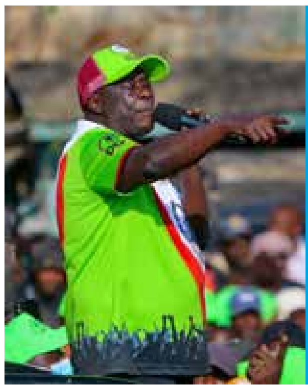

Gachagua targets UDA allies in Mt Kenya

Former Deputy President and Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua on Saturday unveiled what he termed "Operation Fagia", a political campaign aimed at unseating leaders allied to the ruling UDA

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Kenya's debt trap: The case for restructuring before the wall hits

The word "restructuring" has a remarkable ability to end conversations before they begin. The moment it enters the debate around Kenya's public finances, it conjures images of economic humiliation

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The Mt. Kenya Times

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Daily ePAPER

Running-mate Deputy President Kithure Kindiki defiantly declared he will not resign, daring even President William Ruto

Kindiki digs in: No resignation

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has flatly refused to resign his office and declared the 2027 Ruto-Kindiki ticket non-negotiable, as mounting pressure from opposition leaders, coalition partners, and senior lawyers converges on his position in the most turbulent stretch of his tenure since he was sworn in in November 2024.

The Deputy President has not flinched. Speaking at the 11th Annual Meru Dairy Farmers' Field Day in North Imenti Constituency on Saturday, Kindiki dismissed all speculation about his political future in terms that left no room for ambiguity. "I want to state it clearly that I will be President William Ruto's running mate in next year's general elections. Those who are salivating for that position should forget it because the Ruto-Kindiki ticket will be on the ballot, and we shall win," he told a gathering of more than 45,000 farmers.

He reached for a metaphor that has since circulated widely. "Those telling me to quit are out of order. I cannot build a house, furnish it and then I leave to be living in the forest. There are those who are telling me to quit. I won't quit," he said. The image was pointed — a direct rebuttal to those within and outside the coalition who have spent recent weeks suggesting he do exactly that.

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Deputy President Kithure Kindiki greetings with neighbours, Irunduni, Tharaka Nithi County.

Gachagua launches operation against UDA allies

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua has launched "Operation Fagia," a political campaign targeting leaders allied to the ruling UDA in the Mt Kenya region ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Addressing rallies in Nanyuki and Naromoru on Saturday, Gachagua urged voters to reject leaders he accused of abandoning the region's interests and instead supporting President William Ruto's administration.

He singled out several Laikipia and Nyeri leaders for defeat while encouraging residents to register as voters and protect their votes.

Gachagua also criticised plans to establish an Ebola preparedness centre in Laikipia and noted that his intervention helped prevent the relocation of British soldiers from Nanyuki to Tanzania, saying the move would have hurt the local economy.

Supporters repeatedly urged the former Deputy President to contest the presidency in 2027.

Nyeri gubernatorial aspirant Gichuki Mugambi said Mt Kenya had already settled on Gachagua as its preferred presidential candidate and urged him to focus on winning support in other regions. Mugambi described Kieni Constituency as the economic engine of Nyeri and the wider Mt Kenya region, calling for increased investment in roads, water, healthcare, schools and value addition for agricultural produce.

Former KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge also endorsed Gachagua's presidential bid and appealed to former President Uhuru Kenyatta to back him.

DCP Secretary General-designate John Methu dismissed Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen's warnings against citizens guarding votes, urging voters to remain vigilant during the 2027 elections.

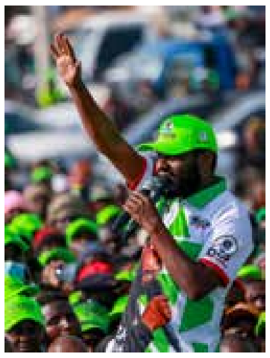
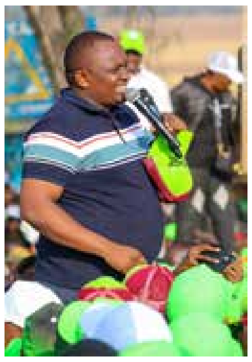
He was accompanied by dozens of former, current and aspiring political leaders.



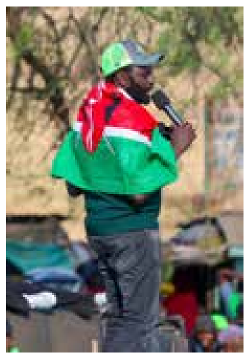









Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative.
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tana River County has launched a pilot Anticipatory Action (AA) Dashboard to strengthen disaster preparedness and improve coordination of responses to climate-induced hazards such as droughts, floods and disease outbreaks. The initiative is part of Kenya's shift from reactive disaster response to early action and preparedness. Supported by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) through the Finland Red Cross and implemented under the Strengthening Local Early Action Capacities for Climate-Induced Disasters project, the dashboard is being tested by the Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group led by the National Disaster Operations Centre and Kenya Red Cross. The platform will centralize disaster data, enhance coordination, reporting and early warning systems before nationwide rollout.

Haki Africa Director Yusuf Abubakar has underscored the importance of peace and security in fostering a conducive environment for businesses. Speaking during the launch of the Murang'a Legal Aid and Justice Centre in Kenol, Abubakar urged the government to address citizens' concerns, including compensation for victims of conflict.

Kenya's exclusive breastfeeding rate has remained at 60 per cent for several years, with health officials expressing concern over rising bottle-feeding and low rates of breastfeeding within the first hour after birth. Speaking during the launch of World Breastfeeding Week 2026 in Murang'a County, Deputy Director of Medical Services Norbert Abuya said the stagnation persists despite 89 per cent of births being attended by skilled health workers. He urged improvements in newborn care alongside skilled delivery. Martha Nyagaya attributed the trend to early weaning and increased bottle-feeding, calling for greater investment in nutrition programmes, workplace lactation centres and stronger community awareness to support breastfeeding mothers.

Kisumu Governor Peter Anyang' Nyong'o joined Luo leaders at the Kisumu Museum for the launch of the committee that will oversee preparations for the annual Piny Luo Cultural Festival. The festival brings together members of the Luo community from Kenya and the diaspora to celebrate their shared heritage, promote unity, and discuss social and economic development. Activities include traditional music and dance, cultural exhibitions, sports, business forums, academic discussions, and showcases by innovators and entrepreneurs. Nyong'o said the festival will provide a platform for reflection, dialogue, and future planning. He noted that the event was conceived by Raila Amolo Odinga to preserve Luo culture while promoting leadership, education, entrepreneurship, investment, and youth empowerment.

Residents of Lokaburu in Turkana South have called for meaningful public participation, improved social amenities and greater transparency as Wilken Energy Limited seeks community consent for proposed mineral prospecting activities. A public sensitisation meeting brought together county and national government officials, community leaders, artisanal miners, investors and residents to discuss the planned exploration and its potential economic benefits. Participants emphasized the need for inclusive engagement to ensure local communities benefit from mining activities. Artisanal Mining Committee Chairperson Micklam Eregae urged artisanal miners to register cooperatives and formalise their operations, saying licensed groups would be better positioned to access government incentives, institutional support, improved markets and modern mining equipment while promoting responsible resource management.

More than 400 hospitality workers from Kenya's Coast region have received nationally recognised skills certification under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Upskilling Programme aimed at improving service standards as the country targets five million international tourists annually by 2027. The initiative, implemented by the Tourism Fund in partnership with the State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, recognises experienced workers who lack formal qualifications. Participants completed a two-week training programme at Kenya Coast National Polytechnic in Mombasa. The 24th cohort included hotel managers, owners, accountants, hospitality workers and young content creators. Director of TVET Joseph Kanyi said the 2024 RPL policy formally recognises skills gained through workplace experience.


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Vision "We cannot afford to be distracted by futuristic slogans when the fundamentals of governance remain unsettled," Matiang'i said

Matiang'i dismisses Ruto's Vision 2060 as distraction from governance issues

BY James Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Former Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i has dismissed President William Ruto's push to develop a successor to Vision 2030, arguing that the initiative is intended to divert public attention from pressing governance and constitutional issues.

Matiang'i criticised the proposed Vision 2060 framework as the government moves to launch nationwide consultations on a new long-term development blueprint after the expiry of Vision 2030. He questioned the timing of the initiative, insisting that the administration should instead focus on addressing what he described as unresolved governance concerns and constitutional questions facing the country. "We cannot afford to be distracted by futuristic slogans when the fundamentals of governance remain unsettled," Matiang'i said in remarks reported by local media.

His comments add to growing criticism of the Vision 2060 process from opposition figures, including former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, who has similarly argued that the government should prioritise immediate economic and governance challenges. Gachagua told supporters in Nyeri last week that "Kenyans are struggling with the cost of living today, not in 2060. Leadership must respond to the present crisis before painting pictures of the future."

President Ruto has defended the initiative, saying Kenya needs a long-term development framework anchored in the 2010 Constitution and insulated from electoral politics. Speaking during a church service in Uasin Gishu County on Sunday, Ruto said Vision 2030 was developed before the promulgation of the current Constitution and that Kenya now needed to operationalise its constitutional development agenda. "It is going to be a conversation about the future of Kenya, and we are going to put it into law," Ruto said, adding that the planned consultations would involve Kenyans from across the country, including the private sector, academia, civil society, faith-based organisations, professional bodies, workers, young people and the creative industry.

The government has announced that nationwide public consultations on Vision 2060 will begin on August 12, with the process expected to culminate in a citizen-driven development charter. Officials argue that the blueprint will provide continuity and stability for Kenya's development trajectory, ensuring that projects are not derailed by political transitions. Treasury sources have indicated that the framework will also be tied to fiscal discipline measures aimed at curbing ballooning public debt.

Yet critics remain unconvinced. Analysts at the Institute of Economic Affairs have noted that while long-term planning is important, Kenya's immediate challenges—ranging from debt repayment pressures to constitutional disputes over devolution—require urgent attention. "The danger is that Vision 2060 becomes a political talking point rather than a serious policy instrument," said economist Kwame Owino. Civil society groups have also raised concerns that the consultations may be tokenistic, warning that citizen input must be substantive rather than symbolic.

Fred Matiang'i

The debate comes as political activity intensifies ahead of the 2027 General Election, with opposition leaders increasingly challenging the government's policies and long-term agenda. Observers say the Vision 2060 controversy reflects a broader struggle over narrative control, as the government seeks to project optimism while critics highlight unresolved governance failures. International partners, including the World Bank and IMF, have urged Kenya to balance long-term planning with immediate reforms, particularly in fiscal management and anti-corruption measures.

For Matiang'i, the issue is not the idea of planning itself but the credibility of leadership. "Kenya has never lacked plans. What we lack is governance discipline to implement them," he said, echoing a sentiment shared by many policy experts. His remarks underscore a growing frustration among sections of the public who feel that political leaders are more focused on grand visions than on practical solutions to everyday problems.

As the consultations begin, the government faces the challenge of convincing citizens that Vision 2060 is more than a political slogan. Whether the initiative becomes a transformative charter or another shelved document will depend on how seriously leaders engage with the governance concerns raised by critics. For now, the sharp exchange between Matiang'i and Ruto signals that Kenya's development debate is as much about politics as it is about policy.


NEWS PAPER
IN BUSINESS

Politics In Nanyuki, Gachagua trained his guns on Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri, accusing him of neglecting constituents while concentrating on personal business interests

Gachagua targets UDA allies in Mt Kenya

The former Second-in-Command said the Operation Fagia moment will ensure that all those who are supporting the curent administration are never elected to any position in the mountain region

BY Charles Kinyua
@themtkenyatimes

Former Deputy President and Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua on Saturday unveiled what he termed “Operation Fagia”, a political campaign aimed at unseating leaders allied to the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) across the Mt Kenya region, while receiving renewed calls from his supporters to contest the presidency in the 2027 General Election.

Addressing large political rallies in Nanyuki, Laikipia County, and Naromoru in Nyeri County, Gachagua declared that the region should reject leaders whom he accused of abandoning the interests of wananchi in favour of serving President William Ruto’s administration.

Flanked by DCP Secretary General-designate John Methu and a host of elected and aspiring leaders, Gachagua urged residents to register as voters, participate in the 2027 elections and remain vigilant in protecting their votes until the final declaration of results.

The rallies marked one of the party’s most aggressive political offensives since its launch, with leaders openly identifying MPs, senators and other elected representatives they want voted out in the next elections.

In Nanyuki, Gachagua trained his guns on Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri, accusing him of neglecting constituents while concentrating on personal business interests.

He alleged that Kiunjuri had focused on supplying electricity poles to Kenya Power under a government contract instead of addressing the needs of residents.

The DCP leader also criticised Laikipia Woman Representative Jane Kagiri and Laikipia North MP Sarah Korere, accusing them of blindly supporting President Ruto instead of representing wananchi.

He further faulted national government plans to establish an Ebola preparedness centre in Laikipia, arguing that neither the county nor the country had recorded any Ebola cases and questioning the project’s priority.

He further disclosed that his intervention on behind the scenes scheme on operations of British soldiers in Nanyuki had saved their base from being transferred to Tanzania.

Last month, Gachagua revealed how some government operatives were demanding billions of shillings so that the soldiers could have their operation license renewed but upon the revelations, the government eventually allowed them to continue ooerating from Nanyuki.

On Saturday, he said if the soldiers were transferred from the area, the town could have been significantly affected, more so, economically.

At the Naromoru rally, attention shifted to Nyeri County politics, where Gachagua and his allies declared that Senator Wahome Wamatinga, Woman Representative Rahab Mukami and Kieni MP Njoroge Wainaina should all be replaced in the next General Election.

Throughout both meetings, speaker after speaker urged Gachagua to seek the presidency, insisting that he had the leadership qualities and public support needed to challenge President Ruto in 2027.

Nyeri gubernatorial aspirant Gichuki Mugambi told the former Deputy President to concentrate on seeking support in other regions because, in his view, Mt Kenya had already settled on him as its preferred presidential candidate.

Mugambi described Kieni Constituency as the economic engine of both Nyeri County and the wider Mt Kenya region, noting that its agriculture, livestock production and entrepreneurial population sustained thousands of livelihoods.

He argued that the constituency deserved greater investment in roads, water, healthcare, schools and value addition for agricultural produce.

“If Kieni thrives, Nyeri thrives and Mt Kenya thrives. It is time for Kieni to receive the investment worthy of an engine that powers the entire region,” Mugambi said.

Former KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge, who recently joined DCP after leaving The New Democrats (TND), also endorsed Gachagua’s presidential ambitions.

Mathenge appealed to former President Uhuru Kenyatta not to back any other presidential aspirant from the region but instead support Gachagua’s candidature.

He disclosed that previous efforts to reconcile Uhuru and Gachagua had not succeeded.

The meetings also highlighted growing competition for elective seats across Mt Kenya ahead of the 2027 polls.

Former Laikipia Woman Representative Cate Waruguru confirmed her bid for the Laikipia governorship, setting up an expected contest against Kiunjuri.

In Nyeri, the race to succeed Governor Mutahi Kahiga, who is serving his final constitutional term, is also gathering momentum with Mugambi, Mathenge and Kinyua Wanjohi among those who attended the rally and are positioning themselves for the seat.

Kahiga, who has declared interest in the Nyeri Senate seat, did not attend the rally, allowing former Mukurweini MP Kabando wa Kabando and businessman King’ori Wanjohi to dominate discussions on county politics.

Nyeri Deputy Governor David Kinanire, who is also eyeing the governorship, and Kenya’s High Commissioner to India Peter Munyiri were also absent.

DCP Secretary General-designate John Methu used the rallies to dismiss recent warnings by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen against attempts by members of the public to guard votes at polling stations.

Methu accused the Interior CS of interfering in electoral matters instead of focusing on deteriorating national security.

He challenged Murkomen over repeated threats to arrest Gachagua on allegations of associating with criminal gangs, saying such warnings were politically motivated.

In an apparent show of unity, nearly every leader who addressed the gatherings criticised Murkomen and dared him to act on his threats.

They instead encouraged voters to emulate residents of Ol Kalou during last month’s parliamentary by-election by remaining vigilant throughout the voting and tallying process to safeguard the integrity of the election.

The leaders claimed the by-election demonstrated that vigilant citizens could help deter electoral malpractice, although electoral management remains the constitutional mandate of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and security agencies are responsible for maintaining law and order.

Those accompanying Gachagua included EALA MP and former Kieni MP Kanini Kega who hit out at his predecessor for failing the constituents. He called on the electorate to support his bid so that he could finish projects that he initiated in the area.

Others present were Senators John Methu, Karungo wa Thang’wa and John Kinyua, MPs Wanjiku Muhia, Jane Kihara, James Gakuya, Onesmus Ngogoyo, James Munyoro, John Kaguchia, Edward Muriu, Geoffrey Wandeto, Mejja Donk, Kamande Mwafrika and Ol Kalou MP Sammy Kamau, DCP’s only elected Member of Parliament.

Numerous former leaders and aspirants also attended the meetings, underscoring DCP’s efforts to consolidate support across the Mt Kenya region ahead of the 2027 elections.

Earlier in the day, Gachagua hosted a delegation of leaders from Murang’a County at his Wamunyoro residence, where they discussed political, economic and governance issues affecting the region before proceeding to the campaign meetings in Laikipia and Nyeri.

Former DP and DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua addressing the public in Naromoru | *Photo:* Courtesy

Nyeri gubernatorial aspirant on DCP ticket Gichuki Mugambi addressing the public in Naromoru town as EALA MP Kanini Kega looks on.

Politics Facing a constitutional cloud, a restless coalition, and a chorus of rivals eyeing his seat, Kenya's Deputy President says he is going nowhere — and the law is largely on his side

Kindiki digs in: I will not resign, the ticket is settled

BY Grace Wanja
@themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has flatly refused to resign his office and declared the 2027 Ruto-Kindiki ticket non-negotiable, as mounting pressure from opposition leaders, coalition partners, and senior lawyers converges on his position in the most turbulent stretch of his tenure since he was sworn in in November 2024.

The Deputy President has not flinched. Speaking at the 11th Annual Meru Dairy Farmers' Field Day in North Imenti Constituency on Saturday, Kindiki dismissed all speculation about his political future in terms that left no room for ambiguity. "I want to state it clearly that I will be President William Ruto's running mate in next year's general elections. Those who are salivating for that position should forget it because the Ruto-Kindiki ticket will be on the ballot, and we shall win," he told a gathering of more than 45,000 farmers.

He reached for a metaphor that has since circulated widely. "Those telling me to quit are out of order. I cannot build a house, furnish it and then I leave to be living in the forest. There are those who are telling me to quit. I won't quit," he said. The image was pointed — a direct rebuttal to those within and outside the coalition who have spent recent weeks suggesting he do exactly that.

Three distinct forces have been applying simultaneous pressure on Kindiki's position: the opposition, his own coalition partners, and the unresolved shadow of a court ruling that has never been fully settled.

The opposition's case is led by veteran Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, who has gone further than any other active political figure in questioning the constitutional basis of Kindiki's office. Following a Court of Appeal ruling in May last year that the High Court bench which cleared Kindiki's swearing-in was improperly constituted, Kalonzo posted on X: "We are now in a situation where we have two deputy presidents. Kindiki should respect the process and resign to allow justice to take its course. The recent appellate court decision has exposed the unlawful and political manipulation that was involved in removing Gachagua from office." Martha Karua echoed the demand. Neither has retracted it.

The Court of Appeal found that Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu acted outside her mandate when she appointed a three-judge bench to hear Gachagua's petitions, as the Constitution reserves that authority exclusively for the Chief Justice. The ruling did not remove Kindiki from office, but it handed the opposition a credible legal frame — one they have wielded with discipline ever since.

From within the governing coalition, the challenge comes from a different direction but with no less force. Following ODM's inclusion in the broad-based government, the Orange party has moved aggressively to claim the deputy president slot, with pressure mounting on Ruto to pick Cooperatives Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya as his 2027 running mate. If ODM's demands are ignored, there are implicit threats that the party could pull out of its arrangement with Ruto.

At a Turkana delegates meeting last Wednesday, Kisii Governor Simba Arati — ODM's deputy party leader — stated his party's position without qualification. "Kama ni Ruto anaenda urais, deputy ni yetu na tuskizane," he said, naming Oparanya, Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga, and even party leader Raila Odinga as candidates qualified to fill the role. He added that ODM would only stand aside if Ruto contested under the ODM banner or if Kindiki left UDA and joined ODM — conditions that neither man has shown any intention of meeting.

Western Kenya has added its own voice. Leaders from Kakamega have publicly backed National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula for the position, framing his candidacy as the region's rightful return on its political investment in Kenya Kwanza. Each of these bids, separately containable, collectively amounts to a sustained siege on Kindiki's office.

The pressure has been compounded by a report that some responsibilities previously associated with the Deputy President's office have been quietly redistributed to other senior government figures — a claim Kindiki addressed directly on his official X account on the night of Monday, July 27, dismissing it as fake news and denying any fallout with Ruto. Two days later, a photograph of a late-night one-on-one meeting between Kindiki and Ruto at State House was posted by the Deputy President's communications team on X — offered as evidence of unbroken solidarity, though political analysts noted that a photograph confirms a meeting, not an alliance.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki greetings with neighbours, Irunduni, Tharaka Nithi County

A viral social media post last week went further, claiming Ruto had privately given Kindiki a deadline to resign over his failure to neutralise Gachagua's influence. Africa Check investigated and found no evidence that Ruto issued any such instruction, concluding the quote circulating online was fabricated. The correction spread less far than the original claim.

The widespread perception that Kindiki's political standing is weakening has gathered pace largely because Ruto has neither firmly and publicly endorsed his deputy nor directly addressed the speculation. That silence, in a political environment as febrile as this one, has been read as a signal. Senior counsel Ahmednassir Abdullahi, writing on X, said he did not expect Ruto to drop Kindiki, but argued that the Deputy President ought to show political maturity by stepping aside voluntarily. "Either way, it must be before October 2026 — or it will be TOO LATE," Ahmednassir wrote.

Not everyone within Kenya Kwanza is hedging. Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku, speaking during an NTV interview on Monday, July 27, offered Kindiki direct and unambiguous support. "I support Kindiki to continue being the DP because he has performed very well as Ruto's principal assistant. He has outperformed himself as DP, and I think he is suited to be the DP from 2027 to 2032," Ruku said. He added, however, a line that will have unsettled Kindiki's camp: that if Ruto chose a different running mate, Mt Kenya East would support the President regardless. "It is the prerogative of the head of state to choose his running mate," Ruku said.

The constitutional reality provides Kindiki his strongest protection. Unlike a Cabinet Secretary, Kindiki cannot simply be removed from office through a presidential decision. Article 150 of the Constitution provides the framework for removal of a Deputy President, incorporating the procedures under Articles 144 and 145 — a process requiring parliamentary involvement, medical certification, or impeachment. Advocate Timothy Kariuki has noted that initiating a second Deputy President removal within one term would carry severe political consequences. "It would make him a political clown to initiate a second round of removing his Deputy inside four years," Kariuki said.

The polling numbers further complicate the case for change. A TIFA Research survey found Kindiki commanding 59 per cent support as the preferred running mate for Ruto, with Wanga a distant second on 12 per cent. A more recent Infotrak poll placed him at 34 per cent — still ahead of all other contenders. Political analyst Herman Manyora has argued that replacing Kindiki with a candidate from Luo Nyanza could alienate Mt Kenya voters at precisely the moment when former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is actively working to pull the region away from Kenya Kwanza. That paradox — that the forces demanding Kindiki's removal are simultaneously the reason his removal is dangerous — is the trap at the centre of Ruto's 2027 arithmetic.

Kindiki himself has signalled awareness of the longer game. "Next year is the last time we will be voting for Ruto as President, then he will go on retirement like Uhuru Kenyatta. And then what?" he said at the Meru event on July 25 — a remark that positioned him not merely as a deputy defending his seat, but as a man already thinking about 2032.

He will not resign. The Constitution makes it difficult to force him out. And the political arithmetic of replacing him may cost Ruto more than keeping him does.

The siege continues. But for now, Kindiki is still inside the house — and he built it.

Politics Ruku argued that such a move would amount to political betrayal and portray the people of Mt Kenya as unable to honour their word

Ruku: Abandoning Ruto would damage Mt Kenya's reputation

Cabinet Secretary warns that breaking the 2022 electoral commitment risks branding the region as politically unreliable

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themtkenyatimes

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku yesterday launched a sharp attack on former President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, accusing them of urging the Mt Kenya region to walk away from the political commitment it made in the 2022 General Election.

Ruku argued that such a move would amount to political betrayal and portray the people of Mt Kenya as unable to honour their word — remarks that have reignited debate about loyalty, political agreements, and whether leaders should remain bound by electoral commitments even as alliances fracture.

The Mt Kenya region was decisive in President William Ruto's 2022 victory. Millions of voters backed the Kenya Kwanza Alliance after regional leaders urged residents to support Ruto, promising that the partnership would deliver development, economic empowerment, and a stronger voice in government.

For months the coalition held. But the impeachment of Gachagua as Deputy President cracked the arrangement open, and the political landscape has since shifted sharply — new alliances forming, old friendships breaking apart.

It is against that backdrop that Ruku accused Kenyatta and Gachagua of attempting to convince Mt Kenya residents to abandon the very leader their own political networks asked Kenyans to support three years ago.

Ruku's position is straightforward: if leaders ask citizens to back a candidate, they carry a responsibility to honour that commitment rather than reversing course whenever personal political interests change. Constantly shifting allegiances, he warned, risks cementing Mt Kenya's image as a region that cannot be trusted in future national negotiations.

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku

Gachagua's supporters are unlikely to accept that framing. Their counter-argument is equally direct: political support is never unconditional. In a democracy, voters and their leaders are entitled to assess whether campaign promises have been fulfilled. Where those promises have fallen short, changing political direction is not betrayal — it is accountability. Loyalty, they insist, must be earned through performance, not merely invoked on the strength of past agreements.

Kenyatta's role remains a parallel thread in this debate. Though he has kept a deliberately low political profile since leaving office, every statement attributed to him draws national attention. His relationship with Ruto had already deteriorated well before the 2022 election, and analysts continue to watch for signals about the part he may yet play in shaping future alliances.

With Kenya's attention beginning to turn toward the next General Election, competition for Mt Kenya's support will only sharpen. The region remains one of the country's largest voting blocs, and every political message directed at its electorate carries outsized national weight.

The fundamental question beneath all the rhetoric is whether political loyalty should take precedence over public expectation — whether alliances forged at the ballot box should endure regardless of what follows, or whether leaders are entitled to reassess those partnerships as circumstances change.

The voters, as ever, will have the final word. They will judge not on the basis of who made the sharpest speech, but on whether development has reached their communities and whether their trust has been rewarded.

For Ruku, the answer is clear: walking away from Ruto would cost Mt Kenya its reputation as a region that keeps its commitments. For his opponents, changing course is not about breaking faith — it is about answering to the electorate.

The battle for the heart of Mt Kenya is far from settled.

Politics An online poll puts the Nairobi Senator ahead of Kalonzo and Matiang'i, but independent surveys tell a different story — and the real negotiation has barely begun

Sifuna surges in WANTAM digital vote as opposition unity race heats up

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka

BY David Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna yesterday led Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka by a commanding margin in the WANTAM Advisory Committee's online presidential vote, while former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i topped the running mate ballot in an exercise that has injected fresh energy — and fresh argument — into Kenya's already restless opposition politics.

Results published on wantamcandidate.com on Sunday showed Sifuna leading the presidential ballot with 58 per cent of the vote, followed by Kalonzo at 34.01 per cent, former Chief Justice David Maraga at 8.84 per cent, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at 4.08 per cent and former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi at 3.74 per cent. In the running mate category, Matiang'i led with 31 per cent, ahead of Sifuna on 29 per cent, Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro on 14 per cent and Kalonzo on 8 per cent.

The numbers have made for striking reading in opposition circles — not least because they diverge sharply from what conventional polling has been showing. An Infotrak Research survey conducted across all 47 counties between June 22 and June 26, 2026, found Kalonzo leading opposition presidential preference at 27 per cent, with Matiang'i second on 26 per cent and Sifuna third on 19 per cent. The same poll found a Kalonzo-Sifuna ticket as the most popular opposition pairing, attracting 23 per cent support, followed by Kalonzo-Matiang'i at 16 per cent. The gap between WANTAM's digital outcome and Infotrak's county-wide survey is wide enough to invite serious questions about who, precisely, is voting on the online platform and how representative they are of the broader electorate.

That caveat is one the organisers themselves have pre-empted. The WANTAM Advisory Committee has been explicit that the exercise carries no constitutional authority to determine Kenya's official presidential candidates. Under existing electoral law, political parties are responsible for nominating candidates, while the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission oversees the formal electoral process. The online vote is, in the committee's own framing, a citizens' initiative — a pressure tool, not a binding verdict.

What it undeniably is, however, is a statement of intent. The movement emerged from a growing conviction, particularly among younger Kenyans, that the opposition's historical method of selecting its flag bearer — backroom negotiations among party principals, brokered over days in hotel conference rooms — has consistently produced fragmented results and wasted political capital. WANTAM is proposing a different model: open, digital, and public-facing, with the legitimacy of numbers rather than the legitimacy of deal-making.

WANTAM convenor Francis Masinde has said the process will unfold in three stages: an initial online vote to identify the top contenders, a public debate in which those contenders outline their vision and priorities, and a final round of voting to determine the movement's preferred presidential ticket. "The process of selecting the opposition flag bearer is too important to be left to politicians alone," Masinde said at the platform's launch, adding that the movement is independently funded and has engaged opposition leaders to assure them the exercise is not designed to favour any particular candidate.

The platform's credibility was tested before it even opened. Organisers said the system had withstood more than 4,000 attempted cyber-attacks ahead of voting — a figure that, whether taken at face value or treated with some scepticism, at minimum reflects the intensity of interest the exercise has generated. Kenyan online initiatives of this kind are rarely politically neutral spaces, and the heavy digital traffic around WANTAM suggests that political camps have been watching the results closely.

Results published on wantamcandidate.com on Sunday showed Sifuna leading the presidential ballot with 58 per cent of the vote, followed by Kalonzo at 34.01 per cent, former Chief Justice David Maraga at 8.84 per cent, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at 4.08 per cent and former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi at 3.74 per cent. In the running mate category, Matiang'i led with 31 per cent, ahead of Sifuna on 29 per cent, Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro on 14 per cent and Kalonzo on 8 per cent.
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Sifuna's strong showing in the online ballot is consistent with a pattern visible in other data. The Infotrak survey found his support concentrated among younger voters, recording 27 per cent in the 18-to-26 age bracket, and strongest in Western, Coast and Nyanza regions. His appeal to digitally active, younger Kenyans likely explains the gap between his WANTAM performance and his third-place standing in county-wide conventional polling. Online votes, by their nature, skew toward demographics with reliable internet access and the motivation to participate — and Sifuna's political base overlaps substantially with that profile.

Matiang'i's running mate lead presents a different kind of signal. The Infotrak poll found him most popular in Central at 29 per cent, Nairobi at 30 per cent, Rift Valley at 27 per cent and Nyanza at 29 per cent, with his strongest support among the 36-to-45 age group. His cross-regional appeal — unusual in Kenyan politics, where voting blocs tend to track ethnicity and geography with depressing predictability — has made him one of the most closely watched figures in the 2027 conversation. Whether he contests as a presidential or vice-presidential candidate, his numbers suggest he commands a constituency that cuts across the usual lines.

Kalonzo's position is the most politically complex of the three. He leads conventional polling for the opposition presidential nomination, commands deep loyalty in Eastern Kenya, and has spent three election cycles positioning himself as the opposition's anchor. Yet in the WANTAM vote, he finishes a distant second to Sifuna — and in the running mate category, he trails even Nyoro. His team is unlikely to be unsettled by an online ballot, but the result gives his rivals a platform narrative they will not be slow to use.

The WANTAM exercise reflects broader calls, particularly from younger Kenyans, for greater public participation in political decision-making through technology rather than elite negotiation. In that sense, whatever its methodological limitations, the exercise is capturing something real: a restlessness with the way opposition politics has historically been conducted, and a desire for a process that feels less like a transaction and more like a choice.

The formal opposition unity talks — among the principal parties of the United Alternative Government, the Democratic Change Partnership and allied formations — continue separately, on their own timeline and with their own internal logic. Those conversations will ultimately determine who gets onto the ballot and under which party. WANTAM cannot change that. What it can do — and what Sunday's results have already done — is set a tone, establish early expectations, and put names into a public debate that will only intensify as 2027 approaches.

The votes have been cast and counted. The real negotiation is only beginning.

Mining IPA Secretary Kelvin Koinet called for increased employment opportunities and representation of local residents in the company's management and decision-making structures

Magadi residents laud suspension of Tata Chemicals mining operations

BY Diana Meneto
@themtkenyatimes

A section of Magadi residents have welcomed the suspension of mining operations by Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited, saying the move will give the community an opportunity to have long-standing grievances against the company addressed.

The residents, led by Magadi Ward Member of County Assembly Isaac Kiresian and members of the Ilmakati Professional Association (IPA), commended Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet Secretary Hassan Ali Joho for suspending the company's operations over regulatory non-compliance.

Speaking to the media in Magadi, the residents said the suspension was long overdue, accusing the company of failing to adequately address community concerns and comply with existing agreements and regulations.

"As the people of Magadi, we request the government and Tata Chemicals Magadi to also address our complaints even as they discuss compliance issues. As the company complies, we need our due share as a community," said Kiresian.

The community raised concerns over the implementation of the Community Development Agreement (CDA), saying that although the agreement was signed on August 4, 2019 and submitted to the Ministry of Mining, it had not been fully implemented.

The residents claimed that they had not received the 20 per cent share of royalties they are entitled to, saying the community continues to face challenges, including inadequate access to water, infrastructure and socio-economic opportunities.

They also called for the review of colonial-era agreements signed in 1904 and 1911, arguing that the company occupies large tracts of land that are currently not in use.

The community demanded that unused land be reverted to the local community.

IPA Secretary Kelvin Koinet called for increased employment opportunities and representation of local residents in the company's management and decision-making structures.

"Magadi community forms less than 50 per cent of employees in Tata Chemicals Magadi company and we are demanding at least 90 per cent of employment opportunities. As a people, we are the most affected by the company's operations and, as an educated community, we demand to be represented on the company's board where decisions that affect us are made," said Koinet.

He alleged that the company had increasingly relied on foreign workers, claiming that some local employees were being required to train foreign recruits who later took over their positions.

"Some of our people have worked in the company for many years and deserve to be appointed to managerial positions," he added.

The residents further accused the company of failing to adequately involve the community in public participation exercises, claiming that a recent environmental impact assessment for the proposed expansion was conducted without sufficient community involvement.

On July 29, 2026, CS Joho suspended all mining operations by Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited over regulatory non-compliance.

The Ministry said several critical compliance issues remained unresolved, including the lack of a clear mineral beneficiation and value addition strategy, outstanding royalty reconciliation and payment obligations, inadequate export reporting and reconciliation, and concerns over the implementation of Community Development Agreements.

The company was also faulted over employment and skills transfer plans for Kenyan citizens, procurement of local goods and services, and environmental compliance.

The Ministry directed Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited to submit comprehensive documentation and evidence demonstrating compliance with all statutory obligations and to address any outstanding liabilities before resuming operations.

The CS said the company would only be allowed to resume operations after demonstrating full compliance with the Mining Act, its regulations and other applicable laws governing Kenya's mining sector.

The company has since shut down its operations following the suspension.

Isaac Kiresian, Magadi ward member of county assembly seeking a statement from the County Executive Committee member for finance over the 20 per cent royalties generated from Tata Chemicals Magadi mining operations in the Kajiado County Assembly in June, 2026.

The Magadi factory

Weather The Met Service warned that respiratory diseases such as asthma, pneumonia, flu and the common cold are likely to increase in central and Nairobi counties

KMSA warns of strong winds in 14 counties

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Meteorological Service Authority has warned that strong winds expected in 14 counties this month could disrupt marine transport and damage infrastructure, including roofs and power lines.

In its monthly forecast, the agency said southerly to south-easterly winds exceeding 25 knots are likely to affect Kwale, Kilifi, Mombasa, Lamu, Tana River, Kitui, Taita Taveta, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana and Samburu. Deputy Director Kennedy Thiong'o cautioned that fog may reduce visibility on roads traversing highland areas, increasing the risk of accidents and delays. "Fog may occasionally lead to interruption of operations at Wilson and Jomo Kenyatta airports," he said, noting that motorists in Nyandarua, Laikipia, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, Tharaka Nithi and Nairobi should exercise caution.

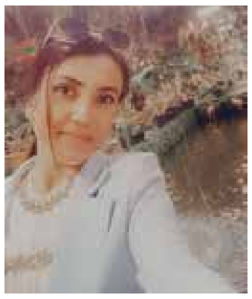
The forecast also indicated intermittent rainfall could make roads slippery and affect construction activities in coastal counties. August marks the gradual cessation of the cold season, with mean temperatures ranging from about 5°C in central highlands to more than 30°C in arid counties such as Turkana, Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, Isiolo and Tana River. "These cooler temperatures result from the dominance of the southeast monsoon, widespread cloud cover that reduces solar heating, and the influence of Southern Hemisphere winter air masses," Thiong'o explained. He added that mountainous terrain in Meru, Embu, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Laikipia, Tharaka Nithi, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Vihiga, Trans Nzoia and Bungoma contributes further cooling.

The Met Service warned that respiratory diseases such as asthma, pneumonia, flu and the common cold are likely to increase in central and Nairobi counties due to chilly conditions. In arid and semi-arid regions, dust exposure driven by strong winds may aggravate respiratory problems and eye infections. Water availability in these areas is also expected to decline as dry weather persists.

The warnings underscore the need for preparedness across multiple sectors, from transport and health to agriculture and energy. As Kenya transitions out of its coldest season, the challenge will be balancing immediate safety measures with longer-term resilience against climate variability.

Palm trees bend violently under the force of powerful winds

In New Uzbekistan, Human is sacred!



Each morning begins with a grateful heart's cheer,
Each night is a song that is pleasant to hear.
The people live peaceful, united and clear,
For tranquility reigns all over this land!
In New Uzbekistan, Human is grand!

The gardens are blooming, with flowers in sight,
The elders give blessings, their faces so bright.
Tashkent, the famed capital, shines like a light,
Samarkand and Bukhara forever stand grand!
In this precious nation, Human is grand!

With faith in their hearts and a dream in their eyes,
Where honor and modesty truly arise.
May our hardworking leader be safe, noble, wise,
Where justice prevails every moment in hand!
In this free land, Human is grand!

Maxmudova Dilobarxon was born in Shukurmergan village, Marhamat district, Andijan region. She is married and has two sons and a daughter. She graduated from the Faculty of Foreign Languages at Andijan State University, specializing in French and English. Currently, she is a 2nd-year master's student in "Pedagogy Theory and History" at the Andijan branch of Turon University.

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

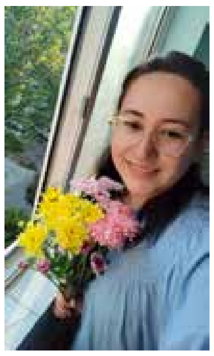
God gives me this life.
Life is to face a lot of strife,
To prove what my identify is ,
Like finding an answer for a difficult quiz.

A Butterfly's identify is its colourful wings,
Saturn's identity is its rings,
A River's identity is its consistent flow,
The Moon's identify is its glow.

The Rainbow's identity is its colours,
A billionaire's identity is his dollars,
A student's identity makes him a scholar,
Then I think what my identity is.

I conclude everything is unique,
As long as they keep the technique.
To be what I am is my identity
To retain my identiy I should be gritty.
...
Penned by
RANGANATHAN E
B.T.Asst(Eng)
Marwar Govt.Boys Hss,Acharapakkam

Let the Rain Fall...



Let the rain fall, let it never cease,
Let it fall upon my face and hair.
May it wash the lingering stains within my heart,
Cleansing them again and again with gentle care.

Let the rain fall in a pouring stream,
Let every memory fade away.
Let the light within my soul grow dim if it must—
Only let the rain fall upon my pain today.

Let the rain fall beyond compare,
So that no trace of you remains in mind.
When you left, you never heard my cries—
Let the rain fall, leaving you behind.

As the rain falls and my tears overflow,
May remorse ignite within your heart.
And even when you laugh and live in happiness,
Let the rain fall, never to depart.

Let it fall upon the mirror of my soul...

Sarvinoz Tuliyeva
Uzbek Poet and Teacher

The rhythm of my soul ....

The rhythm of my soul
Is not in music notes,
But in the breathing of my heart
When I chase my biggest hopes.

No sheet of music, no song to play,
Just the pluse that guides my way.
To lift, to love, to grow each day.

The rhythm of my soul is kindness in my heart,
A quite light that helps me to start.

'Be kind, Share joy
Dream big, enjoy.'

NAME: JEGADEESWARI V
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To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you someone else is the greatest accomplishment

Life is a unique and wonderful journey.

Live your life according to your own thoughts and follow your own path.
Do not pretend to be someone you are not.

Be yourself and live your own life.

You are the hero of your own life story.

Do not copy the luxurious lifestyle of others.

Instead, value your own precious life because it is meant for you.

What is truly meant for you will come to you at the right time.

Therefore, create your own history by walking your own path.

It will lead you to success.

__G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher
Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

Fear The Fear!!

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself...
Fear is a mystery...
It kills your confident territory...
It gives you rapid failures...
It affects your career...
It makes you try attempts ever,
It makes you shed tears...

Fear is an atom bomb,
It triggers you to shiver...
Never be afraid of fear...
It wouldn't look fair...
Paying a lot of fare...
Chase it everywhere...
Do not at all care...

Practice your mind not to be timid...
Be bold forever...
Cultivating do or die spirit in you...
Would change you very clear...
You may become so clever...
Stay with bold men...
Praise adventures often...

Spend time with sacred heart...
They would chase you too far...
Read books of brave men...
Imagine yourself similar...
Put your footsteps on fear...
Crash it and smash it without fear...
Mind your duty without any affair...

Let fear fear itself,
Getting deeply buried through war fares!!!!¡!

— Vijayalakshmi V.R., Graduate Teacher, CW Writers Group, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu, India.

Politics Kalonzo argues that Junet's comments, claiming that some lawmakers financially benefited from the October 2024 impeachment, cast doubt on the integrity

Kalonzo says Junet's bribery remarks prove Gachagua was unlawfully impeached

Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka

BY James Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka has revived questions over the legality of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment, pointing to recent remarks by National Assembly Minority Leader Junet Mohamed as grounds for fresh scrutiny of the process.

Kalonzo argues that Junet's comments, claiming that some lawmakers financially benefited from the October 2024 impeachment, cast doubt on the integrity of the parliamentary proceedings that led to Gachagua's removal. Speaking during a Sunday service at ACK All Saints Cathedral in Embu Town, Kalonzo said the remarks should not be treated lightly, particularly because Parliament exercises a constitutional mandate when considering the removal of a Deputy President. "That admission alone shows clearly that Rigathi was improperly impeached," Kalonzo said.

Junet recently stirred controversy while addressing a public gathering in Bungoma County, where he made reference to MPs allegedly benefiting from Gachagua's impeachment. "Impeachment doesn't happen every day. If you got something from Gachagua's impeachment, at least build a good home," Junet said. His remarks have handed Gachagua and other opposition figures fresh ammunition to challenge the political circumstances surrounding his removal.

Kalonzo said any legislator who publicly acknowledges receiving an inducement in the course of performing a constitutional duty should face questions over their suitability to continue holding public office. "By your own admission, Mr. Junet, you have acknowledged that what you did was wrong. Those who have confessed publicly that they were bribed should never again be allowed to hold public office," he said, invoking Chapter Six of the Constitution, which establishes standards of leadership and integrity for State officers.

The Wiper leader further argued that evidence of improper influence on lawmakers would raise broader questions about whether the impeachment process satisfied constitutional standards. Gachagua was removed from office in October 2024 after the National Assembly overwhelmingly backed an impeachment motion sponsored by Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse. The matter subsequently moved to the Senate, which upheld several of the charges against him, bringing his tenure as Kenya's second Deputy President under the 2010 Constitution to an end.

Gachagua has maintained that his removal was politically engineered and unconstitutional. His legal challenge suffered a setback in June 2026 when a three-judge High Court bench upheld the impeachment. The court, however, found that the Senate violated his right to a fair hearing when it declined to adjourn proceedings after he was hospitalised. The court awarded him Ksh.50 million in constitutional damages but stopped short of reversing the impeachment. Gachagua has appealed the decision.

Now the Democracy for the Citizens Party leader and a formidable opposition figure, Gachagua has demanded action from the Judiciary to deliver justice on the bribery allegations. "We are asking our courts and our judges to take judicial notice of what these people are saying. If they are confessing in public they were bribed then the judges must dispense justice. It is what we have always known," he said during consultations with a party delegation from Nyeri on Wednesday.

The controversy has reignited debate over the credibility of Kenya's parliamentary processes and the broader question of integrity in public office. Analysts note that Junet's remarks, whether intended as satire or confession, have opened a political wound that may not heal quickly. For Kalonzo, the issue is not only about Gachagua's impeachment but about the moral authority of Parliament itself. As the country edges closer to the 2027 General Election, the allegations of bribery and inducement risk deepening public mistrust in institutions meant to safeguard constitutional order.

Debt Ignoring the arithmetic of an unsustainable debt burden is not a strategy — it is a slow march toward the crisis the government insists it wants to avoid

Kenya's debt trap: The case for restructuring before the wall hits

BY E. Njega
@themtkenyatimes

The word "restructuring" has a remarkable ability to end conversations before they begin. The moment it enters the debate around Kenya's public finances, it conjures images of economic humiliation, currency collapse, and the kind of political fallout that governments spend entire careers trying to avoid. That reaction is understandable. It is also, increasingly, a luxury Kenya can no longer afford.

The fear, on closer inspection, does not survive contact with the evidence. African countries that have gone through debt restructuring or outright default have, in most cases, recovered with considerably more speed and stability than their critics predicted. This is not a theoretical argument. It is the recent history of the continent.

President William Ruto touched on the point — if inadvertently — during his Special National Address last Thursday, broadcast live and shared widely on the government's official social media channels. Speaking on Kenya's development trajectory, Ruto noted that Ghana's GDP per capita stands at approximately US$3,200, roughly 30 per cent higher than Kenya's, while Zimbabwe — after enduring decades of profound economic hardship — has recovered to a GDP per capita of about US$3,000, now slightly exceeding Kenya's. The comparisons were intended as a call to action. Analysts, however, drew a different lesson from the same data.

It is worth pausing on those figures. Both Ghana and Zimbabwe have lived through severe debt crises — Ghana completed a restructuring of its domestic and external debt in 2023 and 2024 following a default the year before; Zimbabwe's economic collapse in the late 2000s remains one of the most dramatic in modern African history. That either country now records GDP per capita comparable to or above Kenya's is precisely the point that advocates of restructuring have been making. Defaulting, it turns out, is not necessarily the end of the story.

The claims did not go unchallenged. An independent fact-check published yesterday by The Weekly Vision noted that World Bank data places Zimbabwe's GDP per capita at approximately US$1,420 in nominal terms in 2024, substantially below Kenya's, suggesting Ruto's comparison may have relied on purchasing power parity figures rather than nominal US dollar values — a distinction the President did not make explicit in the address. The presidency had not responded to those queries by the time of publication.

The broader point, however, stands — and Kenya's own numbers, viewed without the benefit of selective comparison, are telling a worrying story.

Domestic debt servicing crossed the KSh 1 trillion mark for the first time in FY 2024/25, with the government spending KSh 1.05 trillion on repayments — a 25.9 per cent increase from KSh 830.2 billion the previous year. Interest payments alone accounted for KSh 678.3 billion of that figure. In the FY 2026/27 budget, domestic interest payments of KSh 986.7 billion exceed the entire education allocation of KSh 668.3 billion. Kenya is, in other words, spending more on interest payments to domestic creditors than it spends on educating its children — a fact that has circulated widely on X and generated sustained commentary from economists, MPs, and civil society organisations, yet has produced no visible shift in fiscal policy.

Kenya's total public debt has crossed KSh 13 trillion for the first time. The government spent KSh 1.72 trillion servicing debt in FY 2024/25, equivalent to roughly 69 per cent of ordinary revenue collected — more than double the IMF's recommended 30 per cent threshold. The IMF projects the debt-to-GDP ratio rising to 71.6 per cent in 2026 and 72.4 per cent in 2027, while the statutory ceiling under the Public Finance Management Amendment Act sits at 55 per cent — a target that is not within reach on any current trajectory.

Since President Ruto was sworn in, total debt has grown by KSh 4.14 trillion — 47.6 per cent — with domestic debt expanding 61.8 per cent and the debt-to-GDP ratio rising 7.5 percentage points, all while GDP itself grew at roughly half the pace of debt accumulation. That gap — between what the economy produces and what the government owes — is the arithmetic of a crisis in slow motion, and it has been documented in detail not only by financial institutions but by Kenyan economists and commentators posting thread after thread on X to audiences that dwarf most newspaper circulations.

Consider what the interest bill alone could otherwise do. Domestic interest payments approaching KSh 1 trillion annually represent roughly 5.6 per cent of GDP. Redirected even partially toward infrastructure, health, or education, the development impact would be transformational. A credible combination of debt restructuring and expenditure rationalisation could, in reasonable estimates, reduce the interest burden by at least half — creating the fiscal space that Kenya's development agenda has needed for years.

Zambia, which defaulted during the Covid pandemic and spent years in difficult restructuring negotiations, is now projected to grow at 6.8 per cent in 2026. The Zambian kwacha was briefly the best-performing currency in the world earlier this year — a data point that circulated extensively on financial Twitter and was noted with some irony by Kenyan economists watching their own currency struggle. Ethiopia, which also defaulted, is stabilising. These are not failure stories. They are, in their complicated way, recovery stories — and Kenya's policymakers would do well to read them carefully rather than treat restructuring as a word that cannot be spoken in polite company.

Living in denial does not make the trajectory more manageable. It makes it more expensive. Every year that Kenya continues borrowing at current rates to service existing debt, rather than restructuring and breaking the cycle, is a year in which the eventual reckoning becomes more severe and the options narrower. The countries that have emerged from debt crises with the least long-term damage are those that acted early, negotiated from a position of residual strength, and used the breathing room to reform the underlying fiscal structure.

Kenya still has that option. The question is whether the political will exists to take it before the wall arrives — or whether the government will wait until the wall announces itself, by which point the choice will no longer be Kenya's to make.


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Systems This provides a powerful analogy for examining Kenya's political, social and economic organisation

What Kenya can learn from the air force: Why our plans fail to deliver and how to build a system that works

BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themtkenyatimes

There is something extraordinary about watching a modern fighter aircraft take off, execute a complex mission and return safely to base. Behind those few minutes in the sky are years of planning, training, intelligence gathering, engineering, logistics, teamwork and continuous evaluation. Nothing is left entirely to chance. The pilot is trained, the aircraft is inspected, fuel is available, communication systems are tested, the mission is clearly defined and risks are assessed. Every person involved understands their role and, most importantly, the entire system is designed around a specific outcome.

This provides a powerful analogy for examining Kenya's political, social and economic organisation. The country is not short of educated people, strategic plans, policies or development programmes. Kenya has highly qualified professionals, innovative entrepreneurs, world-class athletes, capable engineers, doctors, pilots and scientists. Yet, despite this enormous human potential, many citizens continue to experience unemployment, poverty, corruption, inadequate healthcare, poor public services and persistent economic uncertainty. The question, therefore, is not whether Kenya has the capacity to succeed. The more difficult question is why our systems so often fail to convert capacity and resources into sustainable results.

One important difference lies in how complex missions are organised. A modern air force does not begin with an aircraft and then ask what to do with it. It begins with a clearly defined mission. The objective is established, intelligence is gathered, resources are identified, responsibilities are assigned, risks are assessed and implementation is carefully coordinated. After the mission, performance is evaluated and lessons are incorporated into future operations.

Kenya's development programmes often follow a different path. We frequently begin with announcements, political promises or funding opportunities before establishing a complete implementation architecture. A programme may have an impressive launch, a strategic document and a substantial budget, yet lack clear coordination between national government, county governments, implementing agencies and communities. As a result, many programmes generate activities but fail to deliver the intended transformation.

The country therefore needs to move from activity-based governance to outcome-based governance. Holding meetings, conducting workshops, purchasing vehicles and registering beneficiaries are activities. They are not development outcomes. The real measure of success should be whether farmers earn more, children learn better, hospitals provide quality care, young people secure meaningful livelihoods and communities become more resilient.

The first solution is to establish a national strategic execution framework that connects long-term national aspirations with actual implementation. Vision 2030, national development plans, county integrated development plans, annual budgets and community projects should operate as parts of one coordinated system. Every major national priority should have a clear mission, measurable targets, responsible institutions, timelines, budgets and indicators of success.

The second solution is to establish professional programme delivery units for major national priorities. These units should operate as mission-control centres, monitoring implementation, identifying obstacles and ensuring that different government agencies work together. Their role should not be political. They should be staffed by competent professionals whose performance is judged by measurable results.

Third, Kenya must strengthen accountability and evaluation. Every major public programme should undergo independent assessment at the beginning, during implementation and at completion. The country should ask simple but difficult questions: What was promised? What was delivered? How much was spent? What changed in people's lives? What failed and why? Without honest answers, the country will continue spending public resources while repeating the same mistakes.

The military model also teaches the importance of training and professionalism. No one is allowed to operate a sophisticated aircraft without extensive preparation and continuous assessment. Similarly, public institutions require competent personnel who understand policy, budgeting, procurement, project management, data analysis and ethical leadership. Public appointments should increasingly emphasise competence, integrity and performance rather than political loyalty alone.

Another lesson is the importance of logistics and system integration. A fighter aircraft may be technologically advanced, but it cannot operate without fuel, maintenance, spare parts, skilled technicians and reliable communication. Development programmes work the same way. Building a hospital without adequate medical personnel, constructing a school without enough teachers or distributing agricultural inputs without reliable markets and extension services creates incomplete systems. Kenya must therefore plan development as an integrated chain rather than a collection of isolated projects.

The country should also embrace anticipatory governance. Modern defence organisations do not wait for threats to become disasters. They monitor risks and prepare responses in advance. Kenya should apply the same principle to drought, food insecurity, unemployment, climate change, public health and economic shocks. Reliable data and early-warning systems can help government act before crises become emergencies.

Finally, Kenya needs a culture of continuous learning. When a complex military operation fails, institutions investigate the causes and improve future procedures. Kenya should adopt similar after-action reviews for major public programmes. Failure should not automatically become a political blame game, but neither should it be ignored. Honest evaluation should become a tool for institutional learning.

The comparison between Kenya and military organisation should not be interpreted as a call to militarise civilian government. Democracy, constitutionalism, human rights and political accountability must remain central. The lesson is about adopting the organisational principles that make complex systems effective: clear missions, professional competence, disciplined execution, coordination, accountability, risk management and continuous improvement.

Kenya's greatest shortage is therefore not ideas. We have enough ideas and enough strategic documents. What we lack is the institutional machinery that consistently converts ideas into outcomes.

The country must now build a system where planning leads to budgeting, budgeting leads to implementation, implementation leads to measurable results, and results lead to learning and improvement. Political leaders should compete not merely through promises but through their ability to deliver measurable public value.

The future of Kenya cannot be secured by another generation of beautifully written plans that remain on shelves. It requires a national culture of execution. The lessons from aviation are clear: extraordinary performance is never accidental. It is designed, trained, coordinated, tested, monitored and continuously improved.

Kenya has the people, the talent and the resources to succeed. What it needs now is the discipline to organise those resources around clearly defined national missions and the courage to hold every institution accountable for delivering them. Kenya does not lack ambition or plans; it needs disciplined implementation and measurable results.

"A successful mission is never the achievement of the pilot alone; it is the result of disciplined preparation, precise coordination, trusted systems and every person performing their duty with excellence. Nations, like air forces, rise or fall by the quality of the systems they build and the discipline with which they execute their missions" – inspired by the principles of military aviation

Jobs The platform is completely free for job seekers, removing traditional entry barriers, a design choice that Muli and his partners say is deliberate

Masaku Jobs: New platform to connect Machakos youth with verified work

Entrepreneur Eric Muli and recruitment firm Joby launch a free, technology-driven hiring ecosystem targeting the county's persistent youth unemployment

Entrepreneur Eric Muli has partnered with recruitment platform Joby to expand access to sustainable employment opportunities

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

A new digital recruitment platform went live in Machakos Saturday, promising to reshape how young job seekers in the county connect with employers and, in doing so, take a concrete bite out of one of the region's most stubborn economic problems.

Kenyan entrepreneur Eric Muli has partnered with recruitment platform Joby to expand access to sustainable employment opportunities for young people in Machakos through a technology-driven platform that connects verified job seekers with employers. The initiative, branded Masaku Jobs, is free for job seekers and targets the creative, hospitality, media and technology sectors — areas where Machakos has an identifiable pool of young talent struggling to reach employers through conventional channels.

The numbers behind the launch are sobering. The Machakos County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023–2027 identifies limited economic activity as a major contributor to poverty, affecting 74.4 per cent of working-age adults and 36.7 per cent of young people in the county. Those figures provide the backdrop against which Muli and Joby are pitching their solution: a verified, transparent digital pipeline that cuts out the bottlenecks and opacity that have long frustrated both job seekers and employers.

Speaking at the launch, Muli framed the intervention as a practical response to a structural failure. "Technology can transform how people access opportunity. Through our partnership with Joby, we are simplifying recruitment, connecting employers with skilled talent and ensuring young people build sustainable careers. When we invest in solutions that bridge the gap between talent and opportunity, we strengthen our communities and unlock economic growth," he said.

The platform is completely free for job seekers, removing traditional entry barriers, a design choice that Muli and his partners say is deliberate — financial cost has historically been one of the quiet but persistent obstacles that keeps qualified candidates from accessing legitimate vacancies.

Joby founder Joram Theuri said the partnership was built on a shared conviction that recruitment in Kenya needed to become more trustworthy. "Our vision is to build the most trusted recruitment ecosystem where talent and opportunity meet without barriers," Theuri said, adding that the platform's emphasis on verification was intended to give employers genuine confidence in the candidates they hire while giving young people access to vacancies they could rely on.

The collaboration seeks to address persistent barriers to youth employment by streamlining the recruitment process, improving access to verified job opportunities and strengthening linkages between employers and skilled young people. As part of the arrangement, the platform will publish verified employment opportunities every month and continue to expand its employer network.

The success of the Masaku Jobs platform could serve as a blueprint for all 47 Kenyan counties, many of which face identical youth unemployment crises. For now, however, the immediate measure of success will be simpler: whether a young person in Machakos, scrolling through the platform on a phone, finds a real job with a real employer — and takes it.

Politics **“If you think she deserves leadership, walk with her and support her. Vote for leaders you can relate to,” Senator Wambua said**

Wiper party court Aisha Jumwa in Coast charm offensive

BY MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Kitui Senator Enock Wambua (R) and Wundanyi Member of Parliament Danson Mwashako at Aisha Jumwa's home in Malindi yesterday

The Wiper Party of Kenya has dispatched a high-level delegation to meet former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa in Malindi to secure her backing for party leader Kalonzo Musyoka's presidential bid in the 2027 General Election.

The high-stakes political courtship unfolded in the coastal hub of Malindi, marking a significant recalibration of political strategy as parties across the national spectrum begin assembling their machinery for the upcoming general election. The Wiper delegation, led by prominent party figures including Kitui Senator Enock Wambua and Wundanyi Member of Parliament Danston Mwashako, sought out the former Cabinet Secretary in a direct attempt to anchor a broader opposition footprint across the Coast region. The strategic outreach comes on the heels of Ms. Jumwa's decisive departure from the ruling United Democratic Alliance (UDA) on July 30, a seismic shift that sent ripples through Kilifi County and created a prime opportunity for opposition forces eager to capitalise on emerging fractures within the governing coalition.

Addressing a gathering during a Sunday church service at Ebenezer Church in the Kisumu Ndogo area of Malindi town, the Wiper leaders framed their visit as a necessary step toward building an inclusive, formidable alliance capable of challenging the status quo. They asserted that Ms. Jumwa possesses the requisite political weight, grassroots mobilising capacity, and institutional experience needed to bolster the United Opposition's presence along the Coast. Senator Wambua, speaking directly to the congregation, argued that Ms. Jumwa's intimate knowledge of the inner workings and strategic posture of the current administration makes her an invaluable asset to any political movement seeking to offer an alternative governance model.

“If you think she deserves leadership, walk with her and support her. Vote for leaders you can relate to,” Senator Wambua said, urging the public to embrace the shifting political dynamics in the region. “I congratulate Aisha for the bold step she took. You have opened the transfer window, wait and see how many more will follow suit.” He reaffirmed that the Wiper Party remains unwavering in its resolve to see Mr. Musyoka secure the opposition coalition's ticket, projecting the former Vice President as the most experienced and unifying figure to lead a consolidated campaign against President William Ruto.

Speaking at the same event, Ms. Jumwa acknowledged the flurry of political activity that has surrounded her since her public split from the ruling administration. She revealed that her residence has become a hub of intense diplomatic activity, with several delegations from different political formations seeking her alignment. She noted that while the Wiper Party's outreach was both timely and significant, her next steps would be dictated by broad consultation with her supporters and key stakeholders across the region.

“I will soon make my pronouncement on my next political move after holding comprehensive consultations with various political parties,” Ms. Jumwa stated, maintaining a deliberate and calculated posture regarding her ultimate destination. She made it clear, however, that her political ambitions remain firmly intact, particularly her resolve to contest the Kilifi gubernatorial seat in 2027. Taking direct aim at the current county leadership, she argued that local governance had stalled and that a fundamental overhaul was required to address the pressing economic and social needs of the populace. She declared that her bid for the governorship is rooted in a desire to transform regional administration after what she characterized as a persistent failure by the incumbent regime to deliver tangible public services.

The overtures from the Wiper leadership follow a bitter and highly public fallout between Ms. Jumwa and the ruling party. During a press address announcing her formal resignation late last month, the former Cabinet Secretary detailed a pattern of frustration, marginalisation, and systemic humiliation within the UDA structure, specifically regarding her political ambitions in Kilifi County. She revealed that her efforts to seek internal resolution and air her grievances directly with President Ruto were repeatedly rejected or ignored. In a striking revelation, she pointed to a specific incident where she was reportedly ejected from a State House meeting involving Coast region leaders as a definitive turning point that rendered her continued stay in the party untenable.

For the Wiper Democratic Movement, bringing a politician of Ms. Jumwa's caliber into their fold represents a calculated effort to expand its electoral reach beyond its traditional strongholds in the Eastern region. Mr. Mwashako, who is aiming for the Taita Taveta gubernatorial seat and has been actively touring the country under the Linda Mwananchi civic initiative, emphasized that national political change requires genuine cross-regional collaboration. He urged citizens to look beyond local divisions and back Mr. Musyoka's presidential ambitions, maintaining that building a cohesive team with formidable coastal leaders like Ms. Jumwa is the surest path to mounting a competitive national challenge in 2027.

The gathering also highlighted growing calls within the grassroots leadership for speed and clarity in opposition strategy. Malindi Town Ward Representative Rashid Odhiambo, who attended the service, urged national opposition leaders to expedite internal negotiations regarding their coalition setup. He stressed that prolonged uncertainty over who will bear the opposition flag could lead to voter fatigue and division, whereas an early consensus on a single candidate would allow the coalition to present a clear, organized, and effective alternative to the electorate well ahead of the polls.

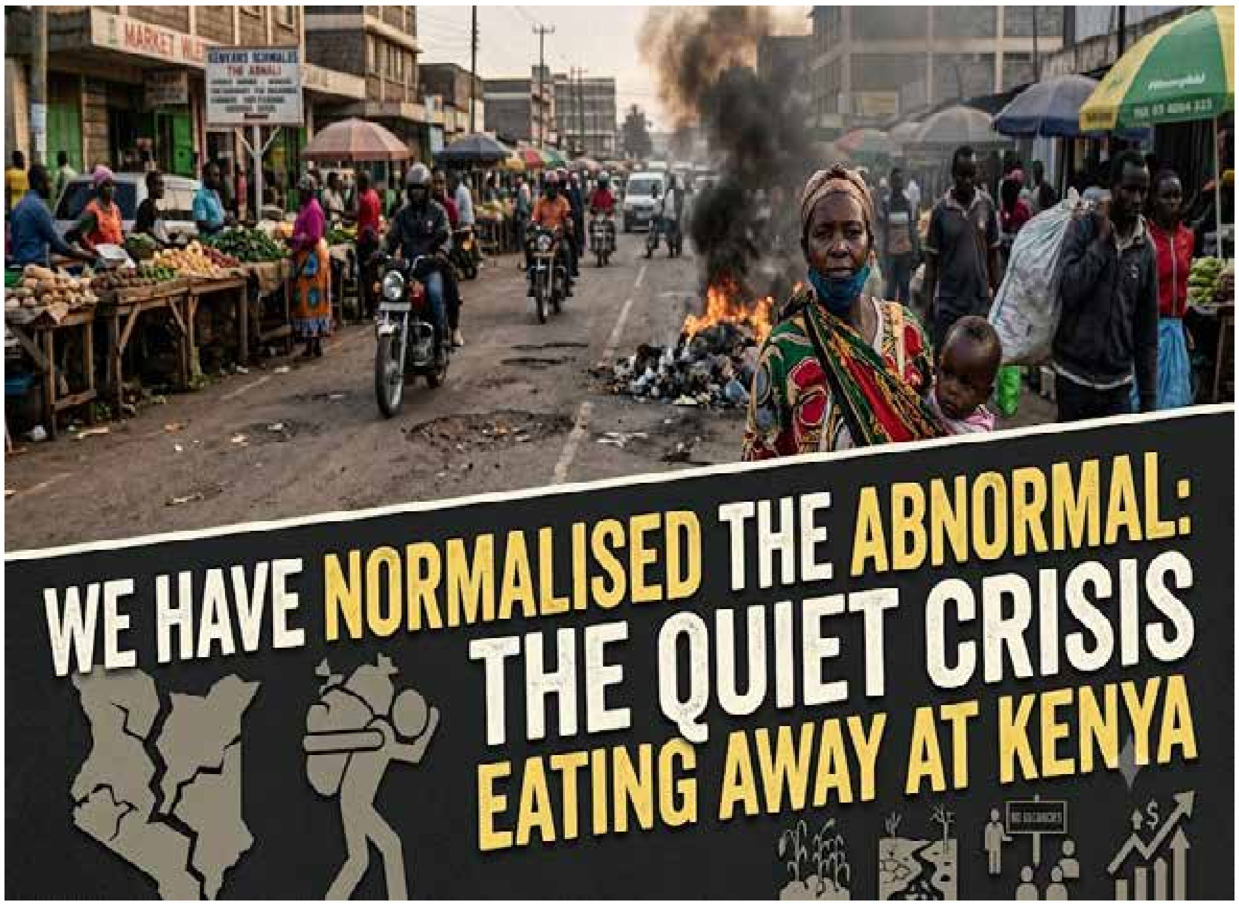
As political consultative meetings continue across the coastal counties, the outcome of Ms. Jumwa's deliberations is being monitored closely by political strategists on all sides. Her final decision on whether to join Wiper or form an independent alliance will undoubtedly carry significant weight in shaping electoral dynamics, regional alliances, and party balances across the Kenyan coast leading up to the 2027 polls.

Crisis This culture extends well beyond politics. It lives in our schools, our offices, our businesses, and our homes. We criticise corruption at the dinner table

We have normalised the abnormal: The quiet crisis eating away at Kenya

The greatest threat facing this nation is not the problems we face — it is the moment we accept them as permanent

BY Levis Wangamati
@themtkenyatimes



Some crises arrive with sirens, protests, and breaking news alerts. Others come quietly — settling into daily life until we no longer notice them, becoming routine, then culture, and finally our definition of normal. The slow ones are always the most dangerous, precisely because they do not trigger alarm. They do not demand a response. They simply wait, patient and persistent, until the people they afflict have forgotten that things were ever different.

That is the crisis confronting Kenya today.

Somewhere along the way, we stopped being shocked. We stopped demanding better. We adjusted our expectations downward and convinced ourselves that survival was the same thing as progress. The abnormal became ordinary. The unacceptable became acceptable. Outrage turned seasonal, and accountability became optional — something we reached for briefly during elections and set aside just as quickly once the votes were counted.

We now celebrate what should be unremarkable because we have forgotten what excellence looks like. We applaud basic service delivery as though it were an extraordinary achievement. We praise a public official for simply doing the job they were hired and paid to do. We treat honesty as though it were a rare gift rather than a basic expectation, and integrity as though it deserves a standing ovation rather than being the minimum standard we ought to demand. In doing so, we have quietly lowered the bar — for ourselves, and for those entrusted to lead us.

The consequences of that lowered bar accumulate in ways that rarely make headlines. They show up in the patient who waits three days on a hospital corridor because the ward has no beds and the staff have no supplies. They show up in the student who passes her examinations with distinction and still cannot find a job without a connection to someone who knows someone. They show up in the small business owner who pays his taxes faithfully and still has to budget for the unofficial fee that makes his licence application move. These are not dramatic moments. They do not trend. But they are the texture of daily life for millions of Kenyans, and we have grown so accustomed to them that we have stopped seeing them as failures of the state. We see them instead as facts of life.

This culture extends well beyond politics. It lives in our schools, our offices, our businesses, and our homes. We criticise corruption at the dinner table, yet sometimes offer a bribe the following morning to avoid an inconvenience at the roadside. We condemn dishonesty loudly, yet excuse it quietly when it works in our favour or when the person practicing it is someone we like. We demand integrity from leaders while hesitating to practise it in our own daily dealings. The gap between what we say we believe and what we actually do has become one of Kenya's most consequential and least discussed problems.

Before we blame the country, we must first examine ourselves. Nations do not become dysfunctional on their own — they reflect the accumulated choices of their people. Every time we defend incompetence because it favours us, stay silent when truth demands that we speak, look away when we witness wrongdoing in our own workplaces, or excuse dishonesty because it is committed by "our own," we become active participants in the very culture we claim to oppose. Complicity dressed in silence is still complicity.

Social media has deepened this habit considerably. Every scandal dominates our screens for a few intense days before vanishing beneath the next trending topic, the next viral video, the next outrage that demands our immediate attention and receives our immediate forgetting. We move from one national crisis to another without pausing long enough to insist on lasting solutions, without following up, without holding anyone to account for the promises made during the previous news cycle. We have become a society that remembers headlines but forgets lessons — and that collective forgetfulness is something that those who benefit from impunity understand and rely upon.

The greatest victims of this normalisation are the young. They are told to dream big, to work hard, to trust the system. Yet they grow up watching merit compete with connections, integrity struggle against shortcuts, and patience lose repeatedly to instant gratification. They see the evidence every day — in who gets the job, who gets the contract, who faces consequences and who does not. If this is the normal they inherit, if this is the Kenya we hand them without apology or effort to change it, then we have failed the very generation that should build something better.

The danger is not merely that young Kenyans are frustrated. The deeper danger is that they are adapting. That the most talented among them are concluding that the only rational response to a broken system is to learn how to navigate it rather than fix it. A nation loses something essential the moment its youth stop believing that things can be different.

Yet there is another path available to us, and it begins not with a policy or a politician but with a decision.

Kenya has never lacked talent. It has never lacked resilience or creativity or the capacity for hard work under difficult circumstances — these qualities are evident every single day in markets, in classrooms, in clinics, and on construction sites across the country. What we lack is the collective refusal to accept mediocrity as our ceiling. Nations rise when citizens raise their expectations and refuse to lower them. They prosper when honesty becomes ordinary rather than exceptional, when competence becomes non-negotiable rather than a pleasant surprise, and when accountability becomes a daily expectation rather than an election-season slogan that evaporates the moment the results are declared.

The future of this country will not be decided solely by those who occupy public office. It will also be decided — perhaps more fundamentally — by the standards that ordinary citizens choose to uphold every single day. Every classroom, every workplace, every business transaction, every ballot cast, and every conversation held at a kitchen table is a moment in which Kenya's national character is either strengthened or weakened. The aggregate of those private choices is what a nation actually is, beneath the speeches and the ceremonies.

The quiet crisis eating away at Kenya is not simply corruption, unemployment, or political rivalry, damaging as each of those things is. It is our growing willingness to believe that these conditions are permanent — that this is simply how Kenya works, how it has always worked, and how it will always work. That fatalism is more corrosive than any single scandal, because it removes the one thing that every genuine reform requires: the belief that change is possible.

The day Kenyans stop accepting the unacceptable is the day genuine change becomes possible. A nation does not rise by learning to live with the abnormal. It rises the moment it refuses — firmly, collectively, and without apology — to call the abnormal normal.

Sports >> *Teenage sensation Amaan Ganatra made a dream start to his rallying career on Saturday, winning Round 1 of the 2026 Kenya National Rally Championship (KNRC) at just 17 years old.

Youngster Ganatra Wins On KNRC Debut In Stoni Athi Thriller

Teenage sensation Amaan Ganatra made a dream start to his rallying career on Saturday, winning Round 1 of the 2026 Kenya National Rally Championship (KNRC) at just 17 years old.

The Ganatra Racing driver, with Mudasar Chaudry reading the notes, clocked 01:52:03.1 to take his first ever KNRC victory and maximum points after also winning the Power Stage.

"It's a big relief, I mean, the whole team put in a lot of work and to bring back a good result on my first KNRC event at such a younger age is really a big achievement," Amaan said. "After the first loop, the plan was to keep it clean, as we were already leading at that point. Between Neel and myself, it was pretty close, one stage after 27kms, we were separated by 2 seconds, so it was a really big push."

Lota recovers for second

Mombasa's Javed Lota and navigator Komaine Yakub finished second overall in a Subaru N10 SPV for Lota Motorsports with a time of 01:57:07.7, but their charge was dented by a 5-minute penalty for missing a junction.

"We almost hit first position but got a penalty for missing a junction, no worries, we managed to recover lots of time in the rest of the stages," Lota said. "It was a new challenge, new terrain, a whole new event. I am really thankful to the Motorsport Kenya Federation for reviving the KNRC. It was our debut KNRC, and we locked in second. SS1 is a terrain we have been doing in the Shell Autox series on this side of the ranch, but on the other side, it was a totally a different section with black cotton soil. There were some rough stages in there, so I had to change my driving style in every 5 kilometres."

Gohil's Electric Gremlins

Another youngster Neel Gohil had been Amaan's closest challenger in a Mitsubishi Evo 10 but retired on the second pass of the Simba speed test with an electrical problem.

"It was a really good event. The first loop was good. We had a few issues with the electrics, but we thought it would be OK. We came back to service, and we were 18 seconds down on Amaan. We won one stage but then got lost on the notes on the second stage, which cost us like 15 seconds," Gohil explained. "In the second loop, we hit the fastest time on the spectator stage. In the second stage we had an electrical issue. The car switched off into the first corner. We switched it back on, got it running, but it ran for 200 meters and went into limp mode, so we just nursed it to service. Thanks to Ian Duncan who towed us back to service."

Rajveer completes podium

Rajveer Singh Thethy and James Mwangi took third in a Subaru N12 for Rajveer Racing in 01:58:55.6, ahead of Issa Amwari/Dennis Mwenda in 4th and Harpreet Singh Bhogal/Ismail Taher in 5th.

The Anwar family were also part of the action. Patriarch Azar Anwar drove a BMW Classic, while his children Samnia and Shabaz Anwar teamed up in a Daewoo Cielo.

Shabaz, who navigated his elder sister, was all smiles at the finish: "Today I navigated my sister in a Daewoo Cielo and we had lots of fun, the loops were amazing, a good experience for me in the navigator's seat."

Next round

According to Clerk of the Course Pipi Renu, Round 2 of the KNRC will return to the same fast and demanding terrain of Stoni Athi on the weekend of September 19-20, 2026.

With a 17-year-old winner and a family affair on the entry list, the revived KNRC could not have asked for a better start.

Full Results – KNRC Round 1

1. Amaan Ganatra / Mudasar Chaudry– Mitsubishi Evo 9 – Ganatra Racing – 01:52:03.1
2. Javed Lota / Komaine Yakub – Subaru N10 – Lota Motorsports – 01:57:07.7 [+05:04.6]
3. Rajveer Singh Thethy / James Mwangi – Subaru N12 – Rajveer Racing – 01:58:55.6 [+06:52.5]
4. Issa Amwari / Dennis Mwenda– Mitsubishi Evo 10 – Issa Amwari Racing Team – 01:59:40.1 [+07:37.0]
5. Harpreet Singh Bhogal / Ismail Taher– Mitsubishi Evo 10 – TAI Racing – 02:01:19.6* [+09:16.5]
6. *Michuki Hinga / Denis Yaya– Toyota Runx – M.K.H Racing – 02:05:06.0 [+13:02.9]
7. Leonardo Varese / Kigondu Kareithi* – Toyota Yaris – SportPesa Racing – 02:09:28.7 [+17:25.6]
8. George Kyriazi / Max Green* – Ford Escort – Equitorial Classic Rallying – 02:12:09.1 [+20:06.0]
9. Azar Anwar / Azhar Bhatti* – BMW – AAM Team – 02:14:11.5 [+22:08.4]
10. Shakeel Khan / Riyaz Ismail* – Ford Escort – ALS Motorsports – 02:17:00.2 [+24:57.1]
11. Timothy Kinoti / Qui Mungai– Toyota Runx – Arkadios Motorsport – 02:32:16.1 [+40:13.0]

By: Capital Sport

Sports >> *Harambee Starlets coach vows to chase first-ever Wafcon win against Algeria after back-to-back Group A defeats

Wafcon 2026: Odemba keeps faith despite elimination

By **Martin Weche**

Harambee Starlets coach Beldine Odemba

Harambee Starlets head coach Beldine Odemba yesterday refused to concede defeat in spirit even as a 1-0 loss to Senegal at the Olympic Stadium in Morocco mathematically ended Kenya's hopes of advancing at the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations.

The result — Kenya's second in as many Group A matches — was a cruel one given the balance of play. The Starlets registered 16 shots against the West Africans, with Tereza Engesha twice striking the woodwork, yet it was Seynabou Mbengue's 35th-minute effort that settled the contest and sent Kenya out of the tournament with one group game still to play.

Odemba was not inclined to dress up the damage. But she was equally determined not to let a deflating scoreline obscure what she saw as genuine improvement from her side. The defeat, she argued, was less a story of tactical failure than of a team unable to convert dominance into goals — and unable to protect its defensive shape at the one moment that mattered.

"We locked down better, dominated on our chances, and we could have defended better — maybe more counter-pressing — because we had good chances," Odemba said after the final whistle. "The goal the opponent scored was from our mistake. If we would have counter-pressed in good time, then it would have been a different result."

The pattern will be familiar to anyone who watched Kenya's opening fixture, a chastening 4-0 defeat against hosts Morocco that set an unwelcome tone for the group stage. On that occasion, the Starlets squandered two clear chances before Morocco took control and ran away with the match, scoring three times in a frantic first-half collapse that left the team visibly rattled.

Against Senegal, the margins were tighter and the performance more composed. Kenya pushed with relentless pressure in search of an equaliser and, unlike the capitulation in Casablanca, held their shape through the final whistle even while chasing the game. For Odemba, that distinction matters.

"Mentally, the players did a little bit better — there's an improvement. You can't compare with the first match. When we went down in the first match, it was really difficult to bring the players back to fight. It's a work in progress, and I can say I'm happy with the mentality so far," she said.

The theme she returned to most, though, was finishing. Across both matches, the Starlets have created chances that teams at this level are expected to take. They have not taken them. "From the first game, we got two clear chances before the opponent was able to score. Today we got even more and better chances. So our issue, I will say, is chance conversion," Odemba acknowledged.

It is a frank admission from a coach who has earned respect for her directness. Odemba has never coached a team at this level before taking the Starlets job, and the Wafcon stage — with its intensity, its pace and the unforgiving nature of knockout football — has exposed margins that were always going to require work. What she has demonstrated, however, is a capacity to read her team's limitations clearly and speak about them without deflection.

With zero points and goal difference of minus five, Kenya's mathematical path to the quarterfinals as one of the best third-placed teams is closed. The Starlets are eliminated. What remains is Monday's final Group A fixture against Algeria in Rabat — and within it, the chance to write a small but significant line in Kenyan football history.

Kenya have never won a match at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations. Odemba intends to change that before the squad boards its flight home.

"We're in the competition, so we still keep the hope. We hope that we can at least get our first win. Of course, it's not easy. But from the two matches, you can tell that we have areas to work on. We hope that at least in the last match, we shall get something," she said.

For a team that arrived in Morocco as rank outsiders, a win against Algeria would not salvage the campaign — but it would mean everything.

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Is time changing, or are people changing?

By: Iroda Khurramova

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Every era naturally has its own demands, and people today are, in many ways, more pragmatic, more focused on personal growth, and more independent in their thinking than previous generations. The unlimited access to information has made individuals more open-minded and free to express their ideas. Yet, in this age of speed, values such as sincerity, patience, and contentment seem to be fading, while human relationships are becoming increasingly superficial.**
- **Although the age of technology has brought us extraordinary convenience, it also raises an important question: has it made us more impatient and less compassionate? When we become so absorbed in our phone screens that we fail to listen to the person sitting beside us, or when we think of recording a person in need before helping them, the era itself is not to blame.**

Nowadays, we often hear the phrase, "Times have changed, and people are not the same anymore." This expression seems to place all the blame on the vague concept of "time" or "the era" itself. However, if we think more deeply, we realize that it is not time that has changed, but humanity living within it.

From an astronomical perspective, time has remained exactly the same. A thousand years ago, a day consisted of twenty-four hours, just as it does today. The sun still rises in the east and sets in the west. What has truly changed is the amount of information, technology, and the pace of life that we fit into those same twenty-four hours. In the past, it took weeks for a letter to travel from one city to another. Today, we can communicate with someone on the other side of the world in a matter of seconds. Time has not changed; rather, we have shortened the distances within it.

Every era naturally has its own demands, and people today are, in many ways, more pragmatic, more focused on personal growth, and more independent in their thinking than previous generations. The unlimited access to information has made individuals more open-minded and free to express their ideas. Yet, in this age of speed, values such as sincerity, patience, and contentment seem to be fading, while human relationships are becoming increasingly superficial.

Although the age of technology has brought us extraordinary convenience, it also raises an important question: has it made us more impatient and less compassionate? When we become so absorbed in our phone screens that we fail to listen to the person sitting beside us, or when we think of recording a person in need before helping them, the era itself is not to blame. After all, it is human beings who invented these technologies, and it is we who choose how to use them.

In conclusion, time does not change; it is simply a mirror reflecting the picture that we create. What is truly changing is humanity—our needs, our values, and our worldview. If we wish to make the world and our era better, we should begin not by blaming the times, but by changing ourselves—our hearts and the way we treat others. For the true quality of any era is measured by the morality and character of the people who live in it.

Iroda Khurramova is a student at Samarkand State Pedagogical Institute, majoring in English Language and Literature (English).

Date of Birth: February 15, 2007

Achievements:

Recipient of the "Best Researcher" Award (2026).

Author of numerous academic and research articles.

Winner of the Mirzo Ulugbek Vorislari Competition.

Winner of the Startup Project Competition among university faculties.

Awarded the Mentor nomination in the Financopedia (Financial Literacy) project organized by the Samarkand Regional Youth Center.

Recipient of the Best Reader nomination.

Second-place winner in the Foreign Language Proficiency Olympiad.

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