Nairobi to host African Women Awards as continent's most influential honoured

Nairobi will host the 5th edition of the African Women Awards and the SHE CONNECT Conference on 20 November 2026

Page 6

Joint UDA-ODM teams to craft 2027 coalition framework and manifesto

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Page 8

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Politics The story of Gachagua and Ruto is one of the more extraordinary falling-outs in recent Kenyan political history

Ruto's reckoning: Gachagua puts four years on trial

Rigathi Gachagua, the former Deputy President whom William Ruto had impeached from office in October 2024, announced yesterday that he would deliver a nationally televised address laying out what he describes as the failures, abuses and broken promises of his former running mate's four-year presidency — opening the most aggressive phase yet of his campaign to unseat Ruto in the 2027 General Election.

The announcement came during a public engagement in Narok East Constituency at Nairakia-Enkare town, where Gachagua, now leader of the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP), told residents that Kenya was ready for a change of direction and that the moment to demand it had arrived. The address, he said, would be comprehensive — a point-by-point assessment of the Kenya Kwanza administration's record on the economy, governance, security and what he characterised as the systematic abuse of state power by the man who once shared the country's highest office with him.

"Tomorrow, I will address the nation about what work Ruto has done in four years and the harm he has caused Kenyans," Gachagua said. "I will address the people of the Republic of Kenya so that Kenyans will know who Ruto is, what he has done over the past four years and why he must go home."

Page 9

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in Narok County at Nairakia-Enkare town

Ruto, Oburu lead Broad-Based Government leaders in Naivasha meeting

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto and Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leader Oburu Oginga yesterday chaired a Broad-Based Government leaders' meeting in Naivasha, Nakuru County, bringing together national and county leaders.

The meeting was attended by 392 leaders who included members of cabinet, National Assembly members, senators, governors and deputy governors.

Ruto said the coalition was committed to uniting Kenyans, accelerating development and addressing the rising cost of living. He said political competition between ODM and UDA should not divide the country, stressing that Kenya's success or failure affects all citizens regardless of political affiliation.

The President said the Broad-Based Government would present its development scorecard to Kenyans ahead of the elections, arguing that ODM's entry into government had accelerated delivery of development programmes.

He also criticised the opposition, saying it lacked a clear alternative agenda for the country, while announcing that a people-centred national conversation on Kenya's future would be launched tomorrow.

Oburu said ODM was fully committed to the coalition and would take responsibility for both its successes and failures.

Kindiki praised the coalition's teamwork and further urged Kenyans not to allow electoral competition to undermine national unity and development.














Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times


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NEWS IN BRIEF

The Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) is exploring green hydrogen as a potential source of clean energy and sustainable feedstock for fertiliser production in the tea sector. A KTDA team recently participated in a five-day green hydrogen training programme at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, sponsored by GIZ. The training equipped participants with knowledge on green hydrogen technologies, production pathways, applications and commercialisation opportunities. The delegation comprised Mutuga Kigumi from Special Projects, Hellen Chepkowny from Planning and Strategy, Albert Murunga of the Technical Services Department and Margaret Wanjiru from KTDA Power Company. The initiative is part of KTDA's efforts to identify innovative, environmentally friendly energy solutions that can support sustainable tea production and improve efficiency across the sector.

The Reer Aw-Mohamud family, a sub-clan of the Dagodia community, has endorsed Ahmed Kolosh Mohamed to represent them in the Wajir gubernatorial race in the 2027 General Election. The endorsement was made during a ceremony in Wajir town attended by family members, community leaders and other stakeholders. Kolosh pledged to promote development, unity, peace and social cohesion if elected. He urged residents without national identity cards to acquire them and register as voters, saying his team would reach households across the county. He also called for peaceful participation in the elections and highlighted concerns over infrastructure, identity-card issuance and alleged abductions. Kolosh further encouraged residents to register with the Social Health Authority (SHA) to access healthcare services, urging them to seek verified information from health facilities.

Hamisi MP Charles Gimose has announced the allocation of Sh1.8 billion for upgrading the road network in Kaimosi Municipality, Vihiga County, to promote economic growth and development. Gimose said the funding followed consultations with key stakeholders, including Kenya Urban Roads Authority Director General Eng. Silas Kinoti. The funds will support tarmacking of key roads, improving movement of residents, traders and students while enhancing connectivity between institutions within the municipality. Gimose thanked leaders, stakeholders and residents for supporting efforts to elevate Kaimosi to municipal status, saying the achievement would pave the way for greater development. He pledged to work with the National Government and relevant agencies to transform Kaimosi into a model of proper planning, investment, development and prosperity.

A Mombasa court has sentenced Pius Oketch and Kellas Wanyonyi to seven years in prison each for their roles in the robbery of a police officer's AK-47 rifle and 30 rounds of ammunition at Bonje Industrial Park, Jomvu. The convictions followed a successful prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions through Principal Prosecution Counsel Godfrey Ngigi. The court heard that Constable James Kobia was overpowered during the night attack, while a security guard lost his mobile phone. Investigations led police to Wanyonyi and later Oketch, who was found hiding in a ceiling at Narcol Estate. Police recovered the stolen rifle, magazine and ammunition. The magistrate dismissed claims of police framing and said prosecution evidence proved the case beyond reasonable doubt.

National Police Service Commission chairperson Dr Amani Komora has urged residents of Tana River County to reject tribal and religious divisions and embrace peaceful coexistence. Speaking during a football tournament he sponsored, Komora said community cohesion and peace were among the commission's priorities, particularly as security agencies conduct a disarmament exercise that has so far seen more than 100 illegal firearms surrendered. Coast Regional Police Commander Ali Nuno called for regular community engagements to strengthen peace and security in the county, which is home to diverse ethnic and religious groups. Nuno said involving young people, including Gen Z, in constructive activities was crucial, noting their energy, time and education could be harnessed to promote unity, stability and development.

Government Spokesman Charles Owino has warned against spreading misinformation about the government, saying his office will counter false claims with facts and verified information. Speaking in Siaya town during a sustainability funds drive for the Siaya Press Club, Owino said criticism of government was acceptable if done constructively and based on facts. He urged journalists to uphold professional ethics and avoid becoming conduits for misinformation, disinformation and misuse of artificial intelligence to mislead the public. Siaya County Secretary Elizabeth Adongo praised the media for scrutinising both county and national governments, saying journalists had played a key role in informing the public. South East Alego MCA Scholastica Madowo urged the media to continue championing the two-thirds gender rule, justice and women's leadership.

Women At the heart of the event is the Africa's 100 Most Influential Women 2026 recognition — a flagship award that honours outstanding women

Nairobi to host African Women Awards as continent's most influential honoured

The 5th African Women Awards and SHE CONNECT Conference come to Nairobi on 20 November, bringing together leaders, entrepreneurs and policymakers under the theme "The Role of Today's Woman in Tomorrow's Africa."

BY Grace Wanja
@themtkenyatimes

Nairobi will host the 5th edition of the African Women Awards and the SHE CONNECT Conference on 20 November 2026, bringing together influential women, policymakers, entrepreneurs and change-makers from across the continent to celebrate female leadership and chart a course for Africa's future.

Organised by The Business Executive Group, the annual gathering has grown into one of the continent's most prominent platforms for recognising women whose work is reshaping Africa across business, politics, technology, health, education, media and community development. This year's edition, held under the theme "The Role of Today's Woman in Tomorrow's Africa," is expected to draw government representatives, corporate executives, investors, development partners and emerging female leaders from across Africa and beyond.

At the heart of the event is the Africa's 100 Most Influential Women 2026 recognition — a flagship award that honours outstanding women whose leadership and influence are making a measurable difference in their fields. Now in its fifth year, the awards have built a reputation for spotlighting women who are not merely navigating existing structures but actively dismantling barriers, creating opportunities and inspiring the generation that follows them.

Running alongside the awards ceremony, the SHE CONNECT Conference will provide a structured forum for conversation and collaboration on the issues that matter most to women in leadership today — economic empowerment, innovation, entrepreneurship, social impact and the role of women in driving Africa's sustainable development. Organisers say the conference is designed not only to generate discussion but to produce tangible connections: networking opportunities, mentorship pathways and strategic partnerships that outlast the day itself.

The Business Executive Group has been clear about the philosophy underpinning both the awards and the conference. Africa's future, the organisers argue, cannot be built without the full participation and leadership of its women — and platforms that celebrate achievement while creating space for collaboration are essential to making that participation a reality rather than an aspiration.

The 2026 edition arrives at a moment when conversations about women's leadership on the continent are gaining both urgency and momentum. Across Africa, women are increasingly visible at the highest levels of government, business and civil society, yet structural barriers — from unequal access to capital and education to entrenched cultural norms — continue to limit the pace of progress. Events such as the African Women Awards serve a dual purpose: affirming how far women have come while keeping the distance still to travel firmly in view.

The 5th African Women Awards and SHE CONNECT Conference take place on 20 November 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Wavinya Ndeti, The Governor, MACHAKOS COUNTY GOVERNMENT receiving her citation from Prof. Amany El-Sharif, The Vice-President for Academic Affairs, THE AFRICAN SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE during the 4th edition in Kigali 2025.


NEWS PAPER
IN BUSINESS

UDA-ODM UDA and ODM party leaders will also each nominate five members to a second joint team to prepare the coalition framework agreement

Joint UDA-ODM teams to craft 2027 coalition framework and manifesto

BY PCS
@themtkenyatimes

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) have today resolved to constitute two committees, one that will help establish a coalition framework and the other to prepare a joint manifesto in preparation for the August 2027 General Election.

Making the announcement after a two-day retreat of the ODM-Kenya Kwanza/UDA retreat in Naivasha yesterday, President William Ruto, in the company of ODM Party Leader Oburu Oginga and 312 MPs, 48 senators, 24 governors and 24 deputy governors, said: "This formalises the political partnership we have built and gives it a clear mandate to consolidate the progress we have made, carry our reforms to completion and present to the people of Kenya a common programme for the next phase of our national transformation."

To the Joint Manifesto Committee, ODM has nominated Mr Isaac Wanuge, Ms Maryam Abdullahi Mbaruk, Ms Leonida Kerubo Omosa, Mr Carrey Oregonian and Prof Bernard Muok, with the ODM Executive Director serving as an ex-officio member.

Kenya Kwanza has nominated Mr Emmanuel Nzai, Dr Daniel Mwai, Mr Bramwel Simiyu, Mr Mohammed Hassan and Dr Cecilia Ng'etich, with the UDA Executive Director serving as an ex-officio member.

The President explained that the team's mandate will be to identify the coalition's common priorities, harmonise areas requiring consensus, and develop practical policies that respond to the economic, social and governance aspirations of the Kenyan people

"Their task is not simply to produce a political document. The manifesto will draw from our shared values and priorities, while being informed by the aspirations, ideas and priorities expressed by Kenyans through the National Conversation on Kenya Beyond Vision 2030 and reflected in the National Development Charter that will emerge from it," he said.

UDA and ODM party leaders will also each nominate five members to a second joint team to prepare the coalition framework agreement, recommend the principles and governance structures that will guide the partnership, and propose the leadership arrangements necessary to take the coalition forward.

"These are not merely internal processes between political parties. They are part of the work of building the partnership, developing the programme and preparing the leadership proposition upon which we shall seek your mandate in August 2027," he said.

The President told the team to begin work immediately because the mandate the coalition will seek in 2027 must be matched by a programme worthy of Kenya's future.

The President said the broad-based coalition is ready to face Kenyans armed with a solid development record and progressive plan.

"Three years ago, we asked you to trust our plan. Today, we return not merely with promises, but with proof. We asked you to believe that Kenya could recover. Today, recovery is no longer the question," he said.

At the same time, he commended Broad-Based MPs and senators for standing firm in advancing legislation that many considered difficult but which the country required.

"You have remained steadfast in ensuring that reform did not remain an idea but the law of our Republic. History will remember this Parliament as one that chose courage over convenience," President Ruto said.

The President assured Kenyans of a peaceful election where everyone will have the opportunity to share their policies with Kenyans.

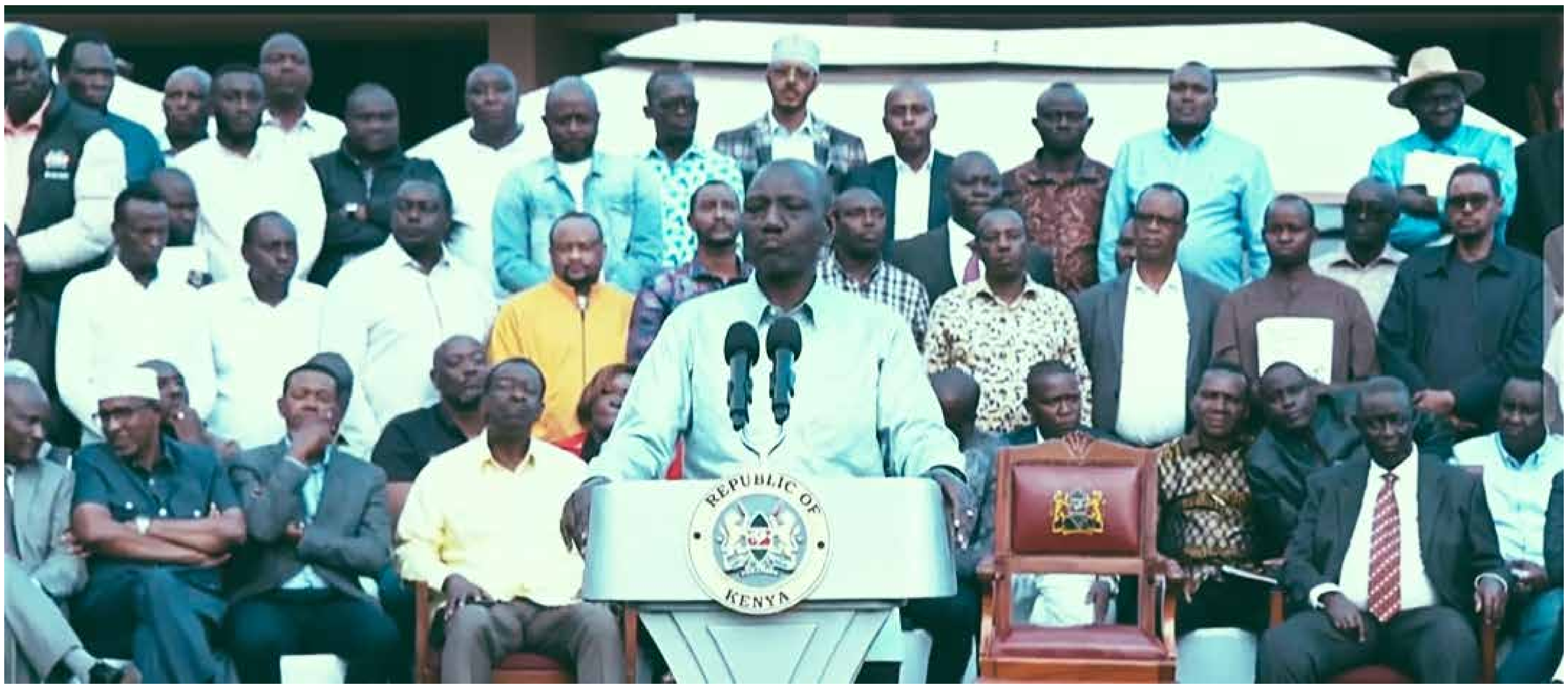
On his part, Mr Oginga said the partnership between the two parties does not swallow ODM, but is based on a framework guided by the policies of the two parties.

He exuded confidence that the coalition will win the 2027 General Election by a landslide.

Mr Oginga, who is also the Siaya senator, said the union is founded on democratic principles and inclusivity, ensuring that no part of the country is left behind.

"There will be no shareholding," he said.

President Ruto addressing the forum.



President Ruto briefing journalists.

Politics ....

Ruto’s reckoning: Gachagua puts four years on trial

The man William Ruto had removed from the deputy presidency is now coming for his job — and yesterday he announced a national address to deliver what he calls a full verdict on four years of broken promises.

BY Dan Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Rigathi Gachagua, the former Deputy President whom William Ruto had impeached from office in October 2024, announced yesterday that he would deliver a nationally televised address laying out what he describes as the failures, abuses and broken promises of his former running mate’s four-year presidency — opening the most aggressive phase yet of his campaign to unseat Ruto in the 2027 General Election.

The announcement came during a public engagement in Narok East Constituency at Nairakia-Enkare town, where Gachagua, now leader of the Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP), told residents that Kenya was ready for a change of direction and that the moment to demand it had arrived. The address, he said, would be comprehensive — a point-by-point assessment of the Kenya Kwanza administration’s record on the economy, governance, security and what he characterised as the systematic abuse of state power by the man who once shared the country’s highest office with him.

“Tomorrow, I will address the nation about what work Ruto has done in four years and the harm he has caused Kenyans,” Gachagua said. “I will address the people of the Republic of Kenya so that Kenyans will know who Ruto is, what he has done over the past four years and why he must go home.”

It was a declaration of open political war — and it came from a man uniquely placed to wage it.

The story of Gachagua and Ruto is one of the more extraordinary fallings-outs in recent Kenyan political history. The two men campaigned together, won together and were sworn in together in August 2022 on a platform built around the bottom-up economic model — a promise to redirect opportunity towards ordinary Kenyans, the hustlers and small traders who felt left behind by the political establishment. Less than two years later, the relationship had collapsed entirely. In October 2024, parliament voted to impeach Gachagua as Deputy President, a process his allies described as politically orchestrated and which Ruto’s administration did not publicly resist. Gachagua was removed from office, replaced, and left to consider his next move.

He has now made it.

The significance of his planned address lies precisely in who is delivering it. Gachagua is not a peripheral critic firing from the margins of opposition politics. He sat in the Cabinet. He attended the meetings. He was present for the decisions he now condemns. Where other opposition leaders can only allege, Gachagua can claim to have witnessed — and that distinction will define the character of his campaign in ways that will be difficult for the Ruto administration to dismiss or deflect. A man who was impeached by the system he now attacks carries a grievance that is personal as much as political, and Kenyan voters will feel that distinction in every word he speaks.

The four-year mark is a politically charged threshold in any democracy, and in Kenya it arrives with particular sharpness. The question being asked in markets, matatus and homes across the country is a simple one: did the Kenya Kwanza government deliver? The administration points to infrastructure investment, digital services expansion and the Affordable Housing Programme as evidence of progress. Its critics — and they are numerous — point to the cost of living, which has remained punishingly high throughout the government’s tenure. Fuel prices, food costs and the early depreciation of the shilling all bit deeply into household incomes. The tax measures introduced in 2024, which triggered the Gen Z-led protests that forced the humiliating withdrawal of the Finance Bill, remain a defining and unresolved wound on the Ruto presidency — one that no amount of political reframing has fully closed.

Gachagua intends to reopen every one of those wounds, in sequence and in detail. His address is designed to function less as a political speech and more as a prosecutorial brief — evidence marshalled, failures catalogued and a case constructed for a jury of Kenyan voters who will deliver their verdict in August 2027. The man Ruto impeached is now preparing to put Ruto’s record on trial, and the irony of that reversal will not be lost on anyone watching.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in Narok County at Nairakia-Enkare town

He sharpened his case in Narok East with an accusation that struck a rawer nerve than economic statistics alone. Gachagua alleged that Nathan Wasama, a parliamentary aspirant for Mt Elgon who was shot dead at his home in Tuikut, Cheptais, Bungoma County, last week, had reported death threats to police on five separate occasions before he was killed — and that the authorities had done nothing. He further alleged that the individual who threatened Wasama was being shielded by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, and that rather than being arrested and questioned, the suspect had been provided with a security escort of six police Land Cruisers.

“People are being killed like chickens, and your job is to perform cover-ups because of extreme greed,” Gachagua said, directing his words at what he described as a compromised and politically captured security establishment.

He also alleged that DCI Director Mohamed Amin was being deployed to suppress rather than investigate killings in Mt Elgon, and linked his claims to a broader pattern of state-facilitated violence and impunity under the current administration. The allegations are serious. The National Police Service, Murkomen and Amin had not publicly responded to the claims at the time of publication, and they have not been independently verified. Their significance, however, lies not only in their content but in the political architecture they are assembling. Gachagua is constructing a narrative in which the Ruto government is not merely economically incompetent but morally disqualified — a government that, in his telling, fails Kenyans twice: first by neglecting them, then by silencing those who dare to speak for them.

“Next year, when I am the President of the Republic of Kenya, those responsible will be arrested and taken to court,” he said — a statement that made his intentions plain. He is not positioning himself as a critic of the system. He is positioning himself as its replacement.

He declared that Narok East marked the formal opening of his national campaign. “The journey to send Kasongo home has officially started here in Narok East,” he said, using his established nickname for the president in a deliberate signal that the gloves were fully off.

The path ahead remains formidable. Ruto retains the full apparatus of incumbency — state resources, institutional machinery and a ruling coalition that, however strained, remains intact. His allies have consistently dismissed Gachagua as a disgruntled former official whose removal from office was constitutionally sanctioned and whose legal troubles compromise his political credibility. That argument will be tested, loudly and repeatedly, between now and 2027.

But the man Ruto impeached is no longer keeping quiet.

Today’s address will tell Kenya — and the world — just how loudly he intends to speak.

Disinheritance One widow said she was forced out of her matrimonial home after her husband died, leaving her to fend for their four children

Alarm over widow disinheritance and abuse as Thika medical camp exposes plight

BY Felix Njenga
@themtkenyatimes

Widows in Thika have raised concerns over discrimination, harassment, disinheritance and financial hardship following the death of their husbands, with some saying they have been forced out of their matrimonial homes and left to raise children without reliable income.

The concerns emerged during a free medical camp at Mugumo-ini Primary School, where about 2,500 widows received medical and psychosocial services. The camp was organised by the Rotary Club of Nairobi Metropolitan in partnership with Thika Nursing Home Hospital, Rotary and Rotaract clubs.

Beneficiaries accessed general consultations, cancer screening, dental and optical services, diabetes and hypertension checks, physiotherapy, nutritional services, HIV testing and counselling, as well as health education and psychosocial support. A blood donation drive was also held.

However, the event highlighted wider social and economic challenges facing widows, particularly disputes over property and difficulties meeting basic needs such as food, rent, healthcare and school fees.

One widow said she was forced out of her matrimonial home after her husband died, leaving her to fend for their four children.

"We lack food, we are unable to pay rent and we are unable to educate our children," she said.

Rotary club of Nairobi metropolitan president Arthur Kinyanjui addressing women during a free medical camp held in Thika.

Participants called for stronger protection of widows against discrimination and disinheritance, especially during succession and inheritance processes. They urged communities to recognise widows as women with rights who deserve dignity, security and access to essential services.

Speakers also proposed establishing and strengthening funds to help widows start or expand small businesses and other income-generating activities. Such programmes, they said, would promote financial independence and reduce reliance on charity.

Rotary Club of Nairobi Metropolitan president Arthur Kinyanjui said the organisation would use information gathered during the medical camp to identify ways of supporting the beneficiaries beyond the event.

He said Rotary, guided by its "Service Above Self" principle, hoped to extend similar initiatives to widows in other parts of the country.

The programme brought together Rotary and Rotaract clubs from Nairobi, Kiambu and neighbouring areas. Participants said addressing the challenges facing widows requires more than healthcare and should include legal awareness, economic empowerment, psychosocial support and access to justice.

They urged government agencies, civil society organisations, religious institutions and community leaders to strengthen support systems for widows and protect them and their children from exploitation.

For the beneficiaries, the medical camp offered not only healthcare but also an opportunity to share experiences and draw attention to challenges that often remain hidden within families and communities.

Barham Vasisht a doctor addressing women who attended free medical camp sponsored by Rotary club of Nairobi Metropolitan.

Lifestyle This is where we sometimes become unfair — to our own parents, and to ourselves. Our parents were young once, too

The life we admire today may be the harvest of yesterday's sacrifices

Harvesting happiness and home-grown abundance as a family at sunset.

Before you compare your life to someone else's highlight reel, consider what you cannot see: the years of quiet sacrifice, delayed gratification and difficult decisions that made their life possible.

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themtkenyatimes

Sometimes, all it takes is a few photographs on social media or a chance encounter with someone we went to school with to make us question everything about our own lives. You see a former classmate travelling, building a business, driving a car you have always wanted or simply living a life that looks exciting and comfortable — and without warning, a quiet voice inside asks: what am I doing with mine?

It is a feeling many young people carry in silence. The sense that everyone around us is moving forward while we are still trying to find our footing. We look at people we grew up with and wonder how they have come so far. We admire what they have built, compare it to where we stand, and sometimes arrive at the uncomfortable conclusion that we have somehow missed the bus. Social media makes this worse. Every curated photograph and every celebratory post can feel like a quiet accusation — a reminder of everything we have not yet done or become.

But perhaps there is another way of seeing it. Perhaps the life we admire today did not simply appear one morning. Perhaps behind it are years of sacrifice, difficult decisions, delayed gratification and parents who worked harder than anyone ever saw to create opportunities for their children. What we are looking at, in many cases, is not luck. It is a harvest — and like all harvests, it was preceded by a planting season we were not there to witness.

When we look at someone who appears to be doing well, we tend to see the results without seeing the process. We see the university degree but not the sacrifices that paid the fees. We see the thriving business but not the failed attempts that came before it. We see the beautiful home but not the years of disciplined saving. We see the young person enjoying life freely, but we rarely stop to ask what their parents endured, what they went without and what they quietly carried so their child could one day stand on solid ground. The full story is almost never visible. What we see is the final chapter, not the difficult ones that made it possible.

This is where we sometimes become unfair — to our own parents, and to ourselves. It is easy to look at another family and conclude that our parents did not do enough. But life is considerably more complicated than that. Our parents were young once, too. They had dreams, fears, responsibilities and limited resources. They made decisions based on what they knew and what they had at the time. Some made excellent financial choices. Others spent years simply trying to survive. Some took risks that paid off. Others took risks that failed. Most were doing their best with imperfect information, under difficult circumstances, at a time when the world offered them far fewer options than it offers us today.

That does not mean they failed us. In some areas, perhaps they missed the goal. But there is an important difference between blaming someone for missing the goal and recognising that we now have an opportunity to aim differently. The older generation made their choices, and those choices eventually became part of the circumstances we inherited. Now, whether we fully appreciate it or not, we are making our own choices. What we do with our time, money, education, talents and opportunities will eventually become the environment in which our own children grow up. That is not a distant consideration. It is already happening, quietly, in every decision we make today.

This is something young people should sit with more often. One day, the things we are doing now — or failing to do — will become somebody else's starting point. The money we spend carelessly today could have been capital for tomorrow's business. The skill we keep postponing could have become a career. The small investment we keep dismissing as insignificant could have grown steadily over a decade. The discipline we find inconvenient today could become the reason our future children have opportunities we never had. Every choice carries forward. Nothing disappears without consequence.

We are all planting something, whether consciously or not. Some are planting businesses, education, skills and long-term investments. Others, without realising it, are planting habits that will make life considerably harder later — patterns of avoidance, financial carelessness or fear of discomfort that quietly compound over time. The harvest does not announce itself in advance. It simply arrives — shaped entirely by what was planted during the seasons nobody was watching.

This is why comparison is such a dangerous habit. We tend to compare our present chapter with someone else's harvest, skipping the part of the story we cannot see. It holds us to a standard we do not fully understand and judges our progress against a timeline we were never part of. Our responsibility is not to reproduce somebody else's life. It is to make better decisions with what we have, so that whoever comes after us can begin from a stronger place.

Our generation has a genuine opportunity to change the story — with more tools available than any generation before us. We can become more intentional about money, not obsessive but deliberate. We can learn skills rather than waiting for opportunity to find us. We can invest rather than spending every coin we earn on things that bring only temporary satisfaction. We can build enterprises rather than depending entirely on employment that is increasingly uncertain. We can take education seriously while understanding that a qualification alone, without application and consistent effort, is only part of the equation. And perhaps most importantly, we can study our parents' journeys honestly, recognising both their sacrifices and their blind spots, without allowing their limitations to quietly become our destiny.

We should also learn to honour their sacrifices more generously. While it is easy to focus on what our parents did not provide, we should not lose sight of what many of them endured to give us even the little we started with. They worked jobs they did not love, sometimes for decades. They travelled great distances in difficult conditions. They went without things they genuinely needed. They raised families during economic periods far harsher than anything most of us have experienced. Some sacrificed their own ambitions entirely so their children might have options they were never offered. They did not always get everything right — but many gave everything they had, and that deserves honest acknowledgement.

As we grow older, adulthood stops looking as straightforward as it did in childhood. Sometimes people do their absolute best and still fall short. That realisation should not make us bitter. It should make us wiser, more empathetic and more determined. We should be able to say honestly: my parents did what they knew how to do, with what they had. Now I will learn, improve and do what I can with what I have been given. That is not disrespect. That is growth — real, honest, forward-looking growth that builds rather than blames.

Perhaps the greatest lesson is deceptively simple: stop thinking only about what you want today and start asking what kind of life you are building for tomorrow. Do you want your future children to inherit debt or opportunity, fear or confidence? Do you want them to begin from the same starting point you did, or do you want to move the starting line forward — even slightly — so their race begins in a better place than yours did? These questions matter far more than they appear to in the middle of ordinary life.

The decisions we make today may seem insignificant in isolation. Saving a modest amount monthly seems small. Learning a skill after a long day seems unremarkable. Starting a modest side business seems underwhelming beside the success stories we see online. Choosing discipline over short-term comfort feels almost boring. But years have an extraordinary way of multiplying small, consistent decisions. The person who begins building today may look no different tomorrow. Ten years later, the difference can be transformational — not because of one dramatic moment, but because of thousands of quiet choices made when it would have been far easier to do nothing.

That is how generations change. A family can rewrite its financial story because one person decided to learn about investments. A child can enjoy opportunities their parents only dreamed of because those parents chose to sacrifice today for tomorrow. These are not fairy tales. They are the real mechanics of how lives are quietly transformed.

So the next time you see someone from your past living a life you admire, let yourself be inspired without feeling diminished. Their success is not proof that you have failed. Ask not why you lack what they have, but what you can begin doing today so your future looks different. That shift moves you from comparison to action, from frustration to responsibility, from admiring someone else's harvest to preparing your own ground.

We cannot rewrite yesterday. But we can learn from it without being imprisoned by it. We can take the lessons, honour the sacrifices, correct inherited mistakes and keep moving forward with greater intentionality than the generation before us.

The life we admire today may be somebody else's harvest. But ours is still being planted — in every skill acquired, every sacrifice made, every quiet decision taken when nobody is watching.

Years from now, someone may look at what we built and wonder how we got there. They will not see the difficult mornings, the money saved, the failures survived or the countless small choices made in private. They will simply see the harvest.

And that is reason enough to start planting today.

Centre The proposed centre will be established on land owned by the County Government of Nyeri along the Nyeri-Nanyuki/Naromoru Highway

Korea to fund Baden-Powell Centre of Excellence in Nyeri

BY Diplomatic Media Services
@themtkenyatimes

The Republic of Korea is set to fund the establishment of a Baden-Powell Centre of Excellence in Nyeri County as part of efforts to promote scout tourism, trade and cultural exchanges.

The proposed centre will be established on land owned by the County Government of Nyeri along the Nyeri-Nanyuki/Naromoru Highway, with funding from the Korea Scouts Parliamentary Association (KSPA).

The project was discussed during a bilateral engagement between Nyeri County officials and a Korean delegation led by Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat, Kang Hyung-shik, at the Korean Embassy in Nairobi.

Nyeri's selection for the project is linked to its historical association with Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout movement. The county is home to his gravesite and Paxtu, his former residence at the Outspan Hotel.

County officials said the centre could position Nyeri as a leading global destination for scout tourism by attracting scouts, tourists and other visitors interested in Baden-Powell's legacy.

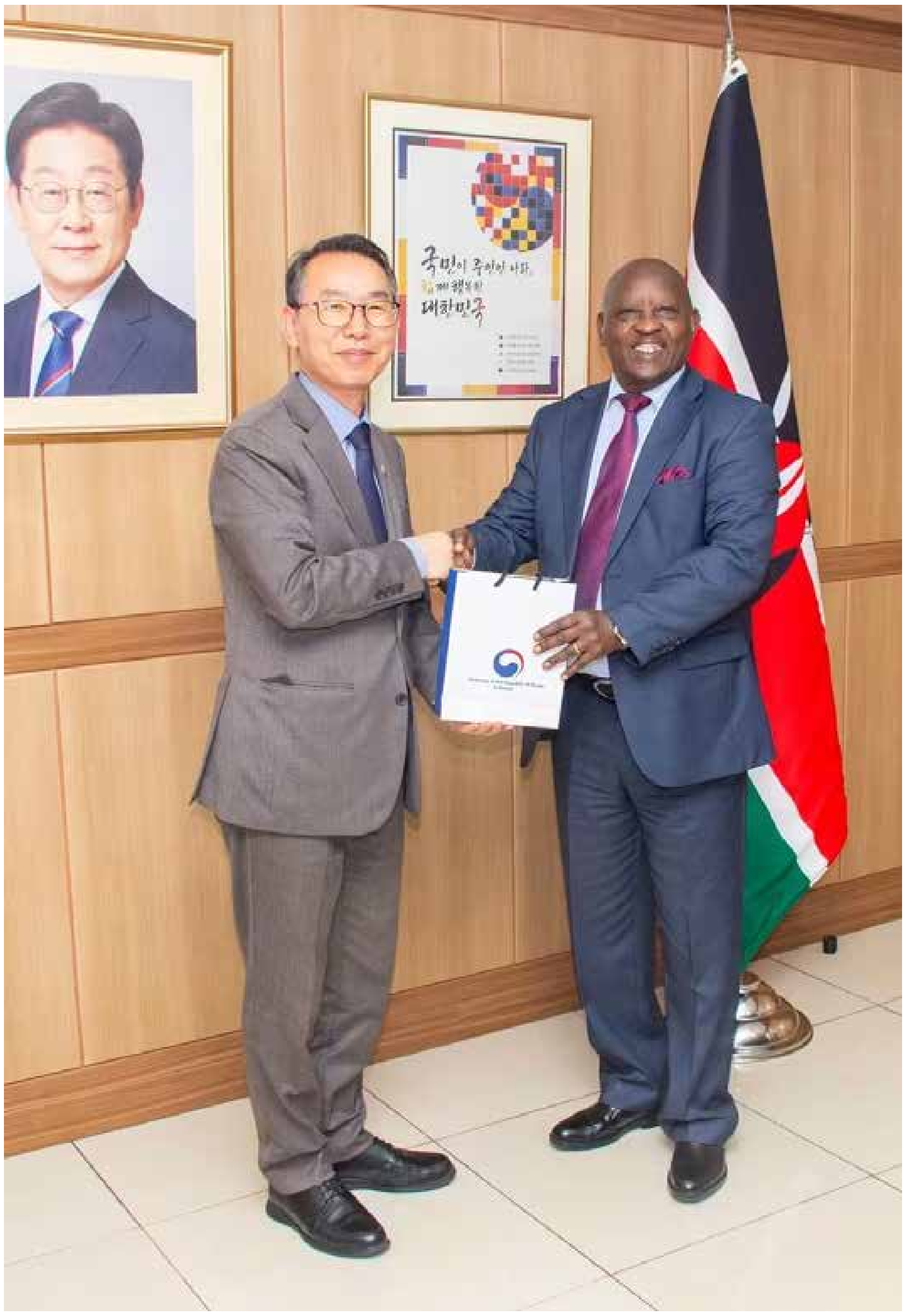
The talks also explored the possibility of establishing a sister-city partnership between Nyeri and a Korean city to promote cultural, educational, economic and people-to-people exchanges.

The partnership is also expected to create opportunities for expanding markets for Nyeri's agricultural products, including tea, coffee and avocados.

Nyeri county governor Dr Mutahi Kahiga said Nyeri's tourism potential extends beyond its scouting heritage to hiking, nature-based tourism and game drives, alongside its rich agricultural activities involving tea, coffee and macadamia production.

The meeting was attended by Korean Embassy Deputy Head of Mission and Counsellor Lee Woochul, World Scouts Parliamentary Union Kenya Executive Director and WSPU Global Director Poppins Misoi, Nyeri County Executive Committee Member for Trade and Tourism Dr Lucy Kiogora, CECM for Gender and Youth Esther Ndung'u and other county and WSPU officials.

The partnershio is expected to open new opportunities in tourism, trade, investment, youth engagement and international cooperation while enhancing Nyeri's profile as a global tourism destination.



Dr Mutahi Kahiga with Kang Hyung-shik yesterday

Nyeri county government and Korean officials at the Embassy yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

Education Loans may appear to offer an alternative, but for families already stretched thin by rising costs, they are simply another burden

Are we pricing students out of education?

A university student argues that replacing scholarships with loans risks turning higher education into a privilege of the wealthy rather than a right of the talented.

BY Keith Onyango
@themtkenyatimes

The government's decision to replace university scholarships with loans signals a troubling turn in Kenya's higher education landscape. Scholarships have long served as the bridge between talent and opportunity — ensuring that merit, not wealth, determined who got to learn. Removing that bridge risks transforming universities into exclusive enclaves for the privileged.

Loans may appear to offer an alternative, but for families already stretched thin by rising costs, they are simply another burden. Students will graduate not with optimism and ambition, but weighed down by debt that will shadow them for years. Many will abandon their studies altogether, unwilling to commit to a lifetime of repayments before they have earned a single salary.

This policy shift arrives at a particularly difficult moment. Graduates already face underemployment and fierce competition in a job market that offers few guarantees. Loading them with financial liabilities from the very first day of campus life is not merely shortsighted — it is economically reckless. Rather than fostering innovation and empowering young people, the directive threatens to trap an entire generation in financial stagnation before they have had a fair chance to begin.

Education has always been the most reliable ladder out of inequality. When we dismantle that ladder, we do not simply inconvenience individuals — we weaken the entire society that depends on their talent, energy, and ideas. If this plan proceeds unchallenged, the nation risks losing some of its brightest minds not to foreign opportunities or lack of ability, but to fear and debt.

The real question is one we should all be asking: do we still value education as a public good, or have we quietly accepted that it is merely a commodity — available, like everything else, only to those who can afford it?

Child labour

Let not your child get wage
during his/her very little age,
Dangerous it is filling the purse
without knowing the forthcoming curse.

Treat your child as your heart
and forget not to teach a fine art,
Every child should be taught
on work and worship a lot.

Let us not allow the little honey
in their young stage to earn money,
To acknowledge their strong ability
must be our sincere responsibility.

Do no harm to the tiny creature
and leave them grow with the nature,
It's the right time to show your child love and care
Child labour is not always fair.

Dr. K.R.GANESAN
BLOCK RESOURCE TEACHER EDUCATOR
BLOCK RESOURCE CENTRE,
GOBICHETTIPALAYAM
ERODE Dt.
TAMILNADU, INDIA

The voice of confidence

The voice of confidence speaks without fear.
It reminds me to believe in myself.
When the road feels hard, it says, "Keep going."

It turns my doubts into quiet courage.
Every mistake becomes a lesson to learn.
Every challenge becomes a chance to grow.

It helps me stand even after I fall.
It tells me that effort is never wasted.
I do not need to be perfect to begin.
I only need the courage to take one step.
With confidence in my heart, I face each new day.
That voice leads me toward my dreams.

V.Joshika
Grade 8
John dewey matric higher secondary school, Link road, panruti

The one who guides me

She shows me the right path each day,
With gentle words that light my way.
When I am lost, she helps me see,
The best that I can truly be.

She teaches kindness, truth, and care,
With love that's always waiting there.
She celebrates my little wins,
And lifts me up when hope grows thin.

I thank God for her loving heart,
She has been with me from the start.
She is the one I look up to,
Mother who guides me strong and true.

D.DHANYASRI
GRADE 8
JOHN DEWEY MATRIC HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL , LINK ROAD PANRUTI.

Best friend

You're the laugh I save for my worst days,
The hand I reach for in every phase.
With you the world feels soft and bright,
You turn my dark to warmest light.

You know my secrets, dreams and fears,
Understand beside me through the years.
In every win, In every fall,
You're the voice that lift's it all.
You share my tea ,my jokes, my tears,
You make the hard feel like for years.

With you the whole wored feels less wide,
Because my best friend walks beside.

"Life better with you by my side,
Best friend - my home my pride."

Penned By JEGADEESWARI V
Standard 11-A
School :St. Joseph's Matriculation HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL ACHARAPAKKAM

A thing we have to fear is fear itself.

There is nothing to be afraid of,
except your own fear.

Courage and willingness pull you
towards success.
Your bold thoughts make you strong.

But the fear of your inner heart , which keeps
asking ,
"What if I fall down?
What if I fail?"
makes you stay back,
while others win the game
and you are still stuck thinking.

Let no fear break you.
Win or lose, find answers
to your "what ifs".

J.H.Aasiya
11th std ,
Government girls higher secondary school,
Nellikkuppam ,
Cuddalore district.

Dried Flower

Dumb nights increased
Rays of hope shattered
After his sleep...
Devoid of purpose or peace
He left with some debts

But they are no more
Hiccups reminded his face
Under the dust of despair
I hardly breathe without him
Untold sufferings both inner and outer
Feel like a line removed from the couplet
None can escape from the reality
Yet I breathe him
without air
Even drowning in the waves of grief
His sleep is a blind belief.

Penned by
Raj Ganesh

Each and Every One Is Precious

Nature is the precious gift of God.
Generosity stands like a mountain.
Our thoughts rise and fall like waves.
Giving to others is like an evergreen tree,
Always offering shade and hope.
A good human being flows like a waterfall,
Refreshing every heart with kindness.
Humanity is as vast as the sky,
Embracing everyone without limits.
Taking care of our family is like the sun,
Giving warmth, light, and life.
Each and every one is precious.
Value what you have while you have it.
Don't miss the blessings around you.

Mohana. k,BT Assistant, PUMS Kovakkulam,
K.R.puram, Karur,Tamil Nadu, India.

My Best Friends

My best friends are my parents,
They are always by my side.
They help me when I am sad,
And fill my heart with pride.

They teach me what is good,
And show me the right way.
They love and care for me,
Every single day.

They are my greatest strength,
My heroes, kind and true.
I thank God every day,
For giving me a greatest parents!

Written by M. Samiha hajra from 9 th 'C'. GGHSS, PATTUKKOTTAI.

Business The recognition places her among an elite group of Kenyan executives whose vision, resilience and commitment to excellence are delivering tangible impact in society

Gachoki honoured among Kenya's top CEOs

Dream Credit Limited founder recognised for transformative leadership and financial empowerment

BY John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Lillian Gachoki receiving award

Lillian Gachoki, founder and director of Dream Credit Limited, has been recognised among Kenya's most influential business leaders in an award celebrating entrepreneurial excellence and contribution to financial empowerment.

Gachoki received the Top CEOs honour on Friday in recognition of her work building Dream Credit Limited into a platform expanding access to financial solutions for individuals and businesses across the country. The recognition places her among an elite group of Kenyan executives whose vision, resilience and commitment to excellence are delivering tangible impact in society.

Her journey is particularly compelling because it reflects the strength of purpose-driven leadership. Through Dream Credit Limited, Gachoki has championed accessible financial products designed to help entrepreneurs and individuals unlock opportunities, strengthen their enterprises and pursue their ambitions. Operating in Kenya's competitive financial sector, she has distinguished herself through boldness, consistency and a firm belief in the potential of everyday Kenyans.

Her leadership has also made her a reference point for women entrepreneurs, demonstrating that women can build institutions, create economic opportunity and occupy influential positions in sectors that have historically been difficult to break into. In a financial landscape still navigating structural inequalities, that visibility carries weight beyond the personal — it signals to the next generation of women entrepreneurs that the door is open, and that those who enter can build something lasting.

The award arrives at a moment when Kenya's financial landscape is rapidly evolving, with small businesses and entrepreneurs increasingly seeking flexible and accessible financing to grow and create employment. Through Dream Credit Limited, Gachoki has positioned herself as a champion of financial inclusion and enterprise development, helping bridge the gap between financial need and available opportunity.

Her ability to combine business acumen with a strong orientation towards social impact has earned her wide admiration among those who believe that successful enterprises should generate not only profit but also meaningful change. In a sector where the language of finance can feel remote from the lives of ordinary people, Gachoki has consistently worked to close that distance — translating institutional capacity into practical tools that real people can use to move forward.

Dream Credit Limited's growth under her leadership reflects a deliberate strategy: meet clients where they are, design products around their actual needs and build trust through consistent delivery. That approach has not only grown the business but shaped its identity as an institution with genuine community roots.

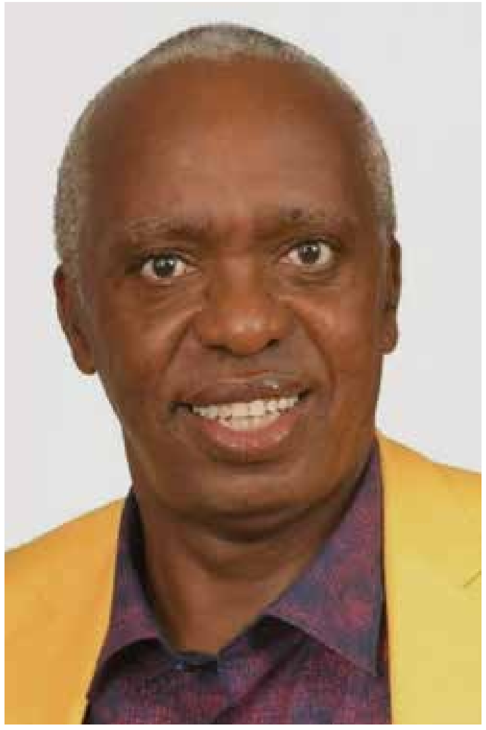
For aspiring women entrepreneurs, Gachoki represents a new face of Kenyan leadership — confident, commercially astute and committed to creating opportunity for others. The Top CEOs recognition is a fitting milestone in a leadership journey that continues to gather momentum.

Lillian Gachoki is the founder and director of Dream Credit Limited.

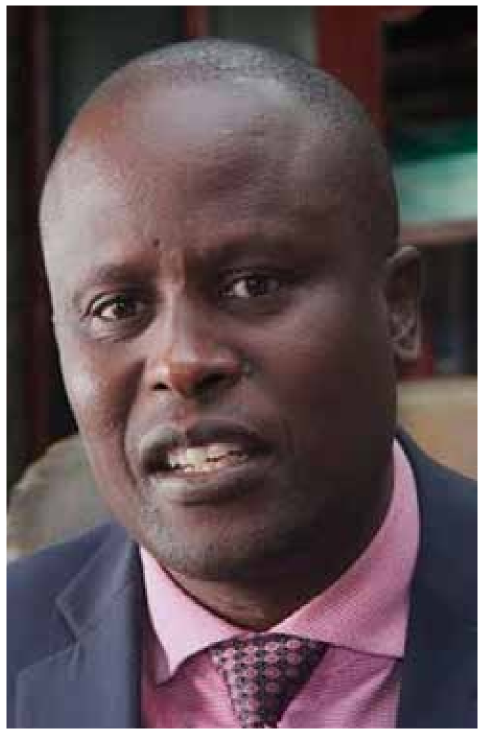
Politics The poll, conducted between August 5 and 10, places Choromai at 42.7 per cent, giving him a commanding lead over his closest rival

Choromai leads Kieni MP race in latest opinion poll

John Kariuki Choromai



Njoroge Wainaina



Kanini Kega

BY MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Kieni constituency philanthropist John Kariuki Choromai has emerged as the preferred candidate in the Kieni parliamentary race, according to an opinion poll conducted by Infotrack Research & Consulting.

The poll, conducted between August 5 and 10, places Choromai at 42.7 per cent, giving him a commanding lead over his closest rival, former Kieni MP Kanini Kega, who garnered 22.8 per cent.

The incumbent MP, Njoroge Wainaina was ranked third with 13.6 per cent, followed by Kelvin Kabue Nanika at 9.4 per cent.

Michael Mirugi polled 6.3 per cent, while Joseph Kagiri came sixth with 5.2 per cent.

The poll sought to establish the candidate preferred by residents of Kieni Constituency to become their next Member of Parliament.

According to the findings, Choromai's support was nearly twice that of Kega, with a 19.9 percentage-point gap separating the two leading contenders.

Infotrack Research & Consulting described itself as providing accurate, reliable and actionable research, and said the findings reflected the opinions of Kieni Constituency residents.

The poll comes as political activity and early campaigns gather momentum ahead of the 2027 General Election, with prospective candidates seeking to consolidate support across the constituency.

The findings, however, represent a snapshot of voter preferences during the period the survey was conducted and could change as campaigns intensify and political alliances take shape.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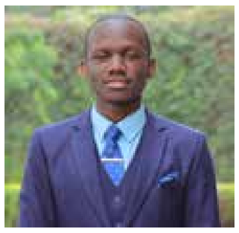
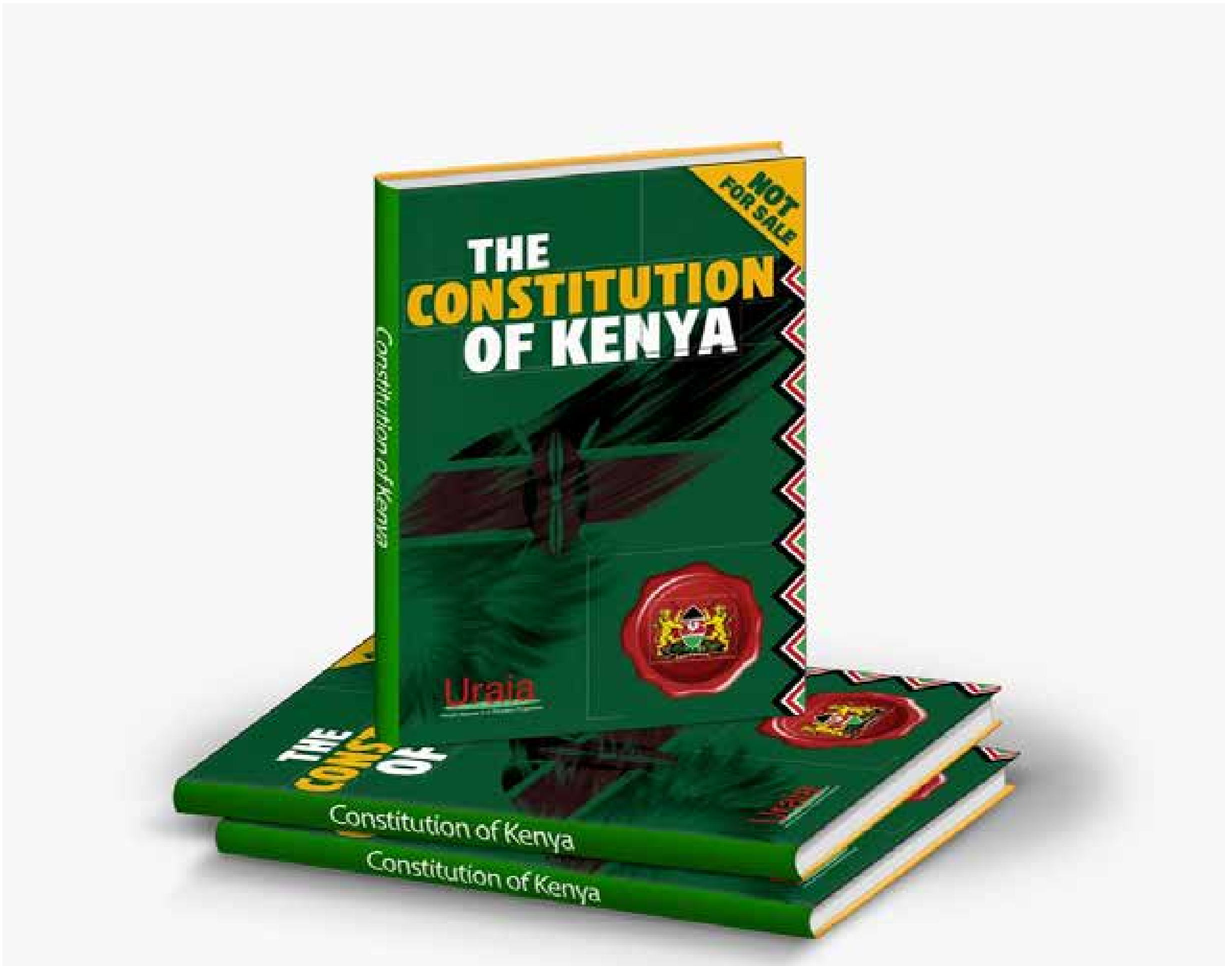
Constitution Sir Thomas More's Utopia, published in 1516, offered a vision of a society ordered by reason, common ownership of the means of living, and fidelity to justice

The mirror that refuses to reflect: Kenya's constitution as a strangled utopia



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo

@themtkenyatimes



On 27 August 2010, under a sky heavy with the weight of history, Kenya promulgated a new Constitution. The people, through referendum, had chosen a document that declared every person equal before the law, that demanded justice without regard to status, that enshrined human dignity, economic and social rights, and the rule of law as non-negotiable foundations of the Republic. It was not merely a legal text. It was a covenant. Fifteen years and more have passed. The ink has long dried. The promise has not.

Sir Thomas More's Utopia, published in 1516, offered a vision of a society ordered by reason, common ownership of the means of living, and fidelity to justice rather than to private appetite. In that imagined island, laws were few because virtue was cultivated; magistrates served rather than ruled; equality was not an aspiration whispered at the margins but the very architecture of daily life. More's Utopia was never meant as a blueprint for immediate construction. It was a mirror held up to a corrupt Europe so that the viewer might see not only what was, but what could be if greed, hierarchy, and arbitrary power were refused. Kenya's 2010 Constitution performs the same function. It is a mirror. It shows the nation not the scarred face it currently wears, but the face it might wear if the ideals of justice, equality, harmony, prosperity, and fidelity to law were allowed to breathe.

Even so, mirrors are fragile. They crack when thrown against the hard wall of entrenched interest. Kenya's political class has treated the Constitution not as a living covenant but as a decorative object admired in speeches, quoted in court filings when convenient, and systematically suffocated when it threatens the circulation of power and money. They are not mere neglectful stewards. They are murderers of the ideals. They have taken a document born of blood, negotiation, and popular will and placed a pillow over its face, smiling while they do it.

Consider the evidence that is no longer deniable. Transparency International's 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index scores Kenya at 30 out of 100, ranking it approximately 130th out of 182 countries. The score has oscillated in a narrow, dismal band for more than a decade. Sub-Saharan Africa as a region averages only 32. The political class does not merely tolerate this; it thrives within it. Public resources are diverted with industrial efficiency. Procurement becomes a theatre of extraction. Oversight institutions are starved, captured, or publicly humiliated when they attempt to bite. The Constitution demands accountability. The political class replies with theatre: commissions of inquiry that inquire into nothing, prosecutions that evaporate before the powerful, and the quiet reappointment of the very faces the public has already rejected.

Inequality offers another unbroken line of evidence. The Gini coefficient, that cold measure of how unevenly income is distributed, has hovered in the high 30s to low 40s in recent years an improvement from earlier peaks, yet still a portrait of a society cleaved in two. More damning still is the concentration of wealth: reports have shown that a few dozen of the richest Kenyans control more assets than tens of millions of their fellow citizens. The Constitution's preamble speaks of social justice. Article 43 guarantees economic and social rights housing, food, water, healthcare, education. In the lived reality of informal settlements, drought-ravaged counties, and underfunded public hospitals, those rights remain aspirational text rather than material fact. The political class builds private fortunes while the mirror of the Constitution reflects a nation still waiting for the basic dignity the document promised.

The two-thirds gender principle offers a particularly stark illustration of deliberate delay. Article 27(8) requires that the State take legislative and other measures to ensure that not more than two-thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies are of the same gender. More than fifteen years later, the principle continues to be litigated, delayed, and treated as an inconvenient technicality rather than a binding constitutional command. Courts have spoken. The political class has shrugged. The message is clear: equality is negotiable when it threatens the old networks of patronage.

Police accountability tells the same story in blood. The Constitution sought to transform a force long associated with impunity into a service bound by human rights and civilian oversight. Yet extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and the slow grinding of investigations into nothingness persist. Independent oversight bodies record cases; few reach conviction. Families of the dead and the missing still wait for a justice system that the Constitution declared must serve all without regard to status. The political class finds it useful to keep the instruments of coercion close and the mechanisms of accountability distant.

These are not isolated failures. They form a pattern a deliberate correlation between the strength of constitutional ideals and the intensity of political resistance to them. Where the Constitution seeks to disperse power through devolution, the centre recentralizes through fiscal and political pressure. Where it demands separation of powers, the executive treats Parliament as an extension of its will and the judiciary as an obstacle to be intimidated or bypassed. Where it requires public participation, processes are reduced to ritual. The political class has learned that the Constitution is most dangerous when taken seriously. So they take it seriously only in the abstract, never in the particular case that might constrain them.

The deeper insight is this: a constitution is not self-executing. It is a set of words given force only by the fidelity of those who hold office under it. When that fidelity is absent, the document becomes a beautiful corpse. Kenya's political class has perfected the art of killing ideals while keeping the language of ideals alive. They speak of the Constitution in the same breath with which they violate it. They invoke the rule of law while treating court orders as optional. They celebrate the Bill of Rights while ensuring that the rights of the poor remain paper rights.

This is not inevitable. Utopias fail not because the vision is impossible, but because the keepers of the vision prefer the comforts of the old order. More's island existed only in the imagination because the real Europe of his day was ruled by men who found private gain more compelling than common justice. Kenya's Constitution exists in the real world. It has already delivered genuine gains: a more assertive judiciary at critical moments, a framework for devolution that has shifted some resources and decision-making closer to the people, a language of rights that citizens increasingly claim as their own. These gains prove the document's power. They also make the betrayal more bitter. The promise is not abstract. It has been glimpsed. Then it has been smothered.

The political class must be called by its true name. They are not merely imperfect implementers. They are active agents in the suffocation of a people's covenant. Every delayed gender rule, every unprosecuted grand corruption case, every ignored court order, every young life lost to state violence without accountability is an act of violence against the Constitution itself. The mirror still stands. It still shows what Kenya could become a society of genuine equality, of justice administered without regard to wealth or tribe or connection, of prosperity that is not the private property of a few, of harmony rooted in the equal dignity of every citizen. The political class has chosen to look away. The rest of the nation must decide whether to keep looking, and whether to force the keepers of power to face what the mirror reveals.

Fifteen years is long enough for excuses. The Constitution was not given to the political class as a plaything. It was given by the people to themselves and to their children. The murderers of its ideals have had their season. The season of fidelity is overdue.

El Niño For years, the country's relationship with disasters has followed an uncomfortable and familiar pattern. Authorities issue warnings

Why Kenya keeps waiting for disaster before preparing for it

Levis Wangamati
@themtkenyatimes

El Niño

Kenya does not usually lack warnings. What it sometimes lacks is the urgency to act on them. The country has once again been placed on alert as authorities prepare for anticipated El Niño conditions, with 18 counties identified as being at heightened risk and above-normal rainfall expected from October. Multi-agency teams are being activated and the government is bracing for what the rains may bring.

The warning should not frighten Kenyans. It should organise them. A forecast is not a prediction of doom. It is an opportunity to act before the consequences become unavoidable — and Kenya has been given something disasters rarely offer: time.

That time should matter, because Kenya knows precisely what heavy rains can do. Floods have repeatedly displaced families, damaged roads and bridges, disrupted businesses, destroyed property and placed enormous strain on emergency services. The country has witnessed the human and economic cost of poor preparation often enough to understand that extreme weather is not simply a meteorological problem. It becomes a national crisis when warnings are ignored, infrastructure is neglected and preparedness begins only after the first damage has already been done.

The question, therefore, is not whether it will rain. The question is whether Kenya will be ready when it does.

For years, the country's relationship with disasters has followed an uncomfortable and familiar pattern. Authorities issue warnings. Experts explain the risks. Citizens are advised to take precautions. Then the rains arrive, roads become impassable, rivers burst their banks and vulnerable communities begin searching desperately for safety. Emergency teams are mobilised, relief supplies are distributed and political leaders tour affected areas. Only then does the country rediscover the urgency of preparation — urgency that arrived, as it always does, too late to prevent the suffering it was meant to address.

Kenya should be capable of doing considerably better than this.

An early warning is valuable precisely because it arrives before the emergency. It gives authorities time to inspect bridges, clear drainage systems, identify flood-prone settlements, prepare evacuation centres, check hospitals and emergency equipment, protect critical infrastructure and communicate clearly with communities. It gives county governments time to coordinate with their national counterparts. It gives communities time to understand the risks facing them. Most importantly, it gives everyone a genuine opportunity to prevent avoidable suffering — the kind of suffering that is not inevitable but merely the consequence of choosing convenience over preparation.

The identification of 18 high-risk counties should therefore mean more than another government announcement filed and forgotten. It should become a practical checklist. If authorities already know where risks are concentrated, those areas should be among the first to receive the resources, personnel, equipment and contingency plans required to respond effectively. A warning should be visible not merely in official statements and press conferences, but on the ground — in cleared drains, inspected bridges, stocked emergency centres and communities that have been properly informed.

This matters particularly in Kenya's towns and cities. Every heavy rainy season exposes weaknesses that remain hidden during dry weather. Blocked drainage channels become torrents. Roads become rivers. Businesses close. Commuters are stranded for hours. Homes in low-lying areas become unsafe. In many places, natural waterways have been encroached upon while storm-water infrastructure has failed to keep pace with rapid and often poorly planned urban growth. Flooding, in these cases, is not simply a story about too much rain. It is a story about too little planning — and too little accountability for the consequences of that planning failure.

Nairobi provides the most obvious example, but the problem extends far beyond the capital. Kenya's growing towns are expanding rapidly, often faster than drainage systems, roads and environmental protections can accommodate. When the rain comes, the weaknesses in years of planning become suddenly and painfully visible. A city should not need a flood to discover that its drainage is inadequate. A bridge should not have to collapse before authorities remember that infrastructure requires regular inspection and maintenance.

Yet preparedness cannot rest entirely with government. Citizens also carry responsibility — to heed credible warnings, avoid dangerous river crossings, protect important documents and property where possible, and follow evacuation guidance when it is issued. Communities can identify vulnerable neighbours and share reliable information in the critical period before conditions worsen.

But responsibility must be matched with realistic expectations. A family living in a flood-prone settlement cannot simply be told to relocate when it has nowhere else to go. A farmer cannot respond meaningfully to changing weather conditions without timely, practical and understandable information. A small trader whose livelihood depends on a road that floods every rainy season cannot solve a public infrastructure problem with personal savings. That is why disaster preparedness must be treated as a development issue — not merely an emergency-response exercise conducted in the aftermath of loss.

For farmers, unusual rainfall can be both opportunity and threat. More water can improve agricultural production, but excessive rainfall damages crops, erodes soil, disrupts transport and affects livestock. Farmers need timely weather information, practical agricultural advice and access to services that allow informed decisions before conditions deteriorate. Agricultural preparedness must begin in the field, not at the relief distribution centre.

Infrastructure demands the same foresight. Bridges and roads in vulnerable areas should be inspected before the rains intensify, not after a vehicle falls through a weakened structure. Drainage systems should be cleared before they are overwhelmed. Schools and health facilities in flood-prone areas should have tested contingency plans, not improvised responses. Emergency teams should know where they will be needed before the calls start coming in.

There is very little wisdom in waiting for a bridge to fail before inspecting it.

This is where accountability becomes unavoidable. Once authorities have received a credible warning, preparation becomes more than a technical exercise. It becomes a test of leadership — transparent, measurable and ultimately judged by outcomes rather than announcements. If authorities know which areas are vulnerable, what is specifically being done about them? If drainage systems need clearing, have they been cleared? If communities are likely to be affected, have they been reached? If evacuation centres are required, are they ready and supplied? If roads and bridges are at risk, have engineers physically inspected them?

These questions should be asked now, while there remains time to act on the answers, rather than later when the country is counting its losses and assigning blame.

Kenya must also reconsider how it thinks about the cost of disaster management. There is often far greater political visibility in responding to a disaster than in preventing one. Relief trucks, emergency announcements and reconstruction projects are highly visible and photogenic. Clearing a drainage channel before the rains arrive is not. But prevention is rarely dramatic, and that does not make it less essential or less valuable.

Every shilling spent preventing avoidable damage can potentially save many more in emergency response and reconstruction costs. More importantly, prevention protects something no reconstruction budget can fully restore: lives, livelihoods and the quiet sense of security within communities that takes years to rebuild once it has been shattered.

The coming rains present Kenya with a test that goes well beyond weather forecasting. The warning already exists. The vulnerable counties have been identified. The historical consequences of inadequate preparation are well documented and painfully familiar. What remains to be seen is whether the warning will translate into genuine, verifiable action — or whether it will simply become the opening paragraph of yet another post-disaster report.

El Niño should not become another national conversation that begins with forecasts and ends with condolences.

The rain is beyond Kenya's control. The consequences, however, are not entirely beyond it. The country cannot command the clouds to change course, but it can clear its drains, inspect its bridges, strengthen its early-warning systems, protect its most vulnerable communities, coordinate national and county governments, and prepare its hospitals, schools, roads and emergency teams while the sun is still shining.

The real measure of Kenya's preparedness will not be how quickly the country responds after the first flood. It will be how much damage it manages to prevent before that first flood occurs.

The greatest lesson from every past disaster should not simply be that the rain was too heavy. It should be that warnings existed, risks were clearly known, and that the decisions made — or avoided — in the days and weeks before the crisis ultimately determined how many people suffered and how much was lost.

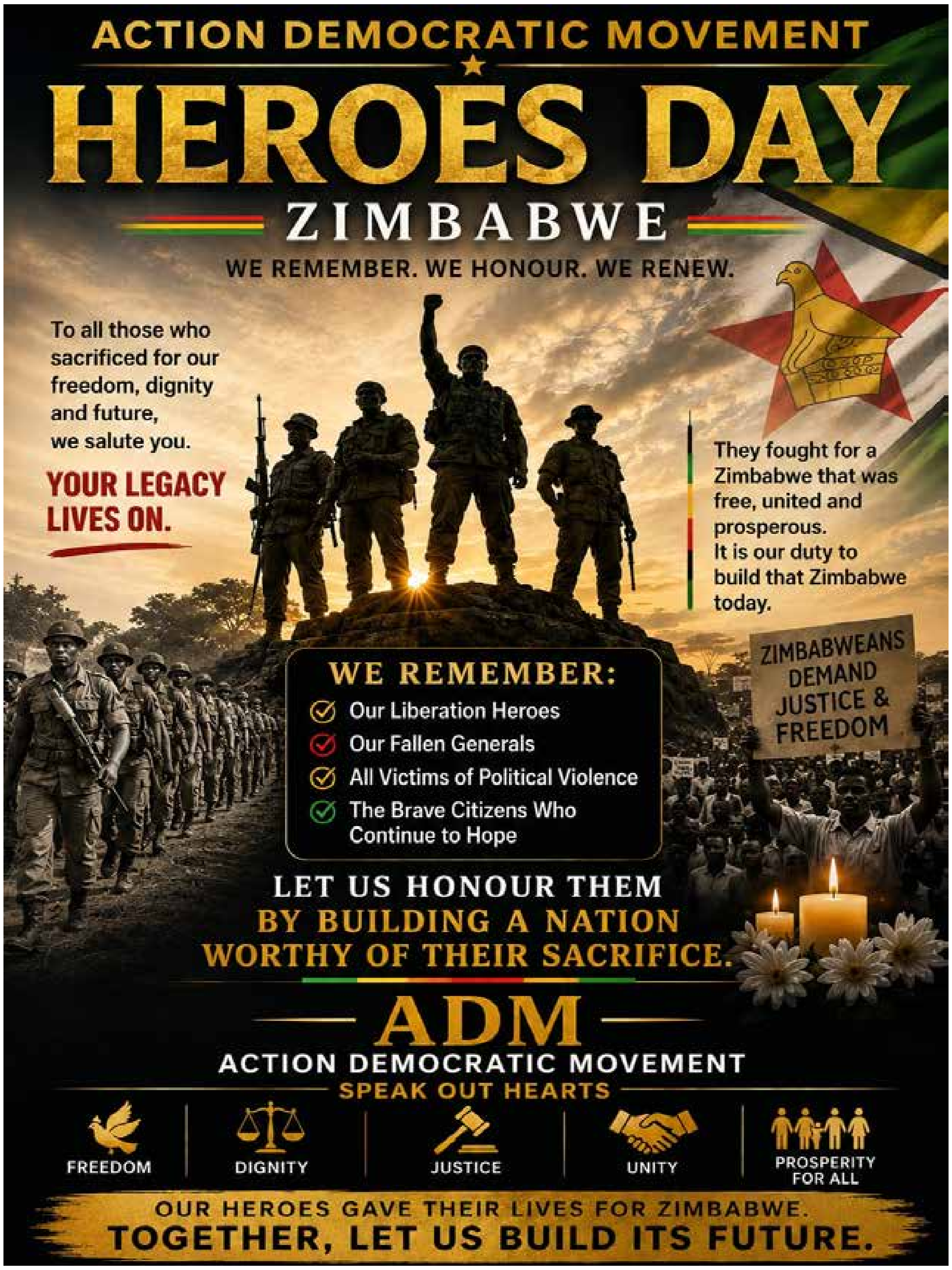
This time, Kenya has something precious on its side. It has time.

It should not waste it.

Zimbabwe As we look at Zimbabwe today, we must ask ourselves honestly and without flinching: what has become of the country that so many gave everything to liberate?

Heroes Day: A nation remembers, but our hearts are heavy

BY Alice Nyamande
@themtkenyatimes



Heroes Day should be a day of pride, remembrance and national reflection. It should be a moment when Zimbabweans come together to honour those who gave their lives for the freedom, dignity and future of this nation — men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice believing that those who came after them would inherit something worthy of that cost.

But this Heroes Day, our hearts are heavy.

As we look at Zimbabwe today, we must ask ourselves honestly and without flinching: what has become of the country that so many gave everything to liberate?

We remember the sons and daughters of Zimbabwe who fought for independence. We remember the men and women who never lived to see the Zimbabwe they dreamed of. We remember our liberation heroes and the depth of their sacrifices — sacrifices made in the belief that future generations would inherit a free, prosperous and democratic nation. That belief sustained them through unimaginable hardship. It is the least we owe them to ask whether we have honoured it.

Yet decades later, many Zimbabweans are struggling to find hope.

Our nation has witnessed the deaths of prominent military and national figures. It has witnessed political violence, enforced disappearances, repression and the loss of innocent lives. The events surrounding the killing of protesters in August 2018 remain a painful and unresolved chapter in our national history — a reminder that the relationship between citizens and those entrusted with protecting them must never be taken for granted, and must never be allowed to collapse into fear.

The defence and security institutions of Zimbabwe were established to protect the nation and its people. The citizen should never become the enemy.

When ordinary Zimbabweans are afraid of those who carry the responsibility to protect them, something fundamental has gone deeply wrong. Our soldiers, police officers and security personnel are Zimbabweans too. They come from our communities. They have families, parents, siblings and children who depend on them and look up to them. Their duty must therefore be to defend the Constitution, protect the people and preserve the sovereignty of Zimbabwe — not to become instruments of political interest or tools of fear directed at the very citizens they were sworn to serve.

Heroes Day must therefore be more than speeches, parades and carefully managed ceremonies. It must be a moment of genuine national conscience — uncomfortable, honest and necessary.

We must ask whether the Zimbabwe we have today reflects the aspirations of those who sacrificed for independence. Are our young people finding meaningful opportunities? Are our hospitals functioning as they should? Are our children receiving the quality of education they deserve? Can ordinary citizens afford a decent and dignified life? Are our institutions genuinely accountable to the people they serve? Are citizens free to express political opinions without fear of consequences?

These are not opposition questions. They are Zimbabwean questions — and every Zimbabwean, regardless of political affiliation, deserves honest answers to them.

The Action Democratic Movement believes that the greatest honour we can give our heroes is not merely to praise them once a year at a well-attended ceremony. It is to build the Zimbabwe they died believing was possible. A true tribute is not a wreath laid at a monument. It is a country where the Constitution is respected without exception, where institutions serve citizens rather than protecting those in power, where elections are credible and their outcomes accepted, where the rule of law applies equally to everyone regardless of wealth or connection, where young people have real opportunities, and where no Zimbabwean is treated as lesser because of their political beliefs.

We must also have the courage to remember all victims of political violence — regardless of when or where they died, and regardless of their political affiliation. Our history must not be selective. A nation that honours only the victims it finds convenient has not truly confronted its past. It has simply rearranged it.

A nation cannot heal by forgetting its painful chapters. It heals by confronting them honestly, by learning from them with humility, and by building institutions strong enough to ensure they are never repeated. Selective memory is not healing. It is postponement — and what is postponed has a way of returning with greater force.

This Heroes Day, I speak not with anger but with a genuinely heavy heart. Zimbabweans are tired. Zimbabweans are hurting. Zimbabweans want their country back — not a version of it managed for the comfort of those in power, but the real thing: a nation where government exists to serve the people, where security means protection rather than intimidation, and where the sacrifices of our heroes translate into freedom, dignity and opportunity for every single citizen, in every corner of this country.

Let us honour the dead by protecting the living.

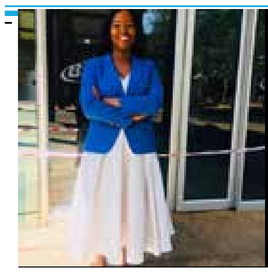
Let us honour our heroes not with ceremonies alone, but by defending the very freedoms they sacrificed to secure.

And let us commit, on this day above all others, to building a Zimbabwe where future generations will not have to ask why the dreams of our heroes were quietly abandoned by those who inherited their legacy.

Our heroes gave their lives for Zimbabwe.

The very least we can do is give Zimbabwe a future worthy of their sacrifice.

Alice Nyamande President, Action Democratic Movement



BOOKS & LITERATURE
with Paula O. M. Otukile
BOTSWANA

Books:

Author: Mmantlo Gorata Matlhape

Book: Motho Naka La Tholo

Interviewer: Paula O. M. Otukile

Mmantlo Gorata Matlhape

1.When did you start to write ?

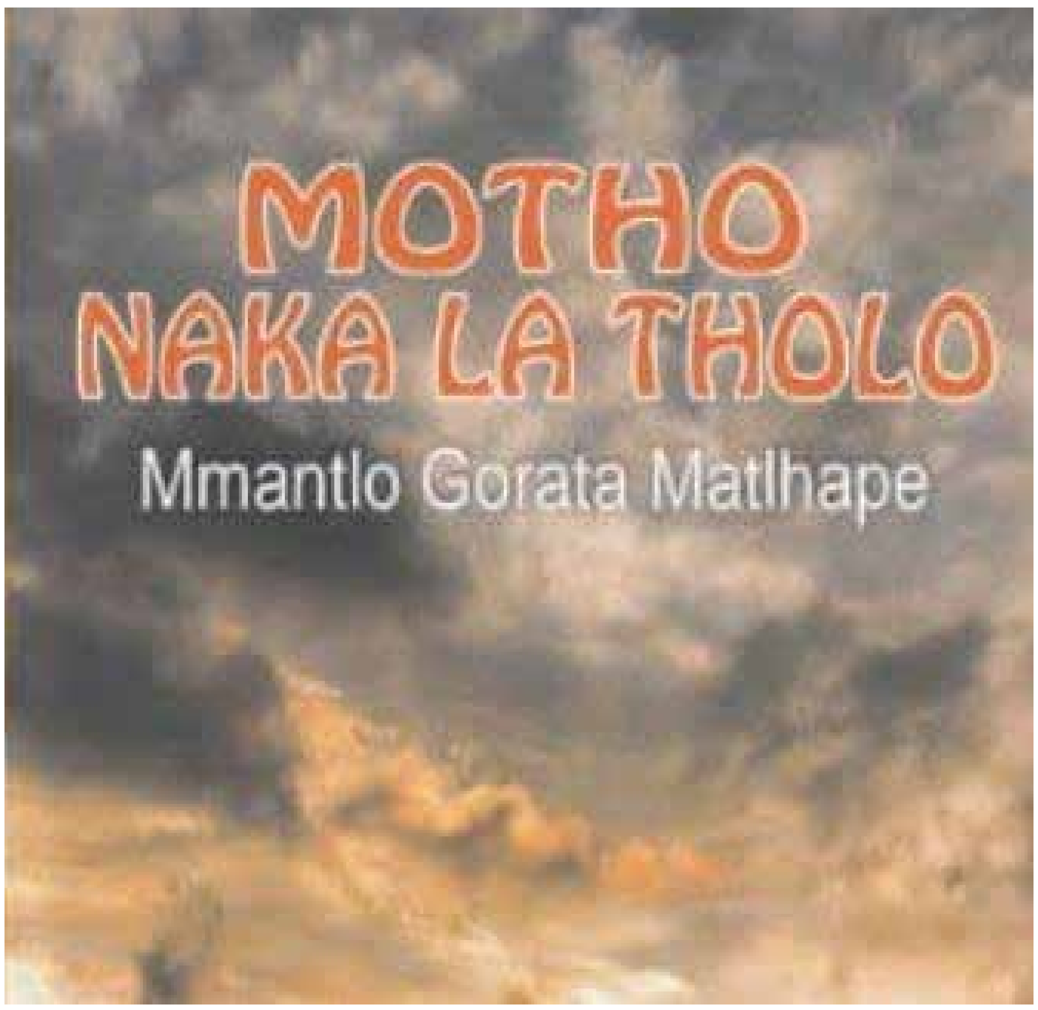
My true turning point for writing came during the COVID 19 lockdown. I wrote gradually over months—picking up the pen whenever inspiration returned—until my thoughts transformed into a complete manuscript. Above all what drove me Above all, what drove me to take that final leap was a deep desire to preserve the Setswana language and paint an honest, unfiltered portrait of traditional Botswana lifestyle and culture.

2. What inspired you?

For me to write this book I was deeply inspired by the profound wisdom and intelligence of our forefathers. Batswana and African elders crafted proverbs that captured the absolute deepest truths of human nature and life in general. Through Motho Naka La Tholo, I wanted to honor that ancestral wisdom and also showcase the natural beauty of Botswana flora, fauna and landscapes. Through literature potential tourists can experience our authentic environment. Above all literature serves as a powerful voice for the community. It gives expression to the unspoken realities, struggles, and truth that everyday people experience. Stories raise awareness, warn society, and inform leaders about deep seated issues that might remain overlooked.

3 .Do you see growth in book sales?

As an independent publisher sales have been a real struggle, but I don't believe this is due to lack of interest in Setswana literature. I think market challenges are not about a lack of readers, but about how we reach them. To see real growth, independent authors have to step outside traditional channels, build direct connections with our audience, and create our own readership through digital platforms.



Question 4: What do you plan to do in terms of marketing?

I plan to set up a dedicated Facebook author page, I want to create an interactive space where readers are actively involved.

I plan to share literary teasers and excerpts from Motho Naka La Tholo designed to spark discussion. From those teasers, I will pose thought-provoking questions for readers to answer, debate, and unpack together. This approach keeps our Setswana language alive, active, and thriving in digital spaces where we can learn new vocabulary together.

5. Advocacy and literature

I believe advocacy can play important role in growing the readership of African literature. Partnerships can help expose books to new audiences and encourage a stronger culture of reading. Partnering with other writers, book clubs, schools , libraries , and cultural stakeholders helps promote our stories. Without organisations like Mulher Forte African Literature many independent local writers would lack the platform and exposure needed to reach wider markets.

6. Lack of market is a common story in Southern Africa.What do you think is the cause, and do you think literature will make it?

I believe the challenge is not necessarily that the people do not want stories but that literature does not always reach readers in in ways that are attractive to them . For example the core cause of our shrinking market may be due to a major shift in how society spends leisure time. Social media platforms like Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp, and television have taken over our daily lives, replacing the quiet habit of reading. The upcoming generation in particular is completely captured by fast, visual content, leaving little patience or time for traditional printed literature.

Despite this I believe literature will make it provided it adapts to modern reality, we must bring our stories to them through formats they already consume. That is why my long-term goal is to adapt Motho Naka La Tholo into a film. Screen adaptations bridge the gap between literature, visual culture, and tourism. By bringing our written pages to the screen, we can showcase Botswana's rich landscapes, wildlife, and village life to global viewers, inspiring tourism while preserving the story's core messages, warnings, and Setswana cultural depth

7. Any word of encouragement to a young author facing writer's block ?

My advice to a young writer feeling stuck is to stop worrying about completing a whole book all at once. Writing is a gradual journey that requires true determination and dedication. When the desire or inspiration comes, write as much as you can. When it stops, take a step back and let your thoughts rest without beating yourself up. Pick up your pen again only when the desire returns.

Do not let the pressure of the finished product defeat you before you even begin. Start small, write at your own pace, and focus on telling your story truthfully."

Sports >> *Timothy Ouma has joined English Championship side Charlton Athletic on a season-long loan from Czech club Slavia Prague, with an option to buy, becoming the second Kenyan international

Ouma lands in the Championship: Harambee Stars man seals Charlton move

By **Martin Weche**

Timothy Ouma in Charlton Athletic colours.

Charlton Athletic have signed Harambee Stars midfielder Timothy Ouma on a season-long loan from Slavia Prague, with an option to make the deal permanent, the English Championship club confirmed yesterday.

Ouma, 24, arrives at The Valley having spent last season on loan at Polish top-flight side Lech Poznań, where he earned sufficiently strong reviews to attract interest from several clubs before Charlton moved decisively to secure his signature. He had joined Slavia Prague the previous season from Swedish club IF Elfsborg.

Charlton manager Nathan Jones, who has tracked the Kenyan international for an extended period, made clear the signing was not opportunistic. "We're delighted to get Timothy over the line," Jones said. "He's a player that we've monitored for a long, long time and he comes with real good pedigree. He's an athletic, technical midfield player who has had some good experience and he'll add real quality to our midfield."

The club's managing director, James Rodwell, echoed that enthusiasm, framing the acquisition as part of a deliberate recruitment strategy. "He's a player we've admired for some time and someone who fits the profile we identified as we continue to move the squad forward," Rodwell said. "He brings athleticism, quality on the ball and a real presence in midfield, and we're looking forward to seeing him in a Charlton shirt."

For Ouma, the move represents the most prominent stage of a career that has taken him from Nairobi City Stars through Scandinavia, Central Europe and Poland to one of English football's most storied second-tier clubs. He was measured but purposeful in his first words as a Charlton player. "I'm grateful to be here. I'll give my all and do my best to help the team achieve," he said. "I'm looking forward to seeing the supporters and hearing them cheer every tackle, every duel and every goal."

The signing carries additional significance for Kenyan football. Ouma follows compatriot Collins Sichenje, who joined Charlton in the winter transfer window from Serbian club Vojvodina, making The Valley something of an unlikely hub for Harambee Stars talent. The presence of two Kenyan internationals at a club with Championship ambitions is a marker of how far the country's players have travelled — literally and figuratively — in recent years.

The Championship, England's second division, is widely regarded as one of the most physically demanding leagues in European football, with a gruelling 46-match regular season that tests squad depth and individual resilience in equal measure. For a midfielder of Ouma's profile — athletic, technically assured, with experience of pressing-intensive systems in both the Czech and Polish top flights — the demands are steep but not unfamiliar.

Jones has built Charlton's recent recruitment around players who combine physicality with technical quality in the engine room, and Ouma fits that template. Whether the option to buy is exercised will depend largely on how quickly he adapts to the Championship's pace and whether Charlton mount the promotion challenge their manager has spoken of openly since taking charge.

For now, the focus is on bedding in, earning the trust of the Addicks faithful, and establishing himself in a division that has ended the ambitions of more heralded arrivals than him. Ouma, to his credit, seems to understand precisely what is being asked of him.

Kenyan football, watching from a distance, will be hoping he delivers.

Sports >> *Gor Mahia host Murang'a Seal and AFC Leopards welcome Bandari as the 2026/27 Football Kenya Federation Premier League gets under way on the weekend of August 29-30

Fixture frenzy: FKF fires the starting gun on a new Premier League season

Gor Mahia celebrate with the 2025/26 Premier League trophy. PHOTO/SPORTPESA PREMIER LEAGUE.

By **Martin Weche**

The Football Kenya Federation released the 2026/27 Premier League fixtures on Monday, setting a nine-game opening weekend for August 29-30 and resolving a prolonged period of uncertainty over the competition's legal status with a Sports Disputes Tribunal ruling the same evening.

Defending champions Gor Mahia open at home against Murang'a Seal, while AFC Leopards host Bandari in a marquee first-weekend pairing. Nairobi United take on KCB, and Ulinzi Stars — who survived relegation on the final day of last season — receive domestic cup holders Tusker at their Lang'ata Sports Complex.

The three promoted sides face immediate tests. Newly promoted 3K FC host Mara Sugar, while fellow newcomers Mombasa United and Migori Youth welcome Kakamega Homeboyz and Kenya Police respectively — opponents likely to expose any top-flight naivety early.

For Gor, the early schedule makes uncomfortable reading. Charles Akonnor's side face APS Bomet, Bandari, Kakamega Homeboyz, KCB and Nairobi United in their opening five matches. With the exception of Abana Ba Ingo, K'Ogalo failed to take maximum points against each of those opponents during 2025/26 — a record that will not have escaped Akonnor's attention as he builds his squad.

AFC Leopards, who finished second last season, face Kenya Police in Matchweek Two at Police Sacco Stadium — a fixture carrying particular edge given Nicholas Muyoti's side inflicted a 4-0 defeat on Ingwe the last time the two met. Shabana then visit in Matchweek Three before Leopards travel to Awendo to face Mara Sugar. Matchweek Five brings the Ingo Derby against Kakamega Homeboyz in Nairobi.

The Mashemeji Derby, the fixture Kenyan football orbits around twice a season, is pencilled in for the weekend of November 19-22, with Fred Ambani's Leopards as hosts for the first leg. The return match is scheduled for the weekend of April 2-4.

The release of fixtures brings to a close weeks of legal uncertainty that had cast doubt over the season's viability. FKF introduced new relegation and promotion regulations in September last year, stipulating that the bottom three clubs in the Premier League would drop to the National Super League while the top three from the second tier would be promoted. Kariobangi Sharks, who finished 16th and were relegated under the new framework, challenged their demotion at the Sports Disputes Tribunal, arguing the regulations had been enacted without adequate public participation and had been irregularly ratified by the federation's National Executive Committee.

The tribunal dismissed the appeal on Monday, ruling that Sharks had not exhausted the internal dispute resolution mechanisms available at FKF before approaching the tribunal. The decision effectively clears the federation to proceed with the season as planned.

With the legal cloud lifted and the schedule confirmed, attention now turns to the pitch — and to whether Gor Mahia can defend their title against a field that, on paper at least, looks determined to take it from them.

SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

The MT. KENYA TIMES

Mobius: The Kenyan car that refused to die

Once written off as a bold but failed experiment, Mobius Motors is showing signs of life again — and its revival could mean far more for Kenya than anyone expected.

BY John Irungu Maina
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **The company subsequently accepted a takeover bid, opening the door to a new chapter. Its new ownership became linked to Silver Box, a Middle East-based investment and technology company. By July 2026, reports indicated the new owners had reopened Mobius' service centre and were preparing to resume manufacturing. The revival, still in its early stages, has reignited a conversation that many had assumed was over.**
- **And that conversation matters, because Mobius is more than a badge on the bonnet of an SUV. It represents one of Kenya's rare attempts to develop an indigenous automotive manufacturer — one that, if successfully revived, could generate skilled jobs, nurture local supply chains and expand the country's industrial capacity in ways that imported vehicles simply cannot.**

There was a time when the idea of a Kenyan-built car seemed almost impossible. Then came Mobius — and for a while, it made believers of many.

Founded in 2011 by Joel Jackson, Mobius Motors set out to do something remarkably ambitious: build vehicles specifically for African roads and African consumers. At a time when Kenya's automotive market was dominated by imported Japanese models, the company wanted to create something different — rugged, practical and deliberately unadorned, designed with the realities of African roads, not European showrooms, firmly in mind.

Its first major product, the Mobius II, entered the Kenyan market in 2015, followed by a redesigned version in 2019. The vehicle was deliberately unlike the increasingly sophisticated SUVs crowding dealership forecourts. It was boxy, functional and unbothered by luxury. Its philosophy was straightforward: build something capable of handling rough terrain and punishing conditions without unnecessary complexity. That clarity of purpose gave Mobius a unique identity in a crowded market.

But having a good idea and building a sustainable automotive company are two very different things.

Kenya's automotive market is a formidable environment for any local manufacturer. Consumers carry a deep loyalty to established Japanese brands — Toyota, Nissan, Subaru, Mitsubishi — brands that come with decades of reliability data, widespread spare parts availability and strong resale values. Used imports are enormously popular precisely because they offer all of that at a fraction of the price of a new vehicle. Mobius had to persuade customers to take a chance on a young Kenyan brand while simultaneously developing its manufacturing operations, service network and supply chain from near scratch.

Eventually, the pressure proved too great. In August 2024, Mobius announced it was ceasing operations, its business model having become unsustainable under the combined weight of financial difficulties, taxation pressures and relentless competition from the second-hand import market. For many observers, that looked like the end of Kenya's most ambitious automotive experiment.

Mobius

But Mobius refused to disappear quietly.

The company subsequently accepted a takeover bid, opening the door to a new chapter. Its new ownership became linked to Silver Box, a Middle East-based investment and technology company. By July 2026, reports indicated the new owners had reopened Mobius' service centre and were preparing to resume manufacturing. The revival, still in its early stages, has reignited a conversation that many had assumed was over.

And that conversation matters, because Mobius is more than a badge on the bonnet of an SUV. It represents one of Kenya's rare attempts to develop an indigenous automotive manufacturer — one that, if successfully revived, could generate skilled jobs, nurture local supply chains and expand the country's industrial capacity in ways that imported vehicles simply cannot.

The central question now is what form the comeback will take. Will the new owners revive the original Mobius formula, or introduce something fundamentally different? Will the vehicles remain anchored in rugged simplicity, or will Mobius reach for the technology, safety features and comfort that modern buyers increasingly expect?

Perhaps the most intriguing possibility is electrification. The global automotive industry is shifting rapidly towards electric and hybrid technology, and Chinese manufacturers are making that technology progressively more affordable. Rather than competing with established Japanese manufacturers on familiar ground, Mobius could use this global transition to redefine itself entirely. A locally assembled electric SUV — built for African roads, priced for African incomes, and designed with ease of maintenance at its core — would represent a genuinely new proposition in a market undergoing one of its most significant transformations in a century.

But a comeback, however compelling the narrative, will not guarantee success on its own. Mobius must rebuild consumer confidence from the ground up. Buyers need assurance that spare parts will be available, that qualified technicians will be accessible and that the company will still be standing years after a vehicle is purchased. In a market where resale value is not an afterthought but a central consideration, trust is everything.

The new owners are therefore not simply restarting a factory. They are rebuilding a brand — and doing so against the memory of a previous collapse.

Perhaps that is not entirely a disadvantage. Mobius has already lived through the difficulties of manufacturing in Kenya and competing against the tide of imports. Its second chapter can be built on the hard lessons of its first.

Whether the revived Mobius becomes a genuine African automotive success story or another cautionary tale in Kenya's difficult manufacturing history remains to be seen. But one thing is already clear: Mobius is not finished.

The first Mobius was a bold experiment. The second could be its real test — and Kenya's.

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