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Voice of the People

# The Mt. Kenya Times

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Countdown 2027 📅

## Uhuru owns “sponsor” — and Ruto should be worried



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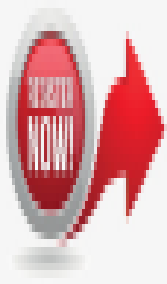


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# Nursing student from MKU off to Germany

BY James Wakahiu

@themtkenyatimes

*Some of the moments are captured in pictures*

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has sent its sixth cohort of 21 nursing apprentices to Germany under a partnership with Hochschule Koblenz University of Applied Sciences. The trainees are scheduled to travel to Germany on September 28, 2026, to begin their Nursing Apprenticeship Programme, which combines practical nursing experience, German language training and integration into the country's healthcare workforce.

Speaking during a send-off ceremony at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre in Thika, MKU Council Chairman and Pro-Chancellor Dr Vincent Gaitho urged young people to seize available employment opportunities while using their skills to create their own jobs.

Gaitho said the large number of graduates entering the labour market each year requires young people to be flexible in taking up available work and developing enterprises. He also called on the national and county governments to expand employment opportunities and urged banks to provide affordable financing for youth businesses.

MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi said the latest group brings to 105 the number of nurses deployed to Germany through the university's specialised programme.

He urged the trainees to observe discipline, respect German laws and culture, and uphold the reputation of their profession, university and country.

Jaganyi said international partnerships were helping MKU create pathways for graduates to gain global experience and contribute to Kenya's healthcare system upon returning home.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto has committed KSh21 billion to police modernisation spanning equipment, surveillance technology and officer housing, telling more than 6,000 graduating constables at the National Police College in Kiganjo that the state cannot demand professionalism from officers while remaining indifferent to their welfare. The government has completed the third phase of a salary review that raises a constable's basic pay from KSh21,645 to KSh29,360, with higher ranks receiving proportionate increases. Under the National Institutional Housing Programme, 47,464 units are planned across 165 projects, with 2,000 already completed and 9,500 at various stages of construction. Inspector-General Douglas Kanja said investments in technology, equipment and transport were intended to equip officers for modern security threats while improving public trust. The 2026/27 budget has added KSh11 billion to police funding, with a further 10,000 officers to be recruited before the next financial year.



More than 120 adolescent girls and young women drawn from counties across Kenya have raised a collective demand for meaningful inclusion in civic and political decision-making as the country enters the final stretch before the August 2027 general election. The push reflects a widening consensus among civil society groups, the National Gender and Equality Commission and women's movements — including the Mama Kenya Movement, which has noted that women hold 47 per cent of the registered vote yet remain largely invisible in coalition negotiations and candidate selection processes. NGECE Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyier has warned that political violence continues to disproportionately target women and girls during election cycles, and that structural barriers — including political gatekeeping, online harassment and high party nomination fees — actively suppress their participation. The girls' call echoes a broader demand: that Kenya's democracy be measured not only by who votes on polling day, but by whose voice shapes the choices on the ballot.



Kenya and Ethiopia are embedding green and circular-economy skills into their Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions, with a shared focus on turning textile and garment waste into commercially viable products and youth-led businesses. In Kenya, the initiative — driven through a partnership between the government and Edukans Kenya, with support from the Netherlands' National Postcode Lottery — will train at least 2,300 young people in sustainable fashion design, eco-conscious production and circular business models, with Kisumu National Polytechnic among the first institutions to sign on. In Ethiopia, Edukans Ethiopia is working with TVET colleges in the Oromia and Amhara regions, where incubation centres will allow trained graduates to test business ideas before entering the market. Kenya's TVET Principal Secretary Dr Esther Muoria said the agenda was non-negotiable: "Kenya faces challenges of waste in our waters and environment — addressing this must start with education."



The High Court is set to rule on a constitutional petition filed by a coalition of opposition leaders — including Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Fred Matiang'i, Justin Muturi and Eugene Wamalwa — seeking to declare Kenya's national tallying centre unconstitutional ahead of the August 2027 general election. The petitioners, backed by a parallel petition from Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah, argue that centralising the final verification and declaration of presidential results at Bomas of Kenya contravenes Articles 86 and 138 of the Constitution, which they say vest finality of results in presiding officers at constituency level. Their advocate Gitobu Imanyara told the court that the national tallying centre "should only collate and announce results it receives from constituencies, not verify, change, or reject them." The IEBC has urged the court to dismiss both petitions, maintaining the national tallying process is lawful, transparent and anchored in the Constitution, and that the Supreme Court has previously upheld its verification role.



Confederation of African Football president Patrice Motsepe expressed confidence in Kenya's preparations for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations after inspecting venues in Nairobi, reaffirming that the tournament will go ahead as planned across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Motsepe toured Kasarani Stadium, Nyayo National Stadium, the Ulinzi Sports Complex and the under-construction Talanta Sports City — the 60,000-capacity centrepiece earmarked as the showpiece AFCON venue — before meeting President William Ruto at State House. Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, who accompanied the inspection, said East Africa would be ready for both the 2026 Africa Nations Championship and AFCON 2027. "We are making every effort to ensure we beat the deadlines," Murkomen said. Motsepe dismissed persistent speculation that the hosting rights could be revoked, saying: "I am enormously confident we will succeed." The 36th edition of the tournament, scheduled for June to July 2027, will mark the first time East Africa has hosted AFCON since Ethiopia in 1976 and will be expanded to 28 teams, up from 24.



Kenya is confronting a mental health crisis that has moved visibly into public life, with a rising number of violent incidents and disturbing episodes pointing to a system that has long treated psychological suffering as a private burden rather than a public emergency. Across all strata of society — from urban streets to workplaces, schools and family homes — the consequences of untreated mental illness are becoming impossible to ignore, yet the response from both government and communities remains fragmented and woefully underfunded. Stigma continues to silence those who need help most, while the expectation that individuals should simply endure their distress denies the scale of what is a genuine public-health emergency. Experts and advocates are united in one demand: mental healthcare must be treated as essential infrastructure, not an afterthought, and the silence surrounding it broken before the cost grows higher still.

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AI At the heart of the proposed law is a new institutional architecture

# Kenya's parliament races to tame the AI frontier

Africa's tech hub is writing its first rules for artificial intelligence — but critics warn the draft law could chill the very innovation it aims to protect.

BY Grace Wanja

@themtkenyaintimes

Kenya's Senate has begun deliberations on the Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2026, the country's first comprehensive attempt to regulate how AI systems are developed, deployed and used — a legislative landmark that places Kenya alongside the European Union and a handful of nations bold enough to write the rules before the technology writes them.

The Bill, sponsored by nominated Senator Karen Nyamu, sets out a framework to govern AI technologies with the stated aim of ensuring that artificial intelligence is developed in a manner that is ethical, transparent and accountable, while safeguarding human rights, data protection and public welfare. Nyamu introduced the legislation after manipulated AI-generated images of her circulated online — a personal experience that appears to have helped shape the bill's sharp focus on synthetic media and digital impersonation.

At the heart of the proposed law is a new institutional architecture. The bill establishes three oversight bodies: the Office of the Artificial Intelligence Commissioner as the primary enforcement body responsible for registering AI systems, conducting audits and investigating compliance breaches; the Artificial In-

telligence Authority, tasked with creating national AI strategies and setting technical and ethical standards; and the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council, a consultative group of experts that advises the government on global AI trends and emerging risks.

The regulatory model is risk-based. High-risk AI systems would face stringent governance, transparency, data protection and record-keeping requirements, with broader disclosure duties applying across all risk categories. The Bill is modelled in part on the EU AI Act, reflecting international norms while raising concerns around regulatory scope, certainty and proportionality. Crucially, the legislation grants Kenyan citizens new digital rights, including the right to know how an AI system reached a decision — such as a loan rejection — and the right to request that a qualified human representative review an automated decision.

The Bill's teeth are sharp. It proposes criminal penalties of up to KSh5 million and imprisonment of up to two years, depending on the nature of the offence. Individuals or entities that misuse AI — particularly to create false, harmful or deceptive content such as deepfakes — may be subject to more severe sanctions. For a country where AI-generated disinformation has already reached politi-



cal rallies and social media feeds, the criminalisation of harmful deepfakes represents a legitimate policy response. The question is whether the law can draw the line cleanly enough.

Free speech advocates worry that broad enforcement provisions could be weaponised to silence political satire, parody or legitimate dissent. Without a clear distinction between a malicious deepfake and a comedic or educational use of AI, critics argue the law risks becoming a tool for digital censorship. Industry voices have raised a parallel concern: an MSME that relies on an AI image-generation tool developed by a third-party provider could potentially face liability if the resulting content is later found to be misleading — an outcome that could freeze innovation before it starts.

The Bill has been published as a Senate Bill but has not yet been tabled before the Senate in full, and because

it concerns county governments, it must also be considered by the National Assembly before it can be presented for presidential assent. That road is long. But the direction of travel is clear. As artificial intelligence rapidly infiltrates critical sectors — from automated credit scoring and medical diagnostics to predictive policing and human resources — the potential for unchecked algorithmic bias and massive privacy violations has reached critical mass.

Kenya built its reputation as Africa's Silicon Savannah by moving fast. Regulating the technology that now powers that economy will require the legislature to move carefully — and to remember that a law that protects citizens from AI is only as good as its ability to tell the difference between a threat and an innovation.

## Kenya joins US and UK to put citizens on the terrorism frontline



BY Grace Wanja

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Kenya, the United States and the United Kingdom launched a joint counter-terrorism hotline and online reporting portal in Nairobi on Friday, giving ordinary citizens a direct, anonymous channel to alert security agencies to suspected terrorist activity, radicalisation, recruitment and financing.

The toll-free number — 0800 900 900 — will go live on 15 October 2026 alongside an anonymous online portal and a case-management system for receiving, assessing and prioritising reports. Developed with US and UK support, the system will be fully owned and operated by Kenya's Counter Terrorism Bureau. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, who presided over the launch at Pullman Hotel in Upper Hill, Nairobi, was flanked by US Deputy Ambassador Carla Benini, UK Deputy High Commissioner Dr Ed Barnett,

and Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa Commander Major General Shane P. Morgan.

Mudavadi warned that the threat was evolving well beyond Somalia's borders. "As Kenya's digital infrastructure continues to expand, so do cyber-terrorism threats, including increased and disruptive ransom-seeking attacks," he said. He added that six of the ten countries most affected by terrorism were in sub-Saharan Africa, and urged Kenyans to report extremist activities observed online. "Security begins with you as an individual," he said.

The initiative marks a deliberate shift in Kenya's counter-terrorism doctrine — from a model built around specialised agencies to one that places the community at its centre. In a region where al-Shabaab continues to exploit border gaps and recruit through digital channels, an informed and active citizenry may prove to be the most durable line of defence.

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**Politics** Gachagua urged Kenyans living abroad to consider establishing a diaspora-owned bank that would reduce the fees and commissions

# Gachagua takes his 2027 campaign to America

*From Kansas City to the ballot box: Kenya's most impeached man is building a presidential campaign on foreign soil, one diaspora meeting at a time.*

BY James Mwangi

@themkenyatimes

Rigathi Gachagua, leader of the Democracy for the Citizens Party, met business executives at Silo Modern Farmhouse in Kansas City, Missouri, on Friday, laying out an ambitious economic vision that doubled as the most detailed policy pitch of his 2027 presidential campaign to date.

The Kansas City meeting was the latest stop on a fifty-day tour of the United States that Gachagua began on 26 August, accompanied by his wife, Rev. Dorcas Rigathi. The itinerary, published by the DCP, takes him through Spokane, Portland, Kansas City, Dallas and Boston before concluding in early October. What has unfolded across those cities is not a sentimental homecoming tour. It is a structured, disciplined pre-campaign operation, executed far from Nairobi's daily news cycle but generating headlines back home with almost every engagement.

Kansas City was his third stop, following Spokane, Washington, where he held meetings with Kenyan communities from 4 to 10 September, and Portland, Oregon, where engagements ran from 10 to 16 September. At each stop, the pattern has been consistent: community meetings, policy pronouncements, and the careful construction of a political brand around the idea that the man impeached as deputy president in October 2023 is not finished — he is preparing.

In Kansas City, the policy content was substantive. Gachagua urged Kenyans living abroad to consider establishing a diaspora-owned bank that would reduce the fees and commissions they pay to financial institutions when sending money home, arguing that such an institution would allow Kenyans abroad to retain a greater share of what they currently lose through banking charges. The proposal is the kind of crowd-pleasing idea that travels well on diaspora circuits, but it also signals something more deliberate: Gachagua is constructing an economic narrative, not just collecting goodwill.

He went further. He pledged that a future administration would prioritise the payment of government pending bills and the completion of stalled projects, arguing that delayed



Rigathi Gachagua, leader of the Democracy for the Citizens Party

payments were putting contractors, suppliers and their families under severe financial pressure. "Kenyans are suffering. Their homes are being auctioned. People have suffered depression. Families are broken," he said. He claimed that national and county governments collectively owe businesses and contractors more than KSh900 billion, and proposed restoring the credibility of Local Purchase Orders as instruments that businesses could use to secure bank financing. "You'd get an LPO for 20 million shillings, walk to the bank with the LPO, and get 10 million shillings loan without any other security other than the LPO," he said, recalling a period of greater institutional trust.

The sharpest line of the Kansas City engagement, however, was reserved for the Safaricom-Vodacom controversy. Gachagua criticised the government's handling of its sale of a 15 per cent stake in Safaricom to Vodacom, questioning why the Court of Appeal lifted conservatory orders that had temporarily halted the transaction. "Why the judges of the Court

of Appeal lifted the conservatory orders in the first place?" he asked. The High Court had ruled on 15 September 2026 that the government's divestiture did not comply with constitutional and statutory requirements and ordered that the shares be restored to the government. By placing himself on the right side of a ruling that embarrassed the Kenya Kwanza administration, Gachagua demonstrated that he has not stopped thinking like a politician who intends to be measured against the man currently in State House.

That instinct, applied consistently across the tour, explains why the United States leg of his roadmap matters far beyond the meetings themselves. Kenyans abroad in a dozen countries, including the United States, are increasingly courted as a mobilisation and funding base ahead of next year's vote. An extended diaspora tour lets a politician test messaging away from Nairobi's daily news cycle while still generating coverage back home. Gachagua's remarks from Spokane travelled through Kenyan outlets within

hours of being delivered — proof that the diaspora circuit has become a legitimate campaign stage, not a ceremonial one.

The strategic framing of the tour sits against the backdrop of a 2027 opposition whose arithmetic remains unresolved. Gachagua has declared his readiness to serve as Edwin Sifuna's running mate in a potential 2027 bid, saying he has "no problem" in such an arrangement. That positioning — a former deputy president publicly placing himself below a senator in the national hierarchy — is either the most generous act of opposition solidarity in recent Kenyan political history, or the most calculated. Probably both. It keeps Gachagua central to negotiations without requiring him to win the argument about who should lead. And it ensures that whatever ticket emerges, his endorsement is worth something.

Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi has said Linda Mwananchi will present Sifuna as its presidential candidate, and that Sifuna has committed to formally declaring his bid at an upcoming event. Meanwhile, Jubilee's

Fred Matiang'i, backed by former President Uhuru Kenyatta, continues to consolidate the Mount Kenya institutional vote. Matiang'i's backing by Kenyatta — the same political machine that lost in 2022 — has prompted sceptics to ask whether old alliances will translate into new votes. Gachagua, operating across both camps by his proximity to Uhuru and his stated openness to a Sifuna ticket, has positioned himself as a bridge that neither side can fully afford to burn.

Back in Kansas City, the reception that greeted him was emblematic of what the tour has produced. Kenyans gathered at the airport sang as they welcomed him, and the moment underscored the emotional connection that diaspora communities maintain with political figures who speak directly to their anxieties about the country they left behind. For Gachagua, who spent much of 2024 and 2025 in the aftermath of a politically bruising impeachment, the warmth of those crowds is not merely gratifying — it is oxygen.

Kenyans living in twelve countries were able to vote in the 2022 General Election, with 10,444 diaspora voters registered, compared to just 4,223 in 2017. Those numbers are still modest in absolute terms, but the symbolic and fundraising weight of diaspora support has grown considerably. Kenyans abroad sent approximately KSh370 billion home in the first seven months of this year alone — a figure that underlines why every serious 2027 contender has found a reason to board a flight to America.

Gachagua is scheduled to depart Kansas City by 24 September and move to Dallas, then Boston, before returning home with a network built across the American continent, a set of policy pledges tested on real audiences, and a campaign narrative refined far from the scrutiny of the Nairobi press gallery. Whether the man who was impeached from the second-highest office in the land can convert all of that into the highest is the question Kenya will spend the next eleven months answering.

He is not waiting for the question to find him.

**Politics** . Kenyatta is not hiding. He is choosing his battles — and Friday's was a small one won cheaply, in front of mourners, before the cameras Ruto has ensured are always trained on him.

# Uhuru owns “sponzor” — and Ruto should be worried

*When a former president turns a slur into a slogan, the man who coined it has already lost the argument.*

**BY David Kimani**

@themkenyattimes

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta publicly embraced the “sponzo” — sponzor — nickname that President William Ruto has spent weeks wielding against him, signing off a funeral address in Murang'a on Friday with the line, “That is all from the sponzor... we will meet again and continue being together,” drawing loud laughter and producing one of the most widely shared political clips of the year.

The moment was brief, deliberate and deceptively light-hearted. But in the compressed, highly symbolic language of Kenyan politics in the year before a general election, it carried the weight of a full press statement. Kenyatta had said nothing about policy, nothing about 2027, nothing that could be clipped out of context and turned against him by a hostile headline. He had said everything that needed saying simply by repeating the word his successor had chosen as an insult and making it sound like a title of honour.

Kenyatta had initially considered speaking off the cuff before deciding to deliver a prepared condolence message, explaining his caution: “Usually, me, I speak off-cuff, but these days life is becoming quite dangerous for me.” That line, delivered with the timing of a man who has been in rooms where language shifts power, told its own story. Kenyatta is not hiding. He is choosing his battles — and Friday's was a small one won cheaply, in front of mourners, before the cameras Ruto has ensured are always trained on him.

To understand what the moment means, it is necessary to understand what preceded it. Ruto spent five days in Nyanza — historically the country's most reliable opposition territory — traversing Siaya, Kisumu, Homa Bay and Migori, launching markets, unveiling projects worth billions of shillings, and sharing platforms with ODM leaders. The tour was framed publicly as a development mission. Politically, it was something else: a sustained, escalating attempt to define Kenyatta as the hidden hand behind every

challenge to his administration before voters have the chance to form their own conclusions.

Ruto made the remarks on Thursday as he concluded his four-day tour of Nyanza, marking the third straight day in which he directly criticised Kenyatta. His language was blunt. “The one who hired them failed with Universal Health Coverage, meaning he is angry because now Universal Health Coverage is ongoing. The one who hired them is angry because housing, which he failed at, today housing is ongoing in our nation of Kenya,” he said. The accusation has become so routine that political analysts have stopped treating it as news and started treating it as a campaign strategy — one that says as much about the accuser as it does about the accused.

When Ruto was challenged in a newspaper interview to substantiate his repeated assertions that Kenyatta was sponsoring the opposition, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna said the president admitted his only source was media reports. That admission, buried beneath the noise of rally rhetoric, is politically significant. It means the sponzor narrative is not intelligence. It is optics. And Kenyatta's decision on Friday to inhabit that optic rather than fight it represents a calculated response: if you cannot disprove a label, wear it.

The political backdrop to all of this is a 2027 race that is taking shape earlier, and in more complicated ways, than most expected. Kenyatta's Jubilee Party has endorsed former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i as its presidential flagbearer. The Kenyatta family's backing of Matiang'i was seen as potentially complicating the race for former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, who had both been angling for Uhuru's support. Meanwhile, the Linda Mwananchi movement, led by Sifuna and drawing its energy from grassroots disaffection with the Kenya Kwanza administration, has emerged as the most kinetic force in the opposition. Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi said the movement had settled on Sifuna as its preferred presidential candidate, adding that he would formally declare his bid at an upcoming event.



Former President Uhuru Kenyatta

Gachagua has meanwhile declared his readiness to serve as Sifuna's running mate, saying he has “no problem” in such an arrangement, describing the proposed alliance as one designed to “send Ruto home early.” For a political class in which egos typically precede strategy, the willingness of a former deputy president to accept a number-two slot under a first-term senator represents a remarkable measure of how seriously the opposition takes the task of unseating a sitting president.

Jubilee Deputy Party Leader Matiang'i offered his own commentary on the political temperature, saying: “When you see leaders, including national leaders, hurl insults, lie, saying things that don't make sense, that is a story also about how they grew up.” It was a pointed remark — and one that reflected the broader opposition posture: let Ruto throw the punches, absorb them with dignity and let the electorate score the round.

That posture is precisely what Kenyatta demonstrated on Friday. A man

who governed Kenya for a decade and could, if he chose, respond to every allegation through any platform available to him, chose instead to sign off a funeral speech with a wink. The message was not “I deny this.” The message was “I am unbothered.” In political communication, unbothered is often more powerful than indignant.

What does all of this mean for Ruto? A sitting president who enters the final year before an election already fighting on multiple fronts — against a former ally, a former deputy president, a street-level opposition movement, and the accumulated frustrations of a population that took to the streets in June 2024 — is a president whose re-election cannot be assumed. Ruto defended his government's record in areas including education, affordable housing, healthcare and infrastructure, contrasting it with his assessment of the Jubilee administration's record. The defence was necessary. The fact that it was necessary, this far from polling day, is itself an indicator.

The “sponzo” episode will be studied by political strategists on both sides long after the laughter at the Murang'a funeral has faded. For Kenyatta, it marks a shift from defensive to playful — the posture of a man who has stopped worrying about the attack and started thinking about the endgame. For Ruto, it is a reminder that the labels a politician attaches to his opponents have a habit of boomeranging. The sponzor has accepted the title. The question that follows — sponzor of what, and to what end — is now entirely Ruto's problem to answer.

For voters, the exchange is a reminder that the 2027 contest is already being shaped through language and alliances rather than manifestos. The “sponzo” label, once a jab, is now part of the former president's own public vocabulary. Kenya's next election is eleven months away. The opening act has begun.

**Youth** Behind the statistics and the political speeches are young Sengwer men and women wrestling with a basic question: where is their place in Kenya's economy?

# Sengwer youth: When will Kenya stop treating a minority like an afterthought?

**BY Collins Kibet**  
@themtkenyaintimes

Kenya prides itself on being a nation of many communities, united under one Constitution and one national identity. Yet for the Sengwer, the promise of equality can sometimes feel like a distant slogan rather than a lived reality. Being a minority should never translate into being forgotten, sidelined or forced to fight harder than everyone else simply to be heard. The Sengwer are

Kenyan citizens, and their minority status should not become a justification for exclusion from the opportunities and services that the nation promises to all.

Behind the statistics and the political speeches are young Sengwer men and women wrestling with a basic question: where is their place in Kenya's economy? Many leave school, college and university carrying certificates and enormous expectations, only to return to communities

where employment opportunities are scarce and the cost of living keeps rising. For some, putting a meal on the table is not a metaphor — it is an everyday struggle. They are expected to dream about the future while confronting an economy that often gives them very little room to breathe.

The frustration cuts deeper when young people feel that opportunities are not distributed fairly. There are concerns within the community that



employment and other chances can sometimes depend on connections, influence, favouritism or outright corruption. Where such allegations are made, they deserve transparent investigation rather than quiet dismissal. Public opportunities belong to citizens, not to those who happen to know the right people. A young person should not have to know someone powerful, pay a bribe or navigate an unfair system simply to have a legitimate opportunity considered.

That raises an uncomfortable question: when does a minority youth stop feeling like a minority and start feeling fully Kenyan? Citizenship should not come in different versions. There should not be a Kenya where some communities feel permanently visible while others are remembered only when their votes are needed. The size of a community should never determine the value of its citizens.

Elections expose this contradiction clearly. Minority communities are often courted when politicians need votes, but the real test begins after the ballots are counted. What happens when the campaign vehicles disappear? What happens when the slogans fade? Do the young people who voted receive the same attention when they need jobs, education, infrastructure, healthcare and economic opportunity? A community should not have to wait for another election cycle before its concerns become politically important again.

The Sengwer youth do not need pity. They need opportunity, fairness and recognition. They need recruitment systems that are transparent, public opportunities that are genuinely accessible and institutions that confront corruption rather than accommodate it. They need education that translates into livelihoods, economic programmes that reach marginalised areas and leaders who actually listen when communities raise legitimate concerns.

The Constitution's promise of equality and protection for minorities and marginalised groups should be felt beyond courtrooms and government documents. It should be visible in the everyday lives of citizens. Equality means little to a graduate who keeps searching for employment without ever receiving a fair hearing. Inclusion means little when a young person believes their community must work twice as hard to receive half the attention.

Government therefore carries a responsibility that goes beyond political statements. Supporting minority communities is not charity or a favour — it is part of building an inclusive republic. Development programmes, employment initiatives and public services must reach communities that have historically been left behind. And where discrimination or corruption is alleged, institutions must provide credible, accessible mechanisms for reporting, investigation and accountability.

ity.

But the responsibility does not rest with government alone. National leaders, county governments, civil society, community organisations and ordinary citizens must all challenge the quiet assumption that some communities matter more than others. Kenya cannot honestly celebrate diversity while allowing minority communities to feel that their identity has become a disadvantage.

The Sengwer story is ultimately bigger than the Sengwer. It is a test of what Kenya means when it says all citizens are equal. It is a test of whether democracy continues after voting day. It is a test of whether development reaches the margins — and whether the Constitution protects citizens not according to their numbers, but according to their rights.

A minority community should not have to shout louder simply to be counted. A young Sengwer should not have to wonder whether their vote, their education, their labour and their dreams carry the same value as those of any other Kenyan. The country owes its citizens more than promises made from podiums.

The question Kenya must confront is simple but uncomfortable: if the Sengwer are Kenyans when their votes are needed, why should they feel like minorities when opportunities are being shared?

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**Education** “We are facilitators. We listen to the people, and they have made key recommendations on how these proposed laws should be guided,” Melly said.

# Public voices concerns over proposed education laws

**BY Elizabeth Angira**  
@themkenyaintimes

The National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Education has held public hearings on proposed education laws covering university funding, basic education, examinations, teacher training and curriculum development.

The hearings have brought together members of the public, parents and other education stakeholders who have presented their views and recommendations on the proposed legislation.

Committee chairman Julius Melly said the public participation process had generated important proposals that would help shape the Bills before they are tabled in Parliament for consideration.

“We are facilitators. We listen to the people, and they have made key recommendations on how these proposed laws should be guided,” Melly said.

Among the issues raised by the public are the composition of school boards of management, the proposed composition of the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) board and the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) board.

Stakeholders have also raised concerns over funding for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and tertiary education.

Melly said the public hearings demonstrated that Kenyans were actively participating in the law-making process and taking part in decisions affecting the education sector.

One of the major issues emerging from the hearings across several counties is the need to streamline the management of basic education from primary school through junior and senior school.

Stakeholders have also called for greater involvement of parents and communities in the management of schools, colleges and other education institutions.

Baringo North MP Joseph Makilap said the public had generally recognised the importance of the proposed education reforms, but had also identified areas requiring further consideration.

Discipline in schools emerged as one of the contentious issues, with some parents calling for stronger measures to address indiscipline among learners, including the return of corporal punishment and caning, which are prohibited under the proposed legislation.

Makilap challenged parents to clearly state the type of discipline they wanted included in the law as part of the public participation process.

“Parents have told us that we need discipline in our schools. We have asked them to tell us what form of discipline they want. Is it corporal punishment or what? This is part of the law-making process,” Makilap said.

Another issue generating debate is the proposed amalgamation of teacher training colleges into a single institution.

Kisii County Parents Association chairman Captain Francis Omayo said some parents were opposed to the proposal, arguing that different teacher training colleges had developed unique strengths, areas of specialisation and innovative approaches to training.

“As parents, we feel that we may not have a choice if all the colleges are merged into one institution. Sometimes we choose colleges because of the niche they have developed, their innovativeness and creativity,” Omayo said.

He called for parents to be involved at all levels of education policy and decision-making, saying they are key stakeholders in the education sector.

Parents also raised concerns over the financing of school boards of management, saying the boards play an important role in running schools but often lack adequate financial support.

Omayo said parents should be provided with a funding

mechanism that would enable them to effectively participate in the management of schools.

“Parents are there to be involved in the management of schools, but we have never been funded. We are requesting that the amendment Bill provides a funding model that will make parents vibrant and enable them to carry out their responsibilities effectively,” he said.

Another major proposal from parents was the inclusion of learners in private schools in government education funding programmes.

Omayo argued that children attending private schools remain Kenyan citizens and should not be excluded from government support because of the institutions they attend.

“Kenyan students are not private. Whether a child is in a public or private school, that child is Kenyan,” Omayo said.

He called for a funding model that would provide capitation for learners in private schools, similar to the support provided to students in public institutions and government funding available to university students in both public and private universities.

The parents argued that education funding should focus on the learner rather than the type of institution they attend.

They further called for an inclusive financing model that would ensure no Kenyan learner is disadvantaged because of the school or institution they attend.

The committee said it would consider the views and recommendations gathered during the public hearings as it continues to refine the proposed education laws before they are taken to Parliament for further consideration.



**Committee chairman Julius Melly addressing press at Kisi National Polytechnic during the public participation process had generated important proposals that would help shape the Bills | Photo:** Elizabeth Angira



**Joseph Makilap addressing the press at Kisii National Polytechnic during the public participation process has recognised the importance of the proposed education reforms. | Photo:** Elizabeth Angira



**Kisii County Parents Association chairman Captain Francis Omayo has called for parents to be involved at all levels of education policy and decision-making. | Photo:** Elizabeth Angira

**Education** The apprentices are scheduled to travel to Germany on Monday, 28th September 2026 to commence their Nursing Apprenticeship Programme

# MKU sends sixth group of nursing apprentices to Germany

*Youth urged to create jobs and seize any opportunities amid scarcity as 21 trainees are scheduled to travel to Europe to commence their Nursing Apprenticeship Programme*

**BY James Wakahiu**  
@themkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU)'s Centre for Professional Development (CPD), under a partnership with Hochschule Koblenz, Germany has seen off the 6th Cohort of twenty-one (21) nursing apprentices to Germany.

The apprentices are scheduled to travel to Germany on Monday, 28th September 2026 to commence their Nursing Apprenticeship Programme. Their training focuses on hands-on nursing experience, speaking German as well as employment integration in German healthcare facilities. Apart from successfully completing the German language training, the learners have undertaken the Nursing Apprenticeship preparatory certificate course.

Mount Kenya University (MKU) Council Chairman and Pro-Chancellor Dr. Vincent Gaitho and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi, officially flagged cohort will travel to Germany to advance their studies and gain hands-on experience in the healthcare sector.

This marks the successful departure of the sixth group of nursing apprentices, a proud milestone in MKU's ongoing mission to open global doors for our students.

"MKU is sending forth 21 young professionals with dreams in their hearts, skills in their hands and a world of possibilities before them," Prof Jaganyi said.

Speaking during a send-off ceremony in Thika for the 21 nursing students, MKU Council

Chairman and Pro-Chancellor Dr. Vincent Gaitho said graduates who fail to secure jobs after completing their studies often become disappointed and start engaging in antisocial behaviour, urging them to seize available opportunities and use their skills to earn a living.

With thousands of students graduating from colleges and universities every year, Dr. Gaitho encouraged the youth to take up available jobs without discrimination while also creating their own opportunities through the skills they have acquired.

He said MKU will continue seeking employment opportunities for its students globally, while urging both county and national governments to create more opportunities to ensure young people have avenues to earn a living. He also called on banks to develop special funds and financial packages to support youth enterprises and enable them to start small businesses.

Prof Jaganyi said through international partnership, including those with Hochschule Koblenz, AG Career Hub, Leven Sheffield, Tirol, Hakuna Matata Recruitment, GMBH, and German Healthcare Hub, MKU is creating pathways for its training and employment opportunities beyond Kenya's borders.

The VC said the 21 departing students comprise the university's sixth cohort of nursing apprentices sent to Germany, bringing the cumulative total under the specialized deployment program to 105 nurses. He told the students to go to Europe with confidence and humility. "Go with discipline.

Go with courage. Go and make MKU proud. Go and make Kenya proud," he said.

He asked the trainees to respect their German hosts, the patients they will serve and to obey the laws and the culture of Germany. "Above all, protect the reputation of your profession, your university and your country. You have been given an opportunity. Make it count," he added.

The VC told the trainees that their journey does not end in Germany. "We expect you to grow, succeed, and one day bring your knowledge, experience, and network back to Kenya and contribute to the development of our healthcare system and our country," he said.

"At MKU, we believe that education must do more than provide qualification. Education must open doors. That is why our motto is Unlocking Infinite Possibilities. Our responsibility is to ensure that our graduates leave MKU not only with academic qualification, but with practical skills, experience, confidence, professional network, and the ability to compete anywhere in the world," the VC added.

He, however, cautioned the students that while the university opens doors for its students partners create the opportunities, it is up to them to walk through those doors. "We can create the opportunities, we can open the door for you, but you must walk through that door. And you must walk through it with hard work, discipline, integrity and determination," he said.

The VC explained that the exchange initiative addresses



MKU Council chairman, Dr Vincent Gaitho (right) and Vice Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi (left) flag off 21 nursing apprentices bound for Germany during a send-off ceremony held at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre at the institution's main campus in Thika town on Thursday | Photo: Courtesy.



MKU Vice Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi (right) gifts one of the 21 nursing apprentices bound for Germany during a send-off ceremony held at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre at the institution's main campus in Thika town on Thursday

the critical shortfall of healthcare personnel across Europe and North America, where rapidly aging populations continue to fuel severe staff shortages.

Some of the students who benefited from the apprenticeship opportunity led by Michael Mwangi and Hadijah Mwendwa, described the selection as a major career milestone, expressing confidence that their clinical experience in Germany would equip them with advanced skills to contribute to Kenya's healthcare system.

They urged the government to work closely with institutions to create more awareness among students about available opportunities and expand such programmes to help address the employment challenge in the country.

The flag-off ceremony took place at the Mwai Kibaki Convention Centre, attended by students and faculty members. The programme is anchored in a strong partnership between MKU and Hochschule



MKU Council Chair and Pro-Chancellor Dr. Vincent Gaitho delivers a speech to students ahead of their departure to Germany for apprenticeship opportunities.

schule Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, Germany, and is a shining example of how international collaborations create life-changing opportunities for young people. Situated at MKU's main campus in Thika town, Kiambu County, the multi-million shillings Centre for Professional Development coordinates professional training to enable students and other

Kenyans to acquire additional skills that make them competitive in the job market. The Centre has been accredited and recognized by local and international professional certification bodies and it is currently offering both professional and short Courses.

**KEBS** The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Chief of Staff Amos Gathecha, the Chief Guest, who challenged organisations and professionals to make continuous improvement

# KEBS calls for quality culture as professionals celebrate new milestone

*Celebrating achievement while reinforcing the responsibility of raising standards.*

**BY John Waithaka**  
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Managing Director Esther Ngari, has urged newly certified quality professionals to use their expertise to strengthen standards, improve service delivery, and promote excellence across the country's economy.

Ngari delivered the message during the Kenya Quality Awards 2026 at the Argyle Grand Hotel, Nairobi, where she congratulated graduates of the Certified Quality Professional (CQP) programme.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Chief of Staff Amos Gathecha, the Chief Guest, who challenged organisations and professionals to make continuous improvement central to their operations in an environment of constant change.

For Ngari, the graduation represented more than the completion of a programme. It marked a milestone in the careers of the graduands and a commitment to championing quality wherever their journeys take them.

"Go forth and make quality count," she told the graduates, underscoring the growing

importance of skilled professionals in strengthening Kenya's quality infrastructure and helping organisations meet consumer expectations.

The CQP programme equips participants with knowledge in quality management, providing a foundation for continuous improvement and effective standards adoption. Ngari emphasised that quality professionals play a vital role in translating standards into practical improvements that enhance efficiency, competitiveness, and customer satisfaction.

The occasion also allowed Gathecha to highlight the



KEBS Managing Director Esther Ngari

broader importance of quality in both public and private institutions.

"Every organisation represented here tonight has a different story, but we all face the same question: how do we continue delivering better value in a world that keeps changing?" he said.

He identified listening to customers, improving processes, and embracing innovation as essential to maintaining high standards. He cautioned against settling for "good enough," urging organisations to pursue continuous improvement.

"Tonight's recognition is a celebration, but it is also a reminder that quality is a journey we all have a role to play in," he added.

His remarks complemented Ngari's call for graduates to turn their training into meaningful action in their work-

places.

The convergence of government officials, professionals, and stakeholders at the awards highlighted the increasing role of quality management in Kenya's economic development. Strong standards are essential for enhancing consumer confidence, improving production and service delivery, supporting innovation, and enabling enterprises to compete effectively in domestic, regional, and international markets.

The newly qualified CQP professionals now join a growing pool of specialists expected to help organisations establish effective quality systems and pursue continuous improvement. For KEBS, building such professional capacity is central to strengthening the country's standards ecosystem.

Ngari's leadership continues

to place excellence and quality at the heart of KEBS' mandate, encouraging industry to view standards not merely as compliance but as a foundation for sustainable growth.

The Kenya Quality Awards 2026 therefore served a dual purpose: recognising achievement while reinforcing the responsibility of maintaining and raising standards.

As celebrations concluded at the Argyle Grand Hotel, the message from Kenya's standards community was clear — quality is not a destination but a continuous journey requiring commitment, innovation, and collective responsibility.

For the CQP graduands, the next chapter begins with an opportunity to put their knowledge into practice and help raise the quality bar in the organisations and communities they serve.



Deputy Chief of Staff Amos Gathecha

# Don't keep me waiting for your good news



Step forward now, dear Grand-john.  
My patience has completely run out,  
Come through for us, dear Grand-john.  
A notification comes from the Dean's office,  
Demanding that tuition fees be paid.  
The students who have been waiting for you,

Bring them joy, dear Grand-john.  
Tuition fees will stay in our pockets,  
If you smile upon us, dear Grand-john.  
Unforgettable happy moments will remain,  
If you win this for us, dear Grand-john.  
If I actually had enough money,  
Wouldn't I be walking around with pride?  
So the Dean won't expel me,  
Win it for me, dear Grand-john.  
Giving strength and zeal to the jury,  
May it dishearten all the doubters.  
May my Grand-john be granted to us,  
And bring joy to us all!

By: Amirova Nodira Shamshiyevna

# The Leaking Elixir



Moaning....  
A rusted tap stood  
isolated  
Tickling sound ...  
nobody heard  
Everyone is busy moving  
without knowing the move.  
A kid neared

The tap felt the warmth of love  
Began to predict the futureless future.  
The young lips lisped sans knowing the earth is  
being baked  
Hours rolled by  
The hunting parents cursed the roasting Sun  
and saved the kid.....

Raj Ganesh

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

# Memories Reborn???



A lost soul , a skeleton of his old self  
Life and circumstances had stolen away his  
memories  
Leaving him with mere flashes  
As he fought a lost battle with Alzheimer's  
  
Eyes dimmed with no recognition of any  
He had lost memory of family and friends many  
Sudden lightning strikes hazily reborn

Were not of anyone present but only of the past

He relived a few choicest childhood ones  
That showed when he suddenly smiled  
Those instances of memory reborn  
Were but a flash diminishing each and every one

His plight was disheartening but a blessing too  
As his children left him alone which he didn't  
comprehend

For him every new face that spoke a kind word  
Was his own for that moment as other memories  
were dead  
Mann Se

Dedicated to those afflicted with Alzheimer's and their family

# "It's Okay mean, It's not Okay. But it's Okay"



"It's okay," I said proudly,  
while my life updated new problems  
like phone notifications.

Heart broke?  
It's okay.  
Wallet empty?  
Still okay.  
Sleep missing?  
Very okay.

Somehow we humans  
drink tea, laugh loudly,  
and continue surviving  
with zero energy and full drama.

Maybe "It's okay"  
doesn't mean everything is fine —  
it just means  
"Crying tomorrow... today let me manage."

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

# Knowledge isn't artificial



Also not superficial.  
It's a realistic one,  
Gained from learning and experience.  
But it's nothing until used.

It's a skill and power  
When it is used and applied.  
It's a gained experience  
When it is embraced.  
It's an appreciable reward  
When it makes you succeed.

Sheeba.S  
Graduate teacher  
Gghss Pattukkottai

# Trust is an invisible currency: hard to earn, but easy to lose.



Small, kind words earn trust in you.  
Trust makes life meaningful.  
Trust in God helps build your life obediently.  
The trust of parents brings safety to life.  
The trust of children brings peace to life.  
The trust of ancestors brings a blissful life.

Every trust is a treasure. So, do every action  
honestly.  
It earns the trust of others in you.  
Trust is like a soul;  
once you lose it,  
it may never come back to you.  
Remember that:  
it is hard to earn but easy to lose.

\_\_G.YasminSirajudheen  
Secondary grade teacher Melmalayanur block  
Villupuram dt

# Well covered sword is not a guard.....



Knowing many and not using any ,  
is the greatest unpublishable offence,  
The road of travel is not only learning,  
it is also filled with sharing and teaching,  
Knowing many and not sharing any ,  
Is the prettiest sorrow of benevolence,

The journey of success is a circus ,  
it is performed after so many trails ,  
Having many and not giving any ,  
is the saddest service of grievance,  
The power of Knowledge is not discovery,  
it should be used in beneficiary and recovery,

-R. P. Guru Prabhu.  
Graduate Teacher,  
CBHSS , Purasawalkam,  
Chennai.

# Living to the fullest



Dream of every soul,  
We are always worrying,  
But aren't embracing it all.

Feel every beautiful moment,

Explore the best and unique places,  
Flourish a smile in everything,  
And fill our hearts with grace.

Just passing days isn't a life,  
Life is meant to be lived,  
So cherish every moment,  
And live the life to the fullest.

S.Sheeba  
Graduate teacher  
Gghss, Pattukkottai

**Politics** Kalonzo did not mince words. “President Ruto, I call you to order,” he said, invoking the language of parliamentary procedure in a political context

# Kalonzo calls Ruto to order over Uhuru attacks

The Wiper leader’s public rebuke of the President signals that the opposition’s ranks are hardening — and that the rules of political decorum still matter to someone in Nairobi.

BY Anne Mwikali  
@themtkenyentimes

Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka has publicly rebuked President William Ruto over his sustained attacks on former President Uhuru Kenyatta, demanding that the head of state respect the constitutional tradition of honouring retired presidents. Kalonzo’s intervention, delivered at the Mashuuru Grounds revival prayer festival in Kajiado County on Friday, came on the same day that Kenyatta was playfully embracing the “sponyo” — sponsor — label that Ruto has spent weeks wielding as a political weapon. The timing made it doubly pointed. While Kenyatta chose wit, Kalonzo chose the harder edge of direct rebuke. Together, the two



Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka

responses framed a coordinated, if stylistically distinct, opposition pushback against a president who has made his predecessor the centrepiece of his pre-election political offensive. Ruto’s attacks have been re-

lentless. During his five-day tour of Nyanza this week, he labelled Kenyatta a “rebel leader” for refusing to act as a statesman, accused him of sponsoring opposition figures including Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, and urged the

former president to step back from active political mobilisation. The language has grown harsher with each rally, and critics have begun describing it as the behaviour of a leader more preoccupied with a predecessor than with the voters

he needs to win over. Kalonzo did not mince words. “President Ruto, I call you to order,” he said, invoking the language of parliamentary procedure in a political context — a deliberate signal that this was not casual commentary but a formal challenge to the President’s conduct. He cited the peaceful transitions from Jomo Kenyatta to Daniel arap Moi, and later from Moi to Mwai Kibaki, as the model Ruto was failing to observe. He recalled that Kibaki had refused to allow ministers to strip Moi of the house he occupied near Kibera after leaving office, directing instead that Moi be given the title deed. “That is what Kibaki did,” Kalonzo said, “showing respect to his predecessor.” The rebuke carries political weight beyond the personal. Kenyamba constituency MP Muchangi Mbae had already told Ruto bluntly on Thursday that his opponent in 2027 was not Uhuru Kenyatta. “The President of the Republic of Kenya, the Honourable William Samoei Ruto, please — your opponent is not Uhuru Kenyatta,” Mbae said in a local radio interview, arguing that the sustained targeting of a retired head of state revealed uncertainty about who would ultimately emerge as the opposition’s standard-bearer. Critics have further characterised Ruto’s tone during his Nyanza tour as those of a leader unsettled by the pace of opposition consolidation. Kalonzo, who now leads the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition following the death of Raila Odinga, has pledged to work with other opposition leaders — including Gachagua, Martha Karua and Eugene Wamalwa — to produce a single candidate for the August 2027 general election. In that context, his defence of Kenyatta is not merely about dignity. It is about drawing a boundary: that the opposition will not be intimidated into silence, and that whoever leads Kenya’s government owes its former presidents a minimum standard of courtesy. Ruto appears to have miscalculated. By turning Kenyatta into the defining villain of his re-election narrative, he has handed the opposition a unifying cause — and given Kalonzo, a man who has run for president three times without winning, the most dignified stage he has occupied in years.

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**Youths** Recent reports of young people killed in suspected mob justice should serve as a wake up call. Even where suspicion is genuine, suspicion is not conviction

# When young lives become disposable

*Mob justice is eroding the rule of law and endangering Kenya's youth.*



**BY Dennis Wendo**  
@themkenyatimes

Young people are increasingly losing their lives on Kenya's streets in a cycle of crime, confrontation and mob justice that should alarm every citizen. Phone snatching, robbery and other offences must be addressed, but the growing tendency to punish suspected offenders violently, often before facts are established, is equally troubling.

The pattern has become frighteningly predictable: a crime occurs, a crowd gives chase, anger takes over and a young life is lost. This is no longer simply a matter of law and order; it is a public safety and youth crisis. Many of those involved are young people — some accused of crimes, others victims of retaliation, and many vulnerable youths drawn into criminal networks, substance abuse or survival economies. Some are simply caught in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Reducing the crisis to the label of "criminal youths" risks obscuring deeper realities. Kenya is grappling with a generation facing unemployment, economic pressure and social frustration, while communities grow increasingly intolerant of street crime. Where trust in institutions is weak, frustration can quickly turn into vigilantism. Yet crime cannot justify mob justice, and mob justice cannot be allowed to replace legitimate systems of accountability.

Recent reports of young people killed in suspected mob justice should serve as a wake up call. Even where suspicion is genuine, suspicion is not



conviction. A crowd cannot be investigator, prosecutor, judge and executioner. Each time a suspected offender is killed, Kenya loses more than one life. Respect for the rule of law is weakened, fear deepens, violence is normalised and tomorrow's victim may be yesterday's alleged offender.

The response must go beyond policing after incidents occur. Kenya needs a national conversation on youth, crime, employment, social protection, substance abuse, community policing and access to justice. Police must be equipped to respond quickly to street crime, communities must have reliable channels for reporting, investigations must be credible and timely, and courts must process cases efficiently. At the same time, young people need pathways away from crime — skills development, employment opportunities, mentorship, rehabilitation and meaningful participation in community life.

Civil society and community organisations have a critical role in identifying tensions, documenting violence, engaging vulnerable youth and strengthening trust between

communities and security agencies. Parents, schools, religious institutions and local leaders must also be part of the solution.

The political environment cannot be ignored. As Kenya approaches the 2027 General Election, a society accustomed to mob action is vulnerable to organised mobilisation of young people for political confrontation. Preventing today's street violence is therefore also part of safeguarding tomorrow's electoral environment.

The most urgent question remains: how many more young lives must be lost before this is treated as a national emergency? Every young Kenyan killed represents a grieving family and a future cut short. Kenya cannot build a secure and cohesive nation while becoming accustomed to youth dying on its streets.

Those who steal must face justice. Those who organise crime must be pursued. Those who attack innocent people must be held accountable. But those accused of offences must not be condemned to death by the crowd. Justice belongs to legitimate institutions, not to the anger of the street.

The present moment calls for urgent action, not another cycle of condemnation after lives have already been lost. Young people need accountability where they offend, protection where they are vulnerable and opportunities that give them reason to choose a different path. Kenya must act before street violence, youth desperation and mob justice become normal features of national life.

*Dennis Wendo, governance and social policy commentator, Integrated Development Network (IDN Kenya)*




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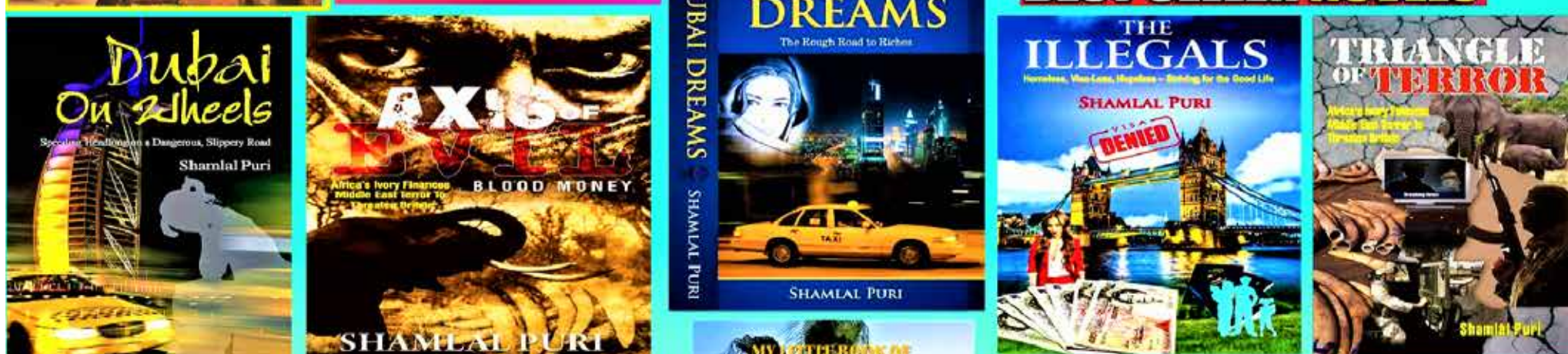
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**Ballot** Every five years the same theatre opens. Candidates arrive with catalogues of salvation. Jobs for the youth. Lower cost of living

# Manufacturing hope at the ballot, accumulating fortunes after the count



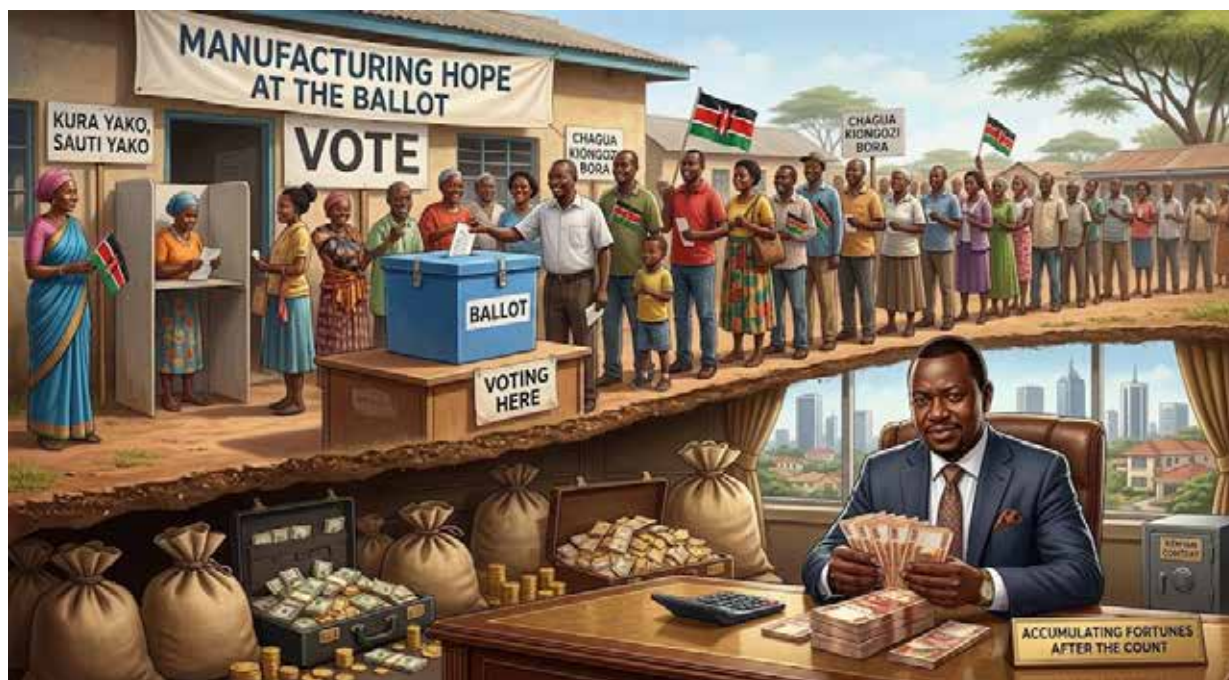
By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo

@themkenyetimes

Here is the stark fact that should shame every conscience still capable of shame: in Kenya, the richest 125 individuals hold more wealth than 77 percent of the population more than 42 million people. Between 2019 and 2023 the richest 1 percent captured nearly two-fifths of all new wealth created, thirteen times more than the bottom half. This is not an accident of markets. It is the deliberate, cyclical outcome of a political system whose two most reliable mainstays are the industrial-scale manufacturing of hope during elections and the quiet, systematic accumulation of wealth once the ballots are counted.

Every five years the same theatre opens. Candidates arrive with catalogues of salvation. Jobs for the youth. Lower cost of living. Affordable housing. Healthcare that does not bankrupt families. Roads that do not kill. They speak the language of the mama mboga and the boda boda rider with practiced fluency. They brandish manifestos thick with numbers and timelines. The 2022 cycle was no different. One leading contender alone issued hundreds of distinct pledges. Four years later independent tallies show only a handful fully delivered, a few more inching forward, and the vast majority abandoned, delayed, or quietly rewritten. The pattern is older than the current occupants of power. It is the pattern itself that has become the nation's most consistent product.

This is not mere broken promise. It is manufacturing. Hope is produced the way factories produce soap: mass, fragrant, and designed for rapid consumption. The raw materials are real grievances youth unemployment, food prices that outrun wages, public hospitals that demand cash before treatment. The machinery is the campaign rally, the careful-



Illustration

ly staged walkabouts, the selective memory of past failures, the sudden discovery of empathy for the poor. The finished product is a temporary belief that this time the system will bend toward justice. Once the product is purchased with the vote, the factory gates close. The real business begins.

History is the unblinking witness. From the first post-independence redistribution of the former White Highlands, political office has been the most efficient instrument of private enrichment. Land that was meant for the landless found its way into the hands of those already connected to power. Under successive regimes the state itself became the primary site of accumulation. Contracts, licences, tenders, land allocations, and later the vast flows of devolved funds have all served as pipelines. The names change; the logic does not. A cabinet secretary's declared wealth can swell by tens of percent in less than two years. County officers on modest salaries emerge with unexplained hundreds of millions. The presidency's own offices have set new records in recurrent spending even while austerity is preached to the citizen. These are not aberrations. They are the system functioning as designed.

Consider the correlation that never lies. The cost of winning office routinely exceeds the legitimate salary

attached to that office over an entire term. Senatorial campaigns have required averages approaching four hundred thousand dollars. Parliamentary races exceed two hundred thousand. Even ward-level seats demand sums that ordinary citizens cannot imagine. Who underwrites such expenditure if not those who expect returns once the winner is installed? The campaign is an investment. The post-election period is the harvest. Public resources become private capital through the familiar routes of inflated procurement, selective enforcement, and the quiet redirection of policy toward connected interests. The citizen who queued under the sun to vote for lower prices discovers that the same political class that promised relief now presides over the very mechanisms that extract more.

The emotional cost is not abstract. It is the mother who believed the promise of free secondary education and still sells her last goat to keep a child in school. It is the graduate who heard the pledge of jobs and now measures time in unpaid internships. It is the patient who was told healthcare would be protected and still chooses between medicine and rent. Each cycle of manufactured hope leaves a residue of cynicism thicker than the last. Voter turnout has fallen from the high eighties in earlier multiparty contests to the

mid-sixties. Young people, who form the demographic majority, register in large numbers and then stay away in even larger ones. They have learned the script. They no longer confuse the performance with the substance.

However, the manufacturing continues because it works. It works for the manufacturers. The elite do not need the majority to believe forever; they need them to believe long enough to legitimize the next transfer of power. Once that transfer is secured, the instruments of accumulation procure boards, regulatory agencies, county treasuries, state corporations are recalibrated. Allies are rewarded. Critics are isolated. Scandals multiply and then dissolve into selective prosecutions or withdrawn cases. The wealth gap widens. The same faces who once wept on podiums over the plight of the poor are later photographed in settings that mock the very poverty they claimed to champion.

This is not the inevitable result of African politics or of poverty. It is the result of a specific political economy that has been refined across generations. Colonial extraction taught that the state is a prize. Post-independence elites internalized the lesson and perfected it. Multiparty competition did not dismantle the prize; it merely multiplied the competitors and raised the cost of entry. Devolution, sold as the great democrati-

zation of resources, has in too many counties simply decentralised the plunder. The language of reform is itself co-opted. Anti-corruption agencies investigate some while others remain untouchable. Oversight institutions are captured or starved. The citizen is invited to watch the theatre of accountability while the real transactions occur offstage.

The demand that must now be made is categorical. First, to the political class currently in office and those already positioning for the next cycle: stop treating hope as a disposable campaign commodity. Publish full, verifiable wealth declarations before seeking office and after leaving it. Subject every major campaign pledge to independent, publicly funded tracking with clear consequences for serial non-delivery. Second, to the institutions charged with guarding the public purse the Auditor-General, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Parliament's oversight committees recover your independence or admit you have become decorative. Third, to the financiers and business networks that underwrite campaigns: your capital is not neutral. When it purchases access and tilts policy, it becomes complicity in the extraction that keeps millions poor. Fourth, to the citizenry itself: refuse the next round of manufactured hope without mechanisms of enforcement. Demand that manifesto promises be treated as contracts, not poetry. Register, vote, and then remain organised after the counting is done. The five-year cycle of amnesia is the elite's greatest asset; sustained scrutiny is its greatest threat.

Kenya does not lack resources, talent, or democratic aspiration. It suffers from a political culture that has industrialised the production of false hope in order to protect the continuous accumulation of private wealth from public office. The richest 125 already own more than three-quarters of their compatriots. That fact alone should end the polite silence. The next election will again be framed as a moment of national renewal. It will again be, unless interrupted by deliberate collective will, another season of manufacturing dreams for the many so that fortunes can be secured for the few. The illusion has lasted long enough. The harvest of hope must end.

*The writer is a social commentator*

**Schools** Traditionally, schools have responded with strict monitoring, disciplinary measures, warning letters, or parental summons

# Making schools places learners want to be: Addressing chronic absenteeism through engagement and belonging

**BY Ashford Kimani**  
@themkenyatimes

Across the world, schools face a growing challenge that undermines educational progress: chronic absenteeism. While educators often emphasize curriculum delivery, assessment outcomes, and instructional quality, these efforts falter when learners are frequently absent. A child cannot benefit from teaching if they are not present. Absenteeism has therefore shifted from being an attendance issue to a broader learning crisis.

Traditionally, schools have responded with strict monitoring, disciplinary measures, warning letters, or parental summons. Yet these interventions often miss the deeper causes. Learners rarely stay away simply out of carelessness. Emotional, social, economic, and psychological factors shape how they experience school. Sustainable solutions require schools to become places learners genuinely want to be.

Research increasingly highlights engagement as a key predictor of attendance. When learning feels meaningful, stimulating, and connected to real life, students attend more consistently. Classrooms that foster curiosity, creativity, participation, and practical application strengthen commitment. Conversely, environments dominated by routine instruction, fear of failure, or detachment weaken motivation.

In Kenya, this conversation is particularly relevant as schools implement the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). The CBC emphasizes learner-centered approaches, talent development, critical thinking, and practical competencies — principles that align with reducing absenteeism. Learners engaged



in projects, collaboration, and skill development often build stronger connections to school.

Relationships between teachers and learners also matter. Children thrive when they feel seen, valued, and understood. A learner who believes teachers care about their progress is more likely to remain connected even during difficult times. Simple gestures — greeting students warmly, checking on those who struggle, recognizing improvement — strengthen attachment and belonging.

Guidance and counseling programmes deserve greater investment. Today's learners face pressures from family instability, social media, economic hardship, peer conflict, and mental health challenges. Schools that provide psychosocial support create protective environments where learners receive help before challenges escalate. Preventive initiatives such as mentorship, peer support, and life skills education build resilience and encourage attendance.

Parental involvement remains essential. Families and schools work best as partners. Parents who monitor attendance, communicate

with teachers, and reinforce positive attitudes strengthen accountability. Schools can foster collaboration through forums, regular updates, and joint problem-solving when concerns arise.

Economic realities also play a role. Some learners miss school due to transport difficulties, inadequate materials, household responsibilities, or financial hardship. Older learners may take on caregiving roles, limiting participation. Addressing absenteeism requires empathy and contextual understanding, not punishment alone.

School climate is equally important. Learners attend more consistently when they feel safe physically, emotionally, and socially. Bullying, discrimination, exclusion, or harsh discipline discourage attendance. Positive cultures require deliberate leadership, with administrators, teachers, and learners shaping inclusive environments.

Co-curricular programmes further strengthen attachment. Sports, drama, music, debate, and leadership activities give learners reasons to connect deeply with school communities. Many discover confidence and identity through experiences beyond the class-

room.

Educational leadership systems such as Teacher Performance Appraisal and Development (TPAD) can support this effort when used thoughtfully. Professional growth frameworks encourage reflection on engagement strategies and classroom management. Attendance should not be treated as compliance but as part of improving learner experiences.

Importantly, schools must move beyond recording absences to understanding their causes. Attendance data should guide interventions. Identifying patterns allows educators to respond be-

fore absenteeism becomes chronic. Early identification, follow-up communication, and targeted support prevent small issues from becoming barriers.

The future of education depends not only on curriculum or examinations but on whether schools create environments where learners feel they belong. Young people thrive when they experience connection, relevance, support, and purpose.

Reducing absenteeism requires a shift in perspective. Rather than asking only how to make learners attend, schools must ask: how can we become places learners genuinely want to be? The answer will shape not just attendance statistics but the quality and equity of education itself.

*Ashford Kimani teaches English and Literature in Gatundu North Sub-county and serves as Dean of Studies.*

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**Disability** There comes a moment when silence ceases to be patience and becomes an invitation to administrative complacency

# When disability funds become a frontier for accountability: Kenya's PWDs refuse to be invisible



BY Fredrick Chelimo

@themkenyaintimes

*"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."* — Mahatma Gandhi

There comes a moment when silence ceases to be patience and becomes an invitation to administrative complacency. Kenya may be approaching such a moment in the management of public resources intended for persons with disabilities. This is not an allegation that disability funds are inherently corrupt, nor is every delay evidence of misappropriation. It is, however, a warning that opacity, unexplained delays, undocumented transfers, disputed allocations and institutional blame-shifting create accountability risks that cannot simply be dismissed.

Kenya's Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025 places explicit obligations upon county governments. Counties are required to allocate adequate resources to programmes specifically targeting persons with disabilities, promote inclusion of PWDs in county employment, adopt affirmative procurement measures and ensure disability inclusion across mainstream programmes. The law therefore transformed disability inclusion from a matter of goodwill into a public responsibility.

Recent developments in Nakuru provide a serious case study. Reporting by The Standard indicates that KSh27.5 million budgeted for disability mainstreaming in FY2025/2026 was not disbursed to PWD beneficiaries. The disability community subsequently demanded explanations, petitioned the County Assembly and issued notice of peaceful demonstrations.

The reporting also illustrates the accountability problem. The department responsible for disability matters said it had undertaken processes necessary to operationalise the fund



Kenya's PWDs

and requested transfer of the money to the PWD account, while pointing to the finance function over the failure to transfer the funds. The department also sought explanations concerning the omission of the allocation from the 2026/2027 budget. This is precisely why public accountability requires an audit trail. Where was the appropriation? Where was the requisition? Who authorised the transfer? Was the money released? Was it transferred? If not, why not? If it was reallocated, under what lawful authority? What became of the intended beneficiaries? These are not partisan questions. They are questions of public finance, institutional responsibility and citizens' rights.

Uasin Gishu now finds itself confronting its own accountability question. PWD representatives have raised concerns regarding a reported KSh15 million PWD empowerment allocation for FY2025/2026, together with information that 780 PWD beneficiaries across the county's 30 wards had been identified for a proposed tools-of-trade intervention.

The PWD community has further stated that it was informed that the funds were returned to the Department of Finance at the close of the financial year. These matters require documentary verification by the relevant county institutions. That is

why the demand must remain focused: show the budget line, show the appropriation, show the requisition, show the transfer records, show the implementation documents, show the beneficiary framework and explain the final status of the funds. The quest to get these answers has been painstaking exercise for the PWDs of Uasin Gishu.

If the money was properly managed, documentation should provide the answer. If implementation failed, the institutional failure should be explained. If funds were lawfully reallocated, the legal authority should be identified. If evidence of financial impropriety emerges, the appropriate accountability institutions should be allowed to act.

Disability must not become an invisible budget. There is a particular vulnerability in disability expendi-

ture. A road can be seen. A building can be photographed. A bridge can be inspected. But a sewing machine, assistive device, business grant, dairy animal, training programme or tools-of-trade package can disappear into procurement files and beneficiary schedules without the wider public immediately noticing. That makes transparency even more important.

Indeed, the national government has itself continued to use tools-of-trade and economic empowerment as part of disability programming. NCPWD reported in July 2026 that its tools-of-trade programme was reaching entrepreneurs across the country, including Uasin Gishu, alongside training and enterprise support. The issue, therefore, is not whether empowerment is possible. It is whether every shilling allocated for that purpose can be traced from budget to beneficiary.

The planned 24 September 2026 peaceful accountability demonstration in Uasin Gishu should consequently be understood within that wider context. The disability community has indicated that it intends to use lawful avenues including peaceful demonstration, formal petition, administrative accountability mechanisms and, where appropriate, judicial proceedings.

There should be no surrender to in-

timidation, bureaucratic fatigue or endless referrals. But there should equally be no violence, destruction, personal vilification or unsupported accusations. The strongest disability movement is not one driven by anger alone. It is driven by evidence, law, unity, documentation and persistence.

Leadership at every level of government should therefore demonstrate solidarity—not by shielding institutions from scrutiny, but by ensuring that legitimate questions receive timely, documented and lawful answers. County assemblies should exercise their oversight mandate. County executives should provide records. Finance and accounting officers should clarify financial trails. Oversight institutions should act where their mandates are engaged. And PWD organizations should remain vigilant, united and evidence-driven.

This is bigger than KSh15 million. It is about whether citizens living with disabilities are treated as equal participants in Kenya's democracy—or merely as beneficiaries expected to wait quietly. The message should therefore be unmistakable: disability is not inability; vulnerability is not consent; patience is not surrender.

The 24 September engagement should be peaceful. The petition should be factual. Any court process should be evidence-based. Every demand should be anchored in law. But the pursuit of accountability should not disappear when the demonstration ends. It should continue through documentation, oversight, public participation, administrative review and, where justified by the evidence, the courts. Kenya has already established the legal architecture for disability inclusion. The challenge now is turning statutory promises into measurable reality.

For Kenya's disability community, the enduring lesson is simple: public resources entrusted for the empowerment of persons with disabilities must remain traceable, accountable and protected by law. No vulnerable citizen should have to beg for an explanation about a resource that was budgeted for their dignity. More importantly, accountable county officials should not speak, act and insinuate that they are demi-gods when requested to respond to public questions while still holding public offices.

Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo — PWD: Communication/Spokes person

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“The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.” — Mahatma Gandhi

# BOOKS & LITERATURE

with Zainab Ikram

## Review of the Novel Pride and Prejudice

**Name: Zainab Ikram**

**Roll No: Bsen012413001**

**Submitted To: Sir Adnan**

Jane Austen is one of the greatest and famous English novelist in the history of English literature. Jane Austen date of birth is 16 December 1775. She was born in Stevenston, England. She is the greatest and beautiful writer in the history of English literature. She wrote many novels. She gave many beautiful memories to his reader. Jane Austen fictions is based on reality of life. In her novels she criticize the society because of her rules which mentally disturb the people. Jane Austen mostly wrote about the rich and poor class families. In her novel she especially focusing on the life of women, marriage, money, love and social rules. Her writing style is very beautiful, funny, simple, decent and realistic. In her novel she present the reality of life and criticism of society in a very realistic way. There are some of her famous and well-known novels are Sense and Sensibility, Emma, and pride and prejudice. All of her novels are famous, but her most of the important fiction pride and prejudice is considered as a masterpiece. The readers love her fictions all over the world. Jane Austen novel pride and prejudice was published in 1813. It is a romantic novel which entertains the readers. This novel also criticize the society of her rules. The story of her novel pride and prejudice takes place in 19th century, England. The story mainly focus on the Bennet family. The novel present the daily life of the Bennet sisters, their connections, love, relationship and problems she faced in her real life. Through in her novel pride and prejudice, Jane Austen shows the importance of love, loyalty, respect, marriage, pride and lives of middle and upper class families. The novel pride and prejudice is famous and interest-

ing for its beautiful characters, funny conversation and one of the most important point of this novel is it is related to real life.

The story starts when the rich and beautiful Mr. Bingley comes and live in NETHERFIELD PARK. When Mrs. Bennet knows that Mr. Bingley live in NETHERFIELD PARK. She becomes very happy and excited because she really wants one of her beautiful daughters marry Mr. Bingley. Mr. Bingley comes with proud and very rich friend. In the starting of the novel the character of Mr. Darcy looks like overconfident and rude. Elizabeth Bennet judge Mr. Darcy too quickly. She thinks that he is rude and proud. At first, she thinks that Mr. Darcy is a bad person but when time pass we see Elizabeth Bennet realize that Mr. Darcy is such a intelligent and beautiful men. The misunderstanding slowly finished and the both personalities learn very important lesson about love, morality, respect and pride.

One of the major theme of the novel pride and prejudice is the character development. The novel highlights the importance of social rules and human behavior when the unexpected things are appear. One of the most important idea of the novel is marriage. In her fiction pride and prejudice Jane Austen explains that marriage is very important for women because women had not financially strong and lack of freedom. In her novel we see different types of marriages. In Jane Austen novel we see marriages. Some marriages is totally depend on love, respect, loyalty the marriage of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, and some marriages based on money, social position and security. The marriage of Charlotte Lucas and Mr. Collins.



PENGUIN CLASSICS

JANE AUSTEN

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

There is also another very important theme of the novel pride and prejudice is social status or position of society. In this novel we see two different types of class upper class and middle class. People judge each other based on money, social status, security and how someone are rich. In the novel pride and prejudice Jane Austen point out the upper class through the character of Lady Catherine de Bourgh. She gives the idea that good character is more important than social status or fake personality.

The negative point of the novel pride and prejudice is that how people judge other's too quickly. As the main character of the novel Elizabeth Bennet thinks that Mr. Darcy is rude and overconfident. At the starting of the novel pride and prejudice Elizabeth judge Darcy too quickly but at the end of the novel she realize her mistake. Mr. Darcy such a beautiful, proud and intelligent person. While on the other hand, Mr. Darcy thinks that Elizabeth family belongs to a lower class. But after some time he also realize her mistake that he is wrong.

Both character realize their mistakes. Elizabeth mother also wants that her daughters marry a rich men because the family property will not distribute between the daughters, when Mr. Bennet died. Through these negative point Jane Austen presents readers that first impression are not always correct.

There is an important point of the novel pride and prejudice is women's status in these stick society. In Jane Austen time marriage is very important. Women are depend on marriage for financially status. In her novel Jane Austen present a strong, beautiful, proud and intelligent character like Elizabeth Bennet. She believes that love, loyalty and respect is more important than money, status and security.

The Bennet family have five daughters first one is Jane Bennet, second one is Elizabeth Bennet, third one is Mary Bennet, second last is Kitty Bennet and the last one is Lydia Bennet. Each daughters have a different personality different character.

Jane Bennet is the first daughter of the Bennet fami-

ly. She is such a beautiful girl. She has such a sweet kind of nature. She is nice, loving, soft-hearted, calm, caring and kind. She judge not too quickly. She thinks positively about others and do not think bad about others. Jane loving and kind nature make her one of the most beautiful and loving character in the novel. She marry Mr. Bingley and spend life very happy.

Elizabeth Bennet is the heroine and the most important character of the novel pride and prejudice. She is intelligent, proud, and lovely. She is confident and Independent. She marry Mr. Darcy. At the starting of the novel she did not think good for Darcy but at the end she realize that she judge too quickly. Darcy is such a beautiful and proud men. Elizabeth Bennet love his sister Jane too much. Elizabeth Bennet believe that love and respect is more important than money and status.

Mary Bennet is such a beautiful personality in the novel. But she is not a main character in the novel. She is thoughtful, silent and clam girl. She is really interested in reading books. Mary spend most of his time to reading and exploring books. She did not interested in romance and she feels confused in social gathering.

Kitty Bennet is the second last daughter of the Bennet family. She is immature. She spend most of his time with his sister Lydia. She is not main character or main personality of the novel. Lydia Bennet is the youngest daughter of the Bennet family. She is also a immature and careless character in the novel. She is too much immature and foolish. Most of the time Bennet family face problems because of her immature behavior.

Mr. Darcy is one of the main character of the novel. He is the notable personality in the novel. Darcy is the friend of Mr. Bingley. At the starting of the novel, he looks like distant, arrogant, rude, proud, overconfident and unfriendly. Elizabeth also thinks that he is rude and unfriendly. She dislike his behavior. But at the end, she realize that she is totally wrong about Darcy. Mr. Darcy proves himself that he is proud, intelligent and confident. He helps Lyd-

ia and Wickham and show the respect of Bennet family. At the end of the novel Mr. Darcy love Elizabeth Bennet and propose her. They both are love each other. Elizabeth believe that marriage without love, respect, loyalty, and understanding is nothing. At the end of the novel the change in the Darcy character is the important and interesting element in the novel. Elizabeth Bennet fault makes her natural, innocent, intelligent, proud and human.

Mr. Bingley is also an important character of the novel pride and prejudice. He is caring, friendly and good-hearted men. He is polite. He judge positive about others and he easily mix- up with others. He love Jane Bennet the elder daughter of the Bennet family. He is loyal, honest and sincere about Jane.

Mr. Collins is a funny character and personality of the novel. He is arrogant, foolish and always tries to impress Lady Catherine de Bourgh. He marry Charlotte Lucas and shows the realistic side of marriage.

The title of the novel pride and prejudice represents the Main idea. Pride is directly connected to Mr. Darcy because he believe that he belong to a upper class society and her rank in society is higher. Prejudice I linked with Elizabeth she creates bad opinion about Darcy. Love and marriage is also the main theme of the novel pride and prejudice. In this novel we see most marriages are successful and some unsuccessful. Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy marriage is successful because Elizabeth believe that true love is based on respect, loyalty and understanding not money or status.

In conclusion, pride and prejudice is such a brilliant, interesting, and beautiful novel. This novel is totally based on marriages. This novel is combines a lot of fun, romance and social criticism. Jane Austen creates a story of both entertaining and meaningful. Jane Austen uses such a elegant, simple and beautiful style. Even after a long time a novel still attracts readers. Jane Austen believe that true love and attraction is totally depend on the pure connection between characters.

SPORTS  
NEWSPHOTOS  
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports &gt;&gt; \*Clinical finishing and tactical discipline give Brentford a memorable home victory.

## Statement win at the Gtech: Brentford outclass Chelsea to claim all three points

By Andalo Christine Ingutia

Brentford delivered a commanding performance at the Gtech Community Stadium on Friday night, dismantling Chelsea 3-0 in Premier League match week five. The result gave the Bees all three points and left their visitors searching for answers ahead of the international break.

The match offered a reminder that possession alone does not guarantee progress. Chelsea dominated the ball in the opening half, circulating passes around Brentford's defensive third, but failed to create meaningful openings. Brentford's defensive wall held firm, absorbing pressure and restricting the Blues to speculative long-range efforts.

The home side's patience paid off after the interval. Brentford returned from the tunnel with renewed energy and tactical clarity. The breakthrough arrived in the 60th minute when Jaidon Anthony rose to meet a cross, directing a powerful header past goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez. The move followed a swift turnover in midfield, and Anthony's anticipation was flawless. The stadium erupted, momentum shifted, and Chelsea suddenly looked vulnerable.

In response, Chelsea pushed more men forward, hoping to break down Brentford's compact low block. Yet their attacking patterns were predictable, and the hosts read them with ease. As the minutes ticked away, gaps began to appear in Chelsea's defensive third. Brentford seized the opportunity.

On 82 minutes, Igor Thiago finished off a lightning counter-attack to double the advantage. The goal showcased Brentford's efficiency: two passes, a burst of pace, and a clinical strike. Chelsea's defensive shape collapsed further, and just before stoppage time Fabio Carvalho added a



Brentford celebrates

third. His composed finish sealed the victory and ensured the Bees claimed a statement win against one of the league's giants.

The scoreline reflected more than just goals. Brentford's tactical discipline, sharp transitions, and collective belief stood in stark contrast to Chelsea's disjointed play. The hosts looked comfortable in their identity, while the visitors appeared unsettled under new manager Xabi Alonso, still searching for cohesion among fresh signings.

For Brentford, the victory was historic. It confirmed their ability to compete with established clubs and demonstrated that efficiency and resilience can outmatch possession-heavy football. The challenge now is consistency. Head coach Keith Andrews will demand that his players carry the confidence from this performance into future fixtures, proving that Friday night was not an isolated triumph but a standard for the season.

Chelsea, meanwhile, face urgent questions. Alonso is under pressure from supporters who expect

immediate results. The team's inability to convert possession into goals, combined with defensive lapses, cost them dearly at Gtech. The manager must revisit both attacking structures and defensive organisation to prevent further setbacks. Without swift adjustments, Chelsea risk enduring a long and frustrating campaign.

The match also highlighted broader themes in modern football. Brentford's approach demonstrated that success lies not only in technical skill but in tactical clarity and collective effort. Their ability to remain disciplined under pressure, then strike decisively when opportunities arose, reflected a maturity that Chelsea lacked.

Fans left the stadium with contrasting emotions. Brentford supporters celebrated a night of pride and belief, their chants echoing long after the final whistle. Chelsea fans, by contrast, were left to ponder how a team with such resources could appear so blunt and predictable.

Looking ahead, Brentford will

aim to build on this momentum. Their next fixtures will test whether they can sustain the intensity and precision that defined this victory. For Chelsea, the international break offers a chance to regroup, analyse weaknesses, and reset before the season resumes. Alonso's ability to adapt will determine whether the Blues recover or continue to struggle.

Ultimately, the match at Gtech was more than a routine league fixture. It was a statement of intent from Brentford and a warning for Chelsea. Football rewards teams that combine discipline with creativity, and on Friday night, Brentford showed exactly how it is done.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> \*Kenya’s leading professional keeps title hopes alive with a strong second round.

# Snow moves into contention at Uganda’s Pearl of Africa golf series



Kenya’s Greg Snow in action at Entebbe Golf Club during the second round of the Perl of Africa Golf Series, the sixth leg of the Sunshine Development Tour - East Africa Swing

By Martin Weche

Kenya’s Greg Snow moved into contention for the Pearl of Africa Golf Series title after carding a five under par 66 in the second round at Entebbe Golf Club on Friday, taking his tournament total to six under 136 and climbing to fourth place ahead of Saturday’s final round.

Snow’s scorecard reflected both consistency and resilience, with birdies on the first, second, sixth, 11th, 14th, 17th and 18th holes. His only dropped shots came at the 10th and 13th. “I’m happy with the round today. I gave myself good opportunities and was able to convert a number of them, especially towards the end. I’ve put myself in a good position going into the final round, and the focus now is to play another solid round tomorrow,” he said.

Snow remains the best placed Kenyan in the field, with compatriots Daniel Nduva and Mutahi Kibugu also making the cut. His performance has drawn attention not only for its technical precision but also for its timing, as

Kenyan professionals continue to seek stronger representation on the Sunshine Development Tour.

At the top of the leaderboard, Uganda’s Ronald Rugumayo extended his advantage with a seven under par 64, the best round of the day, to reach 11 under 131. The reigning Uganda Open champion made a blistering start, collecting birdies on the first, second, fourth, fifth and ninth holes to turn in 30. He then added an eagle on the 15th before closing with another eagle on the 18th. “I’m very happy with the round. I got off to a good start and managed to maintain the momentum throughout. Finishing with two eagles was great, but there is still one more round to play, so I have to remain focused,” Rugumayo said.

Nigeria’s Godwin Okoko also stayed firmly in contention, returning a three under par 68 for a total of eight under 134. His round included birdies on the second, fifth and seventh holes, capped by an eagle on the 18th. He dropped shots at the 13th and 16th but remains in second

place, three shots behind Rugumayo and one ahead of South Africa’s Slade Pickering, who sits third at seven under.

Snow is one shot clear of a three way tie for fifth between Uganda’s Willy Deus Kitata, England’s Matt Millar and Tanzania’s Nuru Mollel, all on five under. The tightly packed leaderboard sets up a compelling final round, with players from across the continent vying for both prize money and ranking points.

The Pearl of Africa Golf Series is the sixth leg of the Sunshine Development Tour’s East Africa Swing and marks the Tour’s first event in Uganda. The tournament has drawn professional and elite amateur golfers from across Africa, with Official World Golf Ranking and World Amateur Golf Ranking points on offer. Following the second round, the field was reduced to the top 30 players and ties, who will contest Saturday’s final round.

The prize purse of KSh 2.5 million adds further incentive, but for many players the opportunity to collect world ranking points is equally significant. The Sun-

shine Development Tour has become a vital platform for African golfers seeking to break into higher tier international events, and performances in Uganda will carry weight in shaping careers.

For Snow, the challenge is clear. His second round surge has placed him within striking distance of the leaders, but he will need another composed performance to convert opportunity into victory. His experience on regional tours and ability to handle pressure will be tested against Rugumayo’s home advantage and Okoko’s consistency.

The broader significance of the event lies in its role in expanding competitive golf across East Africa. Uganda’s hosting of the series reflects growing investment in the sport and the determination to provide local professionals with exposure to international competition. Rugumayo’s rise has already inspired a new generation of Ugandan golfers, while Kenya’s representation through Snow, Nduva and Kibugu underscores the region’s depth of talent.

As the final round approaches, the narrative is one of opportunity and ambition. Rugumayo seeks to consolidate his lead and deliver a home victory, Okoko aims to close the gap, and Snow carries Kenya’s hopes of a breakthrough win. The margins are narrow, the stakes are high, and the outcome will depend on who can combine precision with composure under pressure.

The Pearl of Africa Golf Series has already achieved its purpose in showcasing African golf at a competitive level. Saturday’s final round will determine not only the champion but also the momentum for players seeking to elevate their careers on the international stage.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
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# The day death refused to be scammed

## *When grief meets exploitation, dignity becomes the final defence.*



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza  
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### Worth Noting:

- This was not an isolated incident. Exploitation thrives where desperation lives. There is a breed of opportunists who wait not for death but for despair. They appear when jobs are lost, marriages falter, children fall ill, or rent is overdue. They arrive smiling, oiled, and concerned, offering shortcuts that are chains.
- They come disguised as friends: “My dear, I heard what you’re going through.” As relatives: “Bring something small, just 200,000, I have a connection.” As lovers: “If you love me, prove it. Sleep with me and I will open doors.” As bosses: “We are family here, just be more cooperative.”



Africa recently lost one of its most resonant voices, a man whose presence could silence conversations and whose passing brought an entire nation to a halt. Flags were lowered, WhatsApp groups fell quiet, and even the strongest men wept openly. The funeral was prepared with solemnity, the casket suspended between worlds, when an uninvited figure arrived.

He was a self styled pastor, dressed too sharply for a graveyard, microphone already in hand. Pushing past mourners, he declared that God had revealed the deceased would rise again. In their grief, the family and crowd gave him space. He stood over the coffin, shouting commands at death, stamping his polished shoes, demanding the grave obey. For a fleeting moment, hundreds believed. Then silence. The body did not move. Death refused to be bribed.

The spectacle collapsed. His promises, loud and theatrical, were denied by the dignity of a silent corpse. When the silence grew heavier than his shouting, he slipped away, leav-

ing the family to bury their loved one twice — once in death, and once in deceit.

This was not an isolated incident. Exploitation thrives where desperation lives. There is a breed of opportunists who wait not for death but for despair. They appear when jobs are lost, marriages falter, children fall ill, or rent is overdue. They arrive smiling, oiled, and concerned, offering shortcuts that are chains.

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They turn pain into their platform. Your joblessness becomes their testimony. Your sick mother becomes their prayer point. Your broken marriage becomes gossip wrapped in advice. They sell hope at extortionate interest, ensuring you remain needy enough to keep their stage alive.

We live in an age of extraordinary

machines. Phones unlock with a glance. Scans reveal unborn children. Satellites search the earth for oil. Robots compose letters. Yet no machine can erase suffering. There is no button for heartbreak, no app for betrayal, no password to delete grief. Suffering is not a glitch but part of the human condition. Even Christ did not bypass it; he carried it.

The fake pastor mistook pain for a demon to be shouted away. But real pain does not obey noise. It is not removed; it is endured. It is walked through slowly, with tears, until the feet remember the ground again. The question left by that funeral was not who can raise the dead, but who will stay when the dead refuse to rise.

The man with the microphone could not stay ten minutes after his lie collapsed. He needed a stage, not sorrow. Yet there are others — rare companions who do not promise miracles or demand mobile money before prayer. They do not film your tears. They simply stand at the foot of your pain. They cannot fix unemployment, but they will sit with you through your hundredth application.

They cannot cure your mother, but they will hold your hand in the hospital corridor. They weep with you. They stay.

That is the difference. The merchant says, “Watch me fix you so you can praise me.” The companion says, “I cannot fix you, but I will not leave you alone.”

So if you have paid for a job that never came, given your body for love that never stayed, trusted a friend who betrayed your secret, or knelt before a preacher who turned your tears into content — you are not foolish. You are human. Grief makes believers of us all.

Let your grave refuse their false promises. Let it teach you. Let the merchants seek another funeral to hijack. Stay with those who know how to stand in silence. Because even when miracles fail, even when the ground stays closed, dignity remains. And where there is dignity, life — stubborn, honest, and unscamable — begins again.