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The Mt. Kenya Times

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Politics “Sifuna thinks that just touring around is enough. Does he think Western will make him president?” said Mudavadi

Mudavadi to Sifuna: You are only dreaming

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday mounted his sharpest public attack yet on Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna’s presidential ambitions, telling a UDA grassroots meeting in Butula, Busia County, that the senator was dreaming if he believed Western Kenya’s enthusiasm could carry him to State House.

Speaking in Kiswahili to hundreds of party supporters assembled at Butula, Mudavadi was contemptuous. “Sifuna anafikiria kuzunguka tu. Western itafanya yeye president? Huyu kijana anaota,” he said — “Sifuna thinks that just touring around is enough. Does he think Western will make him president? This young man is dreaming.”

The remark landed as a calculated put-down, but its timing told another story. Mudavadi would not have been in Butula — flanked by Busia Governor Paul Otuoma, Bungoma Governor Ken Lusaka, Kakamega Deputy Governor Ayub Savula and a column of MPs and former legislators — had the threat he was dismissing not been real and growing.



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A collage of Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna

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Gachagua celebrates Meru heritage at Twine Cietu festival

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua celebrated Meru culture and paid tribute to the community's Mau Mau freedom fighters during the "Twine Cietu" festival. Gachagua said the event offered him an opportunity to reconnect with his roots and relive memories of his late mother's homeland.

He honoured Field Marshal Mwariama of Muthara, Tigania East; Field Marshal Baimungi, also known as M'Marete wa M'Ikandi, and General Ruku of Katheri, Imenti Central, as well as General Nkobia.

The former Deputy President congratulated musician and cultural organiser Kamanu Ntoamwari for promoting the festival, which has sought to bring Meru people together through culture, music and heritage. Twine Cietu has previously been described as a platform for connecting Meru communities with their cultural roots.

Gachagua also used the occasion to catch up with former Agriculture Cabinet Secretary and PNU leader Peter Munya, amid continuing political engagements between opposition leaders in Meru.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



A gold rush in Kanyarkwat, West Pokot County, has attracted an estimated 10,000 people to Cheporor village within six days following reports of gold deposits. Authorities have raised concerns over safety, child labour, poor sanitation, lack of clean water and the risk of disease. Deputy County Commissioner Samuel Kiarie warned that the situation could develop into a humanitarian crisis, particularly as miners work in deep open pits and along a seasonal river ahead of the rainy season. School-going children are reportedly involved in mining, while toddlers have been brought to the site and left unattended. Residents fear cholera due to inadequate sanitation and water. Despite the risks, the influx has boosted local businesses, with traders, food vendors and boda boda operators benefiting from increased demand.



Police in Embu have stopped a planned invasion of the disputed 44,000-acre Mwea Settlement Scheme in Mbeere South by members of the Ngome Clan, who claim ancestral ownership of the land. Hundreds of elders had gathered at Gachoka junction for a procession to the scheme, raising fears of clashes with communities currently occupying the area. Police blocked the procession, citing security concerns and an agreement for a three-month dialogue with government officials. Ngome Council of Elders chairman Joseph Murinda said they had mobilised 7,232 members and claimed the government had recognised their ownership through documents issued in 2016. The elders agreed to pursue talks with national and county officials but warned they could resume the procession if no solution is reached. Authorities plan to verify ownership documents and historical allocation records.



must take Cabinet directives seriously and ensure they are implemented promptly and accurately. He linked the HRIS initiative to President William Ruto's call for prudent management of public resources and protection of taxpayers' money. The CS said the deadline for institutions to comply was fast approaching.

Public Service CS Geoffrey Ruku has directed chief executives of government agencies and independent commissions to onboard the Human Resource Information System (HRIS) for salary payments. Ruku said the government seeks to establish a single payroll through HRIS to prevent manipulation, ghost workers and irregular allowances across public institutions. Speaking in Wote, Makueni County, he warned agency and commission heads who fail to implement the Cabinet directive that they risk administrative and disciplinary action. Ruku said CEOs



The Mairura Family Foundation has been commended for providing free specialised orthopaedic care to underserved communities in Kisii County. During a five-day medical camp at Nyanchwa Adventist Mission Hospital, nearly 2,500 patients received consultations, about 400 received outpatient treatment and close to 40 underwent free surgeries, including hip and knee replacements. Patients came from Kisii, Nyamira, Homa Bay, Migori and Narok counties. Among beneficiaries was Thomas Moracha, a boda boda rider who endured a fractured arm for 13 years, and a 16-year-old boy who received reconstructive treatment for fingers fused after severe childhood burns. The programme, supported by SHA and American specialists, provided treatment, implants and follow-up care valued at about KSh150 million. The foundation has conducted medical missions in Kenya since 2024.

Nyali businessman and parliamentary hopeful Said Abdalla has urged residents to embrace political tolerance and reject tribal and religious divisions ahead of the 2027 General Election. Speaking during a women's empowerment programme in Mlaleo, Abdalla warned voters against leaders who promote hate speech and divisive politics, saying Nyali's diverse population requires constructive leadership. He recalled the devastating effects of the 2007 post-election violence and urged Kenyans to prevent a recurrence. Abdalla also encouraged young people to register as voters in large numbers, cautioning that youth are often exploited by politicians to cause chaos during elections while bearing the consequences. He called on Nyumba Kumi leaders and National Government Administration Officers to assist young people in obtaining national identity cards and registering as voters.



Construction of hostels at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) Othaya Campus has begun. The project alongside modern policing units that are expected to cost about KSh850 million were lobbied for by area MP Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima. The hostel project is expected to improve accommodation for students at the medical training institution, which was established in 2016 and has continued to expand its infrastructure. The hostel block will be a four-storey building with a capacity of 340 students, alongside a tuition block and supporting infrastructure. The MP said the commencement of construction marks another milestone in his efforts to attract development projects to the constituency.

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Education The institution marked its Silver Jubilee at the facility, near Nyeri town, with Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr Ouma Oluga, as the Chief Guest.

Outspan hospital marks 25 years of transforming healthcare

BY Wilfred Muchire

@themkenyaintimes

Outspan Teaching and Referral Hospital yesterday marked 25 years of service, celebrating its transformation from a modest local hospital into an integrated academic and healthcare institution serving communities across the Mount Kenya region.

The institution marked its Silver Jubilee at the facility, near Nyeri town, with Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr Ouma Oluga, as the Chief Guest.

Dr Oluga was accompanied by, among others, his East African Community counterpart, Dr Caroline Karugu. They were hosted by the Outspan leadership led by Dr Kiruhi Macharia.

The anniversary provided an opportunity for the institution to reflect on a journey that began 25 years ago with a vision of making quality and dignified healthcare available to communities outside Nairobi.

What started as a simple hospital in Nyeri County has grown into a Level Five teaching and referral hospital with branches in Embu and Nanyuki, extending specialised medical services to patients across the region.

Outspan has also expanded beyond conventional clinical care through the establishment of the Outspan Serenity Centre, which provides mental health and rehabilitation services at a time when specialised mental healthcare remained limited in the region.

The institution has further strengthened its community role through corporate social responsibility programmes, including health education, outreach clinics, school health initiatives and support for vulnerable households within its catchment areas.

Over the years, generations of families in Nyeri, Embu, Nanyuki and neighbouring counties have relied on Outspan for a range of services, making the institution an increasingly important part of community life in the region.

The hospital's leadership said its growth has been driven by the needs of the communities it serves, with investments aimed at improving access to specialised healthcare while retaining a strong connection with the region.

One of the most significant milestones in the institution's 25-year journey has been the establishment of Outspan Global University, creating a link between healthcare delivery and the training of future professionals.

The university held its inaugural graduation ceremony last Friday, with its pioneer class of 878 students graduating.

The graduation, held just two days before the hospital's Silver Jubilee celebrations, marked another milestone in Outspan's evolution from a healthcare provider into an academic healthcare ecosystem.

Through the university, the institution is seeking to train healthcare professionals within an environment where academic learning is closely connected to clinical practice.

The model brings together hospital services, mental health and rehabilitation, and higher education under one institutional ecosystem serving Nyeri and the wider Mount Kenya region.

As it celebrated its 25th anniversary, Outspan reaffirmed its commitment to investing in clinical excellence, mental healthcare and academic training, with the aim of expanding its impact in the region and beyond.

The Silver Jubilee comes as the institution looks to the next 25 years, building on a journey that has seen a local healthcare facility evolve into a regional centre for treatment, rehabilitation, training and community service.

The Silver Jubilee comes as the institution looks to the next 25 years, building on a journey that has seen a local healthcare facility evolve into a regional centre for treatment, rehabilitation, training and community service.



PSs Dr Caroline Karugu (left), Dr Ouma Oluga (centre) being taken round the Outspan hospital by its officials, by Dr Kiruhi Macharia (right). | Photo: Courtesy



PSs Dr Caroline Karugu and Dr Ouma Oluga jointly watering a commemorative tree at Outspan hospital yesterday.

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Religion There is a further complexity here. Most seminarians are not disposed to air their needs. Formed in humility, obedience, and trust in Providence, they rarely speak of lack

The unseen hands that form a priest

When divine providence moves through quiet benefactors to sustain vocations that humble families cannot carry alone.



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

The life of a seminarian unfolds within a deliberate discipline of silence. It is the silence of early morning prayer before dawn, of late hours with Scripture and theology, and of a young man internalising a call that will demand the entirety of his life. Yet beneath this sacred silence lies another, more hidden one — the silence of the benefactor: the man or woman who sustains formation without recognition, without title, and often without ever meeting the one they support.

This support is not incidental. It is structural to the Church's mission. For many seminarians in Kenya and across the world, the journey to the priesthood begins in homes abundant in faith but constrained in means. Parents who taught the rosary before they could afford school fees receive a son's vocation with joy — and with equal gravity confront the arithmetic of formation. Tuition, accommodation, theological texts, clerical attire, transport for pastoral outreach, and the basic necessities of human dignity accumulate into a burden that exceeds the reach of most rural and working-class households. The question becomes acute: how does one affirm a divine call when the material conditions to answer it are absent?

There is a further complexity here. Most seminarians are not disposed to air their needs. Formed in humility, obedience, and trust in Providence, they rarely speak of lack. They bear financial strain with the same quiet reserve with which they bear spiritual trials. To request assistance can feel contrary to the very spirit of self-gift they are striving to embrace. It is precisely for this reason that vocation requires what can only be called a divine eye. God raises up benefactors with the grace of discernment — the ability to perceive need where it is not spoken. These are rarely the seminarian's own



The life of a seminarian

parents. They are lay faithful, professionals, religious, retired clergy, and former seminarians who have come to understand that the formation of one priest is an investment in the life of the entire Church. Moved by a quiet interior prompting, they assume responsibility at the point where family resources end.

Their assistance arrives without ceremony and often without a name attached. It begins with tuition. It extends to modest allowances that preserve a seminarian's dignity by removing the impossible choice between required textbooks and basic necessities. It includes vestments, a breviary, and proper academic materials. In many cases it reaches further still — housing support when seminary residences are stretched beyond capacity, and funding for pastoral missions that would otherwise be cancelled for want of transport or catechetical materials.

The instruction that accompanies such generosity is invariably the same: "Do not disclose my name. Tell him only that the Church is grateful." This is charity in its most

selfless expression. It seeks no mention in parish bulletins, no place of honour at ordination, and no seat near the altar on the day of priestly consecration. Its sole purpose is that the vocation be formed completely, free from the corrosion of financial anxiety.

The human and spiritual effect of this intervention is profound. To be twenty-two years old, to carry the spiritual aspirations of an entire community, and to know that one's family cannot meet the next fee instalment is to bear a double burden. To then receive — unasked and unsolicited — precisely what is needed is to encounter the Church as mother. It does not produce entitlement. It produces gratitude, responsibility, and a quiet vocational resolve: that if ordained, the seminarian will replicate that same attentiveness for others. He will notice the child in worn shoes. He will quietly settle a family's school fees. He will carry the knowledge that priestly formation is not only intellectual and spiritual, but irreducibly human and material. Catholic teaching holds that voca-

tions are a gift to the whole Body of Christ. Gifts, however, require cultivation. Parents plant the seed in faith. The seminary provides the soil of doctrine, discipline, and fraternity. The benefactor provides the water — the consistent, tangible resources that allow the seed to grow without being choked by want. In the economy of grace, ten thousand shillings for textbooks becomes ten thousand homilies. The cost of a modest room near campus becomes, decades later, pastoral stability for an entire parish. To benefactors, the word must be clear. You may never witness the fruit of your generosity. You may never hear the cadence of a sermon shaped by the books you provided, nor stand close to the altar as the man you supported raises the Host. That absence is itself the measure of the gift. Your contribution is an act of self-emptying so that Christ may live more fully in another.

To seminarians, the corollary is equally clear. The debt incurred is not financial — it is vocational. The fitting response is not reimbursement but configuration to Christ the Good

Shepherd. The measure of worthiness is the readiness to become, in turn, the unseen hand for someone else.

There will come a day when the young man called John — whose story reflects that of so many — will be ordained. His parents will be present, bearing both joy and the poverty that brought them there. The benefactor will likely be absent. Yet the Church professes belief in a register that transcends our own. Beside the name "Priest of Jesus Christ" will be inscribed, in the same hand: "Sustained by love."

Formation, therefore, is more than curriculum. It is the lived expression of communion. When one member of the Body lacks, the Body responds. When one man says, "Here I am, Lord," the Church — through the quiet generosity of strangers — answers: "And we are with you."

May God bless every unseen hand. May He grant them the grace to find those who will not ask. May He raise up many more. And may He render every seminarian worthy of the sacrifice made on his behalf.

Politics “Sifuna thinks that just touring around is enough. Does he think Western will make him president?” said Mudavadi

Mudavadi tells Sifuna: Dreaming about it won't make you president

The Prime Cabinet Secretary, speaking at a UDA grassroots meeting in Butula yesterday, dismissed Sifuna's Western Kenya campaign blitz as exercise rather than electoral strategy — but the polls and the crowds tell a different story.

BY Dan Mwangi

@themkenyaintimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday mounted his sharpest public attack yet on Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna's presidential ambitions, telling a UDA grassroots meeting in Butula, Busia County, that the senator was dreaming if he believed Western Kenya's enthusiasm could carry him to State House.

Speaking in Kiswahili to hundreds of party supporters assembled at Butula, Mudavadi was contemptuous. “Sifuna anafikiria kuzunguka tu. Western itafanya yeye president? Huyu kijana anaota,” he said — “Sifuna thinks that just touring around is enough. Does he think Western will make him president? This young man is dreaming.”

The remark landed as a calculated put-down, but its timing told another story. Mudavadi would not have been in Butula — flanked by Busia Governor Paul Otuoma, Bungoma Governor Ken Lusaka, Kakamega Deputy Governor Ayub Savula and a column of MPs and former legislators — had the threat he was dismissing not been real and growing.

Mudavadi spelled out his broader argument with data. Citing Article 138 of the Constitution, which requires a presidential winner to secure more than half of all votes cast and at least 25% of the vote in more than half of Kenya's 47 counties, he warned that Western Kenya alone could not deliver the presidency to anyone. He then pointed to the arithmetic of the 2022 election. “Take Ruto's 7,176,141 votes — 50.49% — and Odinga's 6,942,930 votes — 48.85% — then look at the current broad-based arrangement,” he said, arguing that a coalition drawing on both pools would be nearly unassailable in 2027.

He reserved particular scorn for the Linda Mwananchi movement's county-hopping strategy. “The team that is busy moving from one county to another — today they are seen dancing in Busia, tomorrow they are in Kakamega, the following day you meet them in Trans Nzoia, thinking

they have won the presidency — I want to tell them they are only practising to keep fit,” Mudavadi said.

The language was blunter than Kenyans have grown accustomed to hearing from Mudavadi, a politician whose default register is measured and institutional. That he chose Butula — the very ground Sifuna's Linda Mwananchi movement had toured only days earlier — to deliver it suggests the unease inside the Kenya Kwanza Western operation runs deeper than the public composure of its leading figures has so far admitted.

The unease is not without foundation. Trends and Insights for Africa tracked Sifuna's national support rising from virtually zero in November 2025 to 15% in June 2026 — the steepest climb recorded among all presidential hopefuls in that period. Among ODM supporters, 44% now name Sifuna as their preferred candidate for 2027. Within the Western Kenya region specifically, he leads all other contenders in polling, including those backed by the government.

The defections have followed the polling. Westlands MP Tim Wanyonyi — the Speaker of the National Assembly's own brother — has joined Sifuna's camp. Veteran politician Fred Gumo, whose Western Kenya credentials stretch back decades, has been unsparing about the old guard. “This is Sifuna's time. Let us give him support. If people from other parts of the country are supporting him, why can't we the people from Western do the same? The others who are fighting Sifuna — we gave them a chance. They are talking about 2032 yet age is catching up with them. It is like me at 80 saying I now want to be president. They should support Sifuna or keep quiet,” Gumo said.

Kakamega Senator Boni Khalwale has been equally direct. “Luhya are no longer fools and we shall not be taken for granted. We have a formula and Edwin Sifuna, you have a responsibility like no one else. Use the respect we have given you for power and development for this region,” he told a rally in Bungoma.

Trans-Nzoia Governor George Nantembeya, aligned with the United Opposition, has gone further still. “Leaders of this region are jealous and enjoy seeing others being persecuted. Those who are working with Ruto, we will not allow you to join us. My work is to unite the Luhya community and if it is Sifuna, we shall be behind him,” he said.

The Luhya community is Kenya's second-largest ethnic bloc, and Western Kenya's projected 3.2 million votes in 2027 make it, pound for pound, one of the country's most consequential electoral battlegrounds. KANU spokesperson Tony Gachoka framed the stakes plainly during a televised interview. “Mount Kenya remains Kenya's largest voting bloc at approximately 26% of the national vote, followed by Western Kenya at about 18%. The opposition must also have a running mate from Western to neutralise Wetang'ula, and the only person to do that is Edwin Sifuna,” he said.

Mudavadi and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula have dominated Western Kenya's politics since the death of former Vice-President Kijana Wamalwa in 2003. Both pivoted to Ruto in 2022 and have since tied their political fortunes to his re-election. Wetang'ula has been explicit about the bargain on offer. “Western Kenya has Prime CS Musalia Mudavadi, CS Wycliffe Oparanya, and me as Speaker of the National Assembly. President Ruto can pick any of us as Deputy President and groom the person for the 2032 presidential race,” he told a meeting in Sirisia, Bungoma County.

Mudavadi's own 2032 pitch was delivered during an earlier Trans-Nzoia tour. “I was the Vice President in 2002 under the late President Daniel arap Moi, followed by my late brother Kijana Wamalwa and later Moody Awori. The time has now come for Western Kenya to prepare for the ultimate prize, which is the presidency,” he told supporters, adding: “I am not interested in the running mate slot; I aim to be the president in 2032.”

Sifuna's answer to the 2032 argument has been delivered through ral-



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi

lies rather than press statements. At a Linda Mwananchi gathering in Taita Taveta, he told supporters: “The Gen Zs have told me it is time to stop calling me SG. They want to give me a new title, HE — His Excellency.”

The crowds have been the response. The rallies in Trans-Nzoia and Bungoma were described by organisers as the most significant opposition gatherings Western Kenya had seen in years. The Busia leg that followed — taking the Linda Mwananchi movement through Bumala, Murumba, Butula and Nambale — brought Sifuna into the same constituency Mudavadi chose as his counter-mobilisation base yesterday.

The juxtaposition is the point. Mudavadi told the Butula crowd that the upcoming UDA-ODM joint retreat in Naivasha — to be chaired by President William Ruto — would harmonise the broad-based coalition's manifesto and chart a roadmap for

2027 and beyond. “Our main agenda among others is to harmonise our manifestos, which borrowed a lot from each other pre-2022 elections. We want to plan ahead and focus on the future of our nation,” he said.

It was, by design, a message of institutional weight and governing authority — the language of incumbency against the language of movement. Whether Western Kenya, after more than two decades of deferred promise, chooses to wait until 2032 or bet on the fastest-rising political figure in the country is the question that now hangs over every rally, every grassroots meeting, and every calculation being made in Nairobi.

A young man from Bungoma has rattled two of Kenya's most seasoned political operators — and the Prime Cabinet Secretary flew to Butula to say he is only dreaming.

IEK The vote, conducted electronically for the first time, recorded a turnout exceeding 75%, with more than 2,180 engineers casting ballots

Keter takes IEK helm with a mandate for reform

Harrison Keter's election as Institution of Engineers of Kenya president — on a record 75% turnout and the body's first electronic ballot — sets the stage for a term that will test whether engineering ambition can be turned into national policy.

BY David Nyaga

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Eng. Harrison Keter was announced as the president-elect of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) last week, taking over from Shammah Kiteme in what the institution described as the most participatory election in its history.

The vote, conducted electronically for the first time,

recorded a turnout exceeding 75%, with more than 2,180 engineers casting ballots. That figure is not merely a statistical milestone. For those who watch the intersection of professional governance and national development, it signals something more substantive: a fraternity that is increasingly restless for reform, keener on accountability, and more determined to have its voice heard in the corridors where

economic policy is made.

Keter arrives at the presidency with credentials that are well matched to the moment. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nairobi and a Postgraduate Diploma in Geothermal Technology and Utilisation from the United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme. His professional career has been built large-



Eng. Harrison Keter

ly at the Kenya Electricity Generating Company, KenGen, where he serves as Assistant Operations Manager for Geothermal — a role that has placed him at the centre of mega-project design, development, and maintenance in one of Kenya's most strategically important energy sectors.

In a country where energy transition and renewable technology are central to any credible industrialisation agenda, that specialisation matters. The IEK, under Keter's leadership, is positioned to shape national energy policy from a place of genuine technical authority rather than institutional proximity alone.

The road to the August 2026 elections was not straightforward. The IEK navigated court-ordered delays arising from disputes over constitutional amendments and graduate voting rights, a period during which Keter served as first vice president and effectively steered the institution through administrative uncertainty. That he managed the caretaker period without fracturing the membership, and delivered a clean, digitally driven election at the end of it, speaks to an administrative steadiness that his supporters argued was the defining reason to back him for the top role.

In his acceptance speech, Keter was direct about what comes first. His pledge to “restore unity and strengthen

engagement across our membership” was less a ceremonial flourish than a recognition that the institution emerges from a contested period and needs consolidation before it can project influence outward.

Three priorities have emerged clearly from his campaign manifesto and early policy declarations. The first is workforce development. The bottleneck between graduating as an engineer and becoming a registered professional has frustrated young practitioners for years. Keter has outlined plans to strengthen practical training, expand internship pathways, and deepen collaboration between universities and industry. Central to this will be accelerating the full constitution and operational efficiency of the Engineers Board of Kenya.

The second priority is commercial empowerment. For decades, the capital flowing into Kenya's infrastructure projects has not flowed proportionately into local engineering firms. Keter's administration intends to push hard for systemic frameworks that guarantee Kenyan engineers a primary stake in national development work — moving beyond the rhetoric of local content into structural guarantees for local consultants and contractors.

The third is digital transformation. The new council is committed to moving the profession away from traditional

methodologies toward Building Information Modelling, digital twins, and automation. The ambition is to position the Kenyan engineer as globally competitive, supported by innovation hubs and applied research rather than left to adapt in isolation.

Keter is joined on the new council by Howard M'mayi as first vice president and Grace Kagundu as honorary secretary — a team whose composition reflects both technical depth and a deliberate focus on institutional renewal.

The record turnout that brought this council to office is, in itself, a form of pressure. Engineers voted in unusually large numbers because they want something to change. Whether it is faster professional registration, fairer access to public contracts, or a stronger institutional voice on matters of national policy, the expectation is real and the mandate is clear.

The true measure of Keter's presidency will not be found in the manifesto. It will be found in whether the everyday Kenyan engineer — the graduate waiting for registration, the consultant competing against foreign firms, the practitioner trying to keep pace with a rapidly changing industry — feels the difference by 2028.

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Politics “We are assembling our campaign team and our strategy is to do everything we can within the democratic confines to ensure Ruto wins.” Mudavadi

Mudavadi: We shall do everything democratically to secure Ruto’s win

BY OPCS PRESS SERVICE

@themkenyaintimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has stated that President William Ruto will secure a fair, transparent, and petition-free victory in the 2027 General Election through the democratic will of the people.

Mudavadi said President Ruto’s campaign team is working on a formula that will ensure the victory does not attract any form of litigation, calling on Kenyans to turn out in large numbers in August 2027 and vote for Ruto’s 2nd term. He has maintained that elections will neither be rigged or bangled.

“When we talk of two-term, let us also emphasis on a petition free win for President Ruto. Petitions always make the country pull in different directions causing tension and a tense mood. We have witnessed these scenarios since the late President Mwai Kibaki’s 2nd term win and the subsequent elections. We want to change this trend.” Mudavadi noted.

“We are assembling our campaign team and our strategy is to do everything we can within the democratic confines to ensure Ruto wins.” Mudavadi added.

The Prime CS noted that President Ruto’s win will be pegged on his track record, especially his efforts in uniting the country and the achievements being witnessed under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

He said those who want to reverse the policies that have been laid by the Kenya Kwanza administration and being supported by the Broad-based government don’t mean well for the Country. Mudavadi

called out those spreading falsehood that Ruto’s development track record is not being felt by the citizens.

“When you say you will reverse the policies that have led to the employment of an additional more than 76,000 teachers, the progress within the affordable housing programme, the gains in the health sector, the construction of roads and markets among other gains, what is your agenda for the future of this country?” Mudavadi regretted.

“We have seen the education sector benefit from a budgetary allocation of Ksh 780 billion, an additional 23,000 classes constructed under President Ruto’s leadership, gains in the agriculture sector, fertilizer subsidies and the maize production hitting 70 million tonnes, then you are busy telling Kenyans that Ruto has done nothing. That is hypocrisy.” Mudavadi added.

Mudavadi also the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary stated that the Kenyan Foreign Reserves have also increased from 5 billion USD to 15 billion USD reflecting that Kenya’s is safe with a 6 months import cover. He lashed out at the opposition for misleading the country without basing their pronouncements on facts and truth.

He warned Kenyans that it is dangerous to entrust national leadership to individuals driven by vengeance, bitterness, and vindictiveness saying the country’s leadership should never be reduced to an ethnic contest.

Mudavadi said national leadership demands patience, humility and a commitment to serving all Kenyans.

“We need to make sure that

our unity as a country remains and grows. We must be very careful and reject leaders who want to divide us. Then he is busy traversing the country telling Kenyans to vote for him.” Mudavadi warned Kenyans.

“Our youth, I call on you to register in large numbers, so that we can meet with those who claim to have numbers at the ballot box next year.” he added.

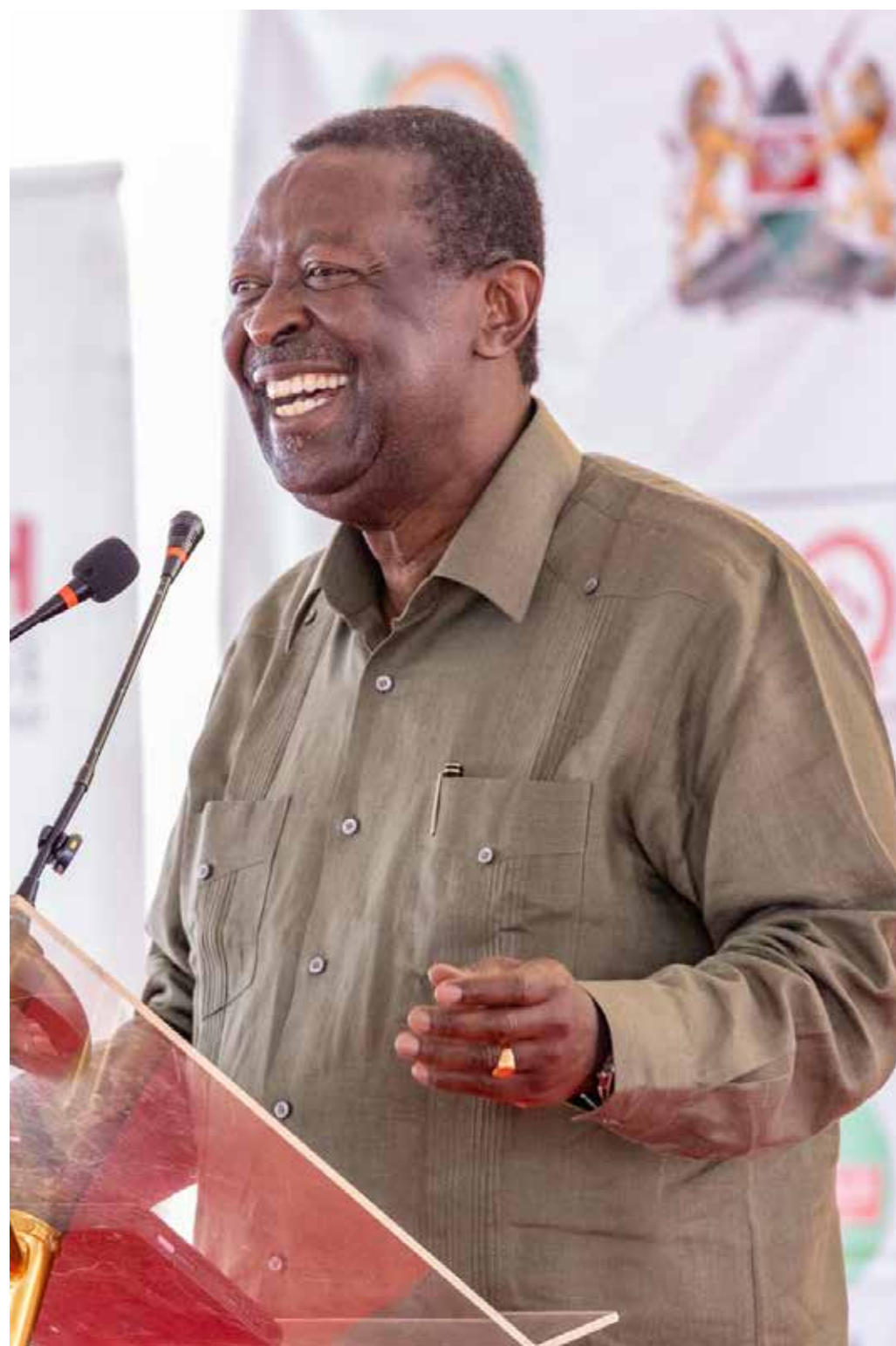
Mudavadi was speaking during the Annual Kaimosi Agricultural Research and Training Centre (KARTC) Agricultural Expo in Emgwen, Nandi County, where he officially launched a new Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-supported curriculum and commissioned new student hostels.

He promised the residents of Nandi, Vihiga and Kakamega Counties that work is in progress to ensure that the Eldoret-Chavakali road is expanded and re-carpeted alongside other feeder roads that connect the three counties.

“Shared resources and integration will highly benefit our people. As leaders from this region this is our road-map moving into the future and with the support of President Ruto.” Mudavadi remarked.

“We have come here to support this institution, we have launched hostels for our students and someone somewhere is thinking of reversing the President’s policies. It is regrettable and our people must reject such leaders.” Mudavadi said.

He was accompanied by the Head of Public Service Felix Koskei and host Governor Stephen Sang among other notable national and county leaders.



PCS Musalia Mudavadi addressing the meeting



PCS Musalia Mudavadi with Chief of Staff Felix Koskei and Nandi Governor Stephen Sang.

Education The facility, he said, would expose students to emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, robotics, 5G and the Internet of Things

MKU graduates urged to embrace resilience and innovation

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has challenged its latest graduates to remain resilient, embrace lifelong learning and create opportunities for themselves and others as they begin their professional journeys.

The call was made last Friday during the university's 29th graduation ceremony, where Chancellor Prof John Struthers, Council Chairman Dr Vincent Gaiho, Jubilee Holdings Group Chief Executive Officer Dr Julius Kipnetich and Alumni Association Chairman Gikera Kahara urged the graduates to use their education to drive social transformation.

Prof Struthers told the graduands that young people must remain competitive and adaptable in an increasingly interconnected global village, noting that technological advances will continue to reshape their lives and careers.

He said MKU was preparing its students for the opportunities and challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution through strategic partnerships and international collaborations.

The Chancellor cited the recent operationalisation of the university's Cloud Computing Laboratory through collaboration with Xinyada ICT Company and leading Chinese higher education institutions.

The facility, he said, would expose students to emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, robotics, 5G and the Internet of Things.

"These initiatives reflect a university that continually anticipates the future while remaining firmly committed to solving society's most pressing challenges," Prof Struthers said.

Dr Gaiho reminded the

graduates that they were entering a world characterised by rapid change and complex challenges, but said the same environment offered opportunities to make a difference.

He challenged them to confront poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, technological disruption and social injustice through innovation, courage and compassion.

"Let your knowledge serve a purpose beyond personal success by uplifting communities and creating a better future for all," Dr Gaiho said.

He urged them to uphold integrity, accountability, transparency and service to others, whether working in public service, business, academia or community leadership.

Create opportunities, Kipnetich tells graduates

Dr Kipnetich challenged the graduates to abandon the mindset that success depends solely on employment opportunities created by others.

He said graduates should create opportunities for themselves and other people, noting that even a small enterprise could have a significant multiplier effect on the economy.

He gave the example of a graduate opening a restaurant and employing a cook, purchasing produce from farmers and engaging boda boda riders to transport supplies.

According to Dr Kipnetich, a university degree should be viewed as a foundation rather than a limitation, allowing graduates to explore careers and enterprises beyond their academic disciplines.

He urged them to look beyond Kenya for opportunities, noting that MKU alumni had found success in countries such as Germany and Austria.

The corporate leader also encouraged graduates to pursue lifelong learning through re-

skilling and upskilling, particularly in digital literacy, data and artificial intelligence.

He warned that future jobs would demand competencies that many people had not yet encountered.

Dr Kipnetich further urged young people interested in politics to embrace a new approach to leadership by debating ideas rather than identities and building coalitions instead of personality-driven movements.

He also challenged them to uphold ethical standards, including refusing to trade their votes, voices or silence for handouts.

MKU tightens doctoral training

Meanwhile, MKU is strengthening its postgraduate training through new measures aimed at improving the quality and international recognition of doctoral research.

Five students graduated with PhDs during the ceremony after completing rigorous academic and research requirements.

They were Benson Nyamweya Omwario, Amos Andama Nyamoko, Susan Wanjiku Mugo, Lilian Lwaja Elijah and Loise Kuria Nyakeru.

Under the university's new framework, doctoral students are required to publish their research in international peer-reviewed journals before graduation.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi said the learner-centred model integrates research, mentorship, scholarly engagement and publication in peer-reviewed indexed journals.

He said the approach was intended to produce researchers, innovators and thought leaders capable of addressing local and global challenges.

"PhD students are the drivers of research in highly ranked universities globally. Such



MKU Chancellor Prof. John Struthers confers a doctoral degree upon a graduand during Mount Kenya University's 29th Graduation Ceremony at the Graduation Pavilion in Thika last Friday.

research must be published in high-quality journals that enjoy international recognition," Prof Jaganyi said.

He added that the university's objective was not merely to graduate students but to produce scholars whose research contributes to solving real-world problems and expanding global knowledge.

The five doctoral graduates described their journeys as demanding but rewarding,

citing rigorous coursework, research, mentorship and collaboration as key components of their success.

Alumni chairman Kahara urged the new graduates to give back to their alma mater and communities by mentoring students and supporting initiatives aimed at creating social impact.

He cited the Boda Safe Ride programme, which began in Bungoma County and is ex-

pected to be replicated across the country, as an example of alumni-led community engagement.

He also encouraged the graduates to remain persistent when confronted by setbacks, urging them to gather courage, try again and, where necessary, change their approach rather than abandon their ambitions.



Guests and senior MKU officials after the graduation ceremony | Photo: Courtesy.

Politics Ndubai, who is seeking the Tigania West parliamentary seat, said the constituency requires leadership with a clear vision

Ndubai promises development-focused leadership in Tigania West

BY Diplomatic Media Services
@themtkenyatimes

Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) chairman Peter Ndubai has pledged to prioritise infrastructure development, water access, agriculture and youth empowerment if elected Member of Parliament for Tigania West in the 2027 General Election. Ndubai, who is seeking the Tigania West parliamentary seat, said the constituency requires leadership with a clear vision, practical solutions and a strong commitment to inclusive development. He said his administration would focus on ensuring that development reaches every part of the constituency and creates opportunities for families, young people, women, farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs. Ndubai listed improvement of rural

roads, bridges and drainage systems among his key priorities, saying better infrastructure would help connect farmers, businesses and communities while opening up markets and improving the movement of goods and people. He also promised to push for expanded water projects, including boreholes, to improve access to clean and reliable water for households, schools and livestock. On agriculture and livestock, Ndubai said he would advocate for modern farming practices, better markets, value addition and livestock development programmes aimed at increasing household incomes. He said education and youth empowerment would also form a central part of his agenda, with emphasis on strengthening schools, supporting students and creating opportunities for skills development, employment

and entrepreneurship. Ndubai further pledged to support women and small businesses by pursuing programmes that would expand access to economic opportunities, markets and sustainable sources of income. On healthcare and social protection, he said he would advocate for accessible medical services while pushing for stronger support for vulnerable families, older persons and widows. The DP chairman also identified security and community development as key areas of focus, promising to work with residents and relevant authorities to promote peace, protect livelihoods and enhance security. Ndubai said accountable leadership would underpin his approach to representing the people of Tigania West, promising to promote transparency and ensure public resources are used in the interests of residents.



DP chairman Peter Ndubai

“A prosperous Tigania West cannot be built through promises alone. It requires vision, unity, accountability and decisive leadership,” he said. He described his candidature as an opportunity to usher in a new chapter of grassroots development and leadership that listens to residents. “Tigania West Forward. Development for Every Family. Opportunity for Every Generation,” he said.



The greatest glory in living



Lies never in falling
But in rising;
Every time you fall for elevating
To be more energetic when you raise up

And stimulates each step firmly
Aiding your dreams towards your goal lively.
The fallen withered leaves turn as manure
The clouds fall as rain to nurture
The fallen seeds form forest
Accomplishing our heart the best.
And here the points increases as the ball falls
When crossing the netted hoop to enthrall
So never feel the failure pushing you down
It's just bouncing you up from being drowned.

G.Sarala.

Keep moving forward



Do not stop moving,
Because the road is long and rough.
Every step you take,
Builds your confidence.

The river never asks,
How far it has to go.
It simply keeps moving forward,
Never giving up.

The seed never asks,
When it will become a tree.
It keeps growing every day,
Believing in tomorrow.

The mountain never asks,
How many storms will come.
It stands with quiet strength,
Through every season.

The bird never asks,
How strong the wind will be.
It spreads its wings,
And learns to fly.

None of them asks,
“How?”, “When?”, or “Why?”
They simply keep moving forward
With courage and confidence.

Every challenge makes you stronger.
Keep moving forward,
And let your dreams
Follow your steps.

D.DHANYASRI
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Road ,Panruti, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.



We never see people who never fall in life.
But we do see people who rise every time they fall.
That is the spirit of a successful life.

When you fall, never give up and never be discouraged.
No one knows the future, but everyone can make

a plan.
You should continue your journey according to your plan.
That path will have ups and downs;
however, keep moving toward your destination.

Never focus on your failures.
Instead, focus on rising every time you fall.
So, think positively, act with energy, and live happily.
Life is a beautiful journey, and you should enjoy every moment.

G.Yasmin Sirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment



Don't disguise as others, you can never perform as others.
Stay as you are, it's very safe and keeps you cheering.
There are so many professional actors everywhere.
Their major role is to act like others .

There is a story about a tiger we wear the skin of a cow.
Finally everyone knows that the tiger was harassed by the cows.
And also one more story about a fox who changed its colour into blue

Later it is also caught when it drenches in rain and reveals its secret of blue.

As a knowledgeable person, you never perform as others
Its not our duty to mask as others
Real happiness is what you are, you have to be.
It means you are the real person and you are not imitated.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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

Magic pen



My magic pen is small and blue,
It writes nice stories too.
It drew a castle tall,

With flowers by the wall.
It made a flying kite,
That danced with great delight.
I keep it safe with care,
It's the best pen anywhere
V.Joshika
Grade 8
John dewey matric higher secondary school, Link road, panruti.

My little life



Saturday Sunday and Monday morning my number was there in the Daily Thanthi
Today is my new birthday
With bells bottom pant and half sleeve shirt I Entered Scott Christian College for my undergraduate Botany
Today is my new birthday because I got Admission for my post graduation Botany in St John's College palayamkottai
Today is my birthday because I have completed my post graduation Botany with current higher first class
Today I woke up and saw my clock AA Twenty two years passed away
Today is my admission day in June for education degree in Madurai Kamaraj University
Today is my birthday I am wandering in Chennai for job with fully qualified teacher
Alas I checked my calendar today I am going to sleep without a proper job in Chennai
Dr. T.Ebenezer
One day early morning On Monday morning My mother dressed up That day is my admission day in my native place
Every day is evergreen day I took my bag with slate and bulbum
Days gone that day is unforgettable day in my life because I can start to write my name in English in third standard
Evening I rushed up to my mother I was started to say my name in English and that day is unforgettable day
Days weeks months and years passed by Today is my SSLC birthday
Evening waiting for the Government results in the malai murasu
Eureka my my number was there oh what a day
Today is my HSC birthday

Politics Muriithi said his return to the political arena is driven by the need for a more united and inclusive Laikipia

Muriithi throws his hat into the ring: KRA chairman targets Laikipia governorship

BY Grace Wanja
@themkenyatiimes

Kenya Revenue Authority chairman Ndiritu Muriithi has formally declared his candidacy for the Laikipia governorship, announcing at a public meeting in Nyahururu that he will contest the 2027 General Election on a Kenya Reforms Party ticket.

Speaking during a county-wide Meet the People tour, Muriithi said his return to the political arena is driven by the need for a more united and inclusive Laikipia. He challenged residents to reject politicians who divide communities along ethnic lines and cast his campaign explicitly as a bridge-building project. “Our diversity is Laikipia’s greatest strength, and we must never allow it to be weaponised,” he told the gathering. “I will build bridges, not barriers, and unite every community

towards shared prosperity.”

The declaration ends months of speculation over Muriithi’s political direction. In May, he ruled out joining the Democracy for the Citizens Party associated with former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, saying he preferred the Reform Party of Kenya because its political philosophy seeks to avert what he described as balkanisation and isolationist politics in the Mt Kenya region. The choice of platform signals a deliberate distance from the region’s most dominant opposition formation and a bid to occupy the centre ground in a county that has become one of Mt Kenya’s most fiercely contested electoral battlegrounds.

Muriithi served as Laikipia governor between 2017 and 2022, having won the seat as an independent candidate after failing to secure the Jubilee Alliance nomination. In 2022, he ran on a Jubilee ticket under the Azimio la Umoja

coalition and suffered a heavy defeat to incumbent Governor Joshua Irungu, who had initially lost the seat to him five years earlier. Irungu secured 113,783 votes to Muriithi’s 48,563 in a contest that was not close. Muriithi conceded, congratulated Irungu, and departed from elective politics for a role in national public service — first in opposition activism, then in January 2025 as chairman of the Kenya Revenue Authority board.

The return to county politics carries both opportunity and risk. Irungu is serving his second and constitutionally final term, leaving the seat open in 2027 and drawing in a field of serious contenders. Among those expected to contest are former Cabinet Secretary and Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri, former Laikipia Woman Representative Cate Waruguru — who is eyeing the seat on a DCP ticket — current Laikipia County Secretary Koinange Wahome and Depu-

ty Governor Reuben Kamuri. Nine aspirants have already declared interest in the race, with several competing for the DCP nomination alone.

Muriithi has been candid about his motivation. “It is no secret that I am interested in the Laikipia governor’s seat. But for me, the slogans around ‘Wantam’ or ‘Tutam’ are not important. The focus should be on solutions for Kenyans, job creation, and industrialisation,” he said.

The profile he brings to the race is considerable. Before the governorship, Muriithi served as Member of Parliament for Laikipia West between 2007 and 2013 and as Assistant Minister for Industrialisation in the Mwai Kibaki administration. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Finance from St. Francis Xavier University in Canada and a Master of Science in Project Management from the University of Technology, Sydney. His pro-



Kenya Revenue Authority chairman Ndiritu Muriithi

fessional background spans economic policy, financial sector development and infrastructure planning, including early involvement in the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor programme.

During his gubernatorial term, his administration launched the Laikipia County Infrastructure Bond, the Nanyuki Bulk Water project, the Laikipia Beef Special Purpose Vehicle and a county equipment leasing programme — a record he will lean on heavily against opponents who will point to the scale of his 2022 defeat as evidence that the county has moved on.

The arithmetic of that defeat remains the central challenge. A candidate who lost by more

than 65,000 votes five years ago must explain not just what has changed in Laikipia, but what has changed about his candidacy. His answer, at least in Nyahururu, is character and coalition — an appeal to unity over division, and to a track record of governance over political sloganeering.

Whether that argument prevails in a race this crowded and this competitive will depend on whether Muriithi can rebuild the grassroots support that carried him to victory in 2017 — and whether Laikipia voters, given a wide field of credible alternatives, are willing to give a second chance to a man who lost his last one decisively.

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Election The economic dimension is equally important and often underappreciated in political debate. Businesses and investors operate best in conditions of predictability

The 2026 or 2027 election question: Kenya faces a constitutional test

A High Court ruling that the next General Election falls in August 2026, not 2027, has forced Kenya to confront fundamental questions about constitutional interpretation, judicial independence, and the integrity of its democratic order.

BY Linda Omondi

@themkenyatimes

Kenya is at the centre of a significant constitutional and political dispute over the date of its next General Election — a controversy that goes well beyond a disagreement on the calendar and cuts to the heart of how the country interprets its own founding law.

For the most part, Kenyans and their political parties had been preparing for elections in August 2027. That assumption rested on the constitutional provision for five-year parliamentary and presidential terms, widely understood to place the next General Election in 2027. Then the Malindi High Court intervened. The court ruled that the correct constitutional date for the next election is August 2026 — a declaration it simultaneously suspended, pending further legal process — and Kenya's political landscape has not quite settled since.

The ruling has drawn sharp reactions. Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale was among those who pushed back publicly, arguing that moving the election forward would effectively curtail the constitutional terms of elected leaders. Supporters of the 2026 reading counter that the Constitution must be applied strictly, and that the electoral cycle should follow the letter of the law rather than political convenience. Both positions carry legal weight, which is precisely why the matter belongs in court rather than in campaign rallies.

What makes the controversy consequential is not the date itself but everything that hangs on it. The timing of an election determines when the terms of the President, Members of Parliament, governors,



Judge Mugure Thande

and county representatives come to an end. A shift to 2026 would compress those terms significantly, disrupting political strategies, campaign preparations, voter registration programmes, and the operational readiness of the electoral authorities.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission sits at the centre of those practical concerns. Kenya only reconstituted its IEBC leadership in 2025, after the commission had operated without its full complement of commissioners for an extended period. The new team is still settling in, and a sudden change in the electoral timetable would place considerable strain on an institution that is only beginning to find its footing.

The economic dimension is equally important and often underappreciated in political debate. Businesses and investors operate best in conditions of predictability. The World Bank has already flagged political uncertainty surrounding Kenya's electoral cycle as a risk to investor confidence and fiscal stability. An unexpected election in 2026 would intensify those pressures, potentially affecting government

spending, private investment, and the confidence of markets already watching Kenya's fiscal position closely. Even a prolonged legal dispute — without any change in the ultimate date — can itself generate uncertainty sufficient to rattle confidence.

Young Kenyans add another layer to the picture. Since the protests sparked by the Finance Bill in 2024, the country's Gen Z generation has emerged as a serious political force — vocal, organised, and increasingly difficult for the political establishment to ignore. Their concerns cut across elections: employment, corruption, the cost of living, and accountability. Whether the next vote comes in 2026 or 2027, this generation's growing political awareness is likely to shape the issues at the centre of the campaign and the levels of participation on polling day.

The deeper lesson in all of this is one Kenya has encountered before. A democracy is not merely the sum of its institutions — and whether those institutions are trusted, resourced, and insulated from political pressure when it matters most. The IEBC needs the

independence and the funding to prepare properly, whichever timetable the courts ultimately confirm. The judiciary needs to be allowed to do its work without being turned into a battlefield between competing political camps. And political leaders need to resist the temptation to weaponise a legitimate constitutional question for electoral mobilisation.

None of that is straightforward in a political environment as competitive as Kenya's. But the alternative — allowing the dispute to

deepen division, weaken institutions, and undermine public confidence in the electoral process — carries costs the country cannot afford.

The 2026-versus-2027 controversy may ultimately be resolved quietly by the courts. Or it may become something larger: a test of whether Kenya's constitutional democracy can handle a serious legal dispute without fracturing along political lines. The answer will say something important about where the country stands — not just before the next election, but long after it.

What Kenya needs most, in the end, is not a particular date. It is certainty, a clear legal framework, a credible electoral commission, and the collective resolve to let the rule of law — not political arithmetic — determine what comes next.




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Politics Over the years, politicians have perfected the art of campaigning with resources that, in the first place belong to the citizens

When political events unfold: The voter is watching



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya's political clouds are gathering with unusual speed. Political alliances are shifting, parties are being abandoned and others are embraced with remarkable convenience, brokers are positioning themselves, appointments are acquiring political meaning and politicians both incumbents and new aspirants are beginning to criss-cross electoral jurisdictions of interest in search of influence. The political season is clearly warming up, but beneath the noise lies an important development that the politicians may be underestimating: the voter is changing

Over the years, politicians have perfected the art of campaigning with resources that, in the first place belong to the citizens. Public projects are launched with extraordinary political fanfare. Public vehicles, public platforms, public programmes and sometimes public institutions appear to become part of political mobilization machinery. Government achievements are repackaged as personal political gifts, while citizens are invited to applaud what they have, in fact, already paid through taxes and other public contributions.

The informed voter is increasingly unimpressed. The citizen who has watched public money disappear into questionable procurement, inflated projects, stalled programmes and political extravagance may no longer be persuaded simply because a politician arrives with a convoy and announces another development project. The voter increasingly wants to know who paid for it, how much it costs, who implemented it, who benefited and whether it should have been delivered as part of government responsibility in the first place.

Even the traditional campaign handout is beginning to acquire different meaning. For generations, politicians have been distributing money, food, clothing and other small gifts during campaigns, expecting gratitude to translate into votes. The increasing-



Voter is watching

ly informed electorate is starting to look at such generosity through an entirely different lens. To many, the money being handed out is not necessarily generosity at all. It is perceived as small refund from a larger public resource that has already been extracted from them through taxation, government contracts, public opportunities or political patronage.

The logic is becoming brutally simple; if you have been given a thousand shillings today, it does not mean you have sold your vote for a thousand shillings. The voter can take the handout and still make an independent decision at the ballot. This is a political reality that many campaign strategists may discover rather late. The old assumption that poverty automatically translates into political loyalty is increasingly unreliable. Citizens can be economically constrained without being politically naïve. A mother may accept a small campaign contribution because she needs food that evening and still reject the politician at the ballot box. A young person may attend a political rally because transport and lunch have been provided and still vote according to his or her own assessment.

The political class should therefore stop confusing attendance with allegiance, applause with approval and handouts with votes. The same warning applies to the growing phenomenon of political tourism. Politicians are beginning to travel outside their constituencies to inject themselves into local political con-

test, often carrying little more than political bravado and an appetite for confrontation. Some arrive not with policy proposal but with insults. Others specialize in humiliating opponents, provoking crowds, and releasing vulgar language calculated to generate applause, hatred and media attention.

This must stop at all costs. Kenya does not need politicians from one county to another exporting political hostility. Political engagement is legitimate; political tourism designed to provoke, insult and inflame communities is not responsible leadership as this drifts towards tribalism, conflict and warlike language

The political casualties of the coming season may therefore be far much greater than may currently anticipate. Candidates who build their campaigns around tribal hostility may discover that citizens have grown tired of being mobilised against one another. Politicians who make political conflict their currency may discover voters prefer stability, opportunity and development.

Kenyan's citizens have the history, the technology tools and knowledge to recognize patterns. Politicians start with dramatic speeches, ethnic arithmetic, insults, threats, the promise, handouts, and defections. The political brokers arrive with new alliances and new calculations and eventually the voter is expected to forget everything and start again. But something fundamental has changed. The citizen is recording, comparing, questioning and listen-

ing.

They are discussing and analyzing political performance in ways that were not possible before the digital age. They compare promises made in different forums, achievements and failures at a flash of a second. It is encouraging however that politicians who genuinely want to serve the environment provides an opportunity for a different kind of leadership, leadership that sees and speaks to citizens as adults and not as voting blocks; leadership that recognizes the most vulnerable in the society including the disability persons.

The informed voter is watching all this. Watching who is appointed, who has built skyscrapers during the short term in office, who employed only relatives, who is excluded, who receives, and who suddenly becomes generous during election period. The citizen is also watching who is beating drums of tribalism and conflict. The political class should not under-

estimate this electorate. The Kenyan voter may laugh at the rally, accept transport, eat the campaign food and listen to the politician's insults, but still go into the polling booth alone. This is where political theater ends. This is where the voter speaks.

The coming political season will undoubtedly be noisy. Political tourists will arrive, the brokers will emerge, old veterans will invoke experience, new entrance will invoke technology and numbers, parties will realign, money will circulate, handouts will increase and political language will become harsher. But the voter is not necessarily amused

Kenyans are people asking increasing uncomfortable question; after all the money spent, all the insults exchanged, all the promises made all political battles fought, what exactly will change in the life of ordinary citizens? The question may prove more powerful than the loudest rally.

Those who have specialized in tribalism, confrontation, vulgarity and political intimidation should take particular note and caution. The electorate may be approaching a point where such politics no longer inspires loyalty but exhaustion. The political tourist may eventually return home, the broker will move to their next negotiation, the handouts will disappear, and the campaign music will go silent. But the voter will remain with the consequences.

And when that moment comes, Kenya may discover that the most powerful political force was never the loudest politician, the largest convoy or the deepest pocket. It was the informed citizen who listened quietly, watched carefully, remembered everything and most importantly made the wise choice.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
PWD

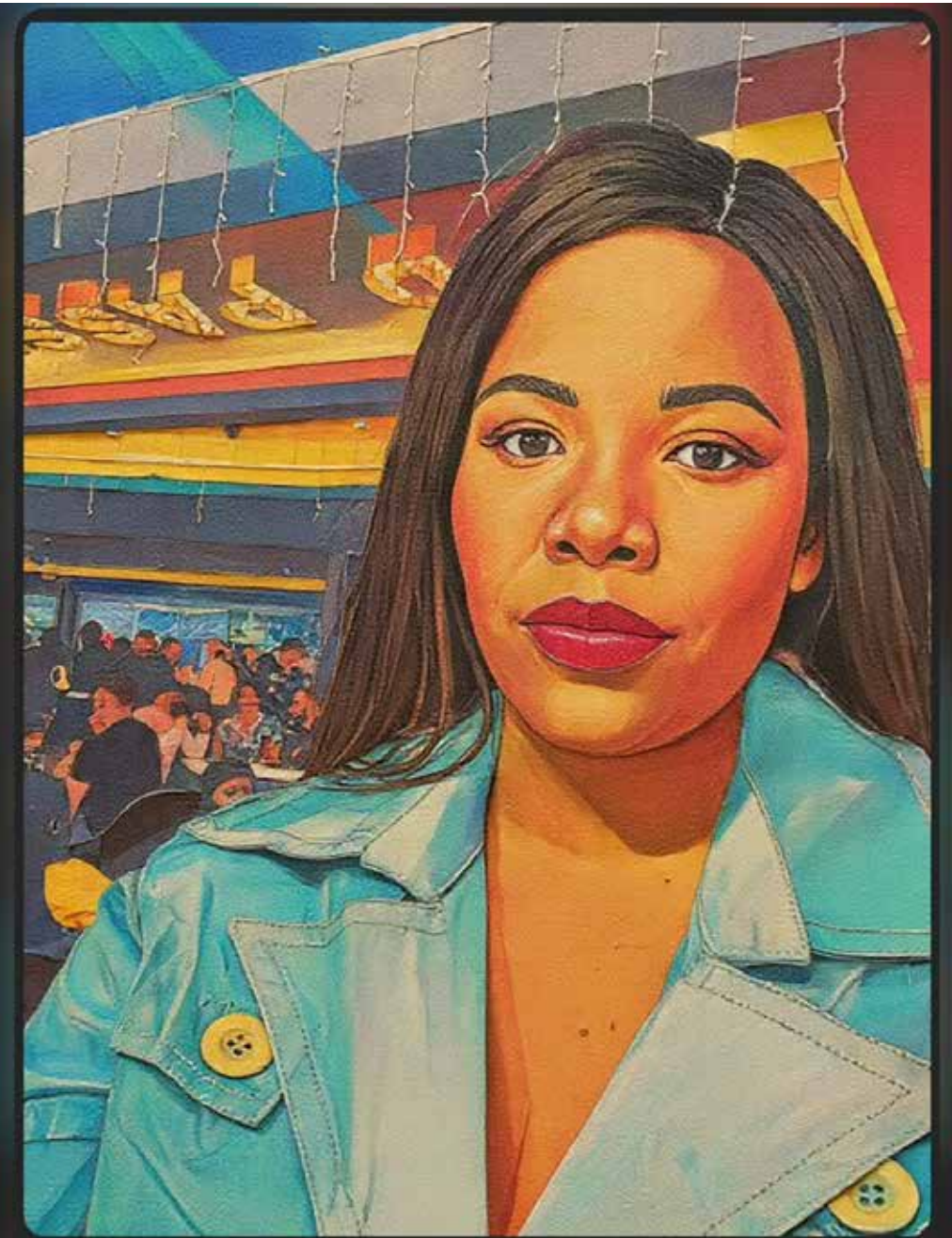
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Email: jiamini.network@gmail.com



Women In the scourge of Gender based violence and too much killings as a woman protect yourself and know the safety measures

Happy Women’s Day-South African Women



Paula O. M. Otukile

BY Paula O. M. Otukile
@themtkenyatimes

To the South African Women, as you celebrate your day today, simply let it sink in that you are enough. Stand up for yourself, do not be pompous but show your young ones that a woman got strength too! Be independent, work, have a business or something that put in income so that you do not solely depend on your partner or provider. That shall give you freedom of expression and decision making. In the scourge of Gender based violence and too much killings as a woman protect

yourself and know the safety measures. Do you dress to impress or to cover the vital parts? It is a call now to each woman in this freedom era to know that 1 in 7 women is raped daily and we must apply more safety precautions. Does it mean our dressing get us in trouble? Partly but a rapist got no excuse to do that, nevertheless. We must also look into the relationship we get into, a lot of step fathers are violating some children not only the daughters but here and there cases of boy being raped like the recent one of a sleep over that went wrong in Cape Town, is a clear indication of

same sex attraction on the rise and putting the child under threat in terms of guardians and closer family unit being disoriented. People expected to be caregivers, uncles and aunts, friends, and step family are now betraying such small beings by violating them. The law shall always take its course but we need the mothers to apply more caution as the safeguard of the young ones. A woman today must drink with caution, and rather have more drinks at home with family. Bars are no longer much safer. Be with close friends when going out and meet virtual friends in person

with a friend or at the mall and leave a trail of where you are going, as more killings are happening. Human trafficking is on the rife too, simply stay safe as a woman. Have faith and let that faith be based on the freedom of

speech, freedom of worship, no segregation and taking away the rights of a certain group. Respect is imperative to all human beings, love conquers all, but let not any kind of love kill you, or put you in a cor-

ner. Simply live, shine and be a blossoming flower. Learn to listen, be willing to keep quiet at times so that others speak, spread love and learn new skills and have a hobby, shine and be alluring! Can a woman be single and be happy? Yes, she can and it's all about working hard and the mindset.

Happy Women’s day mei chomies! 🥰🇷🇺👉





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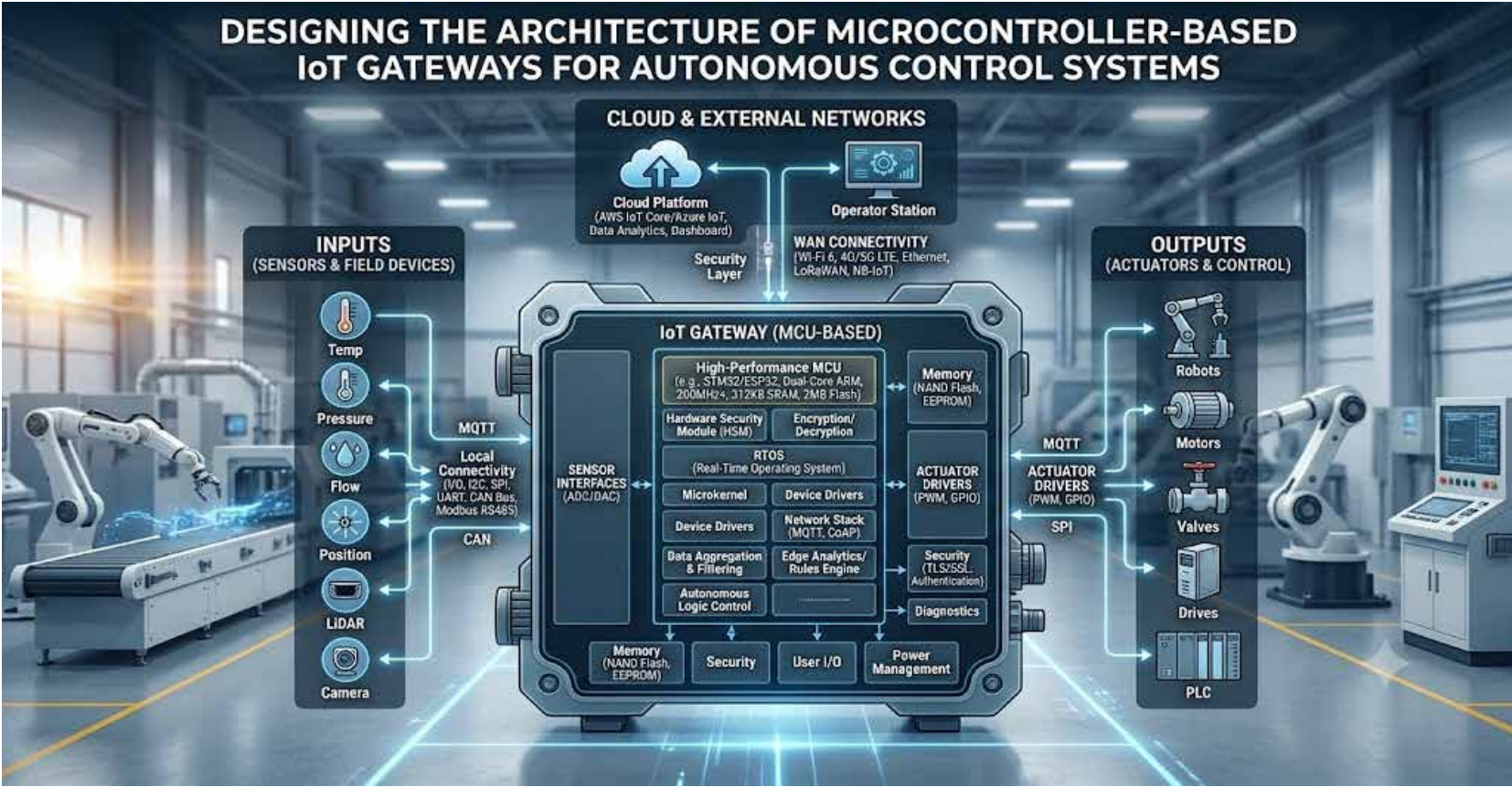
Designing the Architecture of Microcontroller-Based IoT Gateways for Autonomous Control Systems



By: Mavlonov Najmiddin
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The development of Artificial Intelligence and “Smart Homes/Cities” concepts requires the seamless co-design of hardware and software. Automated checkpoints, security gateways, or control systems in industrial facilities are mostly trained to send data to a central server and move based on the commands received from it. However, such a traditional cloud-based architecture causes several serious problems: complete dependence on internet speed, data privacy risks, and high transmission latency.
- The main goal of this research is to develop an independent automated control architecture based on Edge Computing principles, where decisions are made directly by local microcontrollers and lower-layer gateways.



Abstract
In modern computer engineering, the demand for independent, real-time control and monitoring systems for objects is increasing. This article proposes the architecture of an autonomous IoT (Internet of Things) gateway that operates based on microcontrollers (Arduino architecture) and functions independently without reliance on cloud technologies (Edge/Offline AI). The system is based on the integration of RFID scanners, infrared (IR) distance sensors, and actuators (servo motors). The process of filtering signals received from the physical environment at the lower level, processing them using C++ and Python programming languages, and directing them to a relational database (PostgreSQL/SQLite) has been investigated. The obtained results showed a significant reduction in latency between hardware and software.

Keywords: IoT architecture, Computer engineering, Arduino, RFID systems, Sensor networks, Automation, Edge Computing, Database.

Introduction
The development of Artificial Intelligence and “Smart Homes/Cities” concepts requires the seamless co-design of hardware and software. Automated checkpoints, security gateways, or control systems in industrial facilities are mostly trained

to send data to a central server and move based on the commands received from it. However, such a traditional cloud-based architecture causes several serious problems: complete dependence on internet speed, data privacy risks, and high transmission latency.

The main goal of this research is to develop an independent automated control architecture based on Edge Computing principles, where decisions are made directly by local microcontrollers and lower-layer gateways. Furthermore, tasks such as filtering signals coming from sensors, writing them to relational databases in an optimized manner, and testing the operational speed of physical actuators at the hardware level have been defined.

System Architecture and Methodology
The proposed system architecture is divided into a sensor network that reads physical processes, a microcontroller that processes primary data, and a local server-gateway providing complex logic.

Hardware Layer

- **Identification module:** RFID scanners are used to automatically identify individuals or objects. The module communicates with the microcontroller via the SPI protocol.
- **Condition monitoring:** Infrared (IR) distance sensors are used

to measure the physical presence of an object or the intermediate distance.

- **Actuators:** Based on the made decisions, making changes in the physical environment (e.g., opening/closing a door) is carried out via servo motors (PWM signals). Software and Communication Layer

To directly control the hardware at the microcontroller level, the C++ programming language is used, which manages the buffer of data coming from the sensors in memory. To clean up noisy signals (e.g., fluctuations in the IR sensor) at the initial stage, simple digital filters (moving average) are applied.

$T_{total} = t_{sensor} + t_{microcontroller} + t_{gateway} + t_{actuation}$

Here: t_{sensor} – sensor reading time; $t_{microcontroller}$ – filtering time at the C++ level; $t_{gateway}$ – time for the Python gateway to write to the database and return a response; $t_{actuation}$ – time for the servo motor to perform the physical movement.

Results and Discussion
To test the proposed architecture, a hardware-software stand was assembled, and its reliability under load was tested.

System Architecture **Data processing location** **Average latency (ms)** **Network dependency**

Privacy risk

	Traditional Cloud IoT server (API)	Remote
High	Exists	300 - 800 ms

Proposed Edge IoT Gateway / Microcontroller

	Local
High	Protected
Proposed Edge IoT Gateway / Microcontroller	40 - 60 ms
None (Offline)	Protected

Conclusion
Within the framework of the research, the architecture of an autonomous IoT gateway built on the basis of a microcontroller and a local server was developed and practically tested. The results show that in computer engineering, continuously operating (daemon) local systems based on Edge Computing have a significant advantage over cloud architectures in terms of data privacy and reaction speed. In future studies, it is planned to combine this hardware system with Computer Vision models to further strengthen biometric identification and hardware security.

Mavlonov Najmiddin (October 25, 2006, Urgut district, Ukrach neighborhood)– 3rd-year Computer Engineering student at Samarkand State University (SamDU). Rapidly advancing in C++ and AI technologies, I build startups, design models, and actively compete in ICPC and National AI Hackathons.

Politics Yet our political culture often treats electoral victory as the ultimate achievement. Once the votes are counted, the campaign machinery does not disappear — it changes shape

Why Kenya keeps preparing for power instead of preparing the country

As the August 11 ruling reignites debate over the electoral timetable, the more uncomfortable question is why we invest so much in the next election and so little in the country between them

BY Levis Wangamati

@themtkenyatimes

Kenya has a peculiar political habit. We begin preparing for the next election long before we have finished dealing with the problems created by the last one. By the time politicians have settled into office, conversations about succession have already begun. Coalitions take shape, loyalties are tested, possible running mates emerge, regions are quietly mapped, and opinion polls become political scripture.

Then came August 11. A date that had largely lived inside a constitutional argument suddenly became a national political question. The High Court declared that Kenya's presidential election was constitutionally due on August 11, 2026, rather than in 2027 — while suspending the practical effect of that declaration. The ruling did not instantly move the country to the ballot. Instead, it exposed something more fundamental: the distance between the political calendar Kenyans had been preparing for and the constitutional questions that determine how that calendar should actually work.

That distance deserves more attention than the political excitement surrounding the next election. Because perhaps Kenya's greatest political problem is not that we prepare too early for elections. Perhaps it is that we prepare too little for the country.

For years, 2027 has been treated almost as a political destination. Politicians have been positioning themselves, alliances have been floated, succession has become a permanent subject of national conversation, and every political visit is assigned electoral meaning. The country watches. The politicians calculate. And somewhere beneath all this choreography, ordinary life continues.

A parent still has to find school fees. A graduate still has to look for work. A patient still has to find treatment. A farmer still has to worry about markets and weather. A small business owner still has to keep the doors open. These citizens do not live according to the political calendar. They live according to the cost



Illustration

of living.

That is why the August 11 controversy should force a broader national conversation. The important question is not simply whether the election belongs in 2026 or 2027 — that must be settled through the constitutional and legal processes of the Republic. The more uncomfortable question is why we have become so politically invested in the date of the next election while remaining so little invested in the condition of the country between elections.

Kenya has made succession a national sport. We discuss who will succeed whom with extraordinary enthusiasm. We dissect political alliances as though they were football formations. We reduce regions to voting blocs and communities to electoral arithmetic. But leadership is not mathematics, and a nation is not a spreadsheet of votes.

Behind every percentage in an opinion poll is a citizen whose concerns will remain long after the pollsters have moved on. Behind every political coalition are millions of people who will still need functioning institutions when that coalition eventually dissolves. This is where our politics loses its sense of proportion.

We have become fascinated by who gets power and insufficiently interested in what power is supposed to accomplish.

The Constitution should remind us of the difference. The constitutional order is not simply an instrument for determining who occupies State House. It is meant to organise power, limit it, distribute it, and make it accountable to the people. Elections are essential — but elections are not governance. Winning an election gives a government the authority to govern. It does not give it permission to forget why government exists.

Yet our political culture often treats electoral victory as the ultimate achievement. Once the votes are counted, the campaign machinery does not disappear — it changes shape. Development projects become political evidence. Appointments become signals of loyalty. Government announcements become opportunities for political branding. Opposition becomes a contest of personalities rather than an examination of policy. Even national problems become campaign material.

This is how a country gets trapped in permanent election mode. A gov-

ernment that spends too much energy anticipating the next political contest may struggle to make decisions whose benefits are long-term. A politician may prefer the popular decision to the necessary one. An administration may hesitate to confront difficult structural problems because the consequences are politically inconvenient. Institutions may be judged not by whether they are faithfully performing their constitutional mandate, but by which political side they appear to favour.

The August 11 ruling offers Kenya an opportunity to pause. Not to panic. Not to turn the judiciary into another battlefield between political camps. Not to treat a complicated constitutional question as a convenient slogan. Instead, we should ask what the controversy reveals about the health of our constitutional democracy.

If the country can spend years preparing politically for one election year while constitutional litigation produces an entirely different interpretation of the electoral timetable, then perhaps the real problem is not the disagreement over dates. Perhaps it is our failure to build sufficient certainty around the rules that gov-

ern the most important democratic exercise in the country.

A stable democracy requires more than elections. It requires predictable institutions, respect for constitutional timelines, independent bodies capable of performing their duties without political intimidation, and citizens who understand that democracy is not merely the right to choose leaders — it is also the responsibility to demand accountability from them.

This is where Kenya must change its political conversation. Instead of asking only who has the numbers, ask who has the ideas. Instead of asking which community will produce the next leader, ask what policies that leader will pursue. Instead of asking which coalition will win, ask what it intends to do with victory.

These are less exciting questions. They are better questions.

Kenya does not suffer from a shortage of politicians. It suffers from a shortage of political seriousness. We have mastered mobilisation, slogans, and coalition-building. What we have not mastered is continuity. Every administration arrives promising a new beginning while many national problems remain stubbornly old. Youth unemployment does not disappear with a new coalition. Public debt does not vanish after a political transition. Weak institutions do not become strong simply because their occupants change.

The country requires something more difficult than political renewal. It requires institutional maturity.

The campaign posters will eventually come down. The rallies will become memories. The alliances will shift. But the country will remain. The young Kenyan looking for work will still be looking. The family counting its money at the end of the month will still be counting. The patient will still need treatment. The taxpayer will still demand value.

Elections may determine who governs Kenya for the next term. Only governance will determine what kind of Kenya they inherit.

Because elections change governments. Only good governance changes lives.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Jorge Messi, the steelworker from Rosario who gave up everything to put his son on the path to greatness, died on Saturday at 68 — leaving football’s greatest player to grieve the man who made it all possible

Messi mourns: The father who built a legend is gone

By **Martin Weche**

Jorge Messi, father and long-time representative of Lionel Messi, died on Saturday at Sanatorio Centro medical centre in Rosario, Argentina, aged 68. The Argentine Football Association and Newell’s Old Boys, the club where the younger Messi first kicked a ball, confirmed the death. Dr. Carlos Mackey, the hospital’s medical director, said no further details surrounding the cause of death would be released out of respect for the family’s privacy.

Jorge spent his final months alternating between the medical centre in Rosario and his home, accompanied by his wife Celia and his children Rodrigo, Matias and Maria Sol. Lionel, who had flown in from Miami with his wife Antonela Roccuzzo and their children, remained with the family. A private burial ceremony was held yesterday at El Prado cemetery in the town of Perez, adjacent to Rosario, with a small number of Lionel’s Argentina teammates present.

The gates of the cemetery told their own story. Handwritten messages from fans — “Stay strong, Leo, we love you” and “Stay strong, Messi family” — were pinned alongside floral wreaths, a quiet testament to the affection millions feel not just for the player, but for the family behind him.

Best known as his son’s representative, Jorge worked in the steel industry in Rosario before dedicating himself to managing Lionel’s career. He was, in the truest sense, present at the creation. He introduced a four-year-old Lionel to football on the open lots of their Rosario neighbourhood, and later coached youth teams at the modest local club Grandoli. When Barcelona came calling in 2000, Jorge did not hesitate. He played a central role in securing the medical



Lionel Messi bids farewell to father who guided his glittering career

treatment that allowed Lionel to continue playing and led the family’s move to Spain when Barcelona offered him a place in the club’s academy.

The sacrifice was immense. Jorge left behind his job, his wife, and three other children to settle in Catalonia with a 13-year-old boy carrying the weight of extraordinary promise. Lionel later described the emotional reality of those early years with characteristic honesty. “When we arrived in Barcelona, I used to lock myself in my room to cry alone, and my father did the same — either without me seeing him or thinking I didn’t see him. We pretended we were both fine, but we were struggling,” he said.

From those difficult early days, Jorge built one of football’s most formidable management operations, quietly. Over the following decades, he acted as adviser, agent and confidant, overseeing contract negotiations, commercial agreements, and many of the

business decisions surrounding one of football’s most successful careers — from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Miami.

The news came less than two months after Lionel played through the 2026 FIFA World Cup while his father was undergoing treatment. During Argentina’s opening match against Algeria, Messi was visibly emotional after scoring. He later explained: “It’s for a reason completely unrelated to sports; I’ve had some difficult, complicated days. The truth is, it’s mostly for my family. Because, well, they’re always there, always supporting me. We’re going through a difficult time right now.”

The Royal Spanish Football Federation sent its condolences, expressing love and affection to Lionel and his family in what it described as moments of deep sorrow. The Argentine Football Association ordered moments of silence at matches throughout

Argentine football and required players, referees, and coaching staffs to wear black armbands. Newell’s Old Boys, in a tribute that captured the scale of what was lost, described Jorge as “the support and the person who underpinned with vision, rigor and affection the career” of his son.

A steelworker who became the architect of football’s greatest dynasty — Jorge Messi built his legacy through one decision, made in a Rosario neighbourhood decades ago, to believe completely in a small boy with enormous talent and an even bigger heart.

Sports >> *The Daily Telegraph’s explosive allegations — that UEFA settled a six-figure payment on a woman allegedly in a relationship with Infantino — land as the FIFA president fights for his political survival.

Infantino under fire: FIFA chief flatly denies affair and pay-off claims

By Martin Weche

FIFA president Gianni Infantino yesterday flatly denied allegations, published by The Daily Telegraph, that UEFA paid off a woman with whom he was purportedly in an intimate relationship during his tenure as the organisation’s secretary general between 2009 and 2016.

The Telegraph, citing multiple anonymous sources, alleged that Infantino had a relationship with a junior employee during his time at UEFA’s helm — a claim that lands with particular force given the torrid week the FIFA president has already endured over his aborted plan to open the World Cup to private investors.

The woman, who worked at UEFA as an administrator, was reportedly promoted to a managerial role by Infantino during their relationship. When the alleged relationship ended, Infantino was reportedly challenged about it by then-UEFA president Michel Platini, and they agreed that she would leave the association and be paid.

According to The Telegraph, the employee received a six-figure sum upon her departure, in addition to the payment of tuition fees for a business school amounting to around £45,000. UEFA, for its part, did not dispute that a payment was made. The organisation confirmed that “a departure payment was made to the individual in question”, in addition to fees for an MBA course, but maintained the payment was “in line” with regulations that existed for departing staff at the time, adding that such regulations have since been “tightened.”

FIFA’s denial was unequivocal. A spokesperson, quoted by The Telegraph, stated that Infantino, who has been married since 2001, “strongly denies these allegations”, which were “categorically untrue.” “Any insinuation



FIFA president Gianni Infantino

of inappropriate conduct or violation of statutes or regulations is defamatory,” FIFA added. “No employee at UEFA and FIFA has ever raised a complaint regarding Infantino’s behaviour because there never was an incident where he was involved.”

The timing of the story is devastating. The allegations come as the 56-year-old Italian-Swiss lawyer faces a career-threatening backlash over his aborted plans to sell off stakes in FIFA competitions to private investors. That scheme, which leaked late last month, ignited a crisis that has rapidly escalated into an open rupture between FIFA and its most powerful continental confederation. UEFA, which counts some of the world’s most powerful football nations among its members, has threatened to boycott FIFA competitions, including the World Cup, and publicly declared its loss of confidence in Infantino’s leadership. UE-

FA’s position hardened further on Thursday, when it indicated that the mere withdrawal of the investment plan was insufficient to repair the relationship.

The allegations therefore do not exist in isolation. They arrive at a moment when Infantino’s critics — inside football’s corridors of power and beyond — are already sharpening their arguments ahead of his re-election bid next March. Whether the affair claims gain legal or institutional traction remains to be seen; The Telegraph did not name its sources, and UEFA’s acknowledgement of the payout fell well short of corroborating the more serious allegations of impropriety.

Yet the damage to Infantino’s carefully cultivated image as a reforming, consensus-building administrator is real and compounding. A president who spent years distancing FIFA from the corruption scandals that preceded his 2016 election now finds

himself fighting allegations of favouritism and personal misconduct from his own UEFA past — just as the organisation he once served leads the charge against him.

After the alleged relationship ended, Infantino reportedly used connections to secure the woman a new position in a similar field — a detail that, if substantiated, would raise questions not merely about personal conduct but about the use of institutional influence for private ends.

For now, FIFA’s position is denial across the board. But in football politics, as in the game itself, the scoreline at half-time rarely tells the whole story.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Carlotta Schiavio aka YaTii Talisman — An artistic journey of imagination, harmony, and peace



By: Anila Bukhari
@themkenyatimes

Carlotta Schiavio, internationally known by her artistic name YaTii Talisman, is a visionary multidisciplinary artist whose work is deeply rooted in imagination, spirituality, cultural diversity, and the universal pursuit of peace. Born in Italy and raised in Ethiopia, Schiavio grew up surrounded by a rich blend of Italian, Russian, Syrian, Austrian, and Ethiopian cultural influences. This extraordinary multicultural background has played an important role in shaping her artistic identity, worldview, and creative language. Her remarkable artistic journey has earned her recognition as a recipient of the Extraordinary Talent in the Arts Visa, celebrating her exceptional contribution and talent within the arts.

Carlotta's creative journey began with an interest in jewelry design before gradually evolving toward painting around 1998. What began as an exploration of visual expression soon became a lifelong artistic vocation. Over the years, her artistic odyssey has taken her across different countries, cultures, techniques, and mediums, allowing her to develop a distinctive visual language guided strongly by intuition and experimentation. Today, she works as a full-time artist, continuing to expand the imaginative universe she created through her art.

One of the most significant milestones in Carlotta's career came in January 2022, when her work became part of a prestigious permanent exhibition at the National Library "Abrehot" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The exhibition represents an important connection between her artistic journey, her relationship with Ethiopia, and her enduring desire to use art as a means of communication, inspiration, and cultural connection.

In the year 2000, Carlotta created the imaginative realm of Planet YaTii, a concept that would later develop into the larger artistic universe known as YaTii Talisman. This fictional celestial world became a powerful source of inspiration, allowing her to explore themes of harmony, positivity, protection, and peaceful coexistence through visual storytelling.

Her series "Stars Up Close" captures the vibrant skies and imaginative landscapes of YaTii Talisman, inviting viewers to experience a world beyond the boundaries of everyday reality. Another important body of work, "Apotropaic Magic," explores the idea of protection through artistic shields designed to repel negative energies. Through these works, Carlotta combines symbolism, imagination, and visual experimentation to create art that carries emotional and conceptual meaning.

In 2011, Carlotta created the portable painting YaTii Talisman, an artwork designed to accompany its possessor and inspire boundless positivity. The piece was created on handmade cotton paper that was sun-dried in Sicily, Italy, reflecting her connection to traditional materials and the natural world. Her original technique involved sewing different sections of the artwork together, creating a visual metaphor for equilibrium and balance.

Her artistic philosophy continued to evolve. In 2018, Carlotta made a significant transformation in her technique by choosing to paint on whole surfaces rather than continue stitching separate sections together. She viewed this artistic change metaphorically, comparing it to shedding an ill-fitting garment and moving toward a more authentic form of expression.

During her residency in Ethiopia in 2019, while involved with the Abrehot Library initiative, Carlotta developed another symbolic body of work. She painted discs of eucalyptus wood with expressive eyes, representing an omnipresent gaze associated with protection, awareness, and vigilance. These works further demonstrate her ability to transform ordinary materials into objects car-

rying imaginative and symbolic significance.

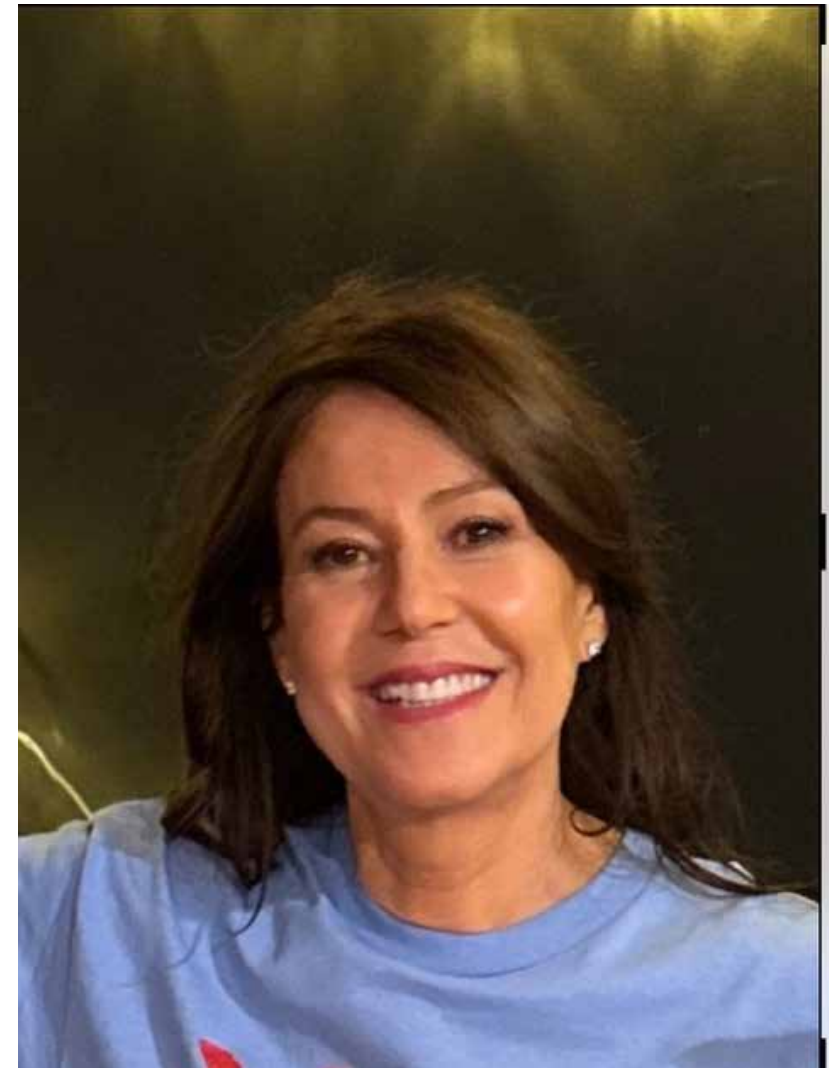
In 2020, Carlotta introduced one of her most distinctive creations: the Bugibatuki, mysterious and benevolent beings inhabitants of planet YaTii Talisman. Created with a strong message of peace and well-being, the Bugibatuki possess a remarkable ability to resolve conflicts positively without interrogation or judgment. According to Carlotta's imaginative universe, these celestial beings land in water basins around Earth, where they encounter different communities and cultures.

The Bugibatuki are instantly recognizable by their large eyes and computerized mouths, which enable them to communicate across interstellar boundaries. Their purpose extends beyond fantasy: they serve as imaginative ambassadors of intercultural dialogue, cooperation, positivity, and peaceful conflict resolution. Through these characters, Carlotta creates a playful yet meaningful bridge between the fantastical and the real world, encouraging curiosity, connection, and more harmonious human relationships.

Her artistic universe expanded again in 2023, when she began exploring literature and collaborative storytelling. Working with fellow creatives, Carlotta created her first book centered on the Bugibatuki and the importance of water conservation. Combining imagination with meaningful themes, the book introduces young readers to environmental awareness while encouraging communication, cooperation, and peace.

The first Bugibatuki book, "Bugibatuki Watershed Awareness," was published in December 2024. The project expanded the Bugibatuki from visual artworks into a broader storytelling universe capable of reaching new audiences through literature. Alongside the book, Carlotta developed a collection of greeting cards featuring the distinctive and whimsical Bugibatuki characters.

Today, the YaTii Talisman universe continues to grow through digital creativity and merchandise. Carlotta has established two online Bugi-



Carlotta Schiavio aka YaTii Talisman.

batuki merchandise shops, one on Redbubble and another on Printify, both operating under the name YaTii Talisman. These platforms allow audiences around the world to engage with and carry elements of her imaginative artistic world into their everyday lives.

Carlotta's artistic journey is ultimately a story of continual transformation. From jewelry design to painting, from symbolic objects to an entire fictional planet, and from visual art to children's literature, she has consistently followed her intuition and allowed her imagination to guide her creative evolution. Through YaTii Talisman and the Bugibatuki, she has created a unique artistic language centered on positivity, protection, intercultural understanding, and peace.

Her work demonstrates how art can transcend geographical and cultural boundaries, creating spaces where imagination can inspire dialogue and where fantasy can carry powerful messages for the real world. Through every painting, character, story, and creative experiment, Schiavio continues to invite audiences to imagine a more harmonious world—one where differences can coexist, challenges can be approached with positivity, and creativity can become a pathway toward peace.