



Blood on the campaign trail: Kenya's 2027 election season begins with a dangerous bang
One person was killed, six vehicles torched and a sitting member of parliament threatened with arrest — all on the same Saturday afternoon as Kenya's political class collided

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Ruto and ODM: Kenya's new political arithmetic and what it means for 2027
Kenya's politics has entered one of its characteristically unpredictable seasons — a moment of shifting loyalties, unlikely handshakes and calculations so layered that even seasoned analysts are hedging their predictions.

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Countdown 2027 The day carried political weight far beyond the size of the crowd

Sifuna storms Nairobi

The Linda Mwananchi movement brought its nationwide mobilisation campaign to Nairobi yesterday, drawing thousands of supporters to Jacaranda Grounds in Embakasi East in a rally led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna that doubled as the most emphatic statement yet of the opposition's intent to end President William Ruto's presidency in August 2027.

The day began at All Saints Cathedral on Ngong Road at 9am, where Sifuna and his allies — including Siaya Governor James Orengo, Embakasi East MP Babu Owino and former nominated senator Millicent Omanga — attended a church service before leading a procession through the capital's busiest markets and arteries. From the cathedral, the convoy moved through Marikiti and Gikomba markets, then on to Burma Market, Stage 17, B Centre and Manyanja before snaking along Jogoo Road to Jacaranda. It was a deliberate and carefully choreographed entry into a city that the movement's organisers had billed internally as "the mother of all rallies" for Sifuna. The streets did not disappoint. Supporters lined the roads with Kenyan flags and the coloured regalia of a movement that has evolved, with striking speed, from a protest-driven political platform into a structured machinery for the 2027 general election.



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The Linda Mwananchi rally at Jacaranda Grounds



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Sifuna takes Nairobi: Linda Mwananchi plants its flag in the capital

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyentimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

The Linda Mwananchi movement staged its largest Nairobi rally yesterday, drawing thousands of supporters through the capital's busiest markets and filling Jacaranda Grounds in Embakasi East in a show of organisational strength that will be difficult for the Kenya Kwanza administration to ignore.

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna brought parts of the capital to a standstill as thousands gathered at Jacaranda Grounds, capping a day that began in prayer at All Saints Cathedral and snaked through Marikiti, Gikomba, Burma Market and Jogoo Road before reaching the stadium. The convoy moved through the Central Business District despite security warnings issued ahead of the rally, with police deployed across the city centre citing public safety concerns.

The day delivered two unmistakable messages. First, that Linda Mwananchi can mobilise Nairobi — Africa's fourth-largest city and Kenya's single most consequential political prize. Second, that with eleven months to the August 2027 general election, the movement has graduated from street protest to structured political campaign. The Jacaranda gathering presented an opportunity for Linda Mwananchi to demonstrate its organisational strength and determine whether the movement can translate growing political visibility into a sustained grassroots network. Yesterday, it answered that question emphatically.



Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto yesterday reached out personally to Tana River Senator Danson Mungatana and his wife, television presenter Mwanaisha Chidzuga, to condole with them following the death of their eight-year-old daughter, Amal Mghoi. The couple lost the young girl in circumstances that have left family, friends and colleagues across Kenya's political and media circles visibly shaken. Amal's death drew an outpouring of grief from public figures, with the President among the first to reach out directly to the bereaved family. Ruto described the loss of a child as among the most devastating experiences any parent could endure and asked Kenyans to keep the family in their thoughts and prayers during what he called an immeasurably difficult time. Mungatana and Chidzuga have not yet issued a public statement.



Embakasi East MP Babu Owino yesterday threw his most detailed pitch yet for the Nairobi governorship, vowing to overhaul the city's chronically neglected waste collection system and expand school feeding programmes across the capital if elected in August 2027. Speaking to traders at Marikiti Market during the Linda Mwananchi movement's Nairobi tour, Owino pointed directly at waste piled around market stalls to illustrate what he described as a failure of basic governance. "You see rubbish everywhere. And then you are told: you have a governor. What kind of governor stays up at City Hall?" he said. Owino, who has Siaya Governor James Orengo's public endorsement for the seat, framed his bid around the daily struggles of Nairobi's working poor — jobless youth, struggling traders and elderly residents without access to affordable healthcare.



Kenya's ruling United Democratic Alliance and the Orange Democratic Movement are projecting unity at the leadership level while quietly waging an increasingly competitive ground war for political supremacy ahead of the August 2027 general election, multiple sources tracking both parties' grassroots activities have told The Mt Kenya Times. Senior officials from both formations continue to share platforms and exchange conciliatory language in public, but ward-level organisers in contested counties describe a very different reality — one of rival mobilisation drives, competing membership recruitment and open friction over who controls the machinery in areas both parties consider winnable. The tension is particularly acute in Nyanza, where UDA's push to establish a credible footprint directly threatens ODM's historical dominance, and in parts of the Rift Valley, where ODM is quietly recruiting.

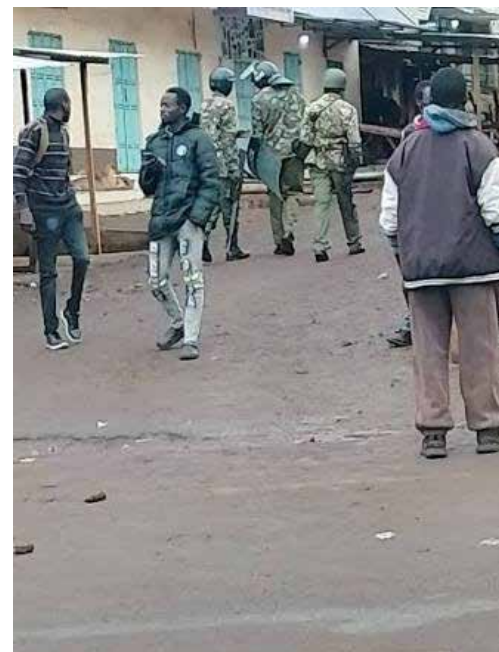


Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday linked the deadly violence that disrupted Deputy President Kithure Kindiki's political meeting at Nembure Stadium in Embu directly to the intensifying contest over who will control the Mt Kenya vote ahead of the August 2027 general election. Speaking from the United States, where he has been on a diaspora engagement tour, Gachagua accused Kindiki of presiding over conditions that led to the death of a young person and the torching of six vehicles, framing the chaos as the inevitable consequence of a government determined to break the region's political cohesion by force. "Your level of frustration and desperation is at a historically high level and has led you to shed innocent blood of your kinsmen in Embu today," Gachagua said, addressing Kindiki directly.



Democracy for the Citizens Party leaders yesterday issued a sharp warning to President William Ruto over what they described as a pattern of state-sanctioned violence against political opponents, citing the deadly clashes at Nembure Stadium in Embu and a separate attack on DCP members at ACK Witi-ma Church in Nyeri. DCP Secretary-General designate John Methu, speaking at a political gathering in Murang'a, accused the government of deploying uniformed officers to disrupt the party's activities rather than protect citizens exercising their constitutional rights. "Those who attacked the church are not goons — they are police officers, and they are known," Methu said, demanding accountability from the Inspector General of Police. The party warned that continued state interference in opposition political activities would deepen tensions across Mt Kenya at a moment when the region's 2027 electoral direction remains fiercely contested.

Armed police officers yesterday raided the rural home of Manyatta MP Gitonga Mukunji at Mutunduri in Embu County, arriving in force less than 24 hours after deadly violence disrupted Deputy President Kithure Kindiki's political meeting at Nembure Stadium left one person dead and six vehicles torched. Mukunji denied any involvement in the chaos, insisting he had been used as a convenient scapegoat by those seeking to deflect accountability for the bloodshed. "I was simply used as an excuse," he said, while condoling with the families of those who lost their lives in the unrest. Legal commentator Ndegwa Njiru challenged the police operation publicly, demanding that officers stand down from what he described as harassment and instead summon Kindiki himself to record a statement over commands allegedly issued during the violence.



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Elections Omar made the remarks during a political mobilisation event in Mombasa, where he was urging UDA supporters to fight for every possible vote in the coming election

Kenya's election integrity crisis: How one UDA speech shook the 2027 race

Remarks by UDA's secretary-general suggesting the fingerprints of dead Kenyans could be used to cast votes have handed the opposition its most potent rallying cry yet — and placed the electoral commission under urgent public pressure

BY Jane Njeri

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A single speech in Mombasa has ignited the most serious public debate about Kenya's electoral integrity since the disputed 2017 general election, after United Democratic Alliance Secretary-General Hassan Omar suggested on Thursday that the fingerprints of deceased Kenyans should be harvested before burial and used to cast votes for President William Ruto in the August 2027 poll.

Omar made the remarks during a political mobilisation event in Mombasa, where he was urging UDA supporters to fight for every possible vote in the coming election. "On election day, we have to fight for every vote," he said. "Even if someone has died, we should take their fingerprint before they are buried, use it in the biometric voter registration system and cast a vote — even for someone who died that very day. Even the one we are burying today, that is our vote because that vote is our bullet, our shield." The remarks were captured on video and circulated widely over the weekend, triggering a cross-party storm that by Sunday had drawn in opposition leaders from Nairobi to



United Democratic Alliance Secretary-General Hassan Omar

Tana River.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, speaking from the United States where he has been on a diaspora tour, was among the first to demand an institutional response. "I have seen UDA Secretary-General Hassan Omar saying even dead voters will vote," Gachagua said. "We want the IEBC to issue a statement to tell us who these dead voters are and what the UDA secretary-general is saying." His call for the Inde-

pendent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to respond publicly to the remarks was one that would be echoed by leaders across the opposition spectrum throughout the day. Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, addressing supporters in Kabuchai Constituency before the Linda Mwananchi Jacaranda rally, was characteristically blunt. He demanded that the IEBC summon Omar formally, arguing that a sitting secretary-general of the ruling party had no busi-

ness making statements that undermined public confidence in the electoral process before a single ballot had been printed. "The UDA secretary-general should be summoned before the IEBC because he is eroding public confidence in our electoral processes," Sifuna said. He dismissed the threat of inflated figures, adding with pointed confidence: "Even if they count the votes of the deceased, Ruto is going home."

People's Liberation Party

leader Martha Karua, one of Kenya's most authoritative voices on constitutional law and electoral governance, issued a formal statement on Sunday calling the remarks deeply disturbing and demanding that the IEBC explain publicly how it intended to protect the integrity of the 2027 election. Karua argued that the remarks were particularly dangerous precisely because of their source — not a fringe actor or an anonymous social media account, but the secretary-general of the party that controls the presidency and has direct influence over the architecture of the coming election.

Opposition leaders Eugene Wamalwa and former Attorney General Justin Muturi added their voices during an opposition tour in Homa Bay, Tana River County, on Sunday. Wamalwa said the ruling party had essentially acknowledged that its numbers did not hold up. "The people of Kenya have realised that Ruto's numbers do not add up. Now people in UDA have started saying that they will even wake up those who have died to vote," he said. Muturi went further, appealing to Chief Justice Martha Koome to prioritise election-related cases before 2027, saying the country needed clarity on

outstanding electoral disputes well in advance of the campaign's final stretch.

The controversy arrives at a moment when Kenya's pre-election environment is already under severe strain. Violence disrupted political meetings in Embu and Garissa on the same weekend, a woman was killed at a Nairobi rally and the opposition has been sounding sustained alarms about state interference in its activities. Against that backdrop, Omar's remarks did not land in a vacuum — they landed in a political atmosphere primed for exactly this kind of flashpoint.

The IEBC, which has yet to comment publicly, now faces a choice. Silence will be interpreted as complicity by an opposition already convinced that the institutional deck is being stacked. A statement that fails to address the substance of Omar's words directly will satisfy no one. What Kenya's battered electoral commission says next — and how quickly it says it — will tell the country something important about whether it intends to be a referee or a bystander in the most contested election the republic has faced in nearly a decade.

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Violence In Embu, youths clashed with riot police outside Nembure Stadium where Deputy President Kithure Kindiki was addressing UDA officials

Blood on the campaign trail: Kenya's 2027 election season begins with a dangerous bang

A single Saturday of political violence across two counties has laid bare the fault lines of a republic heading towards its most consequential election in a generation

BY James Mwangi

@themkenyatimes

One person was killed, six vehicles torched and a sitting member of parliament threatened with arrest — all on the same Saturday afternoon as Kenya's political class collided with the reality of a country already at war with itself eleven months before voting day.

The events unfolded in two separate corners of the country but told one coherent story. In Embu, youths clashed with riot police outside Nembure Stadium where Deputy President Kithure Kindiki was addressing more than 20,000 United Democratic Alliance grassroots officials. Teargas canisters were lobbed, stones flew in return, and by the time order was restored, at least one person was dead and several vehicles lay in ruins. On the same afternoon, more than 400 kilometres north in Garissa Town, Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka and former Attorney General Justin Muturi were midway through an opposition rally when youths began hurling stones at their convoy. Muturi's vehicle was partially shattered. He did not mince his words. "This is an attempted assassination," he declared, calling on Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja to act immediately.

The two incidents, separated by geography but united by the same volatile pre-election atmosphere, have dramatically accelerated the confrontation between Kenya's competing political forces at the very moment that confrontation was becoming unavoidable.

The Embu violence was quickly claimed by both sides as evidence of the other's malice. Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, speaking from the United States where he had been on a diaspora engagement tour, accused Kindiki of arriving with suitcases of money to be distributed at the meeting, claiming that youths left outside the stadium had rioted after being denied access to what he described as financial inducements. "Your level of frustration and desperation is at a historically high level and has led you to shed innocent blood of your kinsmen in Embu today," Gachagua



Vehicles torched in Nembure, Embu County

said. He further alleged that Kindiki had been given a deadline of October 25 by President William Ruto to split the Mt Kenya region into distinct eastern and western political blocs — a claim the government has not corroborated and Gachagua did not substantiate with evidence.

Kindiki rejected the characterisation with scorn. "Nobody can bribe them to do anything they would not want to do," he said, referring to the residents of Mt Kenya. "No mountain will be divided, maybe in your evil dreams." He dismissed Gachagua as a political newcomer overreaching his standing. "Gachagua joined politics recently and he should stop lecturing me on matters politics. We shall defeat him." Two political men from the same cultural heartland, trading insults in language that carries within it the shape of a much wider rupture.

What is playing out in the shadow of these events is, in fact, the defining political contest of the current moment: who speaks for Mount Kenya? The region's roughly 5.7 million registered voters delivered close to three million votes for Ruto in 2022. Whoever commands that bloc in 2027 will have enormous leverage over the outcome of the presidential election. Gachagua, impeached and discarded by the very coalition he helped build, has spent the past year constructing an alternative power base through his Democracy for the Citizens Party, accumulating credi-

bility through a series of by-election victories including the recent Ol Kalou contest. DCP Secretary General John Methu, Nyandarua Senator and one of the party's most combative voices, has taken the fight directly to the government's doorstep. Speaking at ACK Witima Church in Nyeri on Sunday, Methu questioned why Kindiki, as deputy president with access to security intelligence, had failed to prevent the Embu disruption. "Those who attacked the church are not goons — they are police officers, and they are known," he said, in a direct and deliberate escalation that blurs the boundary between political argument and serious criminal allegation. Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu summarised the DCP position in language designed for popular circulation. "The mountain has one party and one leader, and that is Rigathi Gachagua and DCP," he said — a declaration that ignores the increasingly organised campaign by Kindiki's allies to construct an alternative narrative, particularly in Mt Kenya East, covering Embu, Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties, where Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku has been leading sustained ground mobilisation to establish Kindiki as the region's independent political voice.

The opposition, meanwhile, is drawing its own battle lines. Kalonzo's Garissa tour was part of his "Ukombozi wa Kenya" campaign, designed to extend opposition reach into tra-

ditionally government-friendly territory in Northern Kenya. The stoning of his convoy was, on one level, a predictable hazard of campaigning in a charged environment. On another, it reflected the extent to which the state's management of political space is already being tested. Kalonzo blamed a senior government official for the disruption, though he did not name the individual. He was unambiguous about his intention to continue regardless. "The idea of change cannot be teargassed into retreat, clubbed into submission, or battered into silence," he said.

The same Sunday that Kalonzo was regrouping in Tana River, Nairobi added its own grim entry to the weekend's ledger. Diana Mulingwe, 34, was struck and run over by a Toyota Prado at Jacaranda Grounds in Embakasi at approximately 3pm, during the Linda Mwananchi movement's major rally led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna. The vehicle fled the scene without stopping. Police confirmed her death after she was rushed to Patanisho Hospital with multiple fractures to her lower limbs and did not survive. The registration number of the vehicle was not captured, and officers have opened a hit-and-run inquiry. It was not the first time death has found the Linda Mwananchi movement. Four people were killed when machete-wielding attackers targeted the group's rally in Homa Bay on August 16. The pattern is accumulating with alarming

consistency.

The general election is scheduled for August 2027. That is eleven months away — enough time, in a well-functioning democracy, for institutions to stabilise, campaigns to proceed lawfully and citizens to make their choices in safety. Kenya's track record offers reasons for concern. The post-election violence of 2007 killed more than 1,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands more. The country has never fully resolved the underlying ethnic and political tensions that made that violence possible. What happened across this single weekend — in Embu, Garissa and Nairobi — is not yet evidence that history will repeat itself. It is, however, a signal that the political temperature is rising faster than the institutional guardrails can manage.

At the heart of the gathering storm is a question that no politician in Nairobi has answered satisfactorily: can Kenya hold a genuinely competitive election when the incumbent government controls the security apparatus, the opposition is being stoned in its convoys, a member of parliament is threatened with arrest, a woman is run over and killed at a rally, and citizens are dying at political meetings? The answer to that question, over the months ahead, will define the kind of country Kenya chooses to be.

Politics The day carried political weight far beyond the size of the crowd. Nairobi is the country's largest single constituency of political influence

Sifuna storms Nairobi: A movement, a message and a presidential race that is only just beginning

The Linda Mwananchi rally at Jacaranda Grounds was the largest opposition gathering in the capital in years, with thousands turning out as the movement sharpens its challenge to President Ruto

BY David Kimani

@themkenyentimes

The Linda Mwananchi movement brought its nationwide mobilisation campaign to Nairobi yesterday, drawing thousands of supporters to Jacaranda Grounds in Embakasi East in a rally led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna that doubled as the most emphatic statement yet of the opposition's intent to end President William Ruto's presidency in August 2027.

The day began at All Saints Cathedral on Ngong Road at 9am, where Sifuna and his allies — including Siaya Governor James Orengo, Embakasi East MP Babu Owino and former nominated senator Millicent Omanga — attended a church service before leading a procession through the capital's busiest markets and arteries. From the cathedral, the convoy moved through Marikiti and Gikomba markets, then on to Burma Market, Stage 17, B Centre and Manyanja before snaking along Jogoo Road to Jacaranda. It was a deliberate and carefully choreographed entry into a city that the movement's organisers had billed internally as "the mother of all rallies" for Sifuna. The streets did not disappoint. Supporters lined the roads with Kenyan flags and the coloured regalia of a movement that has evolved, with striking speed, from a protest-driven political platform into a structured machinery for the 2027 general election.

The day carried political weight far beyond the size of the crowd. Nairobi is the country's largest single constituency of political influence, and any formation that aspires to dislodge an incumbent must demonstrate it can command the capital. Linda Mwananchi's march through Gikomba, the city's most densely packed trading hub, and its subsequent filling of Jacaranda was designed to answer that question publicly and visually.

Sifuna was direct and combative when he finally addressed the crowd at Jacaranda. Thanking the city that gave him his Senate seat, he told supporters: "Because of your votes, you sent me to the Senate. And because of the Senate, today all of Ken-



The Linda Mwananchi rally at Jacaranda Grounds

ya knows who Sifuna is." He then turned his attention to Ruto. "There is one person in this Kenya who has oppressed us terribly. Every morning you wake up, he has increased taxes on everything. He closes down small traders. Do you know who I mean?" And to the President directly: "William Ruto, you are going to be the first one-term president of the Republic of Kenya."

The crowd roared. But the most significant political moment of the day came not from Sifuna but from Orengo. The Siaya governor, who has publicly declared his own presidential ambition and whose campaign is a source of barely concealed tension within the movement, chose Jacaranda to signal a path toward resolution. "Sifuna is my son," Orengo told the crowd. "I want to announce that Sifuna and I will sit together at the negotiation table to ensure that we liberate Kenya." The remark landed warmly but it did not close the question. Linda Mwananchi's principal spokesperson and Suba South MP Caroli Omondi was quick to insist that the movement's

presidential candidate is Sifuna and Sifuna alone, while Orengo's allies maintained that his candidacy remained alive and subject to the internal democratic process the movement is yet to fully define.

The flag-bearer question is the single most consequential unresolved matter facing the opposition as it heads toward 2027. Sifuna has said he will engage Orengo, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka in efforts to consolidate behind one name. That is a formidable set of negotiations, each involving leaders with their own regional arithmetic and their own reasons for staying in the race as long as possible. What yesterday showed is that the crowd exists, the energy is present and the grievances are genuine — but converting all of that into a single and disciplined campaign is a challenge no rally, however large, can solve by itself.

Babu Owino used the Marikiti stopover to lay out his vision for Nairobi's governorship, a seat he is seeking in 2027. "Nairobi has many

serious problems," he told traders. "A young man wakes up in the morning — no job. A mother wakes up — her business is not working. An old man wakes up — no money for medicine." He singled out the city's notoriously neglected garbage collection, pointing to the waste piled around the market stalls. "You see rubbish everywhere. And then you are told: you have a governor. What kind of governor stays up at City Hall?" Orengo, completing his appearances for the day, endorsed Owino's bid, saying the two had agreed that the MP should lead the capital.

The rally unfolded on the same weekend that opposition leaders were stoned in Garissa and clashes disrupted Deputy President Kithure Kindiki's political meeting in Embu — a convergence of political turbulence across the country that sharpens the contrast Linda Mwananchi is seeking to draw between itself and the governing Kenya Kwanza administration. The movement has made cost of living, youth unemployment, suppression of small trad-

ers and what it describes as the weaponisation of state security its central campaign themes, and the markets of Nairobi gave those themes their most vivid backdrop yet.

What Jacaranda demonstrated yesterday is that Sifuna has built something real. The crowds are not manufactured. The energy is not borrowed. The grievances that drive people from Gikomba to Jogoo Road to a packed stadium in Embakasi are rooted in the lived experience of millions of Kenyans who feel that the promise of 2022 has curdled into something they did not vote for. Whether the movement can translate that momentum into the disciplined coalition, agreed candidate and ground infrastructure that winning a Kenyan presidential election demands is the question that will define its next eleven months.

The opposition has filled stadiums before, and still lost. Sifuna's allies know this. So does he. But yesterday, Nairobi listened — and that, for now, is exactly where Linda Mwananchi needed to be.

Politics Methu took aim at Nyoro's party with a contempt he did not bother to disguise. "These wheelbarrows that are coming up, we know all of them

DCP turns Murang'a into a battlefield: Methu, Kang'ata and senators tear into Nyoro

In a charged rally on their home turf, Democracy for the Citizens Party's most powerful voices unified against Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro and delivered a pointed message to President Ruto

BY James Mwangi
@themtkenyaintimes

Democracy for the Citizens Party brought its full Mt Kenya firepower to Murang'a yesterday in a rally that became the most concentrated

and coordinated assault yet on Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro, with senator, governor, senator and aspirants queuing at the microphone to dismantle the People's Party of Kenya before it can find its feet in what both sides know is the

most consequential political battleground heading into the August 2027 general election. Nyandarua Senator John Methu, DCP's secretary-general designate, set the tone from the opening moments and never let up. Speaking



Nyandarua Senator John Methu and Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata

with a directness that has become his political signature, Methu took aim at Nyoro's party with a contempt he did not bother to disguise. "These wheelbarrows that are coming up, we know all of them. We knew they were coming," he told the crowd. "We saw one that was launched yesterday, and we were waiting for it because we had been told that there was a wheelbarrow from Murang'a — it does not come to us as a surprise." He then challenged those behind the rival formations to proceed without hesitation. "Bring them on. You register a wheelbarrow overnight, but Linda Mwananchi has been trying for two months to register a party and it has not been possible. But if you register a wheelbarrow, it is very fast." The crowd understood the implication without needing it spelled out.

Methu then turned to President William Ruto, mocking Ruto's emotional moment during his recent Bomet tour, when the President wept after a young girl recited a poem on the bonnet of his vehicle. "Cry milk or blood — you are still a one-term president," Methu said, to sustained applause. He accused Ruto of identifying a united Mt Kenya vote as his greatest political threat and deliberately engineering splinter parties to fragment it. "You have said and decided that the thing you fear in this Kenya is the people of Mt Kenya voting together," he said, addressing Ruto directly. Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata, the most prominent

elected official in the room and a man whose defection from UDA in July gave DCP its most significant county-level prize, was measured but equally firm. "I have confirmed that in my county, DCP is very popular," Kang'ata told the gathering, dismissing any suggestion that PPK had meaningful support on ground he knows intimately. He said DCP's roots in Murang'a predated the formation of any rival structure and that aspirants lining up under the green banner of an opponent would find the terrain unresponsive. Kang'ata also made clear that his 2027 ambition is singular and rooted. "I am only gunning for re-election in Murang'a," he said, closing off speculation about a national bid and signalling that his full organisational weight stays local — and solidly behind DCP.

Murang'a Senator Joe Nyutu, one of the architects of the DCP vetting panel established in August to screen defectors from UDA, addressed the growing queue of aspirants who had come to the rally seeking the party's endorsement for ward and parliamentary seats. Nyutu stressed that the party was not accepting opportunists. "We are vetting people's intentions," he said. "We want people who are genuinely committed to this cause, not those who are running from their problems in other parties." Several aspirants — ward representatives, parliamentary hopefuls and a handful of current MCAs from Murang'a constituencies — addressed the crowd

in turns, declaring loyalty to DCP and to Gachagua. The message, repeated in different forms throughout the afternoon, was one of numbers: DCP's Murang'a structures were deeper and broader than its critics acknowledged.

Kiambu Senator Karungu wa Thang'wa, connecting by phone to add his voice to proceedings, reiterated his standing claim that Nyoro is "Ruto's designated running mate for 2027" — a charge Nyoro has repeatedly denied. "Time will tell," Thang'wa said. "We are naming things as they are."

Meanwhile, Nyoro fired back from a radio interview that aired on the same afternoon. He rejected boardroom negotiations as a mechanism for settling the united opposition's flag bearer contest. "A boardroom of politicians will always choose the weakest leader," he said — a remark that landed as a direct challenge to DCP's preference for consensus over open primaries. He also renewed his claim that he had personally contributed money to DCP's Ol Kalou by-election campaign, directly contradicting Methu's denial. "The people who received it acknowledged it," Nyoro said. "The amount was modest, but it was sent."

In Murang'a yesterday, DCP made its intentions for 2027 unmistakably clear. Whether the county agrees will be decided not in rallies, but at the ballot.

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Disability This contradiction becomes most visible as the country approaches another General Election. Suddenly, disability becomes politically visible

Kenya's disability promise must move from paper to power

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." — Franklin D. Roosevelt



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyaintimes

Kenya has never been short of promises to persons with disabilities. We have a constitution that speaks powerfully about equality and dignity, legislation that has progressively strengthened disability rights, policies designed to promote inclusion, and international commitments that recognise persons with disabilities as rights-holders rather than objects of charity. Yet, for millions of Kenyans living with disabilities, the painful reality remains that the distance between the law and everyday life is still far too wide.

This contradiction becomes most visible as the country approaches another General Election. Suddenly, disability becomes politically visible. Leaders remember the numbers. Candidates visit disability groups. Political meetings become crowded with promises. Wheelchairs, walking sticks and photographs become campaign props. Yet once the votes have been counted, the political attention often disappears faster than the campaign posters. That political culture must now come to an end.

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010, was supposed to change the relationship between the

State and persons with disabilities. Article 27 guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination, while Article 54 specifically recognises the rights of persons with disabilities to dignity, access to education, reasonable access to places, public transport and information, use of sign language, Braille and other appropriate means of communication, and the progressive implementation of the five-per-cent principle in elective and appointive bodies.

The Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025, strengthened that constitutional architecture. It places obligations on both national and county governments concerning disability inclusion, employment, economic empowerment, accessibility and participation. Kenya has also ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The problem, therefore, is increasingly not the absence of law. It is the absence of sufficiently relentless implementation.

Take employment. Kenya has repeatedly affirmed that disability should not be a barrier to employment. Yet qualified persons with disabilities still confront inaccessible recruitment systems, discriminatory assumptions, inadequate workplace accommodation and institutions that have not translated the five-per-cent principle into meaningful representation.

A certificate, degree or professional qualification does not become less valuable because its holder uses a wheel-

chair, communicates through sign language, has a visual impairment or lives with another form of disability. The real disability is sometimes found not in the individual but in the institution that refuses to accommodate difference.

Public procurement presents another uncomfortable test. Kenya's AGPO framework was created to open government procurement to women, youth and persons with disabilities. The law and policy framework provide affirmative opportunities. But the important question for the political class is no longer whether tenders are advertised. How many genuine PWD-owned enterprises actually win? How much money reaches them? How long do they wait to be paid? Which institutions consistently comply? Which do not?

Government e-procurement data should make it possible for Kenyans to interrogate these questions. Disability inclusion must be measured by actual contracts, actual beneficiaries and actual economic transformation—not by the existence of an online portal. Healthcare is equally revealing. For a person with a disability, accessing healthcare may involve much more than reaching a hospital. It can mean transport costs, inaccessible buildings, communication barriers, rehabilitation, assistive devices, personal assistance, medication and long-term care. A health system that treats everyone identically can still produce profound inequality because equal treatment is not always

equitable treatment.

Social protection presents perhaps the clearest example of the difference between administrative categorisation and lived reality. Kenya's Inua Jamii programme includes cash-transfer interventions for older persons and persons with severe disabilities. The KSh2,000 monthly payment may provide a vital lifeline, but it cannot be viewed as an adequate substitute for a comprehensive disability-support system. Severe disability can generate additional and continuing costs for personal care, mobility, medication, assistive technology, rehabilitation and family support.

The question Kenya should therefore ask is not simply, "How much are we paying?" It should ask: "What does it actually cost a person with severe disability to live with dignity?" That is the standard against which social protection should ultimately be judged. There is also a deeper problem: laws and programmes can be diluted by delay, inadequate financing, administrative barriers or changing implementation frameworks. A right postponed is a right weakened. A benefit that exists on paper but cannot be accessed easily by its intended beneficiary is not meaningful inclusion. And this is where the political class needs to listen carefully.

Persons with disabilities are no longer prepared to be counted only when their votes are required. They want to be counted when budgets are prepared, when jobs are allocat-

Persons with Disabilities

ed, when tenders are awarded, when hospitals are designed, when roads and buildings are constructed, when policies are drafted and when national priorities are determined. They want representation—not decoration. They want participation—not political patronage. They want economic opportunity—not perpetual fundraising. They want accountability—not sympathy.

As Kenya moves towards the 2027 General Election, persons with disabilities must therefore reconsider their political power. Their greatest strength will not be found in isolated organisations competing for attention, but in solidarity. PWD organisations, youth, women, professionals, entrepreneurs, caregivers and disability advocates must support one another. They must share information, defend one another's rights, monitor public expenditure, interrogate political manifestos, document discrimination and demand measurable commitments from candidates.

Every candidate seeking office should be asked: What will you do for disability inclusion? Where will the money come from? What will you implement within the first 100 days? What will you deliver within one year? Who will be accountable? And the answers should be documented.

The disability community must also turn up in large numbers—not merely to vote, but to participate in political parties, public participation forums, budget processes, procurement opportunities,

oversight institutions and elective politics itself. The message to politicians should be unmistakable: the disability vote is not a blank cheque. Those seeking it must earn it. Those who receive it must account for it. Those who ignore disability rights must be remembered.

Kenya has already written the promise into its Constitution and strengthened it through legislation. The next chapter must be written by implementation—and by a disability community sufficiently organised to insist that constitutional rights cannot remain beautiful words in government documents.

The road to 2027 should therefore mark a decisive change. Let every political party know that persons with disabilities are not waiting at the roadside for another convoy of promises. They are citizens, voters, entrepreneurs, professionals, parents, workers, leaders and taxpayers. They are ready to occupy the space where decisions are made. The political class must understand one simple truth: persons with disabilities are not asking for a favour. They are demanding their rightful place in Kenya's national conversation, economy and political architecture.

As Nelson Mandela reminded the world, "It always seems impossible until it's done." For Kenya's disability community, the time has come to make inclusion not merely possible—but unavoidable.



Politics The significance of what is happening extends well beyond the symbolism of political handshakes and packed rallies

Ruto and ODM: Kenya's new political arithmetic and what it means for 2027

An emerging alliance between old rivals is reshaping Kenya's political landscape — but the real test is whether it serves the nation or merely the ambitions of those brokering it

BY Collins Kibet

@themkenyatimes

Kenya's politics has entered one of its characteristically unpredictable seasons — a moment of shifting loyalties, unlikely handshakes and calculations so layered that even seasoned analysts are hedging their predictions. President William Ruto's deepening engagement with the Orange Democratic Movement, particularly his political forays into Nyanza, has placed a question squarely before the country that demands a serious answer: is Kenya witnessing the birth of a new political realignment ahead of the 2027 general election, and if so, what should ordinary Kenyans make of it?

For decades, the country's political architecture has followed a familiar and largely predictable pattern — government on one side, opposition on the other, with parties built around personalities, regional allegiances and shifting electoral mathematics. The emerging relationship between Ruto's United Democratic Alliance and ODM appears to be rewriting that formula in real time. Leaders who were bitter rivals on the campaign trail are sharing platforms, exchanging courtesies and finding common ground in ways that would have seemed improbable even three years ago. It is a striking image. Whether it is a mean-

ingful one is another matter entirely.

The significance of what is happening extends well beyond the symbolism of political handshakes and packed rallies. Ruto's engagement with Nyanza is, at its core, an attempt to expand his political base beyond the constituencies that delivered his 2022 victory. It is an acknowledgement that a second term requires a broader coalition and that the arithmetic of 2022 may not be sufficient for 2027. ODM's cooperation with the government, meanwhile, raises sharper and more uncomfortable questions about the future of Kenya's opposition — questions that go to the heart of what opposition politics is actually for.

But Kenyans have been here before. Political alliances forged in the name of national unity have a well-documented habit of unravelling the moment personal and electoral interests diverge. The country's political history is littered with partnerships that made headlines at their launch and generated considerably less attention when they quietly fell apart. That institutional memory is not cynicism — it is earned experience, and it explains why many citizens are watching the current realignment with cautious, discerning eyes rather than open enthusiasm.

For ordinary Kenyans, the measure of any political alliance has never been the qual-

ity of the speeches delivered at its launch. It has always been simpler and more immediate than that: does life get better? The cost of living remains punishing for millions of households. Youth unemployment has not meaningfully improved. Taxation has increased. Healthcare and education remain out of reach for too many. A political realignment, however historically significant it may appear on the surface, does not automatically put food on the table, reduce a school fee balance or create the job that a young graduate has

For decades, the country's political architecture has followed a familiar and largely predictable pattern — government on one side, opposition on the other, with parties built around personalities, regional allegiances and shifting electoral mathematics. The emerging relationship between Ruto's United Democratic Alliance and ODM appears to be rewriting that formula in real time. Leaders who were bitter rivals on the campaign trail are sharing platforms, exchanging courtesies and finding common ground in ways that would have seemed improbable even three years ago. It is a striking image. Whether it is a meaningful one is another matter entirely.



President William Ruto in Nyanza

been waiting years to find. If the Ruto-ODM relationship cannot demonstrate a tangible connection to those lived realities, it will eventually be judged by the same standard as every political arrangement that preceded it.

This is where the alliance faces its most honest test. Political cooperation should be measured by its consequences for the country — not by the number of politicians sharing a stage or the warmth of the language used at joint press conferences. If the partnership produces genuine national stability, advances economic development and improves the quality of governance, it could represent something worth taking seriously. If it is primarily an electoral calculation dressed up in the language of national unity, Kenyans will eventually recognise it for what it is — and they will say so at the ballot box.

The opposition, for its part, faces a moment of reckoning that it cannot afford to misread. If ODM continues drawing closer to the government, the remaining opposition formations must do more than criticise. Criticism without a compelling alternative is not a

political strategy — it is noise. Voters heading into 2027 will want to know what an opposition-led government would do differently, how it would address the economy, what it would change about taxation and public spending and why it deserves trust. That is a harder argument to make than attacking the incumbent, but it is the only argument that ultimately matters.

There is, admittedly, something potentially constructive in what is unfolding. If cooperation between previously divided political forces reduces unnecessary confrontation and creates more space for governance rather than perpetual political warfare, Kenya's democratic culture could genuinely benefit. A less adversarial political environment is not a bad thing. The problem is that political alliances built primarily around electoral mathematics tend to be transactional rather than transformational — and transactional arrangements serve those negotiating them far more reliably than they serve the public.

As the country moves closer to August 2027, Kenyans would do well to look past

the pageantry. The harder questions deserve to be asked openly and persistently. What does this realignment mean for the economy? What does it mean for young people who cannot find work? What does it mean for taxpayers already stretched thin? What does it mean for accountability and for the institutions designed to check the exercise of power? These are not abstract questions. They are the questions that will determine whether the next election produces a government capable of governing, or simply a government capable of winning.

Kenya does not need another political realignment for its own sake. What the country needs — and what every political formation entering this season should be measured against — is a political culture that builds alliances around national interest and citizen welfare rather than the mathematics of the next election. The former rivals can clearly work together. The more important question is who, exactly, that cooperation is working for.

Politics Saturday’s rally in Garissa had turned dangerous when an estimated 50 youths hurled stones at the opposition convoy at multiple stops in the town

Stones, prayers and resolve: Kalonzo’s northern push survives the storm

BY Jacob Kinyua
@themtkenyentimes

Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka completed a bruising but defiant two-day tour of Garissa and Tana River counties yesterday, declaring that the violence that met his convoy on Saturday had only strengthened his conviction that Kenya is ready for political change ahead of the August 2027 general election.

The tour, branded as Kalonzo’s “Ukombozi wa Kenya” — Liberation of Kenya — grassroots campaign, took the veteran politician and his United Alternative Government allies from Garissa town on Saturday, through Madogo, and then on to Hola in Tana River on Sunday, where the team attended Holy Mass at St Francis of Assisi

Catholic Church alongside former Attorney General Justin Muturi and DAP-Kenya leader Eugene Wamalwa before addressing residents.

Saturday’s rally in Garissa had turned dangerous when an estimated 50 youths hurled stones at the opposition convoy at multiple stops in the town, damaging several vehicles including Muturi’s car, whose windscreen was partly destroyed. Kalonzo blamed the attack squarely on government actors. “We have to stop misusing our youths in playing dirty politics,” he said. Muturi went further, naming Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale directly. “CS Duale is my neighbour back in Nairobi and I fail to understand why he has sent youths to throw stones at us here in Garissa,” Muturi said.

By Sunday, the mood was different. Kalonzo used the pulpit in Hola to urge Kenyans to pray for the coun-

try, citing both the Garissa attack and the previous day’s deadly clashes in Embu as evidence of a republic under political stress. “Kenyans are crying from every corner of this republic,” he said, in a remark that captured both the economic weight of the moment and the physical danger the opposition is navigating as it takes its campaign into unfamiliar territory.

Closing his weekend tour with a statement on Sunday evening, Kalonzo thanked both counties for their reception. “From Garissa town to Madogo to Hola, your voices confirm what we have long known — the winds of change are sweeping across every corner of this republic,” he said. The stones did not stop him. That, for Kalonzo, appeared to be precisely the point.



Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka



My little princess



Whenever I came home from school,
My mother always asked me:
“How many fives did you get today?
Come on, my little princess, let me see!”

One day, something strange occurred—
I had received two different grades.
Afraid that Mother might discover them,
I hid them inside my school folder.

Once again, my mother asked me,
“Did you get a five? Come on, tell me!”
She looked directly into my eyes,

And I felt a little shy.

“Yes,” I answered very quietly,
As I handed her my school diary.
But sadly, I had received a two—
I had failed to solve a math problem.

My mother immediately became angry
When she saw my grade of three.
She quickly called my father,
So that he could scold me too.

“I am not a liar!” I protested.
“Why do you say that I am deceiving you?
If we add two and three together,
Doesn't it make five? Tell me, isn't that true?”

Normurodova Go'zal Uzoqboyevna
Student of Termez State University
Participant in the Republican Stage of the “Zomin
2026” Seminar

If the people are united, the future is great



When a nation unites, the broad world opens wide,
Faith and belief swell with passion inside.
If we step hand in hand, united and clear,
Our Uzbekistan blooms forever, far and near.
History teaches us lessons so deep,
United, our gardens of hope we shall keep.
Our roots are as one, our bloodlines the same,
Our lands will forever flourish in fame.
With strong resolution, high mountains will bend,
And every obstacle comes to an end.
In this land where unity springs like the dawn,
The most beautiful poems from hearts are drawn.
With pure intentions, abundance will grow,
Truthful hearts bring rich blessings below.

Supporting each other as forward we stride,
If we walk on the right path, grace is our guide.
Our ancestors' spirits protect from above,
The future calls every child with deep love.
To be worthy heirs of the Uzbek legacy,
To live in pure peace is the Lord's decree.
When youth burn with vigor and courage so bright,
Elders' prayers shield us with wisdom and light.
If every household is peaceful and fair,
The nation will shine like a flame in the air.
Our intent is as one, our goal is the same,
Fate holds bright glory and light in our name.
When harmony truly lives deep in the heart,
Triumph and victory never depart.
One single Homeland, one people so grand,
Beloved by all is our sacred land!
Where unity reigns, true happiness blossoms
bright,
If the people are united, the future is great!
👉 Nigora Yuldasheva

The strongest roots grow in the toughest soil



The strongest roots grow deep,
Where the soil is hard to keep.

Through the dark, a seed will stay,

Waiting for a brighter day.

With hope and strength, it starts to grow,
Facing winds that strongly blow.

So never fear a time that's tough,
Your roots can make you strong enough.

Hard times help us learn and rise,
Like a plant reaching for the skies.

Remember this when days are hard—
Great strength can grow from every scar.

R. SRIPRIYA
(Creative Writer)
BT ENGLISH
GHSS KOLAPAKKAM KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT
TAMILNADU
INDIA

What have we done to you, air of Tashkent?



What have we done to you, air of Tashkent?
We ran and rushed around,
Raising clouds of dust and sand.
Curse this “development”—
It became a bitter trap.
Is there any cure now
For this tragedy?
What have we done to you, air of Tashkent?
Your beauty was once a legend on everyone's lips.
Whenever I try to draw a full breath,
It is now so easy to be choked in dust.
What have we done to you, air of Tashkent?
Unsparingly, we gave leeway to business.
Ruining your beauty, ruining your air,
Now we flee in search of another home.
For ages, ancestors built and adorned you,
Wandering endlessly to decorate every inch.
Was all this suffering not enough for us?

My Tashkent, did we make your worth so cheap?
What have we done to you, air of Tashkent?
Walking down your streets, I feel like crying.
You are the plague of the 21st century...
To hell with manufacturing,
We don't need technology that destroys you!
Your snowless winters
Make us grit our teeth in pain.
You are the heart of Central Asia,
My grand city of matchless beauty.
To anyone who polluted your air,
I say without fear: I hold a bitter grudge!
Please stop, stop for a moment—
Stop the production and the rebuilding!
We do not need these high-rise buildings,
Give us back our laughter again!
Like others, I always wished
To have a home in your embrace, my Tashkent.
I am willing to give it up—stop building, enough!
Even without a home, grant us the chance to
breathe.
Come, my dears, come my friends,
Let us join hands and become as one!
For the children you have and I have,
Let us save the air of Tashkent!

Nodira Amirova

If the action leads to PEACE



If the action leads to PEACE,
it is the Right Action

Stop war!!!
Please do cease this insanity
The world needs more sense of humanity
When will he stop his evil respiration?

Multiplying his selfish aspiration!
Will he regret for being monster?
Bringing an end to war disaster
Selfish Man falls into crisis
With deteriorated soul than virus.
Human need not be pious
Nor stay to inspire us
But why to live with heart minus?
Emotionally pushing us to distress.
An oasis is essential
Quenching world with peace to dwell.

Oh! God stretch your scared hand
Wiping tears who dreadfully stand
I would just pray for universal peace
To inhale fresh breeze.

G. Sarala
Creative writers
India

“TRUST” is an invisible currency



Hard to earn, easy to loose
Be prudent and choose
Lost once forever, not even for an emergency
Words and actions must agree
Towards a better relationship

Seldom does we see true friendship
Gossipers easily degrade and disagree
Truth always protect us as shelter
Despite of many grudges and avoidance
Choose your surroundings with confidence
Check on the words spoken for worsor or better
Triggered words spoil the reliability
Unspoken words keep up the integrity

N. SIVASANKARI
CREATIVE WRITER
TEACHER IN ENGLISH
MADURAI DISTRICT TAMILNADU

Kenya heading down a dangerous path, DP warns as political violence spreads

Ndubai reaffirmed the DP's commitment to peaceful politics, the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights for every Kenyan, saying the party would continue to speak out wherever those rights came under threat.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Importance of the First Language in Learning a Second Language



By: **Umarova Nargiza**

The role of the first language (L1) in second language (L2) acquisition has long been a subject of debate among linguists and educators. Rather than being an obstacle, the learner's native language can serve as a valuable resource that supports comprehension, accelerates vocabulary acquisition, and helps learners understand abstract grammatical concepts through comparison.

One of the main functions of

the first language in L2 learning is facilitating cognitive transfer. Learners naturally draw on the knowledge, concepts, and reasoning skills they have already developed in their native language when approaching a new one. This transfer can be positive, as in the case of shared vocabulary roots or similar grammatical structures, or it can create interference when the two languages differ significantly. A thoughtful pedagogical approach uses the first language strategically to clarify meaning, especially with complex or abstract terms that are difficult to explain through the target language alone.

The first language also plays a psychological role in reducing learner anxiety. Allowing occasional use of the native language, particularly at beginner levels, can lower the affective

filter, making students feel more confident and willing to participate. This does not mean that classroom instruction should rely heavily on translation, but rather that judicious, well-timed use of L1 can build a bridge toward greater fluency in L2.

In conclusion, the first language should not be viewed as a hindrance to second language learning but as a cognitive and communicative resource. When integrated thoughtfully into teaching methodology, it can enhance comprehension, reduce anxiety, and ultimately support more effective and confident second language acquisition.

*Umarova Nargiza
2nd-Year Master's Student
University of Exact and Social Sciences*

Not everyone who is around us is our friend



By: **Doniyorova Zulayho**

Life is a long road on which we meet many different people. Some become our companions for many years, while others walk only a short part of the journey with us and then quietly disappear from our lives. Some people hold a special place in our hearts, while others leave us with an important life lesson. And over time, we begin to understand one simple but very important truth: not everyone who is around us is truly our friend.

Sometimes we judge a person by their appearance, beautiful words, or constant attention. They laugh with us, talk to us, and show interest in our lives, and we think that we have found someone close to us. But a person's true nature is often revealed not during the happy days, but precisely during the difficult moments of our lives.

Not everyone sincerely rejoices in our happiness. Some people congratulate us on our success, but deep inside they may feel jealous. Some listen to our problems, but in reality, they are simply waiting for the right moment to use our weaknesses against us. And some behave like true friends when they are with us, but say completely different things behind our backs.

A true friend is someone who

protects you even when you are not there.

Friendship is not only about going for walks together, having conversations, and spending fun time with each other. A true friend will reach out their hand when you fall, show you the right path when you make a mistake, and sincerely celebrate your success. They may tell you the truth directly, even if it is unpleasant, but they will never humiliate you in front of others.

There are moments in life when we realize that what matters is not the number of people around us, but their sincerity. A person may have hundreds of acquaintances, but in a difficult moment, perhaps only one person will remain by their side. That is when we understand the true value of that person.

Therefore, in life, it is important not only to meet people but also to learn to understand them. Some people may come closer to us for their own benefit, while others may be with us simply because they genuinely value us. And only time can help us understand who is who.

Time is the fairest judge. Sooner or later, it reveals the true face of every person. Someone who praises you today may forget about you tomorrow. But a true friend will remain by your side even on the hardest days, because true friendship is built not on benefit, but on trust, respect, and sincerity.

Sometimes the departure of certain people from our lives causes us pain. We ask ourselves, "Why did they do this?" But as time passes, we begin to understand that not every

person who leaves our life is a loss. Sometimes certain people come into our lives precisely to teach us something.

Therefore, we should not lose ourselves because of those who failed to appreciate us. If someone does not value us, it does not mean that we are worth nothing. If someone betrays us, it does not mean that all people are bad.

The most important thing is to keep kindness in our hearts and learn whom we can truly trust.

I think that great happiness is not having many people around us, but having people beside us with whom we can be ourselves and feel calm and free. A true friend does not require us to prove anything. They accept us just as we are.

Life brings different people into our lives. Some share our happiness, some wipe away our tears, and some teach us how to understand people better.

Therefore, we should not be in a hurry to call every person around us a friend. Friendship is proven not by words, but by time, actions, and loyalty.

And eventually, a person understands that they do not need to have many people around them. If there are people by their side who sincerely rejoice in their success, understand their heart, and do not let go of their hand during the most difficult moments — that is true wealth.

*Doniyorova Zulayho
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Politics “I am appealing as a senior citizen from this county and as a senior advocate from the Abagusii community that this is not the trend we should take.”

Lawyer Omari backs Ruto, Mogaka for second terms, warns against political violence

BY Elizabeth Angira

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Lawyer Danstan Omari has urged residents of Nyamira County and the wider Gusii community to support President William Ruto for a second term, saying his administration has initiated development projects in the region.

Addressing journalists during press briefing in Nyamira county, Omari also endorsed West Mugirango MP Steve Mogaka for re-election, citing what he described as the legislator's contribution to development in the constituency.

Omari, however, cautioned politicians against importing violence into the region, urging those seeking elective positions to campaign peacefully and seek votes from residents.

“We are not people who are violent. Anybody who will try to bring violence to this county will be shown the door, especially in West Mugirango Constituency,” Omari said.

His remarks come amid concerns over political violence following an incident at a Deputy President Kithure Kindiki's function in which two people were reportedly killed and property worth millions of shillings destroyed.

Omari recalled the 2007/08 post-election violence, saying Kenyans should not allow the country to return to such a situation.

“We know what happened in 2007. We saw over 1,350 Kenyans lose their lives. Over 350,000 people were internally displaced. Women were raped, houses were torched, children never went to school and we saw IDP camps,” he said.

“I am appealing as a senior citizen from this county and as a senior advocate from the Abagusii community that this is not the trend we should take.”

Omari said the Gusii community has established itself across the country and should therefore continue promoting peace and coexistence with other communities.

Omari praises Ruto's development record

Turning to development, Omari said Nyamira County was benefiting from projects initiated under President Ruto, particularly in education and infrastructure.

He cited the ongoing construction of



Lawyer Danstan Omari has endorsed President William Ruto and West Mugirango MP Steve Mogaka for re-election, citing what he described as contribution to development. | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

a university at Kebirigo/Kiabonyoru as a major milestone for the county.

“Since 1963, Nyamira County has never had a university. For the first time, under the guidance and leadership of President William Ruto, we have the construction of a university going on,” he said.

Omari said he had toured various development projects in the region and described the university as a major boost for residents.

“The university at Kiabonyoru is a big, big boost for the people of Nyamira County. We never saw it under Kenyatta, Moi, Kibaki or Uhuru. We are seeing this for the first time,” he said.

He further pointed to the ongoing construction of the Magombo-Bondeni road in West Mugirango as another major development.

“Since that time, we have never seen a road, and I came to confirm that now the Magombo-Bondeni Road is being constructed.”

Omari backs Mogaka for re-election

Omari also threw his weight behind West Mugirango MP Steve Mogaka, saying the legislator had played a significant role in improving infrastructure and education facilities within the constituency.

“When I look at the area MP for

West Mugirango, Steve Mogaka, I am pitching tent for him for re-election,” he said.

Omari said his assessment of development projects in the constituency had convinced him that Mogaka deserved another term.

He cited Nyamira Primary School and other learning institutions as examples of projects he said had benefited from Mogaka's efforts.

Omari urged other politicians seeking elective positions to base their campaigns on development rather than divisive politics.

“Contest on the platform of development. Steve has done his job. He has brought West Mugirango to where it is,” he said.

Why Omari says he supports Ruto

Omari said his decision to support President Ruto was based on both his assessment of the President's performance and his personal relationship with him.

“Why am I supporting Dr William Ruto for the second term? It is a very contentious issue where people are not ready to say what they stand for,” he said.

He said he was joining what he described as the “two-term project” and would soon become active in the President's campaign team.

Omari dismisses Matiang'i and Maraga's presidential prospects

Omari also addressed the possible presidential ambitions of former Interior Cabinet Secretary Dr Fred Matiang'i and retired Chief Justice David Maraga, both of whom he said he knows personally and has worked with.

He claimed that neither of the two could secure the constitutional threshold required to win the presidency.

“I have assessed. Matiang'i has nowhere to go. He started as a national political leader and has returned into the village. Let us not be cheated that Matiang'i is going to be on the ballot,” Omari said.

Omari also acknowledged Maraga's legal credentials, saying he had represented the retired Chief Justice and comes from the same clan.

“He is a very good legal mind, but he cannot be elected as president of the country,” Omari said.

He argued that the Gusii community does not have sufficient numbers to win the presidency on its own and therefore needs to build alliances with other communities.

“Our votes will not be more than 1.3 million. We can only make alliances with other tribes. If we remain alone and isolate ourselves, we will be no-

where,” he said.

Omari said presidential candidates from the region needed to look beyond Gusii land and build a national coalition if they wanted to mount a serious challenge for the presidency.

“I originally was a vocal supporter of Dr Fred Matiang'i. I talked to him and assured him that the ground is bigger than Kisii. You cannot be president by only campaigning in Kisii,” he said.

He said he had also spoken to retired Chief Justice Maraga about his position.

Calls for Gusii professionals and youth to back Ruto

Omari concluded by calling on Kisii professionals and young people to support the Ruto administration, arguing that doing so would position the region to benefit from government development programmes.

“My last appeal is that all Kisii professionals and all Kisii young people, let us join the two-term project so that we can develop, we can grow and reap from the benefits of the government of the day,” he said.

He also urged Matiang'i and Maraga to work with Mogaka in promoting development and peace in West Mugirango.

“My appeal to my two clans, retired Chief Justice Maraga and Dr Fred Matiang'i, is to join Steve Mogaka to work together to develop this town, make peace and promote the development of this region, especially West Mugirango,” he said.

Omari said he would soon join the campaign team to support both Mogaka and President Ruto.

“I will be joining the campaign team shortly. I have not come to campaign because people are thinking I am going to contest for the Senate of Nairobi. I am not going to contest for the Senate of Nairobi,” he said.

“I will be here supporting Steve Mogaka, pushing the agenda for a second term for Steve Mogaka and also a second term for Dr William Ruto.”

He maintained that his decision was based on what he described as political reality, saying the Gusii community must work with other communities to have influence in national politics.

“We cannot purport to contest for national elections without other communities. We must look at our possibilities. Do we have the numbers for national politics? We don't,” Omari said.

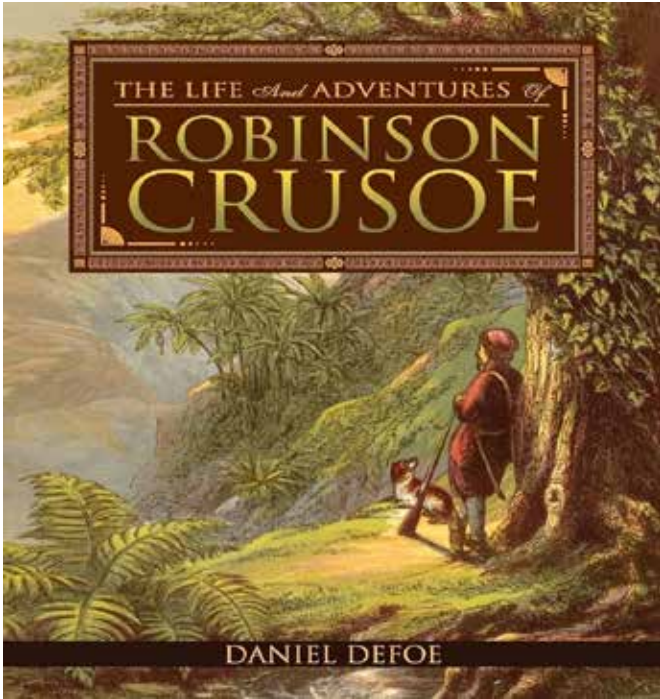
A Critical Review of Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe: Adventure, Survival, Faith, and Human Adaptability

Submitted To:
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A Review of Robinson Crusoe

Robinson Crusoe is a famous adventure novel written by Daniel Defoe and first published in 1719. It is presented largely as a first-person narrative, in which Robinson Crusoe describes his experiences, struggles, discoveries, and survival on a deserted island. Robinson Crusoe was born in England in 1632. From an early age, he had a strong desire to explore the world and experience new adventures. His father discourages him from going to sea and advises him to live a safe and peaceful life. However, Crusoe does not follow his father’s advice. At the age of nineteen, he leaves home in search of adventure. His decision brings him many difficulties. On one of his voyages, his ship is caught in a violent storm, and he narrowly escapes death. Despite this frightening experience, his desire for adventure and wealth leads him back to the sea. He later becomes involved in a voyage connected with the slave trade. During another voyage, his ship is caught in a terrible storm and is wrecked. Crusoe becomes the only survivor and reaches the shore of an unknown deserted island. Completely alone and without any human companion, he initially feels helpless. However, instead of giving up, he gradually develops courage, patience, and self-reliance. Crusoe begins to rebuild his life on the island. His experiences also lead him towards a stronger belief in God. He reads the Bible and reflects upon his past actions and his

relationship with God. His faith becomes an important source of hope and strength during his difficult circumstances. He works hard to make the island suitable for living. He collects food and other useful materials from the shipwreck and constructs a shelter for himself. He learns to cultivate crops and eventually grows wheat, which enables him to make his own bread. He also hunts goats, domesticates some animals, makes pottery, and produces clothes from animal skins. Crusoe demonstrates remarkable creativity and practical intelligence. He even creates a calendar by making marks on a wooden post so that he can keep track of the passing days. These activities demonstrate his ability to adapt to an unfamiliar and challenging environment. However, Crusoe’s peaceful existence is disturbed when he discovers a human footprint on the shore. He becomes frightened and realizes that other people may be visiting the island. Later, he discovers that some of these people are cannibals who come to the island with prisoners. During one of these encounters, Crusoe rescues a young man from the cannibals. He names him Friday. Crusoe teaches Friday English, Christianity, and various practical skills, while Friday becomes his loyal companion. Their relationship becomes an important part of Crusoe’s life on the island. Eventually, Crusoe encounters other people and becomes involved in a struggle that allows him to escape the island. After many years of isolation



and hardship, he finally returns to civilization. His experiences have transformed him into a more mature, resourceful, and reflective person.

Lessons Learnt from the Novel

1. Self-Reliance and Hard Work

One of the most important lessons of the novel is the value of self-reliance. Crusoe survives because he works continuously and learns to depend upon his own abilities. His experience demonstrates that determination and hard work can help human beings overcome difficult circumstances.

2. Planning and Intelligence

Crusoe carefully plans his shelter, food, security, and daily activities. His survival depends not only on physical strength but also on his ability to think rationally and solve problems. The novel therefore highlights the importance of intelligence, planning, and practical wisdom.

3. Faith in God

Religion becomes increasingly important to Crusoe during his isolation. Reading the Bible and reflecting on his life

gives him spiritual strength. His experience suggests that faith can provide comfort and

hope during times of suffering and uncertainty.

4. The Importance of Hope

Crusoe faces loneliness, fear, hunger, and uncertainty, but he does not completely lose hope. His determination to survive demonstrates that hope can give people the strength to continue even in extremely difficult situations.

5. Gratitude

At first, Crusoe focuses on what he has lost. Gradually, however, he begins to appreciate what he still possesses. This change in attitude teaches the importance of gratitude and contentment.

6. Human Adaptability

Perhaps the most significant lesson of the novel is human adaptability. Crusoe learns to

survive in an unfamiliar environment by using his knowledge, creativity, patience, and practical skills. The novel demonstrates how human beings can adapt to challenging circumstances and create new possibilities for survival.

Conclusion

Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe is much more than an adventure story. It is a narrative about survival, self-reliance, faith, hope, intelligence, and human adaptability. Through Crusoe’s experiences on the deserted island, Defoe shows how determination and resourcefulness can help a person overcome extraordinary difficulties. The novel teaches us to remain hopeful in challenging circumstances, work hard, use our abilities wisely, appreciate what we have, and maintain faith during difficult times.

Overall, Robinson Crusoe remains a significant and engaging novel because its themes of survival, resilience, and human adaptability continue to be relevant to readers today.

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Tech Artificial intelligence encompasses computational technologies capable of performing tasks associated with aspects of human intelligence, including information processing, language understanding

The use of artificial intelligence in teaching medical sciences



BY Abdullayeva Rano Norboyevna

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Introduction

The rapid development of digital technologies is transforming contemporary education and creating new opportunities to improve the quality, accessibility, and effectiveness of professional training. Among the technologies that have attracted particular attention in recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful educational instrument. Its ability to process large amounts of information, recognize patterns, generate learning materials, and provide individualized feedback creates significant opportunities for the modernization of medical education.

Medical sciences require students not only to acquire theoretical knowledge but also to develop clinical reasoning, professional responsibility, practical skills, communication abilities, and the capacity to make appropriate decisions in complex situations. For this reason, the integration of innovative technologies into medical education is becoming increasingly important.

Artificial intelligence should not be viewed as a replacement for the teacher. Instead, it can function as an additional pedagogical resource that strengthens the interaction between teacher and student, facilitates independent learning, and creates opportunities for individualized instruction. When used appropriately, AI can contribute to the preparation of competent, knowledgeable, responsible, and professionally skilled healthcare specialists.

Main Part

Artificial Intelligence as a Modern Educational Instrument



Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Medical Education

Artificial intelligence encompasses computational technologies capable of performing tasks associated with aspects of human intelligence, including information processing, language understanding, pattern recognition, prediction, and content generation.

In medical education, these capabilities can be applied to numerous learning activities. AI-supported systems can help students review anatomical structures, understand physiological mechanisms, study medical terminology, analyze clinical cases, and assess their knowledge through interactive exercises.

One of the significant advantages of AI-supported education is its capacity to facilitate personalized learning. Students have different levels of preparation, learning speeds, interests, and difficulties. AI-based educational tools can provide additional explanations, examples, questions, and exercises according to individual learning requirements.

Consequently, students can receive greater opportunities for independent study and repeated practice, while teachers can focus more closely on complex conceptual issues,

practical training, and individual pedagogical support.

Application of AI in Medical Subject Teaching

Artificial intelligence can be integrated into the teaching of both general and specialized medical subjects.

In anatomy classes, for example, digital and AI-supported technologies can help students explore anatomical structures through interactive visual representations. Such approaches can make the relationships between organs and systems easier to understand than traditional text-based explanations alone.

In physiology, AI-supported simulations can be used to demonstrate physiological processes and their interrelationships. Students can analyze hypothetical changes in physiological parameters and discuss the possible consequences.

In pharmacology, AI can assist learners in organizing information about medicines, indications, contraindications, interactions, dosage principles, and potential adverse effects. However, such information

must always be checked against authoritative medical sources and professional guidelines.

In pathology and clinical subjects, AI can generate educational case scenarios that encourage students to identify symptoms, analyze possible diagnoses, determine priorities, and justify their proposed interventions.

AI also offers considerable potential in nursing education. Nursing students need to develop theoretical knowledge together with practical decision-making, patient assessment, communication, ethical awareness, and responsibility. Simulated AI-supported clinical situations can provide a safe environment in which students can practice professional reasoning before encountering comparable situations in real healthcare settings.

AI and the Development of Clinical Thinking

The development of clinical thinking is one of the most important objectives of medical education. A competent healthcare professional must be able to connect theoretical knowledge with practical circum-

stances, evaluate available information, identify risks, and make evidence-informed decisions.

AI can support this process by presenting students with diverse clinical cases of varying complexity. Learners can be asked to analyze symptoms, identify possible explanations, determine what additional information is needed, and compare alternative approaches to patient care.

Such activities can transform the learning process from simple memorization into active analysis.

At the same time, students must understand that AI-generated information is not automatically correct. Artificial intelligence systems may produce inaccurate, incomplete, outdated, or contextually inappropriate information. Therefore, one of the important educational objectives is to teach students how to verify AI-generated information through textbooks, scientific publications, clinical guidelines, and other reliable professional sources.

In this sense, AI can become not only a source of information but also an instrument for developing critical thinking.

The Role of the Teacher in AI-Supported Education

The emergence of artificial intelligence does not reduce the importance of the medical educator. On the contrary, the teacher's role becomes even more significant in guiding students toward responsible and effective use of technology.

The teacher determines educational objectives, selects appropriate learning materials, evaluates the reliability of information, monitors student progress, corrects misconceptions, and connects theoretical knowledge with practical professional experience.

AI can assist teachers in preparing lesson plans, generating discussion questions, creating formative assessment tasks, developing clinical scenarios, and organizing supplementary learning materials. However, all AI-generated educational content should be professionally reviewed and adapted by the teacher before being introduced into the learning process.

The human element remains essential in medical education. Empathy, professional ethics, communication with patients, clinical responsibility, and the ability to understand emotional and social aspects of healthcare cannot be reduced to automated information processing.

Benefits and Challenges of AI in

Tech Artificial intelligence encompasses computational technologies capable of performing tasks associated with aspects of human intelligence, including information processing, language understanding

The use of artificial intelligence in teaching medical sciences

Contd from page 20

Medical Education

The integration of artificial intelligence into medical education provides several important educational benefits.

First, it can increase the flexibility of learning by allowing students to access explanations and exercises according to their individual needs. Second, AI can provide opportunities for repeated practice and immediate feedback. Third, it can support the development of analytical and clinical reasoning through simulated cases. Fourth, it can assist teachers in preparing educational resources and assessment materials.

Nevertheless, AI integration also presents challenges. These include the possibility of inaccurate information, excessive dependence on technological systems, insufficient digital literacy, privacy and data protection concerns, unequal access to digital resources, and the potential reduction of direct human interaction.

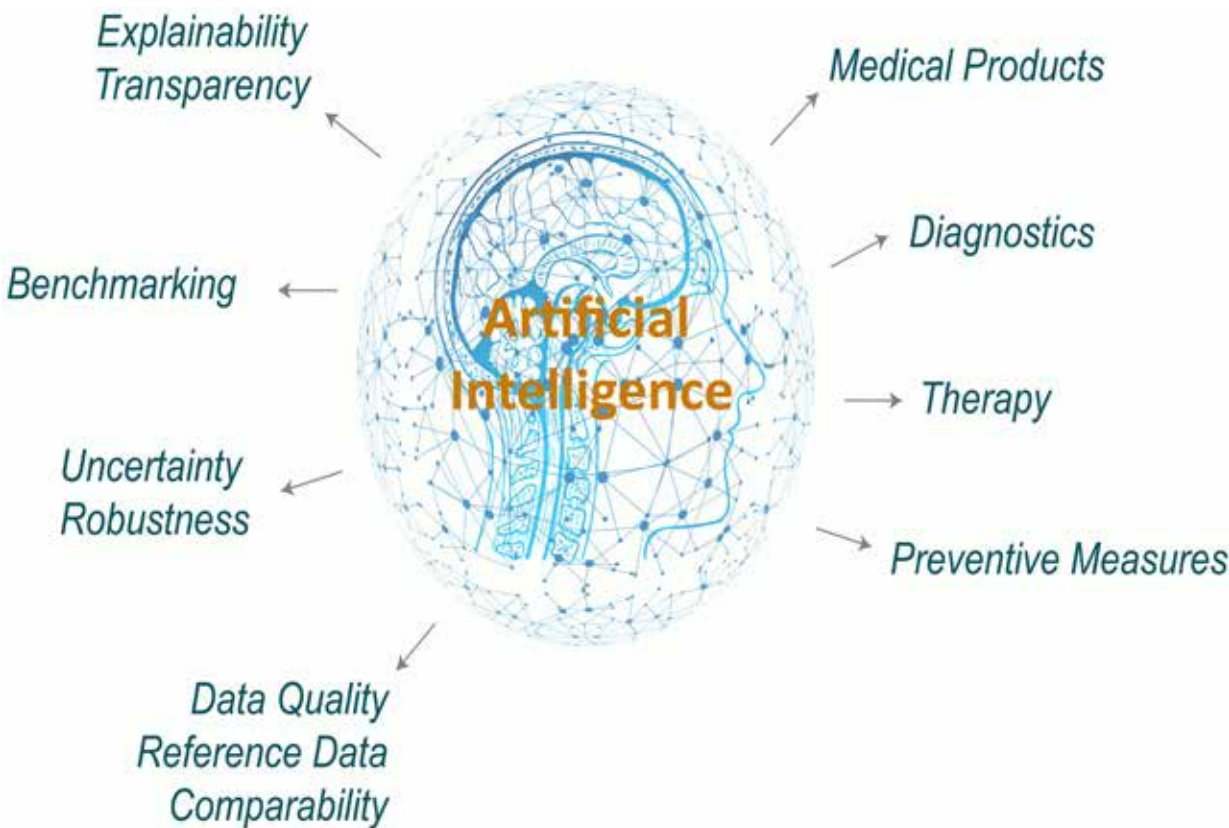
For this reason, AI implementation in medical education requires clear ethical principles and appropriate professional supervision. Students should be taught not only how to use AI but also when its use is appropriate, how to evaluate its responses, and when professional consultation is necessary.

AI and the Future of Professional Medical Education

The future development of artificial intelligence may create increasingly sophisticated learning environments. Virtual patients, intelligent clinical simulations, adaptive learning systems, automated formative assessment, and personalized educational pathways may become important components of professional medical education.

For medical colleges and healthcare training institutions, the integration of AI provides an opportunity to combine established pedagogical traditions with modern technological possibilities.

However, technology should remain a means rather than an objective in itself. The effectiveness of AI-supported education depends primarily on the quality of its pedagogical application. The central objective must



Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Medical Education

remain the preparation of healthcare professionals who possess strong theoretical knowledge, practical competence, critical thinking, ethical responsibility, and compassion.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence is becoming an increasingly significant component of contemporary medical education. Its appropriate application can make the teaching of medical sciences more interactive, individualized, analytical, and practice-oriented.

AI can help students understand complex medical concepts, analyze clinical cases, strengthen independent learning, and develop professional reasoning. It can also support teachers in preparing educational materials and creating innovative learning activities.

Nevertheless, artificial intelligence cannot replace the professional educator. The teacher remains responsible for guiding students, evaluating information, developing professional values, and ensuring that theoretical learning is connected with real clinical practice.

The most effective approach is therefore a balanced partnership among the teacher, student, and artificial intelligence. When applied responsibly and under qualified

professional supervision, AI can become a valuable instrument for preparing knowledgeable, competent, ethical, and compassionate healthcare professionals.

The ultimate purpose of medical education is not simply to increase the amount of information a student can remember. Its greater purpose is to develop professionals who can think critically, make responsible decisions, communicate effectively, and provide safe and humane care to patients. Artificial intelligence can significantly support this mission when technology is placed at the service of education and human professional values.

About the Author

Abdullayeva Rano Norboyevna was born on February 15, 1961, in Khovos District, Syrdarya Region, Uzbekistan.

She completed Secondary School No. 85 in Khovos District with a Gold Medal, demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and a strong commitment to learning. After completing secondary education, she was admitted to the Faculty of General Medicine at Tashkent Medical Institute, where she pursued professional medical training.

In 1986, Abdullayeva Rano Norboyevna successfully graduated from the institute and began her clinical career. She worked for five years as an anesthesiologist-resuscitator at the Central City Hospital. During this period, she gained valuable practical experience in anesthesia, intensive care, emergency medical assistance, and the management of critically ill patients.

Since 1991, she has dedicated her professional life to medical education. She has been working as a teacher of specialized and general professional medical subjects at the Yangiyer Abu Ali ibn Sino Public Health College. Over more than three decades of educational activity, she has contributed significantly to the professional preparation of students in the healthcare field.

Throughout her teaching career, Abdullayeva Rano Norboyevna has prepared and contributed to several educational and methodological manuals, which have been widely used in medical colleges. Her teaching materials and professional experience have supported students in acquiring both theoretical knowledge and practical professional competencies.

Her achievements in education have been recognized at the professional

level. She achieved a top position in the “Best Specialized Subject Teacher of the Year” competition, demonstrating her pedagogical competence, professional knowledge, and dedication to teaching.

In 2024, she was awarded the honorary title of “Excellent Professional Education Teacher” in recognition of her contribution to professional education and her longstanding pedagogical work.

Alongside her teaching activities, Abdullayeva Rano Norboyevna is engaged in academic and professional writing. Several of her articles have been published in international online journals, reflecting her interest in contemporary educational approaches, professional development, medical education, and innovative teaching technologies.

Her professional philosophy is based on the conviction that the quality of healthcare is closely connected with the quality of professional education. Her principal goal is to prepare well-rounded, knowledgeable, responsible, and professionally competent nurses and healthcare specialists who are capable of applying theoretical knowledge effectively in practical medical settings.

An important part of her professional mission is also the support and mentoring of young teachers. She shares her extensive pedagogical and professional experience with younger educators and assists them in improving their teaching approaches, developing methodological skills, and adapting to the changing requirements of modern professional education.

With extensive clinical experience, more than three decades of teaching practice, numerous educational achievements, and a continuing interest in innovative approaches to medical education, Abdullayeva Rano Norboyevna represents an experienced generation of medical educators who successfully connect clinical practice, professional education, and modern pedagogical technologies.

Her continuing work is guided by a clear professional objective: to contribute to the preparation of a new generation of healthcare professionals who combine knowledge, practical competence, critical thinking, ethical responsibility, and compassion.

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Manchester City defied the odds to claim all three points in a controversy-filled Manchester derby that will be debated long after the final whistle

Haaland strikes to hand 10-man City a famous derby win at Old Trafford



Manchester City beats Manchester United 1-0 at Old Trafford

By Andalo Christine Ingutia

Manchester City produced one of the season's most extraordinary results yesterday afternoon, beating Manchester United 1-0 at Old Trafford with ten men for more than an hour to claim bragging rights in a derby that descended into chaos, controversy and, ultimately, brilliance.

It was a match that had everything — a contentious red card, a goal that survived a lengthy VAR review, two United efforts that struck the woodwork, and the most reliable finishing machine in English football delivering when it mattered most. Erling Haaland's 60th-minute strike, his ninth goal in Manchester derbies, was enough to send Enzo Maresca's side home with three points and a place alongside Arsenal at the top of the Premier League table.

The afternoon was shaped irrevocably in the 23rd minute,

when Phil Foden was shown a straight red card by referee Michael Oliver for kicking out at United captain Bruno Fernandes. The incident was not without context — Fernandes had himself kicked Foden while he was on the ground, a detail that drew the fury of television pundits and supporters in equal measure, and one that refereeing body Pro Ref later acknowledged as a factor they failed to act on. Whether Foden's retaliation merited violent conduct will remain a matter of heated debate, but the decision stood and City were reduced to ten men with more than an hour left to play.

United, with the numerical advantage and the backing of a raucous Old Trafford, should have pressed home their superiority. Instead, Maresca reorganised his side with remarkable calm, and City became, if anything, more compact and purposeful without the ball. United poured forward

— completing more passes and generating more attempts — but struggled to convert possession into genuine threat. The home side managed 16 shots across the 90 minutes, but only three found the target. City had seven attempts, two on target, and converted one.

Marcus Rashford rattled the left-hand post before half-time from a free-kick, and Kobbie Mainoo struck the woodwork again six minutes after the restart, both efforts carrying the agonising hollow ring of near-misses that would ultimately haunt United's afternoon. Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma made a fine save to deny Bryan Mbeumo in the closing stages, keeping City's lead intact as United grew increasingly desperate.

The decisive moment came on the hour. Joško Gvardiol whipped a cross into the area and Haaland steered it home at the back post. The assistant referee's

flag went up immediately, but VAR overturned the decision, ruling Haaland onside — though television replays appeared to show Enzo Fernández in a clear offside position as he attempted to play the same ball before it reached the striker. Pro Ref subsequently admitted an error in judgement, an acknowledgment that will offer United cold comfort but no additional points.

City held firm through five minutes of stoppage time, defending their lead with the kind of organised, collective discipline that defied the mathematics of a ten-man side facing a Premier League crowd desperate for an equaliser.

For United and manager Michael Carrick, the afternoon encapsulates a painful truth about where this side currently sits. Their attack generated plenty of noise but lacked the cutting edge needed to take advantage of a historic numerical opportunity. The defeat leaves United 13th in the table, four points from their opening four matches, and with hard questions about the squad's capacity to press title contenders in the moments that matter.

For City, the win extends their perfect start to five points from four games — though the manner of it will linger. Two major refereeing controversies in a single afternoon is a significant caveat, and United will argue, with justification, that the result should have been very different.

Haaland, untroubled by context, is now the Premier League's outright top scorer in Manchester derbies. He had no complaints whatsoever.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *A dramatic Saturday saw six top-flight sides share the spoils, with the Premier League’s early hierarchy reshuffled and Arsenal tighten their grip at the top

Six of the best: Premier League match week 4 ends in a flurry of draws



Tottenham Hotspur and Everton played out a goalless draw

By Andalo Christine Ingutia

Saturday’s Premier League matchweek four delivered a Saturday that will linger — five draws across the afternoon and Sunderland’s collapse under floodlights in the evening ensuring that the day belonged more to resilience and grit than to goals. Arsenal, however, refused to be swept up in the stalemate mood, cutting through Wearside with clinical precision to stay perfect after four rounds.

The afternoon began in North London, where Tottenham Hotspur and Everton played out a goalless draw at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Roberto De Zerbi’s side dominated possession in familiar fashion but could not find a way past a disciplined Everton rearguard. It was a fourth successive match without a goal for Spurs — a record that has begun to cast a long shadow over a summer rebuild that cost the club in excess of £300

million. Tottenham sit on two points, winless, and growing in anxiety.

The theme travelled north to Merseyside, where Liverpool and Fulham exchanged not a single goal at Anfield. The home side were expected to sweep aside a newly promoted Fulham — instead, they ran into a low block so deeply organised that 90 minutes of effort yielded nothing. The away fans were still applauding long after the final whistle, a well-earned point carried back to London after a performance of genuine tactical discipline. Fulham opened their points account; Liverpool, for all their ambition, could not force the issue.

Over in West London, Stamford Bridge served up the afternoon’s most entertaining contest. Chelsea and Hull City drew 2–2 in a match that underlined why the newly promoted Tigers are the season’s most compelling story. Morgan Rogers put Chelsea

ahead inside seven minutes — a sharp, composed finish on the counter. Hull responded with ferocity. Mohamed Belloumi, the Algerian winger, then delivered a brace inside six minutes to send the away side ahead against the run of expectation. Chelsea rallied in the second half and Joao Pedro levelled to salvage a point, but the afternoon still felt more like a Hull result than a Chelsea one. The Tigers remain unbeaten and are the early Premier League’s most unlikely frontrunners.

At Selhurst Park, Crystal Palace played the final hour with ten men after a VAR review resulted in a red card, yet they refused to fold. Ipswich Town took full advantage of the numerical superiority and Zian Flemming struck in the 90th minute to take all three points, ending Palace’s spirited resistance. It was a cruel ending for the hosts, who had clawed their way level before Flemming’s late intervention.

In a corner of the day’s results that will give purists cause for pause, AFC Bournemouth and Brentford shared a 1–1 draw at the Vitality Stadium — a game of traded goals and traded defensive lapses that neither side will be fully content with, though the point maintains Brentford’s unbeaten start.

At Villa Park, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest cancelled each other out in a 0–0 draw that continued Villa’s stuttering early campaign. Forest defended resolutely, Villa struggled for invention, and the scoreboard remained empty from first whistle to last.

The day’s clearest outcome came late, at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, where Arsenal extended their perfect start to the season with a controlled 2–0 victory. Mikel Arteta’s side were patient in the first half and clinical after it. Bruno Guimarães, introduced at the interval, answered a volley of home hostility with a curling long-range strike in the 58th minute that crashed in off the underside of the crossbar — his first Arsenal goal, delivered with theatrical precision in front of a crowd that still associates his name with Newcastle United. Bukayo Saka converted a stoppage-time penalty after Reinildo Mandava’s second booking to seal the three points. Arsenal sit top of the Premier League with four wins from four, three points clear of their nearest rivals.

The attention of English football now turns to Old Trafford for the Manchester Derby.

SPORTS NEWS



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A Stranger in autumn



By: Narputatova Gulruh

@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- When I entered the classroom and searched for an empty desk, my eyes met the faces around me. They did not look at me with curiosity or warmth. Their looks were mostly indifferent, and sometimes even cold. It was as if I did not belong there—as if I were an unnecessary stranger.
- Although the soft autumn sunlight streamed through the windows and filled the classroom with light, I felt as though a strange coldness had settled around the corner where I sat.
- As the days passed, that coldness did not disappear. On the contrary, I began to feel it more clearly with each passing day.

It was September. The warmth of summer had not yet completely left the air, but the mornings already carried a gentle chill, giving the season its own distinctive mood. The sky was clear and the sun was bright, yet the edges of the tree leaves were slowly turning yellow, filling the air with the first breath of autumn.

For every student, it was a joyful day—a day of flowers held in their hands, familiar faces, and warm reunions after the summer holidays. But for me, that day was completely different. It was the first time I was walking into a new school, entering the tenth grade without knowing a single person.

I left home in my school uniform. As I walked along the streets, the sunlight dazzled my eyes, while a gentle breeze softly rustled the leaves. Inside me, there was a heavy mixture of excitement and fear. The classmates I had left behind, the teachers I knew, and the familiar walls I had grown accustomed to were no longer there. I was stepping into a completely new and unfamiliar world.

With every step I took, my heart seemed to beat faster.

When I entered the schoolyard, I was surrounded by cheerful voices and lively conversations. Students were greeting one another with hugs and excitedly sharing stories about their summer holidays. Their laughter echoed throughout the courtyard, while the sunlight shone brightly on their happy faces.

Yet this scene made me feel even lonelier.

Because I felt as though I had no place in their happiness. I was like someone standing in the middle of a bright and sunny day, yet somehow left in the shadows.

When I entered the classroom and searched for an empty desk, my eyes met the faces around me. They did not look at me with curiosity or warmth. Their looks were mostly indifferent, and sometimes even cold. It was as if I did not belong there—as if I were an unnecessary stranger.

Although the soft autumn sunlight streamed through the windows and filled the classroom with light, I felt as though a strange coldness had settled around the corner where I sat.

As the days passed, that coldness



did not disappear. On the contrary, I began to feel it more clearly with each passing day.

Autumn gradually grew colder. The trees turned yellow, and then their leaves began to fall one by one. I felt as though I, too, were becoming like those leaves—separated from everything around me and slowly being left alone.

During breaks, I would sit by myself. Sometimes I stood near the window, watching the other students playing and running around the schoolyard. Even when someone spoke to me, their words felt like nothing more than empty sounds.

I often asked myself: —Why don't they want to accept me?

But I could never find an answer. Several weeks passed like this. The days became colder, and the sky grew increasingly cloudy. I began to lose the desire to go to school every day because each morning started with the same feeling: I was a stranger, surrounded by silence and a growing ache inside my heart.

Then, one day, during a lesson, our class teacher called me over.

She did not scold me or speak harshly. Instead, she simply asked:

—How are you? Have you gotten used to your new school?

Those simple words affected me so deeply that tears filled my eyes.

It had been a long time since anyone at school had spoken to me with such genuine warmth.

During that conversation, I told her everything: how lonely I felt, how distant my classmates seemed, and how much their coldness was hurting me.

My teacher listened to me carefully. Then she said:

—Every new person is a stranger at first, but being a stranger does not last forever. You need to show them who you are. Little by little, they will get to know you and accept you.

Those words gave me strength.

For the first time, I realized that I was not completely alone.

From then on, my teacher encouraged me to participate more actively in class. She paid special attention to my questions and sometimes invited me to speak in front of the class.

Slowly, with my teacher's support, I began to show my classmates who

I really was.

A few months later, some of the classmates who had once looked at me with cold and indifferent eyes began talking to me. They even started coming over to sit beside me during lunch.

When winter arrived and the first snow began to fall outside, I suddenly realized that I was standing by the window with them, watching the snow together and singing along with everyone else.

At that moment, I understood something simple yet profound:

I was no longer a stranger.

By the end of that school year, I had found not only my place in the classroom but also my place within the entire school.

And perhaps that was the greatest lesson autumn had taught me: sometimes, being a stranger is only the beginning of finding where you truly belong.

*Narputatova Gulruh
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