars of Zeï's humanitarian mission. She is a passionate advocate for protecting nature and preserving the planet for future generations. Among her greatest causes is animal rights and animal protection. Using her platform to raise awareness about environmental responsibility, wildlife conservation, and compassion toward all living beings, she encourages communities to become active participants in protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainable living. Her advocacy reflects her belief that every individual has a responsibility to care for the environment and contribute to a healthier, more compassionate world.

Zeï's dedication to leadership and service naturally led her to international pageantry, where she has proudly represented Canada while promoting meaningful causes. Her pageant journey began with the prestigious title of Mrs. Quebec 2023–2024, followed by being crowned Mrs. Canada Earth 2023–2024. These accomplishments recognized not only her elegance and confidence but also her commitment to environmental advocacy, leadership, and community service.

Representing Canada internationally, Zeï competed at the prestigious Mrs. Earth International Pageant held in Florida, USA, in 2025. Competing alongside accomplished women from around the world, she proudly represented her country with grace, confidence, and purpose. Her outstanding performance earned her the distinguished international title of Mrs. Earth Fire International

2025, recognizing her dedication to environmental conservation, leadership, and humanitarian values while further establishing her reputation as an inspiring international ambassador.

Her journey of excellence continued when she was crowned Mrs. Canada Universal Empowerment 2026, once again earning the privilege of representing Canada internationally. She travelled to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, to compete at the prestigious Miss/Mrs. Universal Empowerment Pageant, where delegates from numerous countries gathered to celebrate leadership, empowerment, and positive global impact.

During the international competition, Zeï once again brought pride to Canada through her confidence, professionalism, and commitment to empowering others. Her remarkable performance earned her the prestigious title of Miss/Mrs. Universal Empowerment Super Model 2026, adding another significant international accomplishment to her growing list of achievements. The title recognized not only her elegance and stage presence but also her advocacy, leadership, and dedication to creating meaningful change within communities around the world.

Throughout every stage of her journey, Zeï Khauli has consistently demonstrated that true beauty is strengthened by intelligence, compassion, and purpose. Whether performing on stage, educating students, supporting children with autism, advocating for environmental protection, or representing Canada internationally, she leads with authenticity, integrity, and kindness. Her ability to balance artistic excellence, professional achievement, humanitarian service, and international representation has made her a respected role model for aspiring performers, educators, and future leaders.

As a proud Canadian, Zeï continues to use her voice and influence to promote inclusion, environmental responsibility, women's empowerment, and compassion for all living beings. She believes that meaningful leadership begins with service



Zeï Khauli

and that positive change is created through education, empathy, and action. Her work continues to inspire individuals to pursue their dreams while remaining committed to serving their communities and protecting the world around them.

Today, Zeï Khauli stands as an exceptional representative of Canada whose achievements span the fields of performing arts, education, therapy, environmental advocacy, and international pageantry. Her remarkable journey reflects resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to making a positive impact wherever she serves. Through her accomplishments and advocacy,

she continues to inspire audiences around the world while proudly representing the values of diversity, inclusion, leadership, and compassion. Zeï Khauli is far more than an internationally recognized pageant queen. She is an accomplished Canadian artist, educator, therapist, humanitarian, environmental advocate, and global ambassador whose work continues to inspire others to lead with purpose, embrace compassion, and create lasting positive change for future generations.