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Kalonzo builds a national outlook



P. 8,9

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka



Education: Outspan Global University Holds Historic First Graduation P.11



Opinion: Two constitutional clocks: Why Kenya must resolve the tension between articles 136 and 142 P.12



News: CS Ogamba defends new university funding model, says it will guarantee support for every student P.16

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"ALL BUSINESSES
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MKU urges graduates to lead change through innovation and ethical leadership

BY MKT REPORTER

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Some of the moments as captured in pictures

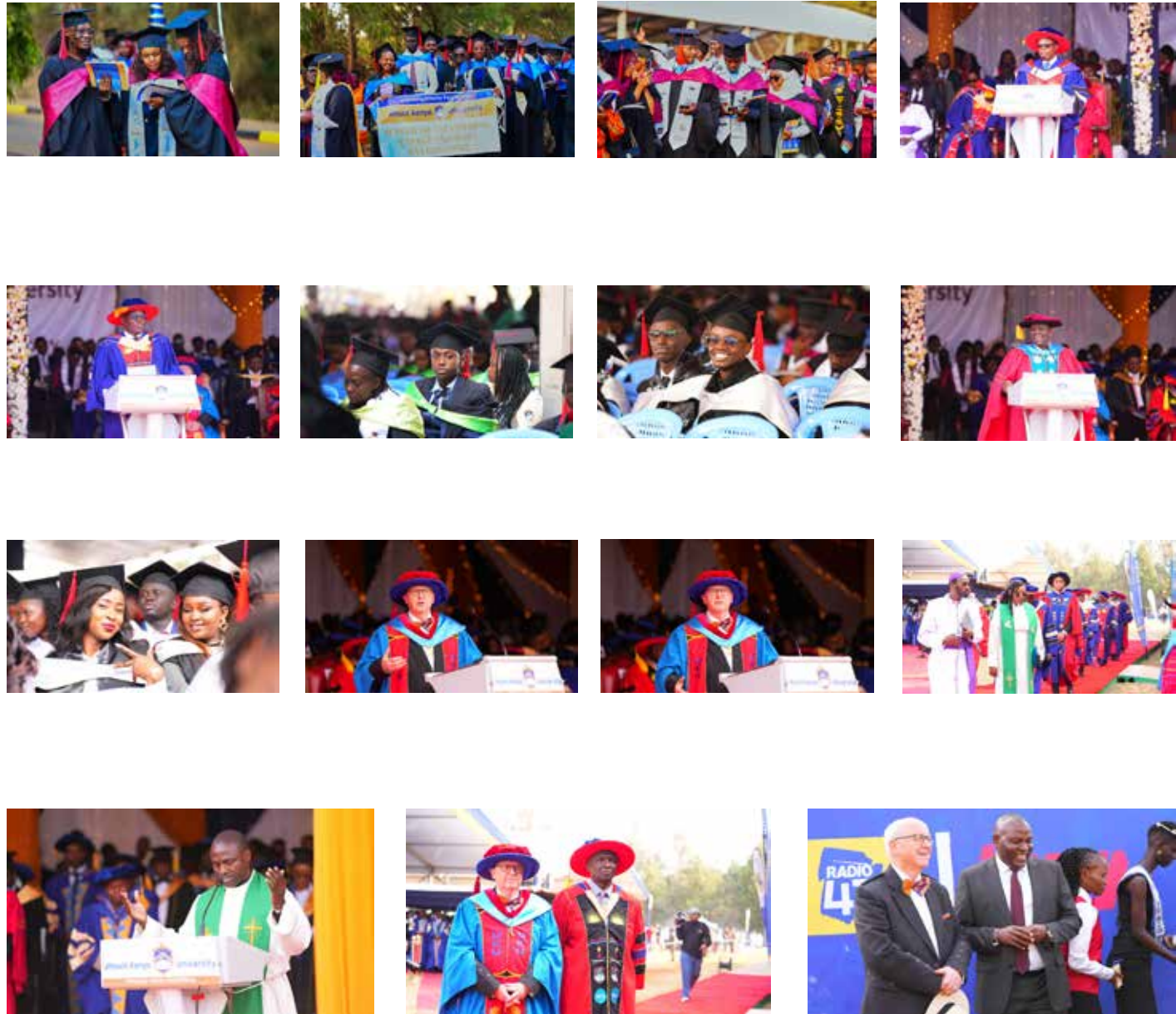
Mount Kenya University (MKU) has challenged its Class of 2026 to become champions of social transformation, ethical leadership and inclusivity during its 29th Graduation Ceremony held at the Graduation Pavilion, Happy Valley Grounds in Thika. Chancellor Prof. John Struthers urged graduates to embrace innovation, resilience and adaptability in a technology-driven world, highlighting MKU's investments in artificial intelligence, robotics, cloud computing, 5G and the Internet of Things.

He also praised the extension of the university's role as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG 9 Hub Chair until 2030 and thanked partners supporting scholarships and research.

Guest speaker and Jubilee Holdings Group CEO Dr. Julius Kipng'etich encouraged graduates to create jobs rather than wait for employment, pursue lifelong learning and explore local and international scholarship opportunities, including HELB postgraduate funding, Chevening, DAAD, Fulbright, Commonwealth, Mastercard Foundation and Erasmus programmes.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi said MKU continues to strengthen academic programmes through AI integration, digital skills training and new postgraduate courses, while securing international research grants from organisations including the Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust and DAAD. He also highlighted the university's Good Financial Grant Practice Gold Tier Certification.

Council Chairman Dr. Vincent Gaitho called on graduates to tackle poverty, inequality and environmental challenges with integrity and innovation. The ceremony also celebrated inspiring graduate Peterson Moturi, a former watchman who earned a Bachelor of Laws degree.



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. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Victims of historical land injustices in Laikipia County have called on the National Land Commission (NLC) to expedite the resolution of their land claims, citing years of delays despite submitting petitions and making repeated appeals. Speaking during a stakeholders' forum on the proposed Historical Land Injustices Regulations 2026, residents expressed frustration over the slow pace of the process and urged the commission to provide lasting solutions. They said unresolved land disputes have continued to affect livelihoods and community stability, and appealed for the regulations to strengthen mechanisms for addressing historical injustices fairly, transparently and within a reasonable timeframe.



Residents of Homa Bay County have raised concern over rising insecurity and the emergence of goonism, linking it to increased political activity, unemployment, drug abuse and criminal gangs. Religious leaders, bodaboda operators, traders and youth representatives said incidents of violence, phone snatching, armed robberies and assaults are threatening public safety and economic growth. They called for stronger policing, enhanced community cooperation and peaceful political campaigns ahead of future elections. Interfaith leaders urged politicians and residents to reject violence and promote unity, while youth leaders appealed for

more employment and empowerment programmes to address the root causes of crime. County Commissioner Ronald Mwiwawi said security agencies have intensified operations against criminal gangs and warned that those involved in violence will face the full force of the law.



The Uasin Gishu County Government has intensified its preparedness for a potential Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak by holding a high-level micro-planning meeting to develop a county-specific response strategy. The one-day session brought together senior health officials and development partners to strengthen coordination and ensure the county is ready to prevent, detect and manage any possible outbreak. Launching the meeting, Chief Officer for Preventive and Promotive Health Services Dr. Billy Lubanga emphasized the need for a practical, measurable preparedness plan covering prevention, early detection and response. He urged participants to prioritise community engagement, describing it as critical to preventing Ebola infections and ensuring an effective response should an outbreak occur.

Broadcasting and Telecommunications Principal Secretary Stephen Isaboke has urged chiefs and assistant chiefs in Kisii County to intensify efforts to mobilise young people aged 18 and above to register for national identity cards. Speaking during a consultative meeting with more than 60 administrators from Nyamache and Sameta sub-counties, Isaboke said the initiative aims to ensure eligible youth can access government services and participate in future elections. He noted that the two sub-counties had registered about 10,000 new voters against the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission's target of 40,000. The PS said the government has automated the ID registration process and expanded registration points, including Huduma centres, to speed up issuance, urging more young people to take advantage of the accessible services.



Construction of the Gakoigo Stadium in Maragua Constituency, Murang'a County, is progressing as part of the National Government's initiative to expand modern sports infrastructure across all 47 counties. The 10,000-seat stadium is expected to be completed in 2027 and will include a standard football pitch, an eight-lane athletics track, modern changing rooms, a VVIP pavilion, ample parking and other supporting amenities. Once completed, the facility is expected to host both national and international sporting events while promoting sports development, nurturing local talent and creating economic opportunities for the surrounding community through increased sporting and related activities.

Narok Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu has congratulated Collins Saruni on his appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of the Narok County Public Service Board, saying the appointment comes at a crucial time as the county expands its healthcare infrastructure. Ntutu said the county government will work closely with the board to fast-track the recruitment of more than 200 health



workers to address staffing shortages and improve healthcare service delivery. He pledged financial, administrative and institutional support to ensure a transparent and efficient recruitment process. The governor noted that filling the vacant positions will enable newly constructed health facilities to become fully operational, improving access to quality healthcare services for residents across the county.

The media fraternity is deeply saddened by the untimely death of NTV cameraman Josiah Mugo who was based at the Nyeri office. Colleagues said that Josiah had been unreachable since Tuesday night, an issue that prompted colleagues to search for him. On Thursday evening, they traced him to his house in Nyeri Town, where he was found dead. On Friday, his family was in Nyeri making arrangements to transfer his body to his home county of Kiambu for burial preparations. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. May his soul rest in peace.



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Education The Chancellor thanked government agencies, development partners and philanthropists for supporting students through scholarships and research initiatives

MKU Chancellor challenges Kenyan fresh graduates to drive change

BY James Wakahiu

@themtkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU) Chancellor, Prof. John Struthers, has called on graduates to become champions of social transformation, ethical leadership and inclusivity as they enter the next phase of their lives.

Speaking during MKU's 29th Graduation Ceremony, Prof. Struthers said young people must embrace innovation, adaptability and resilience to thrive in a rapidly changing world shaped by technological advancement and global connectivity.

He lauded the university for strengthening its global partnerships and expanding investments in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, cloud computing, 5G and the Internet of Things. He also hailed the extension of MKU's tenure as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) SDG 9 Hub Chair on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure until 2030, describing it as a testament to the institution's growing international influence.

The chancellor praised the university's continued investment in emerging technologies and industry-responsive education. The operationalization of the Cloud Computing Laboratory through collaboration with Xinyada ICT Company and leading Chinese higher education institutions, together with continued advancements in

Artificial Intelligence, robotics, 5-G technology and Internet-of-Things, demonstrate MKU's unwavering commitment to preparing graduates for the opportunities and challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution," he added.

The Chancellor thanked government agencies, development partners and philanthropists for supporting students through scholarships and research initiatives that continue to expand access to quality higher education.

Prof. Struthers urged the graduands to use their knowledge and skills in service of society and to uphold integrity and purpose in their careers. He also paid tribute to parents, guardians, lecturers and mentors whose support made the graduates' achievements possible.

He expressed confidence that the new graduates are well-equipped to contribute meaningfully to the workforce and help build stronger communities, prosperous nations and a better future for all.

The ceremony, held under the theme "Youth as Architects of Social Change, Ethical Governance and Inclusivity," highlighted MKU's commitment to nurturing future leaders and innovators capable of addressing global challenges. The fete was hosted at the MKU Graduation Pavilion, Happy Valley Grounds in Thika town.

Jubilee Holdings Group CEO and Guest speaker, Dr. Julius Kipng'etich, challenged the MKU Class of 2026 to become champions of social

transformation, ethical leadership and inclusivity as they enter the world of work.

Dr. Kipng'etich urged graduates to seize emerging opportunities, embrace innovation, and create jobs rather than wait for employment, emphasizing the critical role of young people in shaping Kenya's future. Quoting Nelson Mandela, he reminded graduands that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

He told the graduates that their education should be applied to solving societal challenges, strengthening institutions, and driving sustainable development. He also encouraged them to embrace lifelong learning, harness emerging technologies responsibly, and uphold integrity in their personal and professional lives.

Dr Kipng'etich told the learners that the Higher Education Financing portal now processes government loans and scholarships for both undergraduate and postgraduate study in Kenya, including a HELB postgraduate scholarship of up to KSh450,000 for a PhD and KSh200,000 for a Master's degrees. Globally, opportunities such as the Chevening Scholarship from the UK, DAAD and EU Funding, the Fulbright programme from the United States, the Commonwealth Scholarships, and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program fund thousands of African students, Kenyans included, for fully funded study abroad every single year.



Mount Kenya University's Vice Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi addresses the university's 29th graduation fete held on Friday at the Graduation Pavillion, Happy Valley, in Thika town. | Photo: Courtesy.

"In June 2026, the EU-Equity bank programme was launched to give over 100 Kenyan students access to global master's research and education opportunities that can help develop globally competitive leaders. Last week, 33 Kenyan recipients of the 2026 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's scholarships were flagged off. Explore these opportunities," he added.

"Go out and be the architects of change that is social, governance that is ethical and success that is inclusive," Dr. Kipng'etich told the graduating class, urging them to lead with purpose, integrity, and a commitment to building a better society for all.

He said a graduate of commerce may end up running a thriving private clinic alongside the doctors, while an engineer can walk away from construction sites and build a flourishing farm.

"Your degree is a founda-

tion, and your certificate has no limit in where your usefulness can take you," he said.

Change via innovation

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi challenged the graduates to become agents of social transformation, ethical leadership and innovation in an increasingly digital world. He said MKU continues to strengthen its academic programmes through curriculum reviews, integration of Artificial Intelligence, and digital skills training to prepare learners for the modern workforce.

The VC said the university has also expanded its postgraduate offerings with programmes in emerging fields such as mental health, psychiatric studies and health records management to address evolving societal and professional needs.

He highlighted MKU's growing international reputation

in research and innovation, citing major global research grants and outstanding student achievements in innovation competitions across Africa, China, Germany and the United States. To strengthen research capacity, MKU partnered with the Africa Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) to train 46 academic staff through the Africa Research and Support Hub programme.

"In the first quarter of 2026, the University secured several prestigious international research grants extending to 2029. These include funding from the Gates Foundation, DAAD, Wellcome Trust, and Erasmus+ Mobility exchange Programme, supporting research in maternal health and employability," he added.

Beyond academics, the university continues to excel in

Contd page 13

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Politics “These are not appointments of convenience, but of conviction,” Kalonzo said when unveiling his new leadership team.

Kalonzo builds a national outlook: Can Wiper’s mountain-to-coast gamble rewrite Kenya’s political map?

A convergence of Ukambani, Mt Kenya, Coast, North Eastern and disaffected Ruto and Odinga voters could hand Kalonzo Musyoka the most formidable coalition Kenya has seen since the 2002 Narc sweep.

BY Dan Mwangi

@themtkenyatimes

Kalonzo Musyoka’s restructuring of the Wiper Patriotic Front’s senior leadership is proving to be more than an organisational exercise — it is the opening move in what his strategists believe could become the most consequential political realignment in Kenya since the National Rainbow Coalition swept Daniel arap Moi’s succession candidate from power in 2002. The arithmetic, when examined carefully and honestly, points to a cumulative vote total that, at its conservative floor, sits at approximately 9.8 million votes, rising to a realistic midpoint of 11.5 million and, if the Kalonzo-Gachagua relationship fully crystallises and the economic environment continues to deteriorate, reaching or exceeding 13 million votes — a figure that would more than double the 7.18 million votes with which Ruto won the presidency in 2022.

That number is not a fantasy. It is what the political geography of Kenya currently makes possible, and understanding how it is assembled requires an honest examination of every bloc, every alliance and every variable in play between now and August 2027.

In the 2022 presidential election, William Ruto received 7.18 million votes and Raila Odinga 6.94 million — a combined total of 14.12 million votes from Kenya’s two dominant political formations. Between them, they captured nearly the entire registered voter universe that turned out that August. The question now being asked in Wiper’s Nairobi strategy sessions, in DCP political circles and in the drawing rooms of opposition-aligned donors is deceptively simple: what happens if a significant portion of both those coalitions finds a new political home?

The answer, if the Kalonzo-Gachagua relationship matures into a formal or semi-formal electoral understanding, is a number that would fundamentally and permanently alter



Kalonzo Musyoka unveiling the new Wiper leadership

Kenya’s political landscape.

Start with what Kalonzo already owns. Ukambani — Kitui, Machakos and Makueni — is the party’s generational bedrock, delivering approximately 1.6 million votes with a consistency that no political earthquake has yet disrupted. This bloc does not require persuasion. It requires activation, organisation and a candidate whose national credibility justifies the community’s investment. Kalonzo, running as a presidential candidate rather than a running mate, provides that justification in full.

Layer onto that foundation the Mt Kenya arithmetic, and the picture shifts from competitive to potentially decisive. The region — Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang’a, Kiambu, Nyandarua, Meru, Embu and Tharaka-Nithi — carries approximately six million registered voters, making it the single largest voting bloc in the country. To appreciate the scale of what Gachagua commands within this territory, one county alone tells

the story with brutal clarity: Kiambu, Kenya’s most populous county, holds over 1.2 million registered voters. It is one county. The region has eight.

The Ol Kalou parliamentary by-election provided the most recent and most reliable data point on the depth of Gachagua’s Mt Kenya grip. In a contest watched nationally as a referendum on his post-impeachment standing, the DCP-aligned candidate dominated with approximately 86 percent of the vote — a figure that, projected across a six-million-voter region, translates into a potential bloc of 5.16 million votes moving in disciplined unison behind a Gachagua-endorsed candidate.

That is not a regional vote. That is a national election-deciding force.

Nyandarua Senator John Methu, the DCP Secretary General designate, anchors the party’s institutional machinery while Gachagua commands its emotional energy. Together they have constructed a political operation that does not merely win — it

dominates. The impeachment of October 2023, rather than diminishing Gachagua’s Mt Kenya standing, transformed him into the region’s most potent political symbol since the founding generation of independence-era leaders. His support base does not follow him reluctantly. It follows him with the conviction of a community that believes it was wronged and is now organising its response.

The relationship between Kalonzo and Gachagua is, by the standards of Kenyan opposition politics, conspicuously warm. Kalonzo was among the leaders who publicly questioned the manner and pace of the impeachment — a position carefully noted in Mt Kenya political circles where the memory of that parliamentary session remains raw and politically combustible. That positioning has created a reservoir of goodwill in the mountain that no amount of campaign spending could replicate.

If Gachagua were to extend even a calibrated, semi-formal endorsement

of Kalonzo’s presidential candidacy — signalling to DCP’s grassroots that Kalonzo represents the vehicle through which Mt Kenya reclaims its national influence — the consequences would be transformative. Applying the Ol Kalou benchmark of 86 percent dominance across the six-million-voter Mt Kenya bloc, Gachagua’s influence could deliver between 4.5 and 5.16 million votes to a Kalonzo-led ticket. Even discounting heavily for the imperfect translation of by-election results to a presidential race, a conservative transfer of sixty percent of the Mt Kenya bloc yields 3.6 million votes — more than double Kalonzo’s entire 2022 presidential total on his own.

That relationship also carries a specific and frequently underestimated dividend along the Coast. Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu and the broader coastal corridor are home to a substantial Kikuyu diaspora community — traders, hoteliers, property owners and professionals who maintain strong emotional ties to Mt Kenya politics while casting ballots in Coast constituencies. This community, conservatively estimated at 200,000 to 300,000 registered voters, takes its political signals from Gachagua-aligned cues with a fidelity that coastal political operators have long recognised. A Gachagua endorsement of Kalonzo would unlock this vote with minimal additional campaigning required, layering it onto Mohamed Ali’s already formidable Mijikenda and Swahili base and pushing the Coast’s total contribution toward one million votes or beyond.

Ali, the Nyali Member of Parliament who built his national profile as an investigative journalist before entering politics, commands genuine cross-generational appeal along the coastal strip. The Coast’s deep historical grievances — land injustice, economic marginalisation, the

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A convergence of Ukambani, Mt Kenya, Coast, North Eastern and disaffected Ruto and Odinga voters could hand Kalonzo Musyoka the most formidable coalition Kenya has seen since the 2002 Narc sweep.

Contd from page 8

unresolved majimbo conversation — have created an electorate that consistently rewards candidates who speak credibly to those concerns. Wiper’s “#KomboaKenya” reform narrative resonates powerfully in this context. The Coast’s approximately 3.5 million registered voters, properly mobilised through Ali’s networks and amplified by the Kikuyu diaspora responding to Gachagua’s signal, represent one of the most accessible and high-yield electoral prizes available to any opposition candidate.

North Eastern, where Ambassador Siyat Osman Ibrahim’s appointment is targeted, adds further weight. The region’s counties — Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit and Isiolo — collectively account for roughly 800,000 registered voters. In 2022, the bloc largely supported Ruto’s Kenya Kwanza ticket transactionally, and that transactional loyalty has shown visible signs of strain as complaints about insecurity, drought response and marginalisation have intensified. Ibrahim’s diplomatic standing across the region positions Wiper to recapture a meaningful portion of that vote — conservatively 300,000 to 400,000 under active mobilisation.

Eastern Kenya beyond the Ukambani core adds a further dimension. Meru, Embu and Tharaka-Nithi counties sit at the political intersection between the Mt Kenya bloc and the broader eastern corridor, with a combined registered voter base of approximately 1.2 million. These counties have historically swung between regional loyalty and national coalition logic. With Jamleck Kamau as party chairman providing a Mt Kenya face to Wiper’s leadership, and Gachagua’s influence extending naturally into these border communities, the party’s competitive ceiling in this sub-region rises considerably.

The disaffected Ruto voter adds yet another layer. Kenya Kwanza’s 2022 coalition was never ideologically

coherent — it was assembled from communities motivated primarily by ending Odinga’s repeated bids for the presidency and securing a share of national resources under a new administration. Three years into Ruto’s presidency, with the cost of living at sustained historic highs, the housing levy generating persistent public anger and the broad-based arrangement with Odinga’s formation producing a sense of deep political betrayal among core Kenya Kwanza supporters, a substantial portion of that 7.18 million is genuinely available for political migration.

Electoral geography analysts estimate that between 1.5 and 2.5 million of Ruto’s 2022 voters — drawn from the Rift Valley’s disaffected Kalenjin communities, Coast Kenya Kwanza supporters now gravitating toward Ali, and Mt Kenya voters following Gachagua’s political direction — could shift to a Kalonzo-led ticket under the right conditions. These are not marginal protest voters. They are communities with organised structures, established turnout records and leaders capable of delivering disciplined bloc votes when the political signal is unambiguous.

Luo Nyanza’s dominant political formation has moved into a broad-based arrangement supporting Ruto’s re-election, closing the door on the 1.2 to 1.5 million Nyanza votes that powered Odinga’s successive campaigns. That bloc is not available to Kalonzo in its organised form. But Odinga’s 2022 coalition extended well beyond Nyanza — into Western Kenya, parts of the Coast, Nairobi’s opposition-leaning constituencies and communities across the country who voted against Ruto rather than specifically for Odinga. Many of those voters, perhaps 1.5 to 2 million of the 6.94 million, are now politically homeless. The broad-based arrangement did not absorb them into the Ruto fold — it simply left them without a natural electoral destination. Kalonzo’s consistent positioning as a leader of principle who has never traded his values for accommodation speaks directly to this con-



Kalonzo Musyoka unveiling the new Wiper leadership

stituency.

The full cumulative picture, assembled with evidence-based numbers, is therefore this: Ukambani’s near-certain 1.6 million. Mt Kenya, with Gachagua’s 86 percent dominance benchmark applied conservatively at sixty percent transfer efficiency across six million voters, contributing 3.6 million at the floor and 5.16 million at the ceiling — with Kiambu’s 1.2 million registered voters alone illustrating why even conservative Mt Kenya projections are transformative. The Coast, combining Ali’s networks, the Kikuyu diaspora responding to Gachagua’s signal and disaffected Kenya Kwanza coastal voters, delivering 900,000 to one million. North Eastern contributing 300,000 to 400,000. Eastern Kenya’s swing counties adding 400,000 to 500,000. Disaffected Ruto voters from the Rift Valley and elsewhere adding 1.5 to 2.5 million. Politically homeless former Odinga supporters contributing a further 1.5 to 2 million.

That is how the conservative floor of 9.8 million is built. That is how the midpoint of 11.5 million is reached. And that is how, under optimal conditions, the ceiling of 13 million becomes not a projection but a political

reckoning.

“These are not appointments of convenience, but of conviction,” Kalonzo said when unveiling his new leadership team. “They strengthen a leadership team ready to deliver a United Alternative Government in waiting and to Komboa Kenya.”

The variables that could constrain this arithmetic deserve honest acknowledgement. A formal Kalonzo-Gachagua arrangement requires Gachagua to subordinate his own presidential ambitions to a coalition logic that positions him as a kingmaker rather than a candidate. That is a significant political decision that only the mathematics of electability can ultimately compel. Gachagua must calculate whether leading a movement that falls short independently is more valuable than delivering a coalition that wins decisively under a partner’s name. The Ol Kalou numbers suggest he has the leverage to determine the outcome either way — which means his decision, when it comes, will be the single most consequential act in Kenya’s 2027 political cycle.

The disaffected voter projections also carry genuine uncertainty. Political migration requires active recruitment, ground-level organisation

and financial resources that Wiper is only beginning to assemble. Numbers that are theoretically available do not automatically become votes without the campaign infrastructure to harvest them.

What is beyond reasonable dispute is that the political architecture being constructed — four appointments spanning the mountain, the coast, the north and the national communications space, underpinned by a warm and publicly acknowledged relationship with the man who controls 86 percent of the country’s largest voting bloc — represents the most credible opposition coalition-building exercise Kenya has seen in two decades.

Kenya’s 2027 presidential election will not be the foregone conclusion that State House strategists are projecting. If the Kalonzo-Gachagua understanding holds, deepens and translates into organised political action, it will deliver a majority so commanding that it renders the question of who wins not a matter of arithmetic but of history.

And Kalonzo Musyoka, at seventy-three, is building that history one appointment, one relationship and one carefully cultivated alliance at a time.

Justice In the rush to judgment over Dr Victoria Mutiso's killing, Kenya risks confusing accusation with proof — and that distinction matters enormously

Why allegations are not convictions

In the rush to judgment over Dr Victoria Mutiso's killing, Kenya risks confusing accusation with proof — and that distinction matters enormously.

BY Levis Wangamati

@themkenyaintimes

In Kenya, a serious allegation rarely gets the luxury of remaining an allegation.

The moment a powerful institution speaks, headlines follow. Social media chooses sides. Political camps mobilise. Commentators become prosecutors, defenders and sometimes judges — all within the same afternoon. By the time evidence is properly tested, the public has often already decided who is guilty.

That is why the latest developments in the investigation

into the killing of Victoria Mutiso demand something increasingly rare in our public discourse: patience. Not indifference. Not silence. Patience.

Mutiso was a clinical psychologist, mental health researcher and director at the Africa Institute of Mental and Brain Health. On July 29, she was travelling to work in an Uber in Nairobi's Upper Hill when, according to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, a black Toyota Prado partially blocked the vehicle and a gunman opened fire. She was rushed to Kenyatta National Hospital but died from her injuries. Her

death shocked the country and raised immediate questions about how such a targeted attack could occur in broad daylight.

The DCI says investigators have followed CCTV footage, witness accounts, ballistic evidence and intelligence leads. DCI Director Mohamed Amin has said several individuals have been identified as allegedly playing different roles in the killing.

Inspector Kenneth Kipkemboi Sang has been named as an alleged link between purported financiers and the operational team, and as the alleged source of the firearm



Dr Victoria Mutiso

used. He remains at large. Police Constable Elijah Kibelion Kimoi, attached to Karinde Police Post, has been arrested, with the DCI alleging forensic evidence places him at the scene as the officer who fired the fatal shots. Another officer, Constable Bett Kiplangat Collins, is reported to be on the run.

The DCI has further identified Rose Mbithe Mulwa and her son Christopher as alleged principal organisers and financiers, with investigators pointing to a long-running land dispute in Mlolongo, Athi River, as the alleged motive — a civil matter currently before the Machakos Law Courts. A firearm recovered from Nderi Police Post has reportedly been forensically matched to evidence from the crime scene and a bullet recovered during the post-mortem.

These are serious developments. They deserve serious scrutiny. But they remain allegations until tested through due process. That is not a technicality — it is one of the foundations of justice.

The controversy has taken a sharper political turn following claims involving former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. The DCI says Gachagua communicated with one of the suspects and a boda boda rider allegedly connected to the attack. Gachagua has disputed that account, accused the agency of attempting to shield police involvement and said he received information from officers within the police service. Those competing claims deserve scrutiny. But scrutiny is not a verdict.

Communication between a

public figure and individuals connected to an investigation does not, on its own, establish participation in a crime. Equally, an allegation that such communication occurred does not automatically establish criminal liability. The evidence must do that — not the press conference.

This distinction matters because Kenyan politics has perfected the art of turning national controversies into contests of loyalty. Once a politician's name enters an investigation, supporters defend and opponents condemn. Facts become secondary to identity. That is dangerous.

A person should not become guilty because political opponents believe an allegation. Neither should an allegation become false because the accused commands political support. The truth does not belong to a political party — it belongs to the evidence.

The DCI carries a particularly heavy responsibility here. Its work must not only be thorough; it must be credible. Investigators must follow evidence wherever it leads, regardless of political status, institutional rank or public profile. If serving police officers are implicated, the investigation must establish the truth without protecting the uniform. If politicians become relevant, the process must establish facts without becoming a political instrument.

Those under investigation carry responsibilities too. They should cooperate with lawful processes and allow evidence to speak. Political outrage may win an argument

on social media, but it does not establish innocence — just as an investigative briefing does not establish guilt.

Then there is the public. We have grown remarkably comfortable passing judgment from fragments. A headline becomes evidence. A leaked message becomes a verdict. A photograph becomes proof. A statement from one side becomes the whole story. But justice is rarely that simple.

The DCI has also said it is examining possible links between suspects in the Mutiso case and the 2025 killing of lawyer Kyalo Mboobu. Investigators have not established that the two killings are connected. An investigative lead is not a conclusion. A person of interest is not necessarily a criminal. A suspect is not a convict.

The temptation to rush to judgment is understandable. Mutiso's killing is shocking. The alleged involvement of serving police officers makes it more disturbing. The political dimension makes it more explosive still. But justice is not a race to be first. It is a process designed to separate suspicion from proof.

Mutiso deserves justice. Her family deserves the truth. The accused deserve due process. Investigators deserve the space to work professionally and without political interference. These interests are not contradictory — they rest on the same foundation.

So before we condemn, let us ask what has actually been established. Before we defend, let us acknowledge what we do not yet know. Before politicians convert this into another battlefield, let investigators investigate and let courts adjudicate.

Kenya does not need another public trial conducted through hashtags, press conferences and political rallies. It needs the truth. And the truth does not become more truthful because it arrives first. It becomes credible when evidence survives scrutiny, due process is respected and the facts remain standing after the politics have moved on.

Because the moment we begin treating allegations as convictions, we are no longer defending justice. We are merely choosing sides.

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Education Prof. Mutugi described the occasion as a defining moment not only for the university but also for Kenya’s healthcare education sector

Outspan Global University Holds Historic First Graduation

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyaintimes

Outspan Global University (OGU) has marked a historic milestone by holding its first-ever graduation ceremony, conferring diplomas and certificates on 878 pioneer graduates.

At the same time, the Nyeri town based institution revealed plans to unveil an ambitious community-based health research programme aimed at transforming disease prevention and healthcare delivery.

The colourful ceremony, held at the university’s Graduation Square also ushered in a new era of leadership with the installation of Prof. Marion Wanjiku Mutugi as the institution’s inaugural Chancellor and the appointment of Prof. Paul Mbugua as Vice Chancellor.

The graduation comes months after the institution transitioned from Outspan Medical College to Outspan Global University following the award of a Letter of Interim Authority earlier this year, paving the way for its transformation into a fully-fledged university specialising in health sciences, research and innovation.

Speaking during the ceremony, Prof. Mutugi described the occasion as a defining moment not only for the university but also for Kenya’s healthcare education sector.

She said the institution was entering a new phase that extends beyond training healthcare professionals to generating research capable of addressing pressing health challenges affecting communities across the country.

“This graduation is more than the awarding of certificates and diplomas. It marks the beginning of a new journey for both our graduates and the university. We are committed to producing professionals who combine knowledge, integrity, compassion and innovation in serving society,” she

said.

Prof. Mutugi congratulated the pioneer graduates, noting that they would forever occupy a special place in the university’s history as the class that laid the foundation for generations of future students.

“By graduating today, you become part of a proud legacy built over the years of training competent, compassionate and service-oriented healthcare professionals. You have secured a unique place in the history of this institution,” she said.

The graduates completed studies in Nursing, Clinical Medicine, Health Records and Information Technology, Nutrition, Psychology, Perioperative Theatre Technology, Health Support Assistance and other accredited health programmes.

The Chancellor urged them to uphold professionalism, integrity and excellence as they entered the workforce.

“The knowledge and skills you have acquired will not only shape your future but will also improve lives, strengthen communities and contribute to a stronger healthcare system. Serve with dedication, lead with integrity and inspire positive change wherever your careers take you,” she told the graduates.

Similar sentiments were aired by most of the speakers, led by the institution sponsors representative Dr Kiruhi Macharia.

Officials said the university was working on a the programme that will also help shape future medical education, particularly as Kenya prepares for the transition of the first Competency-Based Education (CBE) cohort to universities in 2029.

The institution said universities must begin redesigning curricula to produce graduates capable of solving emerging healthcare challenges through research, innovation and community engagement rather than relying solely on classroom instruction.

The graduation ceremony

was held under the theme “Innovating Health Education for Sustainable Global Impact,” reflecting the university’s ambition to produce healthcare professionals equipped to serve both local and international communities.

University officials said the institution’s vision is to become a global reference centre for health sciences education by producing professionals capable of delivering sustainable, quality and holistic healthcare solutions.

The university integrates classroom learning with extensive clinical exposure through the Outspan Teaching and Referral Hospital, a Level Five teaching hospital in Nyeri, as well as other partner health facilities where students receive practical training alongside academic instruction.

Officials noted that the integrated model enables learners to participate in clinical practice, research and innovation while responding to real-world health challenges facing communities.

The ceremony attracted leaders from government, academia and the healthcare sector development partners, healthcare professionals, parents, guardians, alumni and members of the public.

They included Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, Laikipia Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri

Speakers described the graduation as a milestone affirming the university’s commitment to producing ethical, competent and service-oriented healthcare professionals capable of supporting Kenya’s growing demand for skilled medical personnel.

For the 878 graduates, the occasion marked the culmination of years of academic dedication and practical training.

For Outspan Global University, however, the event represented the beginning of a new chapter; one that seeks to strengthen its position as a centre of excellence in health

sciences education, research and community service while contributing innovative solutions to Kenya’s evolving healthcare needs.

The colourful ceremony, held at the university’s Graduation Square also ushered in a new era of leadership with the installation of Prof. Marion Wanjiku Mutugi as the institution’s inaugural Chancellor and the appointment of Prof. Paul Mbugua as Vice Chancellor



Outspan Global University Chancellor Prof. Marion Wanjiku Mutugi during the graduation on Friday. | Photo: Courtesy.

”



Outspan Global University senior staff and some of the guests after the graduation ceremony



Some of the graduates.

Constitution It has forced the country to confront what appears, at first glance, to be two constitutional clocks that do not tick at exactly the same pace

Two constitutional clocks: Why Kenya must resolve the tension between articles 136 and 142



By: Gitile Naituli
@themkenyaintimes

The recent High Court decision on the timing of Kenya's next General Election has exposed one of the most intriguing constitutional questions since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution.

It has forced the country to confront what appears, at first glance, to be two constitutional clocks that do not tick at exactly the same pace.

On one hand is Article 136(2) (a), which provides that a presidential election shall be held on the second Tuesday in August in every fifth year. Read literally, the provision establishes a fixed electoral calendar independent of the date a President assumes office. Since Kenya held its last General Election on Tuesday, 9 August 2022, a literal computation points to Tuesday, 11 August 2026 as the second Tuesday in August in the fifth year.

On the other hand stands Article 142(1), which is equally explicit. It states that the President shall hold office for a term of five years beginning on the date the President was sworn into office. President William Ruto took the oath of office on 13 September 2022. A straightforward reading of Article 142 therefore suggests that the presidential term runs until September 2027.

At first sight, both provisions appear perfectly clear. Yet when read together, they seem to produce different constitutional outcomes. That is the constitutional puzzle now

confronting Kenya.

The High Court's literal interpretation of the electoral timetable has generated intense debate because it highlights a tension that many constitutional scholars have discussed for years but which had received relatively little public attention.

Among those who consistently argued that the constitutional text deserved closer scrutiny was constitutional lawyer Willis Otieno. His interpretation attracted considerable criticism. Many dismissed his arguments as alarmist or politically motivated. Rather than interrogate the constitutional provisions themselves, public debate often focused on personalities instead of legal reasoning.

Whether one ultimately agrees with his interpretation is a separate question. What cannot be denied is that he identified a constitutional issue that deserved serious engagement.

Constitutions are legal documents, not popularity contests. The proper response to a constitutional argument is careful analysis rather than ridicule. The larger question, however, is whether Articles 136 and 142 are genuinely contradictory or merely appear so when read in isolation.

Constitutional interpretation does not permit courts to lift one provision out of context while ignoring another. Every article must be read harmoniously with the rest of the Constitution. Courts generally presume that the framers intended constitutional provisions to complement rather than contradict one another.

This principle of harmonious interpretation may ultimately prove decisive. One possible interpretation is that Article 136 establishes a national electoral calendar while Article 142 defines the duration of an individual President's tenure within that constitu-

tional framework. Under this approach, the election date and the expiry of a President's tenure need not coincide perfectly because there must always be time for declaration of results, resolution of disputes where necessary, and the orderly transfer of power before a successful candidate takes the oath of office.

Another possible interpretation is that Article 142 guarantees every President a complete five-year term from the date of swearing-in, meaning the electoral calendar under Article 136 must be understood consistently with that guarantee.

Each interpretation has constitutional consequences. Neither should be dismissed without rigorous legal examination. What makes the current controversy particularly unfortunate is not merely the disagreement itself but the timing of its judicial resolution. This constitutional question has existed since 2022. Yet it has taken nearly two years to reach a substantive High Court determination.

Constitutional disputes touching on elections should rarely remain unresolved for such lengthy periods. Election law depends upon certainty. Political parties, electoral institutions, candidates and citizens all require clear constitutional guidance long before electoral preparations begin.

Delayed constitutional adjudication carries institutional costs. As election preparations advance, public expectations become entrenched. Administrative plans are implemented. Political strategies are developed. Financial resources are committed. A judgment delivered late, even if legally sound, can generate uncertainty simply because institutions have already organised themselves around an alternative understanding.

Time is therefore an essential component of constitution-



al justice. The same concern arises in other pending constitutional petitions with significant electoral implications, including the unresolved questions surrounding constituency-level presidential results. Such matters deserve timely determination so that electoral rules are settled before another presidential contest begins.

Kenya should never approach a General Election while fundamental constitutional questions remain unanswered. The present debate also offers an important civic lesson. Too often, constitutional discussion in Kenya is filtered through political loyalty. Citizens frequently ask whether a legal interpretation benefits or disadvantages particular politicians before asking whether it is constitutionally correct.

That is precisely the wrong order of inquiry. The Constitution was designed to outlive individual Presidents, governments and political parties. It exists to regulate power impartially regardless of who occupies public office. Whether one supports or opposes President Ruto is therefore beside the point. The real question is whether Kenya's constitutional architecture clearly reconciles Articles 136

and 142 or whether further judicial clarification is required. Fortunately, the Constitution itself provides mechanisms for resolving such uncertainty. Appeals allow constitutional questions to receive progressively deeper judicial scrutiny. Where competing interpretations exist, appellate courts, and ultimately the Supreme Court where appropriate, can provide authoritative guidance that binds all public institutions.

That is not institutional weakness. It is constitutional maturity. The current controversy should therefore not be viewed as a constitutional crisis but as a reminder that constitutional democracies depend upon continuous interpretation. Even carefully drafted constitutions occasionally reveal ambiguities that only judicial reasoning can resolve.

Whatever conclusion the appellate courts eventually reach, one lesson is already unmistakable. Constitutional questions should never be ignored simply because they appear inconvenient or politically uncomfortable. Sometimes the most consequential constitutional debates begin with a lone voice asking an unpopular question.

A mature democracy does not silence such questions. It answers them through reasoned legal analysis. That is how constitutional certainty is built, not by assuming the Constitution always speaks with perfect clarity, but by allowing independent courts to interpret its text faithfully, harmoniously and without fear or favour.

The ultimate objective is not merely to determine whether the next election falls in 2026 or 2027. It is to ensure that every Kenyan can have confidence that when constitutional provisions appear to point in different directions, the rule of law, not political expediency, will determine which constitutional clock keeps the nation's time. When all is said and done, we must note that the High Court's interpretation will be subject to appeal and that the final authoritative interpretation may ultimately come from the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court.

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

Education The Chancellor thanked government agencies, development partners and philanthropists for supporting students through scholarships and research initiatives

MKU Chancellor challenges Kenyan fresh graduates to drive change

Contd from page 6

sports, drama and disability inclusion initiatives, reflecting its commitment to holistic education and equal opportunities for all learners. He congratulated the graduands and urged them to uphold integrity, excellence and service as they contribute to national development and global progress.

In recognition of excellence in research governance, MKU Was recently awarded the Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP)

Gold Tier Certification by the African Academy of Sciences and Global Grant Community, demonstrating compliance with international grant management standards.

MKU council chairman, Dr. Vincent Gaitho, called on the graduates to become champions of social transformation, ethical leadership and inclusivity as they transition into professional and community leadership roles.

Dr. Gaitho said graduation marks

the beginning of a lifelong commitment to leadership, service, and continuous learning. He urged graduates to confront pressing societal challenges, including poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and social injustice, through innovation, resilience and compassion. “Let your knowledge serve a purpose beyond personal success by uplifting communities and creating a better future for all,” he said.

Dr. Gaitho underscored the importance of integrity, accountability, transparency, and service, noting that sustainable development depends on principled leaders committed to the common good. He further encouraged graduates to champion diversity and inclusivity, describing them as essential pillars of peaceful, cohesive, and progressive societies.

Highlighting the ceremony’s theme, “Youth as Architects of Social Change, Ethical Governance and Inclusivity,” he challenged the graduating class to embrace their role as catalysts for positive transformation. “Your voice matters and your leadership is needed now more than

ever. Go forth as agents of positive change, champions of ethical leadership, and advocates for inclusivity,” he told the graduates.

Dr. Gaitho also encouraged the new graduates to remain actively engaged with Mount Kenya University through its alumni network as they pursue career growth, professional development, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Peterson Moturi, who worked as a watchman in Nairobi graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree. Director of Alumni Relations, Ms. Virginiah Kinankau, congratulated him and welcomed him into the MKU Alumni Association. In sports, MKU performed strongly at the Kenya Universities.

Alumni Association Chairman Gikera Kahara urged graduands to embrace resilience, integrity and networking as they transition into the professional world. He welcomed them into the alumni community, encouraged mentorship and social impact initiatives, and emphasized that strong character and meaningful networks are essential for long-term



Jubilee Holdings Group CEO and chief guest, Dr Julius Kipng’etich plants a tree to commemorate Mount Kenya University’s 29th graduation fete held on Friday at the Graduation Pavillion, Happy Valley, in Thika town. Looking on is MKU council chairman, Dr Vincent Gaitho (centre) and VC Prof Deogratius Jaganyi
| Photo: Courtesy.

success.

Other guests included Mount Kigali University Chancellor, Prof. Egara Kabaji and Vice-Chancellor, Mount Kigali University, Dr. Martin Kimemia, the Provincial Secretary of the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) and Assistant Bishop of ACK Diocese of All Saints, Rt. Rev. Prof.

Joseph Denge Galgalo, the chairman, Mount Kigali University Governing Body, Dr. Innocent Mugisha, members of the MKU council and Mount Kigali University Governing Body.



Words fail to describe the workings of the heart



It refuses to yield to the cares of this world.
It spreads its wings, eager to fly,
With a resilience matching the bite of a lion.
Let go, O mind, give up your victory in the battle,
For the heart simply wishes to win at last.
It wants to forget the life where you long ruled,
Let it go, and let it create.

By: Yulduz Kholova

The spirit of our nation



Whenever our Tricolour greets the sky,
A million dreams begin to fly.
Whenever our hearts beat loud and free,
We celebrate our identity.

Not one occasion, not one day,
But every moment shows the way.
Republic Day, Independence Day,
Parakram's courage lights our way.

Each festival tells a story bright,
Of sacrifice, of truth, of light.
Of countless souls who chose to stand,
For every child, for this great land.

Today those colours shine once more,
With sportsmanship at their very core.
For every race and every game
Teaches effort beyond mere fame.

On this sacred Vasant morn,

New hopes, new dreams are gently born.
With Saraswati's blessings bright,
Knowledge becomes our guiding light.

Strength is not only hands that fight,
But minds that choose the path that's right.
The bravest hearts are those that dare
To lead with wisdom, love, and care.

Now let us witness, proud and tall,
Our young marchers inspire us all.
Each measured step, each steady pace,
Reflects our nation's strength and grace.

May every stride remind us too,
That together there's nothing we cannot do.
For unity is our greatest power,
Growing stronger every hour.

So let us celebrate this glorious day,
With grateful hearts in every way.
With courage to dream, with faith to strive,
Keeping our nation's spirit alive.

For India is more than soil and sea
India lives in you and me.

Jai Hind!

Aashni Chugh
Tagore International School
East of Kailash
New Delhi

True love and true friends come naturally



No ego, no meanness

They have only a broad mind and open heart.

They never look for faults or blame.
They understand your situation and your struggles.
Even our thoughts and feelings they understand

Genuine love can't always be seen,
but it can always be felt deeply.

It's not something you search for.
It's something you experience.

BRINDA. D
Creative writers
Ghs Melpattampakkam
Tamil Nadu India

They sprout like leaves on a plant
Without any force, no compulsion

True friends stand as a shield for you.
True love has no jealousy, no hatred.

Two footprints, one journey



And we return to our class to study.

At lunchtime, we smile at each other
From the first bench to the last.
We share our stories,
Making every moment special.

When the final bell rings,
We walk home with happy hearts,
We waiting for our friends
And we see them in a happy heart
Because every school day
Becomes a beautiful memory
She is not just a best friend
You are a girl who shares my soul
And every step we take
Becomes one beautiful journey

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

Every morning, with heavy school bags,
We walk to school with smiling faces.
The bell rings, and class begins,
But we sit on different benches.

Our seats are far,
But our friendship is never far.
When the break bell rings,
I run to meet you with a happy smile.

Together we walk to the restroom,
Talking and laughing all the way.
Then the break is over,

Positivity of life



When the muddy water
Bears lilies & lotus cuter
Why not we cultivate the best future
With the habits of good nature
By sowing seeds of positivities

And weeding away all our negatives
Ever watering it with hardwork & faith
Creating a meaningful birth
And sharing its fruits
Staying in each heart as strong root.
Believe your granted for a fresh breathe today
Celebrate the new born day
Enthusiastically than yesterday
Yearning a blessed tomorrow with a good pathway.
And positivity within you
Will never let you;
Your head & hands down for alms
Rather will secure you a crown with charm.

G.Sarala.

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself



Fear of a hatchling lets it reside in a shell.

As long as we fear
Success is not our dear.
If we have a courageous mind near,
We will have a crystal clear career.

Courage takes us to a new horizon,
But Fear enjoys keeping us in prison.
It is the courage that breaks the barriers,
That makes us live like warriors.

.....
Penned by
RANGANATHAN E
B.T.Asst (Eng)
Marwar Govt Boys Hss,Acharapakkam

Fear is a negative sign,
That makes us always resign,
That prevents us from shine,
That never lets us redesign.

Fear of a buried seed stops its growth,
Fear of a player prevents him from winning,
Fear of a student quits his thinking ,

Nakuru The hospital's lactation station changed that. Wanjiru can express about 200 millilitres of milk at 10am and another 200 millilitres before going home

How Nakuru PGH is helping working mothers continue breastfeeding

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatimes

When Mary Wanjiru went back to work when her son was four months old, the breast milk she had stored during maternity leave was starting to run low. It would not be enough to last until he reached six months, and limited storage space at home had made it hard to build a bigger reserve.

Her job as a nutrition officer at Nakuru County Teaching and Referral Hospital meant spending long hours away from her baby. Without a proper place to express and store milk during the day, the feeding plan she had set up could easily have been interrupted.

The hospital's lactation station changed that. Wanjiru can express about 200 millilitres of milk at 10am and another 200 millilitres before going home. The two amounts are enough to feed her son the next day while she is at work.

He was able to gain weight. I can thank God we have not been having infections. I would attribute that to exclusive breastfeeding. I did exclusive breastfeeding for six months. I am still using the lactation station," she said.

Exclusive breastfeeding means giving a baby only breast milk for the first six months, without water, formula or other foods. Medicines, vitamins and oral rehydration solution may be given when medically necessary, while breastfeeding continues.

Wanjiru is among 63 staff members registered to use the station, which Governor Susan Kihika opened on August 13, 2024, at the hospital's new outpatient block. Thirteen employees are currently using it, while seven have completed the program after their children reached two years.



Mary Wanjiru at work at the NCRTH

"My son is turning one year old this month, and the lactation station has really helped me," she said, adding that she still uses it even after her son passed the six-month mark.

For breastfeeding employees at the hospital, which has about 1,700 workers, the five-pod facility offers something that was hard to find during a shift: a private, hygienic space for expressing and handling breast milk.

Before it opened, employees expressed milk in wards, toilets or their cars. Those places offered little privacy and were not designed for safe milk handling or storage.

The station has electric breast pumps, a sterilizer, milk storage bags and storage facilities for milk until mothers finish their shifts. A television is also used for health education and entertainment.

Hospital officials said moving milk expression out of clinical wards, toilets, cars and other unsuitable spaces also helps with infection pre-

vention and control. The station also implements Kenya's Health Act, which requires employers to provide workplace lactation stations with the necessary equipment and facilities.

Hospital director Santosh Devaraj said staff of reproductive age on both day and night shifts were being informed about the facility and its services, encouraged to use it, and taught about the nutritional value of breast milk.

During a media tour yesterday to mark World Breastfeeding Week, an annual global campaign that promotes breastfeeding, Devaraj praised the county administration and partners for setting up the lactation facility to support breastfeeding mothers at the county hospital.

"We don't call it breast milk. We call it liquid gold. No single drop should be wasted," Devaraj said. He added that expressed milk should be protected and given to the child whenever possible.

privacy, equipment or a safe place to store milk.

The 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey found that only 60 per cent of children younger than six months were exclusively breastfed. The figure points to the need for support from governments, families, communities, healthcare providers and employers.

Mercy Chepkorir, manager of the Newborn and Mother-Baby Unit at the Margaret Kenyatta Mother-Baby Unit, said the facility handles slightly more than 1,500 births a month and that breastfeeding education is now a routine part of care before mothers leave the facility.

Staff help mothers begin breastfeeding within the first hour after birth and hold daily health talks in the newborn unit, labour ward, postnatal wards, post-Caesarean ward and theatres. Mothers are advised to breastfeed exclusively for six months and to continue breastfeeding alongside complementary foods until their children are two years old.

Arthur Lord Gichuru Wanjiru, the hospital's head of Nutrition and Dietetics, said the hospital is a baby-friendly facility that promotes, protects and supports breastfeeding. He said the lactation station has made it easier for employees to balance breastfeeding with their duties.

Arthur said families can save money by relying less on breast-milk substitutes. He

added that fewer childhood infections could lower treatment costs and ease pressure on paediatric services, allowing health resources to be directed to other conditions.

He encouraged mothers having breastfeeding difficulties to seek help from community health promoters, dispensaries and other primary healthcare facilities. He also urged employers to set up lactation stations at workplaces.

Governor Kihika said her administration would increase investment in maternal and newborn health, focusing on improving care, expanding access to essential services and addressing the health challenges that continue to affect mothers and their babies.

The hospital's lactation station changed that. Wanjiru can express about 200 millilitres of milk at 10am and another 200 millilitres before going home. The two amounts are enough to feed her son the next day while she is at work. He was able to gain weight. I can thank God we have not been having infections. I would attribute that to exclusive breastfeeding. I did exclusive breastfeeding for six months. I am still using the lactation station," she said

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Mercy Chepkorir, manager of the Newborn and Mother-Baby Unit at the Margaret Kenyatta Mother and Baby Unit at NCRTH.

Education Ogamba said the proposed funding reforms seek to address long-standing financial challenges that have left public universities struggling with debt

CS Ogamba defends new university funding model, says it will guarantee support for every student

BY Elizabeth Angira

@themkenyatiimes

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has defended the government's proposed university funding model, saying it will ensure every student admitted to a public university receives adequate financial support regardless of their family's economic background.

Speaking at Kisii University during the opening of the Kongamano la Kiswahili cha Afrika Mashariki (CHAKAMA), Ogamba said the proposed funding reforms seek to address long-standing financial challenges that have left public universities struggling with debt and many students unable to complete their studies.

He explained that Kenya previously used the Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) funding model, under which the government had agreed to finance up to 80 percent of the cost of university programmes.

However, due to budgetary constraints, the government was only able to provide between 37 and 40 percent of the required funding.

"As a result, many of our universities accumulated huge debts. By 2022, public universities were facing debts amounting to nearly KSh67 billion," Ogamba said.

To address the crisis, the government introduced the student-centred funding model, which relied on the Means Testing Instrument (MTI) to determine how much financial support a student would receive based on the economic status of their parents or guardians.

According to the CS, the model unintentionally disadvantaged students admitted to expensive programmes such as medicine and engineering because it focused on the



CS Education Julius Ogamba Migos speaking during the launch of Kongamano la Chama Cha Kiswahili Afrika Mashariki CHAKAMA at Kisii University he has defended the new university funding model | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

parents' ability to pay rather than the student's educational needs.

"We realised that students admitted to high-cost programmes were dropping out because we were effectively funding parents instead of funding students," he said.

Ogamba said the new funding bill shifts the focus entirely to the learner.

Instead of assessing what parents can afford, the government will finance students based on the programme they have been admitted to pursue. "If you are admitted to study law, then we are funding a future lawyer. If you are admitted to medicine, we are funding a future doctor. We are no longer funding the parent; we are investing in the student's future," he explained.

The CS said the new approach is expected to attract investment from the private sector because education will be treated as a bankable investment rather than purely a social support programme.

He noted that discussions with private sector partners have shown a willingness to finance higher education once the investment is tied directly to the student's future profession.

"Private investors are ready

to support the programme because they see it as investing in future professionals such as doctors, engineers, teachers and lawyers," he said.

Under the proposed model, every student admitted through the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUC-CPS) will be eligible to apply for funding.

Students will receive financial support throughout their studies and will only begin repaying the funds one year after securing employment.

"There will be a one-year grace period after employment before repayment begins," Ogamba said.

He added that the proposed legislation is intended to anchor the funding framework in law, enabling the government to mobilise additional resources from development partners and the private sector while creating a sustainable revolving fund.

According to Ogamba, the reforms will deliver several benefits, including equal treatment of all students, adequate funding, timely availability of funds and long-term sustainability of university financing.

He said the government expects repayment rates to

equation and focuses on supporting the learner. Education is no longer viewed simply as a social service; it is an investment in Kenya's future," he said.

Ogamba further clarified that the new funding model will take effect immediately after the Bill is enacted into law.

He assured students preparing to join universities this September that they should proceed with their admissions as planned, adding that once the law comes into force, all eligible students will be transitioned into the new funding system.

"There will be a transition period. Students should not worry. Once the law is operational, we will transition everyone into the new programme," he said.



A group photo during the launch of Kongamano la Chama Cha Kiswahili Afrika Mashariki | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

rise from the current 70–75 percent to about 85 percent through improved recovery mechanisms contained in the

proposed law.

"The new model treats all students equally. It removes parents from the funding



CS Education Julius Ogamba Migos is welcomed during the launch of Kongamano la Chama Cha Kiswahili Afrika Mashariki CHAKAMA at Kisii University he has defended the new university funding model | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

Politics A nation that cannot create space for its most vulnerable citizens during the very exercise of democracy cannot honestly claim that democracy belongs to everyone

The forgotten citizens: A moral appeal to Kenya's political leadership on disability inclusion



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyaintimes

The true character of a society is not revealed by the magnificence of its cities, the size of its economy or the intensity of its political campaigns. It is revealed by how faithfully it embraces those who possess the least political influence, the weakest economic voice and the greatest vulnerability. As Kenya steadily marches towards another election, that timeless measure of civilisation confronts us with an uncomfortable truth: while politicians tirelessly seek every vote, they too often overlook an entire constituency whose dignity deserves not sympathy but justice—persons with disabilities.

Across Uasin Gishu County and throughout Kenya, campaign season has once again become a theatre of spectacle. Convoys snake through villages amid deafening music, choreographed dances, colourful processions and carefully orchestrated displays of political strength. The louder the rally, the greater the perceived popularity. Yet, for thousands of Kenyans living with disabilities, these celebrations often serve as a painful reminder that democracy has become increasingly performative while inclusion remains painfully elusive.

A nation that cannot create space for its most vulnerable citizens during the very exercise of democracy cannot honestly claim that democracy belongs to everyone.

The greatest tragedy is not merely physical exclusion from campaign platforms. It is the silent exclusion from opportunity itself. Long after campaign posters fade and victory speeches are forgotten, persons with disabilities continue to encounter barriers that deny them meaningful participation in the nation's economic and political life. Employment remains elusive despite academic qualifications and professional com-



petence. Public procurement opportunities remain beyond the reach of many because systems intended to promote affirmative action frequently fail to accommodate the realities faced by entrepreneurs with disabilities. Leadership positions continue to be occupied by others speaking on behalf of persons with disabilities instead of creating space for them to speak for themselves.

Perhaps the most painful contradiction lies within Kenya's economic empowerment architecture. Successive governments have commendably invested billions of shillings to uplift women, youth, farmers and organised community groups. These investments have transformed countless lives and deserve recognition. Yet somewhere within this noble vision, persons with disabilities have remained the forgotten

beneficiaries of development. They are acknowledged in speeches but scarcely visible in implementation. They appear in policy documents yet disappear when resources are allocated. They are celebrated during international commemorations but forgotten when economic opportunities are distributed.

The consequence is not merely exclusion. It is the gradual normalisation of invisibility.

When political leaders count the people they intend to empower, they enthusiastically enumerate youth, women, farmers, traders and organised groups. Rarely do they pause to ask how many persons with disabilities own businesses, remain unemployed despite qualifications, require accessible credit, or possess innovative ideas capable of transforming local economies. It is as though dis-

ability ceases to exist once campaign votes have been counted.

Yet persons with disabilities are not spectators in the Kenyan story. They are teachers, doctors, engineers, artisans, entrepreneurs, farmers, public servants, parents and taxpayers. They are members of every tribe, every faith, every village and every political party. Above all, they are citizens whose constitutional rights are neither conditional nor negotiable.

What they seek is not compassion wrapped in ceremonial language or token representation designed to satisfy constitutional formalities. They seek recognition as equal participants in the nation's destiny. They seek opportunities proportionate not to their disability but to their ability. They seek policies that remove barriers rather than reinforce them. Above all, they seek leadership capable of recognising that inclusion is neither charity nor political generosity; it is the very essence of justice.

The continued marginalisation of persons with disabilities is neither inevitable nor irreversible. It reflects choices made in boardrooms, county assemblies, political parties and public institutions. Every budget that ignores disability inclusion is a choice. Every inaccessible public building is a choice. Every recruitment process that quietly sidelines qualified applicants with disabilities is a choice. Every empowerment programme that overlooks disability is a choice. And every choice carries a moral consequence.

This election season offers Kenya's political class an opportunity far greater than winning office. It offers an opportunity to redefine leadership itself.

Leadership worthy of history is not measured by the number of rallies addressed or crowds assembled. It is measured by the courage to defend those who cannot command political crowds, finance campaigns or bargain with numerical strength. The finest leaders have never been remembered for speaking to the loudest voices; they are remembered for hearing those whom society had stopped listening to.

Political parties should therefore move beyond symbolic promises and

institutionalise disability inclusion across every level of governance. Every empowerment fund should contain measurable allocations for persons with disabilities. Every county development plan should be designed around universal accessibility. Every recruitment process should be audited for equity. Every procurement opportunity should deliberately dismantle barriers preventing disability-owned enterprises from competing fairly. Every political rally should communicate that every citizen belongs, whether they walk, use a wheelchair, hear, see or communicate differently.

Above all, persons with disabilities must cease to be treated as recipients of political goodwill and instead become architects of public policy. Nothing about their lives should ever again be decided without their voices occupying the tables where decisions are made.

The measure of Kenya's democracy will not be determined by voter turnout alone, nor by peaceful elections, nor by impressive infrastructure. It will ultimately be judged by whether the Republic possesses the moral courage to ensure that those historically pushed to the margins finally stand at the centre of national development. The question confronting every aspiring leader is therefore profoundly simple: when history records this generation of leadership, will it remember politicians who merely sought votes, or statesmen and stateswomen who expanded the boundaries of justice?

The answer will not be written in campaign manifestos. It will be written in whether the child with a disability receives an equal education, whether the graduate with a disability secures dignified employment, whether the entrepreneur with a disability accesses capital, whether the voter with a disability participates without barriers, and whether every Kenyan, regardless of physical ability, can honestly say: "This nation sees me, values me and walks with me."

For as the philosopher John Rawls reminded humanity, "The justice of a society is measured by how it treats its least advantaged members." Kenya's greatness will never be defined by the power of its politics, but by the depth of its humanity.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
PWD

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The Asphalt does not lie: Kenya's culture of impunity



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor
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In the first half of 2026 alone, Kenya's roads claimed 2,150 lives an 11 percent rise over the same period the year before. Pedestrians accounted for roughly 836 of those deaths; motorcyclists and drivers followed in grim succession. The National Transport and Safety Authority has long warned that road crashes already drain about 5 percent of the country's GDP each year through lost productivity, medical costs, and shattered families. These are not abstract numbers. They are bodies on asphalt, widows at mortuaries, children who will never again hear a father's voice. And they begin, almost always, with a simple, deliberate refusal: the refusal to obey the rules that exist to keep people alive.

That refusal is the seed of a larger rot. It is the same spirit that treats traffic laws as optional suggestions, that celebrates the matatu driver who weaves through oncoming traffic like a street performer, that laughs when a police officer pockets a few hundred shillings instead of writing a ticket. From the smallest transgression to the grandest theft of public trust, Kenya has cultivated a culture of impunity so dense it has become the air many breathe without noticing its poison.

Consider the everyday theatre of the matatu. These vehicles, vital arteries of urban movement, have been allowed to become rolling discotheques. Bass-heavy music thunders at volumes that leave passengers disoriented, ears ringing, nerves frayed. When you step off, the world itself seems muffled, as if the city has been wrapped in cotton. This is not culture; it is acoustic assault. It is the same disregard that permits overlapping on dual carriageways, sudden stops without signals, and the casual bullying of slower drivers. The road is treated not as a shared commons requiring restraint, but as a private arena for displays of dominance. Etiquette evaporates. Loud conversations in confined spaces, uninvited



Accidents

commentary on strangers' lives, the constant jostling for space all of it reveals a society that has forgotten the quiet dignity of mutual consideration.

The same selective blindness appears in the moral calculus of corruption. Corruption is condemned with righteous fury when it disadvantages "us," yet excused, even celebrated, when it benefits "our own." A tribesman charged after credible investigation is defended not on the merits of evidence but on the basis of blood. Courts become theatres of ethnic solidarity rather than forums of justice. The Director of Public Prosecutions is whispered about as a political instrument; the police are spoken of as a force that can be directed against inconvenient citizens. Kidnappings by those sworn to protect, surveillance deployed out of fear of the governed, public officers who look down on the people they are paid to serve these are not isolated scandals. They are symptoms of a deeper condition: integrity has been thrown out the window like litter from a speeding matatu.

Police officers openly solicit bribes. Surveys consistently place them at the top of the bribery index; one recent study found that seven in ten Kenyans who interact with the police encounter a bribery situation. The national average bribe has climbed, year after year. Meanwhile, government offices that should deliver critical services operate with the lethargy of institutions that know accountability is rare. The clerk who

stares past you, the officer who demands "facilitation," the official who treats a citizen's request as an interruption of personal time these small humiliations accumulate into a national atmosphere of contempt.

At the apex sits a politics of performance and propaganda. When leaders treat truth as a flexible tool rather than a binding constraint, when the machinery of the state is turned against those who question it, the example cascades downward. Why should a matatu driver respect speed limits if those at the top treat the law as a suggestion for the powerless? Why should a junior officer refuse a bribe if the system itself appears to reward the brazen? The president as chief narrator of convenient fictions, the weaponisation of institutions, the fear that leads a government to monitor its own people these are not

abstract constitutional debates. They are the soil in which everyday impunity grows.

There is a painful irony here. Kenya is a nation of churches, of public prayers, of fervent invocations of divine intervention. Even so the question hangs in the air like exhaust smoke after a traffic jam: Can Jesus even save us? The answer, if one is honest, is that salvation does not arrive as a cosmic erasure of consequences. It arrives, if it arrives at all, through the harder work of conscience recovering its authority. A people who have normalized the idea that rules exist only for others, that tribal loyalty outranks evidence, that noise is freedom and restraint is weakness, will not be rescued by rhetoric alone.

The correlation is stark and instructive. Societies that treat road rules as

non-negotiable tend to treat public funds the same way. Societies that protect the vulnerable pedestrian also tend to protect the whistle-blower. Societies that insist on quiet dignity in shared spaces are more likely to insist on dignity in the courtroom and the government office. The reverse is also true: when the small disciplines collapse, the larger ones follow. The matatu that deafens its passengers is not unrelated to the official who deafens himself to the public's complaints. The driver who overlaps without consequence is practising the same logic as the politician who treats accountability as an optional extra.

This is not a counsel of despair. It is a call to notice. The data is already written in blood and budget lines. The moral pattern is already visible in the daily interactions that shape a nation's character. What remains is the choice to name the pattern without euphemism, to refuse the comfortable tribal exemptions, to demand that integrity cease being a slogan and become a practice. The roads will continue to kill until the culture that feeds them is confronted. The public purse will continue to haemorrhage until the selective blindness is healed. And the soul of a people will remain restless until the simplest courtesies obedience to rules that protect strangers, honesty when no one is watching, respect for the shared space are restored.

Kenya does not lack talent, faith, or resilience. What it has lacked is the collective decision that impunity is not cleverness but cowardice, that tribal solidarity without justice is merely organised injustice, and that a society which cannot keep its people alive on the road cannot claim to be serious about keeping them free. The first fact is the body count. Everything else is the long shadow it casts.

The writer is a social commentator.



Courts Justice Mutai's interim orders put the brakes on DCI and DPP action, raising pointed questions about the limits of investigative power.

High Court halts arrest and prosecution of two applicants in fresh constitutional challenge

BY Hadassah Karangu

@themkenyaintimes

The High Court has issued interim conservatory orders shielding two applicants from arrest and prosecution, temporarily halting efforts by investigative and prosecutorial authorities to bring them before a criminal court in what is shaping up to be a significant constitutional dispute.

Justice Gregory Mutai issued the orders barring the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of Criminal Investigations from arresting, presenting the applicants for plea, charging them or prosecuting them at the Milimani Chief Magistrate's Court. The orders preserve the applicants' current position while the court examines the substantive issues raised in the petition.

The decision immediately draws attention to one of the most contested questions in Kenya's justice system: where the line falls between the constitutional powers of investigators and prosecutors on one hand, and the rights of individuals facing possible criminal proceedings on the other.

A conservatory order is not an acquittal. It does not mean the court has determined that the applicants are innocent of any allegations raised against them. It means only that the specified steps — arrest, plea taking, charging and prosecution — cannot proceed while the matter remains before the court.

The timing of the orders carries particular weight. An arrest, even before conviction, can damage a person's reputation, disrupt employment and unsettle family life. The court's intervention places individual rights at the centre of the dispute before any of those consequences can take effect.

That intervention does not



Justice Gregory Mutai

diminish the constitutional standing of the DCI and DPP. Investigators carry a mandate to pursue suspected offences; prosecutors carry the responsibility for making charging decisions within the law. The difficulty arises when those powers are alleged to have been exercised in ways that breach constitutional protections — and that is precisely where the courts are expected to step in.

Kenya's Constitution provides meaningful safeguards for individuals caught in criminal investigations, including protections around personal liberty, fair administrative action and fair trial rights. Courts have consistently been required to balance those protections against the legitimate need to allow investigations to proceed unimpeded.

Justice Mutai's orders reflect that balancing function. They are not a final determination of the dispute. The substantive question of whether the intended actions against the two applicants were lawful remains squarely before the court and will have to be resolved through full legal argument.

For the applicants, the orders provide immediate relief from the prospect of arrest and

prosecution. For the DCI and DPP, they represent a pause — a requirement to await further judicial direction before resuming the restrained actions.

The case also raises a broader question about the conduct of criminal investigations in a constitutional democracy. There is a legitimate public interest in ensuring that credible evidence leads to accountability. There is an equally legitimate public interest in ensuring that the machinery of investigation and prosecution is not used to intimidate or punish individuals before a court has made any finding against them.

The distinction is fundamental. Being investigated is not the same as being guilty. Being arrested is not the same as being convicted. Being charged is not the same as being found culpable. These principles underpin the presumption of innocence — a cornerstone of any functioning justice system.

When courts issue interim orders in cases of this kind, public reaction often divides sharply. Some read judicial intervention as protection from accountability; others see it as a necessary check on state overreach. The reality is

usually more textured than either interpretation allows.

A court granting conservatory orders is not taking sides. It is holding the position until arguments on both sides can be fully heard and properly weighed. That is the purpose such orders serve in constitutional litigation — to prevent irreversible consequences before legality can be determined.

The coming hearings will be closely watched. The applicants will advance their constitutional arguments; the state agencies will have the opportunity to justify their intended actions. The court will then determine whether the

protection currently in place should continue or whether the restrained proceedings may go ahead.

For now, the High Court's message is unambiguous: the two applicants are temporarily protected from arrest, plea taking, charging and prosecution at Milimani.

The case is a reminder that in Kenya's constitutional order, state power does not operate in a vacuum. It is subject to judicial scrutiny — and that scrutiny is not an obstacle to justice. It is part of what justice requires.

Whether the matter eventually proceeds to criminal court, is withdrawn or takes another turn remains to be seen. What matters, for the moment, is that the process unfolds within the law — because justice is not only about pursuing those suspected of wrongdoing. It is also about ensuring that every person retains the protection of the Constitution until the courts have spoken.

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Mau Mau Members distance the organisation from groups allegedly defrauding elderly residents with false promises of independence-era benefits

Mau Mau veterans association overhauls Meru leadership after scam complaints

BY Brian Gitonga

@themtkenytimes

The Mau Mau Veterans Association CLG yesterday elected new leaders for its Meru County chapter after the organisation's national director dissolved the previous committee following reports that residents had been taken to Nairobi under false promises of receiving Mau Mau-related benefits.

The elections, held at River Bank Hotel in Nkubu, drew members who used the occasion to welcome government efforts to secure benefits for veterans and their descendants while issuing a sharp warning against groups exploiting the association's name to defraud vulnerable residents.

Returning officer Peter Murithi said the dissolution of the previous committee was not an indictment of its members but a necessary reset to restore confidence among genuine beneficiaries. "There have been many issues of scamming, including a recent case where people were taken to Nairobi," Murithi said. "This triggered our director, James Mahuria, to dissolve the Meru County committee, leading to these elections."

Murithi said the association had been mandated by the government to oversee matters concerning Mau Mau veterans and their descendants, encompassing land injustices, physical injuries suffered during the inde-



Peter Murithi, the returning officer addresses the Press. | Photo: Brian Gitonga



Members of the Mau Mau veterans Association follow the proceedings. | Photo: Brian Gitonga

pendence struggle and the deaths of relatives. "We are fighting for the rights of Mau Mau veterans and descendants who suffered injustices — not only through land issues but also physical injuries suffered during the struggle for independence," he said.

Member Evelyn Karumo Murungi said government engagement had given families of veterans renewed hope after years of uncertainty. Many families in Meru lost fathers, brothers and uncles during the struggle, she noted, while others were separated from relatives and never reunited. "We have hope that we are going to get benefits because of the efforts of the government through our director," Karumo said. "We have been having many issues as the offspring of the Mau Mau, and that is why we celebrate these efforts."

Fellow member Silas Mbaabu was more pointed in his condemnation of opportunists exploiting the association's legacy. He said multiple organisations claiming to represent Mau Mau descendants had created confusion among elderly residents, and urged the government to enforce tighter oversight of groups operating in the sector. "We condemn what happened where our people were conned after being promised money and other titles," Mbaabu said. "We want to thank the government for listening to our cries." He urged residents to verify the credentials of any organisation before surrendering money or personal information.

Meru chapter coordinator Abde-

nego Munene Mugambi thanked President William Ruto and the government for recognising the association's work. "I want to thank the government for accepting to identify and recognise the efforts we have put in place through this association in fighting for the benefits of the Mau Mau veterans," Munene said. He also commended Mahuria for his continued advocacy on behalf of veterans and their families.

The newly elected officials are expected to work alongside the national association and relevant government authorities to address members' concerns, accelerate the identification of genuine beneficiaries and strengthen public awareness about the legitimate process for accessing Mau Mau-related benefits.

The Mau Mau Veterans Association CLG's intervention in Meru comes against a backdrop of growing concern about exploitation of an ageing and often vulnerable community whose claims to recognition and compensation stretch back decades. Veterans and their descendants have long sought formal acknowledgement of the sacrifices made during Kenya's independence struggle — a pursuit that unscrupulous actors have repeatedly sought to exploit for personal gain.

With new leadership now in place, the association says its focus will be on rebuilding trust, weeding out fraudulent actors and ensuring that the benefits owed to genuine beneficiaries are pursued through proper and transparent channels.



A member of the Mau Mau veterans Association CLG casts his vote | Photo: Brian Gitonga



Members of the Mau Mau veterans Association rally to vote | Photo: Brian Gitonga



Youth unemployment: Kenya’s most urgent challenge



Kenya’s youth unemployment crisis is not a future threat — it is a present emergency consuming the country’s most valuable resource one wasted graduate at a time. Millions of qualified young Kenyans enter the job market annually into an economy that simply cannot absorb them. The result is a cruel paradox: graduates cannot gain experience because they cannot find work, and they cannot find work because they lack experience. That cycle, left unbroken,

does not merely waste talent — it breeds poverty, mental illness, crime and the kind of political rage that spilled onto Kenya’s streets in 2024. The causes are well documented. Slow job creation, endemic corruption, stunted industrial growth, unaffordable credit and a curriculum that produces graduates the market does not need. Government entrepreneurship programmes exist but rarely reach those who most need capital and market access. The solutions are equally

clear, though chronically un-applied. The government must invest in employment-intensive industries, reform technical and vocational training, open public procurement to youth enterprises and enforce transparency in hiring. Universities must stop producing graduates for jobs that no longer exist and start equipping students with digital and practical skills the economy actually demands. The private sector must move beyond rhetoric and open genuine internship and apprenticeship pipelines. Kenya’s youth are not a burden waiting to be managed. They are an asset waiting to be deployed. The nation that unlocks their potential wins. The nation that continues to squander it will eventually answer for it.

Linda Omondi is a student at Laikipia University.

Two TUM students die as mourners’ bus overturns near Ahero



Two Technical University of Mombasa students died and 29 others were injured yesterday when a bus carrying mourners to the burial of former students’ leader Elvis “Beast” Otieno overturned near Ahero along the Kisumu highway. The students had travelled from Mombasa to Kisumu to receive Otieno’s body, which had been flown from the Coast. Tragedy struck on the return leg when the driver of the last bus in the convoy swerved to avoid a speeding oncoming

vehicle, lost control and the bus overturned. The injured are receiving treatment at Lisa Hospital in Ahero and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kisumu. Both deceased were male students whose families have been notified. Vice Chancellor Laila Abubakar, speaking on behalf of the university’s council, senate and staff, described the accident as a devastating loss and extended condolences to the

bereaved families. “We pray for strength and comfort for the affected families and wish the departed students eternal peace,” Abubakar said. The university thanked emergency responders, medical personnel, security agencies and members of the public who acted swiftly at the scene. TUM now buries three of its own — Otieno and the two students who died honouring him. Kenya’s roads continue to extract a savage toll on young lives. Investigations into the accident are ongoing, but the families of two students who left Mombasa to mourn a friend will not get their children back.

Pascal Okoth is a writer based in Homa Bay County.

Politics Limuru MP aspirant Peter Mwathi leads the welcome as the party signals a serious push for grassroots roots in the county

DCP opens Kiambu headquarters as Gachagua drums up support ahead of 2027

BY John Kariuki
@themtkenyatiimes

The Democracy for the Citizens Party Friday opened its Kiambu County headquarters, with party leader and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua making a high-profile appearance in the county in what the party billed as a statement of organisational intent ahead of the 2027 general election. Peter Mwathi, the DCP Deputy National Chairperson and Limuru parliamentary aspirant, led the reception for Gachagua at the newly opened offices, underlining his growing prominence within the party’s national structures. The opening of a permanent county office marks a notable step for DCP as it works to translate national political messaging into organised local presence. The facility is intended to serve as a regular point of contact between party officials, members



Peter Mwathi, the DCP Deputy National Chairperson (second right) and other officials during the opening of Kiambu offices

and residents of Kiambu. John Mwaura, the party’s flagged gubernatorial candidate for Kiambu, featured prominently alongside Gachagua at the event, signalling the party’s efforts to consolidate its leadership ticket in the county ahead of the next election cycle. Kiambu’s political weight — drawn from its large population, active business community and agricultural base — makes it a priority county for any party seeking national reach. DCP’s decision to anchor a permanent structure there reflects an awareness of that strategic value. Mwathi, who has built his political profile in Limuru around accessible, consultative leadership, used the occasion to reinforce that message. His role in the DCP national hierarchy has positioned him as a conduit between the party’s central leadership and communities in the Mt Kenya region. The party’s “Skiza Wakenya” campaign theme, prominent at the event, frames DCP’s appeal around citizen listening — a posture Mwathi has made central to his own political identity.

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS**Sports >>** *Norway have called on Fifa president Gianni Infantino to resign following his aborted attempt to sell off stakes in the World Cup to private investors, but Mexico and Argentina have voiced their support**Norway call for Infantino to resign as Mexico and Argentina back president***Fifa president Gianni Infantino (L)*

Norway have called on Fifa president Gianni Infantino to resign following his aborted attempt to sell off stakes in the World Cup to private investors, but Mexico and Argentina have voiced their support for the 56-year-old.

Norway have gone a step further than the football associations of England, Wales, Croatia and Albania, all of whom have withdrawn support for Infantino without explicitly calling for him to resign.

"He [Infantino] does not have the institutional trust required to govern Fifa stably in the times we are in," Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) president Lise Klaveness said on Friday.

"There is no going back for Gianni Infantino. The international football cooperation is very much in trouble, and we must have a reason to get together now, and we want to ask the Fifa president to resign now.

"We will see which other countries eventually join in, if that becomes the strategy from the Uefa board. We are not going to ask for an extraordinary [Uefa board] meeting, we will ask him to resign in our dialogue with Fifa."

Klaveness, who is a qualified lawyer, went through a list of concerns that the Norwegian FA has expressed to Fifa during her

four-year tenure.

Among them were questions around the awarding of tournaments, the inaugural Fifa peace prize that was awarded to US President Donald Trump in December, and the overturning of a ban for American forward Folarin Balogun during the recent World Cup following a phone call from Trump.

Meanwhile, earlier on Friday the Mexican Football Federation broke ranks with its regional governing body Concacaf to come out in support of Infantino. Concacaf, which runs football in North and Central America and the Caribbean, called for a "comprehensive reckoning" of Infantino's presidency after he aborted plans to sell off stakes in the World Cup to private investors.

However, 2026 World Cup co-hosts Mexico have backed Infantino's leadership amid widespread calls for him to resign.

"The FMF [Mexican FA] supports president Infantino's leadership in continuing to promote the development of football through institutional strengthening," a statement read.

It echoed a statement from Conmebol – South America's governing body – in saying it would reject any attempt to remove Infantino without a vote involving all 211 Fifa members.

"The FMF will neither recognise nor approve any process convened outside of that institutional framework, and it joins the call made by president Infantino to collectively continue developing football for the benefit of the 211 member associations," it added.

However, Conmebol did "express its concern about the repeated unilateral actions taken without resorting to dialogue or the institutional mechanisms provided for dealing with this type of situation".

Meanwhile, the football association of 2026 World Cup runners-up Argentina praised Infantino for recognising and apologising for his "errors".

It described his decade-long tenure as Fifa president as "centred on the development of soccer worldwide and institutional strength based on a clear, stable, and transparent governance model".

Infantino is unanimously backed by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), but faces opposition from European football's governing Uefa and Concacaf.

European teams could still boycott the World Cup as Uefa said its conditions had not been met, despite Infantino's plan being aborted.

"Assurances have to be made that such attempts to disfigure the game in this way will never be made again," a Uefa statement read.

"These conditions have not been met."

Uefa has already said it has lost confidence in Infantino, calling the Fifa Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal a "shabby, back room, opaque deal".

The English FA has sent a letter withdrawing its support for Infantino, while Wales, Albania and Croatia are among other individual associations to have turned their back on the 56-year-

old.

Concacaf described Infantino's proposal as "a symptom of leadership that has stopped putting football first", and that "this recent unilateral and egregious act of poor governance and leadership follows a pattern of missteps and similar behaviour".

However, unlike Uefa, it did not go as far as to say it had lost confidence in the Fifa president.

Before Infantino withdrew his proposal, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said it stood "in solidarity" with Uefa and Concacaf in opposition to the plans.

Infantino had offered all associations \$40m (£30m) if they backed a proposal for private investment in its tournaments, including the men's and women's World Cups, through the FFE subsidiary.

During a meeting of Fifa executives in Morocco on Wednesday, the world governing body said "mistakes" regarding FFE were "acknowledged", saying it was "not the intention" for the Fifa Council and members association to "feel excluded from the process and that the process should have been handled differently".

Uefa's statement in response added: "Uefa made it abundantly clear in its statement on Saturday that it has lost confidence in Gianni Infantino's presidency. That position holds.

"Yesterday's announcement that some people employed by the Fifa president (and whose careers depend on his favour) agree with him changes nothing."

Fifa has been approached for comment.

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Sports >> *Gor Mahia yesterday lost the Cecafta Club Championships final 2-1 to Rwanda’s Rayon Sports at a packed Amahoro Stadium in Kigali

Gor Mahia fall at the final hurdle as Rayon Sports claim Cecafta crown

By Martin Weche

Gor Mahia yesterday lost the Cecafta Club Championships final 2-1 to Rwanda’s Rayon Sports at a packed Amahoro Stadium in Kigali, surrendering a title they had fought hard to reach and handing the hosts their second regional crown since 1998.

Junior Kamenji broke the deadlock in the 29th minute with a shot that should have been comfortable for K’Ogalo goalkeeper Byrne Omondi, but the ball slipped through his gloves and crept into the net — a moment of individual error that handed the advantage to the Rwandan side on home soil.

Gor Mahia, to their credit, refused to fold. Coach Charles Akonnor’s side responded with purpose, taking control of the game through sharp, incisive passing and creating a series of genuine chances. Their pressure was rewarded in the 54th minute when Shariff Musa darted in from the left flank, shifted the ball onto his right foot and drove it into the bottom right corner — a composed, well-taken finish that brought the Kenyan champions level and set up what promised to be a tense finale.

The game remained locked at 1-1 through the remainder of regulation time, forcing an additional 30 minutes to find a winner.

Rayon Sports needed only eight minutes of extra time to settle the contest. Daniel Muhoza stepped up at the critical moment, finding the net to restore his side’s advantage and ultimately seal the title. Even after Rayon were reduced to ten men, they defended with the conviction of a side that knew the trophy was within reach, holding firm to deny Gor Mahia any route back into the match.

The defeat will sting for a Gor Mahia side that had shown considerable quality throughout the



Gor Mahia

tournament. Akonnor had assembled a team capable of playing attractive, attacking football, and for long stretches of the final they were the better side. But football at this level is unforgiving, and a single lapse — Omondi’s error in the first half — ultimately proved the difference between glory and a runner-up finish.

For Rayon Sports and their supporters packed into Amahoro Stadium, it was a moment of national celebration. Their previous Cecafta Club title had come 27 years ago, and this victory — secured on home soil, against one of East Africa’s most decorated clubs — carries considerable symbolic weight for Rwandan football.

Gor Mahia now return to Nairobi to reflect on a tournament that showed much of what this squad is capable of while also exposing the fine margins that separate winning from losing at regional level. Their campaign was not without merit, but in a final, the only result that matters is the one on the board at full time.

The broader significance of the

occasion should not be lost either. A sold-out Amahoro Stadium, two competitive sides and a final decided in extra time — it was the kind of occasion that underlines the growing stature of the Cecafta Club Championships as a genuine test of East and Central African club football. The tournament has long served as a barometer of regional form, and this edition delivered a final worthy of its reputation.

For Gor Mahia, the road back to a fourth Cecafta title continues. The club has won the competition three times, most recently in 2019, and the appetite for another regional crown remains strong among the Kigali faithful who made the journey to support K’Ogalo. This defeat, painful as it is, adds to the club’s rich history of high-stakes continental and regional competition — a history built on resilience as much as success.

Whether Akonnor and the club’s hierarchy use this experience as a foundation for further growth will be the question that defines Gor Mahia’s next chapter. The talent is evident. The character

was visible even in defeat. What Friday night in Kigali ultimately revealed is that closing out a final requires something beyond quality — it requires the ruthlessness to take your chances and the composure not to gift the opposition theirs.

Rayon Sports found both. Gor Mahia, on this occasion, found only one.

SPORTS NEWS



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Subaru WRX STI: The rally legend that time refuses to outrun

Three decades on, the car that conquered the world's toughest stages is now conquering the collectors' market.

By: John Irungu Maina

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The story begins in the early 1990s. WRX stands for World Rally eXperimental; STI for Subaru Tecnica International, the performance division tasked with turning road cars into motorsport weapons. The first WRX STI arrived in 1994, and within a few seasons it had become a global icon, its reputation forged on some of the most punishing stages in World Rally Championship history.
- At the mechanical core sits Subaru's turbocharged boxer engine — a horizontally opposed unit that sits low in the chassis, lowering the centre of gravity and sharpening the car's cornering composure. Paired with Subaru's Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system and a six-speed manual gearbox, the combination delivers grip, precision and driver engagement across conditions that would unsettle most rivals. Mountain roads, gravel tracks, rain-soaked highways — the STI handles them all with equal conviction.



Subaru WRX STI

Few performance cars command the loyalty that the Subaru WRX STI has earned over three decades. More than a turbocharged sedan, the STI is a distillation of rally heritage, engineering discipline and driving passion — a car that built its reputation on mud and gravel and has never quite left those roots behind.

The story begins in the early 1990s. WRX stands for World Rally eXperimental; STI for Subaru Tecnica International, the performance division tasked with turning road cars into motorsport weapons. The first WRX STI arrived in 1994, and within a few seasons it had become a global icon, its reputation forged on some of the most punishing stages in World Rally Championship history.

At the mechanical core sits Subaru's turbocharged boxer engine — a horizontally opposed unit that sits low

in the chassis, lowering the centre of gravity and sharpening the car's cornering composure. Paired with Subaru's Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system and a six-speed manual gearbox, the combination delivers grip, precision and driver engagement across conditions that would unsettle most rivals. Mountain roads, gravel tracks, rain-soaked highways — the STI handles them all with equal conviction.

Performance, though, is only part of the appeal. The STI has always been celebrated for its character: the distinctive exhaust note, sharp steering, functional hood scoop and purposeful styling that communicates intent before a wheel is turned. Where many modern performance cars lean heavily on electronic intervention, the STI rewards the driver who commits fully and drives with skill.

Practicality was never an afterthought. The car was built in both left-hand-drive and right-hand-drive configurations, giving it genuine global reach. Markets such as the United States received left-hand-drive models, while Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia and Kenya largely ran right-hand-drive imports — helping cultivate one of the largest and most passionate enthusiast communities in the automotive world.

Ownership carries responsibility. The turbocharged EJ-series engines fitted across most generations respond well to disciplined maintenance and reward owners who keep the car close to factory specification. Neglect or aggressive modification, however, can turn that reward into a costly lesson.

Subaru ended production of the

WRX STI in 2022, but the badge is not finished. The company has signalled that an electrified successor is in development, with speculation centring on a hybrid or fully electric drivetrain built around Subaru's all-wheel-drive expertise. The challenge will be preserving the raw mechanical energy that gave the original its soul.

In the meantime, the STI's market standing is rising. With manual performance cars becoming increasingly scarce, clean, unmodified examples are quietly appreciating in value. Special editions — particularly the 22B STI and final-generation limited models — have already attracted serious collector interest, while well-preserved standard cars are drawing growing attention from buyers who recognise what is disappearing from the market.

The STI's great rival was always the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution. Together, the two cars defined an era of accessible high-performance sedans and proved that family-sized machines could deliver excitement that embarrassed far more expensive machinery.

The WRX STI leaves behind a legacy built on performance, durability and competition success. In an age of electrification and driver-assistance technology, it stands as a vivid reminder of when driving was raw, mechanical and entirely in the hands of the person behind the wheel.

For those who own one, it is already a piece of automotive history. For those considering one, it may yet prove to be among the most significant Japanese performance cars of its generation — and one of the smarter buys in the used car market today.