



Degrees alone will not build Kenya: Where are the jobs for an educated generation?
For decades, education has been presented as the most reliable pathway to a better life. Kenyan parents sacrifice to take their children to school

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DCP aspirants pledge fair primaries as competition for Meru tickets intensifies
Democracy for the Citizens Party aspirants in Meru County have pledged that nominations ahead of the 2027 General Election will be free and fair

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Daily ePAPER

Countdown 2027 The coronation was meant to settle the question of Mount Kenya's political leadership once and for all

After the coronation, what next for Kindiki?

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki was publicly anointed as the political spokesman of the Mount Kenya region at a carefully choreographed ceremony on Saturday, but the symbolism of the occasion cut in more directions than his handlers had anticipated — most uncomfortably when the ceremonial crown slipped and fell during the coronation itself.

In the traditions of the Agikuyu, Ameru and Aem-bu peoples who inhabit the slopes of the mountain, such moments are rarely dismissed as accident. Elders read them. Communities remember them. Whether one regards the falling crown as cultural omen or simple misfortune, it handed Kindiki's critics a metaphor they will not surrender willingly, and handed the region's most formidable political operator — former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua — a narrative gift he did not have to manufacture.

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Deputy President Kithure Kindiki



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Ruto heads to New York to pitch Kenya's investment case at UNGA

BY MKT REPORTER

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto arrived in New York yesterday accompanied by First Lady Rachel Ruto to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, where he will lead a broad push to attract investment into Kenya's energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, health, agriculture and technology sectors. Central to Ruto's agenda is the KSh2.2 trillion East Africa Refinery project in Lamu, a landmark development expected to create more than 60,000 jobs and scheduled to break ground on September 30. The project represents one of the most significant industrial undertakings in the region's recent history. Ruto will co-chair investment roundtables alongside Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, as Kenya seeks to position itself as the continent's premier destination for capital. He will also use the platform to press for a stronger African voice in artificial intelligence governance and in global financial institutions, arguing that the continent must shape the rules of emerging technologies rather than simply adopt them. The visit comes amid growing recognition of Ruto's diplomatic engagement on the international stage, as well as fresh momentum behind Africa-financing-Africa frameworks that seek to reduce dependence on external development funding.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya joined the global community yesterday in marking World Cleanup Day, turning collective attention to one of the most visible consequences of modern consumption: waste. Observed annually on September 20, the day was formally established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2023 to encourage coordinated action against waste pollution and foster cleaner, more sustainable communities worldwide. For Kenya, the occasion carries particular urgency. The country has made significant strides in waste legislation — most notably the 2017 ban on single-use plastic bags — yet rapid urbanisation continues to strain waste management systems in cities and rural areas alike. Yesterday's activities brought together community groups, county governments and environmental organisations in a nationwide demonstration that cleaning up is not merely symbolic but an act of civic responsibility with measurable, lasting consequences.



A quiet but consequential battle is unfolding on the edges of Nairobi's most prestigious addresses, as competing interests close in on Karura Forest and the leafy precincts of Muthaiga in a struggle that cuts to the heart of who controls the city's history, green spaces and collective memory. Karura Forest, long regarded as Nairobi's ecological lungs, has become a flashpoint between conservationists, residents and powerful land interests that have historically encroached on protected land with near impunity. Muthaiga, one of the city's oldest and most storied neighbourhoods, sits at the centre of a broader conversation about heritage, exclusivity and urban identity. At stake is more than real estate. How Nairobi resolves this contest will shape the kind of city it chooses to become.



The Independent Policing Oversight Authority has launched an investigation into the fatal shooting of a person during a public meeting addressed by Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Kindiki in Nembure, the authority confirmed yesterday. The incident, which drew immediate public outcry, occurred as Kindiki met residents in the area, with the shooting raising serious questions about the conduct of security personnel deployed at the event. IPOA said it had moved swiftly to establish the circumstances surrounding the death, in line with its mandate to hold the police accountable for the use of force. The authority urged witnesses to come forward and cooperate with investigators. The shooting has intensified long-standing concerns about the proportionality of security deployments at public gatherings involving senior government officials.



Thousands of Kenyan students who qualified for university and higher education placements risk being left behind, education stakeholders warned yesterday, calling for urgent intervention to ensure no eligible young person is shut out of further learning. The concern centres on students who have yet to report to their respective institutions despite securing placements, with stakeholders pointing to financial hardship, lack of information and logistical barriers as the primary obstacles. Left unaddressed, they cautioned, the situation could deepen existing inequalities in access to education and undermine years of investment in the students' earlier schooling. Stakeholders are urging the government, universities and county administrations to move swiftly — identifying affected students, streamlining bursary disbursements and activating outreach programmes before the window for intervention closes.



Church leaders and faith-based organisations are urging Kenyans not to wait for floodwaters to arrive before taking action, as the country braces for anticipated El Niño-related rains that forecasters warn could bring severe disruption to vulnerable communities. Speaking with unusual urgency, religious leaders across denominations called yesterday for coordinated preparedness at the community level, arguing that the cost of early action is far lower than the human and economic toll of delayed response. Their appeal follows forecasts pointing to heightened rainfall in the coming weeks, raising concerns about flooding, displacement and damage to infrastructure in low-lying and historically flood-prone areas. Faith-based organisations, which often serve as first responders in local emergencies, say government agencies, community leaders and households must act now while there is still time.



As Uhuru Kenyatta prepares to step back from the leadership of the Jubilee Party, the question hanging over Kenyan politics is not simply about a party in decline — it is about whether one of the country's most dominant political dynasties is entering its twilight or merely regrouping beyond the reach of formal structures. Kenyatta's anticipated exit from Jubilee closes a chapter that began with his father, founding President Jomo Kenyatta, and has shaped Kenyan politics for more than six decades. Yet political dynasties rarely dissolve with a resignation letter. They retreat, reposition and re-emerge in forms that formal party registers cannot easily capture. Whether the Kenyatta name retains its electoral currency without institutional machinery behind it remains the defining question of Kenya's next political cycle.

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Politics “We cannot be sponsors of politicians who have no policies and direction.”

Ichung’wah turns Uhuru’s ‘sponyo’ joke into a policy attack

The majority leader uses a cooperative launch in Kieni to reframe the sponsorship debate around farmers, not political feuds

BY James Mwangi

@themtkenytimes

National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah yesterday drew a sharp distinction between sponsoring farmers and sponsoring politicians, using the launch of the Kieni West Onion Farmers Cooperative to turn former President Uhuru Kenyatta’s lighthearted embrace of the “sponyo” label into a substantive political indictment.

The remarks came one day after Kenyatta drew laughter at a funeral in Kiharu, Murang’a County, by apparently accepting the nickname — derived from “sponsor” — that President William Ruto and his allies have used to suggest the former president is funding opposition activities ahead of the 2027 general election. Where Kenyatta played the moment for laughs, Ichung’wah played it for politics.

“We are not sponsors of politicians. And if we were sponsors, we would be sponsors of the Kenyan farmer and the ordinary citizen,” Ichung’wah said at the cooperative launch. “We cannot be sponsors of politicians who have no policies and direction.”

The reframe is deliberate and timely. With Kenya now less than a year from a general election in August 2027, the ruling administration is working to define the opposi-



National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah

tion not merely as a political threat but as a philosophical failure — a movement driven by money and personal ambition rather than coherent proposals for government. Ichung’wah’s choice of venue reinforced that message. A cooperative of onion farmers in Kieni is not a political rally; it is exactly the kind of grassroots economic institution the government wants associated with its record.

“We should continue being sponsors of farmers. They get seeds, they get fertiliser, they get markets,” he said, drawing a deliberate contrast with what he characterised as the transactional nature of opposition political financing.

He did not stop at the rhetorical. Ichung’wah used the platform to mount a direct critique of the Kenyatta ad-

ministration’s record, accusing it of leaving Universal Health Coverage and the Big Four Agenda unfinished. He pointed to the transition from the National Hospital Insurance Fund to the Social Health Authority as evidence of a government willing to do what its predecessor only promised. “SHA has 32 million Kenyans enrolled today,” he said, contrasting that figure with approximately eight million under the old NHIF system.

On housing, Ichung’wah said the Affordable Housing Programme had expanded well beyond the initial projects inherited from the previous administration, with developments now under way in Nyeri County and in more than 280 constituencies. “What you failed to do

is what is being done today,” he said.

His challenge to the opposition was pointed but not without political calculation. “You do not need to support anybody, but please give those who have the temerity to do what matters to the people of Kenya time to do,” Ichung’wah said — an appeal that doubles as a warning to anyone considering the 2027 race to come armed with policy, not patronage.

In a political season where the word “sponyo” has become both insult and badge of honour depending on who is saying it, Ichung’wah has chosen to make it mean something specific: the difference between building a country and buying a constituency.

Passaris joins walk for dignity: Nairobi representative backs campaign for incontinence support



Nairobi Woman Representative Esther Passaris joined hundreds of Kenyans at Ulinzi Sports Complex

BY John Kariuki

@themtkenytimes

Nairobi Woman Representative Esther Passaris joined hundreds of Kenyans at Ulinzi Sports Complex yesterday for the Walk for One Million Steps for Dignity and Inclusion, adding her voice to a campaign seeking to raise one million bales of diapers for people living with incontinence.

Passaris walked alongside Isaac Mwaura, head of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Disability Rights in the Executive Office of the President, in a show of solidarity with individuals and families whose daily struggles with the condition frequently go unnoticed.

“Every step today was a reminder that dignity is not a privilege; it is a right,” Passaris said.

For those living with incontinence, access to diapers touches directly on hygiene,

health, mobility and confidence. The financial burden on families providing regular supplies can be considerable, a reality the campaign brought into sharp public focus.

“Building an inclusive society requires all of us to play our part in ensuring that no Kenyan is left behind,” Passaris said.

The walk also served as a platform for breaking the silence around a condition that many affected individuals and families find difficult to discuss openly. Campaigns of this nature can shift public attitudes, encouraging understanding over stigma.

Passaris’s presence alongside Mwaura underlined the value of aligning elected leaders, government institutions and disability-rights advocates around issues central to the wellbeing of Kenyans.

The message from the walk was clear: dignity belongs to everyone and building an inclusive Kenya is a shared responsibility.

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Jobs Kenya must therefore focus on building an economy that produces more than certificates. It needs industries that manufacture goods, agriculture that creates value

Degrees alone will not build Kenya: Where are the jobs for an educated generation?

Rising graduation rates mean little if the economy cannot absorb the talent walking out of Kenya's universities

BY Collins Kibet

@themkenyatomes

For decades, education has been presented as the most reliable pathway to a better life. Kenyan parents sacrifice to take their children to school, students spend years pursuing diplomas and degrees, and the country celebrates rising levels of educational attainment. Yet beneath this achievement lies a difficult reality: a degree does not automatically translate into employment, financial independence or economic security. As thousands of young Kenyans graduate every year, one question increasingly demands national attention — what happens when a young person earns a degree but cannot find an opportunity to use it?

Kenya certainly needs an educated population. Universities, colleges and technical institutions play a vital role in producing teachers, engineers, doctors, economists, journalists, entrepreneurs and other professionals who contribute to national development. But education becomes far more meaningful when it is connected to an economy capable of absorbing skills and creating opportunities. A country can produce highly educated citizens while still struggling with unemployment, underemployment and low productivity if the economy is not generating enough productive work.

For many young Kenyans, the transition from classroom to workplace has become particularly difficult. Graduation is widely expected to mark the beginning of independence, yet for many it marks the start of another struggle — sending countless applications, attending interviews and discovering that employers demand years of experience for positions supposedly designed for beginners. Others accept work that has little connection with their qualifications simply because they need an income. The result is a widening gap between what young people are trained to do and what the economy is able to offer them.

This should not be read as a failure of education itself. The problem is broader. Kenya needs to examine how education, industrialisation,



Unemployed graduates

investment, technology and employment fit together. If universities produce graduates while industries and businesses fail to expand at a comparable pace, competition for limited opportunities becomes fierce. The answer cannot be to discourage young people from pursuing higher education. It must be to create an economic environment in which education can translate into productivity.

Kenya also needs to give far greater attention to practical and technical skills. Not every successful career requires a traditional university degree, and the economy depends on electricians, mechanics, builders, technicians, farmers, artisans and digital specialists just as much as it depends on graduates. Technical and vocational education can equip young people with abilities that are directly applicable to industry and entrepreneurship. The challenge is to build a culture in which technical skills are genuinely respected and properly rewarded, rather than treated as an inferior alternative to a uni-

versity education.

At the same time, entrepreneurship should not become a convenient excuse for government and institutions to sidestep the shortage of formal employment. Telling every unemployed graduate to start a business is not a policy. Businesses require access to affordable capital, markets, infrastructure, reliable services and predictable economic conditions. A young person with a good idea cannot build a sustainable enterprise on motivation alone. The wider environment must make it possible for that idea to grow.

Kenya must therefore focus on building an economy that produces more than certificates. It needs industries that manufacture goods, agriculture that creates value beyond the farm gate, technology that generates new enterprises and policies that allow businesses to expand and employ more people. Rather than exporting raw materials and importing finished products, the country can pursue greater value addition so that more economic activity and em-

ployment are created locally.

The relationship between universities and industry also deserves serious attention. Students need opportunities to gain practical experience while still studying. Employers, universities and government can work together to identify emerging skills and ensure that training responds to changing economic realities. A graduate who leaves university with both academic knowledge and hands-on experience is better placed to contribute immediately, while employers benefit from a workforce prepared for actual industry demands.

The responsibility does not rest with government alone. Young people have a role to play as well. The modern economy increasingly rewards adaptability, digital literacy, communication, problem-solving and the ability to keep learning. A degree should therefore be viewed as a foundation rather than a final destination. Graduates can supplement academic qualifications with professional certifications, technical skills and practical experience. The

changing world of work requires people who continue learning long after they have left the lecture hall.

But the national conversation must remain balanced. It is unfair to tell young Kenyans that they simply need to work harder when opportunities themselves are limited. Personal responsibility matters, but so do economic structures. A graduate cannot individually solve a national shortage of jobs, and a young entrepreneur cannot single-handedly fix expensive credit, limited markets or weak industrial capacity. Kenya's development challenge requires both individual initiative and effective institutions working in tandem.

Ultimately, the question is not whether degrees are useful. They are. The question is whether Kenya is building an economy capable of making full use of the knowledge and skills it is producing. What is the value of educating a generation if that generation cannot find meaningful avenues through which to apply what it has learned? How much potential does Kenya lose when education becomes a certificate hanging on a wall rather than a tool for creating value?

Kenya's future will not be built by degrees alone. It will be built when education, skills, enterprise, industry, investment and employment begin working together. The country must move beyond measuring progress by the number of graduates produced and pay greater attention to what those graduates are able to do after leaving the classroom. Education should open doors — but the economy must provide doors worth opening. For Kenya's educated generation, the challenge is no longer simply how many degrees can be produced, but what kind of economy can be built with the knowledge already in the room.

Politics The coronation was meant to settle the question of Mount Kenya's political leadership once and for all. It has, in fact, deepened it.

After the coronation, what next for Kindiki?

The crown fell. The axes were returned. But the harder question for Kithure Kindiki is not whether Mount Kenya accepted him on Saturday — it is whether he can hold a mountain that is already divided against itself

BY David Kimani

@themkenyentimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki was publicly anointed as the political spokesman of the Mount Kenya region at a carefully choreographed ceremony on Saturday, but the symbolism of the occasion cut in more directions than his handlers had anticipated — most uncomfortably when the ceremonial crown slipped and fell during the coronation itself.

In the traditions of the Agikuyu, Ameru and Aembu peoples who inhabit the slopes of the mountain, such moments are rarely dismissed as accident. Elders read them. Communities remember them. Whether one regards the falling crown as cultural omen or simple misfortune, it handed Kindiki's critics a metaphor they will not surrender willingly, and handed the region's most formidable political operator — former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua — a narrative gift he did not have to manufacture.

That is the environment in which Kindiki now operates. Not the clean, manageable terrain of a politician ascending unopposed, but a contested landscape where every symbol is weaponised, every gesture is interrogated and every omission is prosecuted.

The coronation was meant to settle the question of Mount Kenya's political leadership once and for all. It has, in fact, deepened it.

Since taking office following Gachagua's impeachment in October last year, Kindiki has moved with visible energy. He has held numerous public meetings and security engagements across the region, projecting the image of a hands-on deputy president attentive to his home turf. The meetings have been consistent, the messaging disciplined. He has spoken about security, development and unity with the fluency of a man who understands what the mountain wants to hear.

But a closer examination of the geography of those engagements reveals a pattern that his political opponents have already begun to exploit. The overwhelming majority of Kindiki's high-profile appearances



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

have been concentrated in the eastern parts of the mountain — Tharaka Nithi, Embu and Meru, the zones of his own political base and natural constituency. The western flank, encompassing Kiambu, Murang'a, Nyeri and Kirinyaga, has received considerably less of his direct attention, and the communities there have noticed.

This is not a small omission. The western side of Mount Kenya is numerically dominant, politically sophisticated and historically influential in determining who speaks for the region. It is the zone that produced Jomo Kenyatta and Mwai Kibaki. It is the zone where Gachagua built the infrastructure of loyalty that survived his dramatic removal from the deputy presidency. And it is the zone where Kindiki remains, for now, a figure associated with the administration that displaced one of their own.

Winning the west of the mountain requires more than attendance. It requires the kind of sustained, personal political investment that cannot be delivered from Nairobi or through proxies. Communities in Murang'a

and Nyeri need to see Kindiki not as a government functionary but as a genuine advocate for their specific concerns — land, water, tea prices, coffee sector reforms and the perennial grievances around resource allocation that have animated Mount Kenya politics for generations. Practical delivery, visible and attributable, is the only currency that moves these communities.

The axes returned on Saturday were intended to signal reconciliation — a ceremonial closing of the wound opened by Gachagua's removal. But symbolism and political reality are different instruments. Several of the leaders who stood on that stage and surrendered their axes have spent the past year openly calling for the fragmentation of Mount Kenya's political unity, arguing that the region's interests are best served by a divided, transactional approach rather than a unified bloc. Their presence at the coronation was a performance of unity. Whether it reflects a genuine realignment is an entirely separate question, and one that the coming months will answer with uncomfortable clarity.

Chief among the complications is the role of Labour Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua — known widely as Ruku — alongside other figures who have been vocal about the mountain's internal divisions. Their association with Kindiki is a double-edged arrangement. It brings him visibility and organisational reach in some areas, but it also ties him to personalities whose political positioning has historically emphasised difference over cohesion. A man attempting to unify the mountain cannot afford to be seen as the candidate of its fractures.

And then there is Gachagua. The former deputy president has not retreated. His Democracy for the Citizens Party is recruiting aggressively across the mountain, holding meetings, signing up members and constructing the architecture of a political vehicle that is explicitly designed to challenge the narrative that Kindiki now represents the region. Gachagua's personal approval ratings in the western counties remain high. His removal is still spoken of in many households not as a justified constitutional process but as an in-

justice visited upon the mountain by a government it had trusted.

Gachagua does not need to win every ward. He needs only to ensure that Mount Kenya arrives at the 2027 General Election divided — that the region's vote is split, its unity fractured and its leverage diminished. A divided mountain cannot negotiate from strength with any presidential candidate. That outcome serves Gachagua's long-term interests whether or not his own presidential ambitions ultimately materialise, because it demonstrates that the mountain cannot be delivered without him.

Kindiki's task, therefore, is not simply to be popular. It is to be indispensable — to make the case, through tangible results and sustained engagement, that his proximity to President William Ruto translates into concrete benefits for every county on the mountain's slopes, east and west alike. Roads, hospitals, water projects, agricultural support and security improvements that carry his fingerprints are worth more to his political project than a hundred rallies.

The coronation gave Kindiki a platform. What he does with it in the twelve months before campaigns formally begin will determine whether Saturday was a genuine turning point or an elaborate ceremony that changed very little. Political coronations in Kenya have a habit of meaning exactly as much as the work that follows them — no more and no less.

The crown fell on Saturday. In the traditions of this mountain, that matters. But traditions also hold that a leader is ultimately judged not by the ceremony of his elevation but by the harvest his people gather under his watch.

The mountain is watching. The harvest is not yet in.

UNGA 81 On artificial intelligence, Ruto's position is both urgent and strategically sound. The global conversation about AI governance is happening now, in real time

Ruto at UNGA 81: A trillion-shilling gamble and the moment Kenya must not waste

With a KSh2.2 trillion refinery, an AI agenda and a continent watching, President Ruto arrives in New York at a defining intersection of Kenyan ambition and global opportunity

BY James Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto arrived in New York yesterday for the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly carrying the most consequential economic pitch Kenya has ever taken to the

world's premier diplomatic stage — a KSh2.2 trillion East Africa Refinery in Lamu, an artificial intelligence agenda for the continent, and a financing architecture that seeks to liberate Africa from the tyranny of external debt.

UNGA 81 is not a routine gathering. It convenes at a moment of profound global

realignment — a world fractured by war in Ukraine and the Middle East, strained by the aftershocks of pandemic debt, and engaged in an accelerating contest over who will write the rules of artificial intelligence. For Kenya, a country that has positioned itself as Africa's technology and diplomatic hub, the timing is



President William Ruto arrived in New York yesterday

either a remarkable opportunity or a test it cannot afford to fail.

The centrepiece of Ruto's New York agenda is the Lamu refinery, a joint venture of staggering ambition. Scheduled to break ground on September 30, the project is projected to create more than 60,000 jobs and fundamentally reshape East Africa's energy landscape by reducing the region's dependence on imported refined petroleum products. Kenya currently imports the vast majority of its fuel as finished product, surrendering enormous economic value at every stage of the supply chain. A functional refinery changes that calculus permanently.

But Ruto is not in New York merely to sell a construction project. He arrives with a broader argument — that Africa must stop being a spectator in the institutions and technologies that govern the modern world. He will co-chair investment roundtables alongside Aliko Dangote, the Nigerian industrialist whose own refinery in Lagos has already demonstrated what African-financed, African-built energy infrastructure can achieve. The symbolism is deliberate. Africa-financing-Africa is not a slogan; it is increasingly a credible alternative to the conditional lending that has shaped — and constrained — the continent's development for generations.

On artificial intelligence, Ruto's position is both urgent

and strategically sound. The global conversation about AI governance is happening now, in real time, and the rules being written today will shape economic and technological power for decades. Africa, home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing population, has an enormous stake in that conversation. Kenya, with its established technology ecosystem in Nairobi and its growing cadre of digital talent, is better placed than almost any other African nation to articulate what an equitable AI future should look like. The question is whether Ruto can translate platform into policy — whether the speeches in New York become binding commitments that follow him home.

UNGA's value to Kenya extends beyond the General Assembly hall. The corridors of the United Nations, the bilateral meetings, the investment roundtables and the sideline conversations are where real business is done. Kenya needs foreign direct investment in energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and agriculture. It needs concessional financing for development projects. It needs partnerships in health and technology that go beyond memoranda of understanding and translate into jobs, capacity and growth. Every one of those conversations is available to a president willing to pursue them with discipline and specificity.

Ruto's diplomatic record has attracted genuine international

attention. His early positioning on climate finance, his role in African Union debt relief advocacy and his willingness to engage directly with multilateral institutions have earned Kenya a seat at tables it previously observed from a distance. The challenge now is conversion — turning diplomatic capital into tangible economic outcomes that Kenyans can measure.

There are risks. Kenya's domestic political environment is turbulent, and investors watching from New York are also watching Nairobi. A government that commands confidence abroad must demonstrate stability and accountability at home. The refinery, the AI agenda and the financing frameworks are compelling narratives, but narratives require delivery to retain credibility.

What UNGA 81 offers Kenya is something rare in diplomacy: a concentrated moment of global attention at a time when the country has something genuinely worth saying. The refinery is real. The technology story is real. The financing argument is gaining traction across the continent. If Ruto can hold these threads together, speak with precision rather than rhetoric and leave New York with commitments rather than communiqués, Kenya will have used this moment well.

If not, the world will move on. It always does.

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Doping The government, he said, was working to dismantle what he described as networks of “cartels and criminals” operating pharmacies and facilities that funnel prohibited substances

Murkomen puts doping and talent at heart of KSh1.75m Mashujaa tournament

A regional football competition with serious prize money becomes a platform for Kenya’s anti-doping drive and a hunting ground for undiscovered talent

BY Agnes Watiri

@themtkenyatimes

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen yesterday placed the fight against doping at the centre of the Mashujaa Day sporting tournament, warning that Kenya must shield young athletes from individuals seeking to exploit them through prohibited substances as the country prepares to host its national celebrations in Eldoret on October 20.

Speaking at the Mashujaa Day Sporting Activities Preparation Meeting and Media Launch in Eldoret, Murkomen framed the tournament — which will bring together teams from Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet — as something considerably more than a regional football competition. It is, in his telling, a statement about the kind of sporting culture Kenya wants to build: one where talent rises on merit, pharmacies do not double as doping suppliers and a young player from a village in Nandi can earn life-changing money without compromising their integrity.

“We are talking about issues to do with clean sports, which is doping and anti-doping,” Murkomen said, signalling that the subject would be woven into the fabric of the competition rather than treated as an afterthought.

His language grew sharper when he turned to those he holds responsible for Kenya’s persistent doping problem. The government, he said, was working to dismantle what he described as networks of “cartels and criminals” operating pharmacies and facilities that funnel prohibited substances

toward athletes, often young and inexperienced ones who do not fully understand the consequences. “The government, the sports environment is working very hard to deal with the cartels and the criminals who are running pharmacies or running facilities that they want to misuse our children,” Murkomen said.

The Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya has been working on precisely this front, combining education, testing and investigations to protect clean athletes and promote fair competition. Murkomen said he hoped the Sports Ministry would organise a dedicated conference on anti-doping during the tournament itself, bringing together stakeholders to confront an issue that has shadowed Kenyan athletics for years. “I’m hoping that in the middle of this competition, the Sports Ministry will put together a conference to discuss various subjects on the sports arena, including this issue of anti-doping,” he said.

Kenya’s doping crisis has been long in the making and slow in the resolving. The World Anti-Doping Agency has repeatedly flagged Kenya as a country of concern, and the sport that built the country’s international reputation — distance running — has been among the most affected. The Mashujaa tournament operates in a different sporting register, centred on football rather than athletics, but Murkomen’s decision to make anti-doping a pillar of its organisation reflects a government that understands the reputational stakes extend across all disciplines.

The tournament’s eligibility rules are designed with equal

deliberateness. Players already registered in Division Two leagues and above will be barred from participating — a decision intended not to exclude talent but to surface it. “If a player is already registered as a player within Division Two and up, we will not allow them to play,” Murkomen said. The reasoning is straightforward: established players already have pathways and visibility. This competition exists for those who do not. “This is an opportunity for us to seek and market new talent for people who have not been seen,” he said, adding that clubs and professional teams would be actively encouraged to attend and scout.

Registration begins at village level, with organisers required to ensure players do

“We are talking about issues to do with clean sports, which is doping and anti-doping,” Murkomen said, signalling that the subject would be woven into the fabric of the competition rather than treated as an afterthought.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen

not switch teams mid-competition — a measure designed to maintain competitive integrity and prevent the kind of manipulation that high-stakes tournaments can attract. And the stakes in this case are genuinely high.

A team that wins through every stage of the competition could accumulate KSh1.75 million in prize money — a figure that Murkomen deployed with visible relish to illustrate both the opportunity and the responsibility that comes with it. At ward level, the winning team takes KSh50,000, with KSh25,000, KSh15,000 and KSh10,000 for second, third and fourth place respectively. Sub-county winners receive KSh200,000, runners-up KSh150,000, with KSh100,000 and KSh50,000 for third and fourth. County-level winners earn KSh500,000, runners-up KSh250,000, with KSh150,000 and KSh100,000 for third and fourth. The Eldoret final — the tournament’s climax — offers KSh1 million to the winner, KSh750,000 for the runner-up and KSh500,000 for third place.

“Do you know now how the stakes are high? If 22 people or about 30 people know that in less than a month they will go home with 1.75 million shillings?” Murkomen asked. The question was rhetorical, but its implication was not. High stakes demand rigorous organisation, and the CS was unambiguous on that point. “That is why the organisation of this thing is very important. Fairness, referee must be fair,” he said.

The tournament’s organisational model is itself worth noting. Rather than creating a parallel administrative structure funded separately, Murkomen said the government would lean on existing public officers and county infrastructure — county sports officials, ward administrators, National Government Administration Officers from county commissioners down to chiefs and village elders. County health departments will provide medical officers and ambulances at venues. The only direct payments will go to referees and village-level organisers. “The only people we are going to pay is referees and village organizers,

which is part of pesa mfukoni to mwananchi,” Murkomen said — money in the pocket of ordinary people.

It is a sensible model for a country where public resources are perpetually stretched, and it has the added virtue of anchoring the tournament in community structures that already command local trust and knowledge.

Uasin Gishu hosts the national Mashujaa Day celebrations on October 20, and the sporting programme running alongside them will cover security, infrastructure, talent development, clean sport and gender-based violence. In that wider context, Murkomen’s tournament is more than a football competition. It is a rehearsal for the kind of governance Kenya’s sporting sector needs — transparent, community-rooted, financially meaningful and uncompromising on integrity.

For a young footballer training on a dirt pitch somewhere in Elgeyo Marakwet, that combination of prize money and principle may be exactly the right message at exactly the right time.

Politics Muthamia said the assurance was particularly important given Meru's history of contested party nominations.

DCP aspirants pledge fair primaries as competition for Meru tickets intensifies

Candidates seeking the party's nominations in Meru County have been assured that members, not party bosses, will choose who flies the flag in 2027

BY Brian Gitonga

@themtkenyaintimes

Democracy for the Citizens Party aspirants in Meru County have pledged that nominations ahead of the 2027 General Election will be free and fair, assuring candidates that party members will have the final say in choosing who carries the DCP ticket.

Speaking at a press briefing at Kinoru Gardens on Saturday, the aspirants, led by DCP Meru County Secretary General Kirimi Muthamia, said the meeting was designed to reassure those seeking various elective positions that the nomination process would be transparent and driven by the choice of members.

Muthamia said the assurance was particularly important given Meru's history of contested party nominations. He cited the experiences under parties that have dominated the region across successive election cycles, saying DCP intended to do things differently.

"We have a history in Meru of nominations that have not been fair under previous parties, ranging from TNA and Jubilee to UDA. We want to ensure that DCP conducts honest, transparent and fair nominations," Muthamia said.

He said the aspirants present would work alongside candidates across the county to preserve unity as competition for DCP tickets gathered pace, adding that multiple candidates pursuing the same position should not become a source of division within the party.

Those at the meeting also agreed on the importance of mutual respect among candidates seeking different po-

sitions, including governor, senator, Member of Parliament and Member of County Assembly, with internal competition not allowed to undermine the party's cohesion ahead of the General Election.

Muthamia also announced his own bid for the Meru gubernatorial seat on a DCP ticket, saying fellow aspirants had assured him of cooperation as they recruit members and build support for their respective campaigns ahead of nominations.

He said DCP party leader and former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua had given aspirants a firm assurance that members would determine candidates during nominations, with no parallel process being used to handpick those who would contest on the party ticket.

"Our party leader has assured us that nominations will be conducted by the members. There will be no shortcuts or any other way around the process," Muthamia said.

He added that the party would intensify membership recruitment across Meru County as preparations for nominations continued. DCP currently has around 10,000 members in the county and is targeting 30,000 by March 2027.

South Imenti parliamentary aspirant Daniel Kinyua Marete said candidates should not be unsettled by the growing field of contenders for DCP tickets, arguing that the nomination process existed precisely to let members decide who should represent the party.

"In my constituency, several aspirants are interested in the same position under DCP. We will go through the nominations together, and whoever wins will become the party's

candidate at the ballot," Marete said.

Marete said he was among the first to declare interest in the South Imenti parliamentary seat under DCP, but that others had since entered the race. He said their arrival should not be read as a threat, since all candidates would have an equal opportunity to seek member support.

He added that allowing several candidates to compete for the same ticket was a demonstration of the party's commitment to genuine nominations rather than selecting individuals behind closed doors.

Abothuguchi Central MCA aspirant Kendi Muthuri struck a note of caution, however, calling for greater inclusion of aspirants in party activities. She said candidates seeking different positions should be informed whenever senior aspirants conducted political activities in their areas.

"We want inclusivity in the party's activities. You cannot have a situation where a gubernatorial aspirant visits my area and I am not aware. That is why we are asking for inclusivity," Kendi said.

The aspirants said sustained consultation among candidates would be essential in maintaining cohesion as DCP expanded its membership and prepared for what they described as competitive nominations ahead of the 2027 General Election.



A section of DCP Aspirants in Meru county at the Kinoru Gardens Hotel where they addressed the press. | Photo: Brian Gitonga



DCP Meru County Secretary General Kirimi Muthamia addresses the press. | Photo: Brian Gitonga



South Imenti parliamentary aspirant Daniel Kinyua Marete addresses the Press. | Photo: Brian Gitonga

Politics The drama unfolded after Thuku, allied to President William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza government, allegedly warned Nyoro against attending the service

Nyoro storms Engineer as Njabini chaos signals the mountain is already at war with itself

The confrontation at a Nyandarua church yesterday was not about one MP visiting another's turf — it was the opening skirmish of a 2027 battle for Mount Kenya's soul

BY Grace Wanja
@themkenyaintimes

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro walked into St Paul's ACK Church in Engineer Town, Nyandarua County, yesterday and turned a Sunday service into the most politically charged moment the mountain has witnessed in weeks,

publicly confronting Kinangop MP Zachary Kwenya Thuku over an alleged threatening message and daring him to deny it before the congregation.

The drama unfolded after Thuku, allied to President William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza government, allegedly warned Nyoro against attending the service. Nyoro told

the congregation that Kwenya had sent him text messages on Saturday questioning his decision to visit Kinangop without prior notice, with the exchange culminating in an alleged warning: "Tutapatana kesho" — "We will meet tomorrow." Nyoro's translation to the congregation was blunt: it was a threat. He went anyway.



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro

"Yesterday, I received a message from the MP for Kinangop, Kwenya Thuku, warning me not to attend the church service. If I am lying, let him come here and read the message he sent me," Nyoro told worshippers, challenging Thuku to address the congregation directly.

What followed was the kind of moment that Kenyan politics produces with depressing regularity — a church elder, Reverend Sammy Wamucii, intervening to caution both leaders against disrespecting each other and urging them to keep political differences out of the house of God. The reverend's appeal was dignified. The politics surrounding it was anything but.

Nyoro later posted a video on his social media platforms showing youths involved in a confrontation outside, with a caption claiming that Kwenya had fled from his own constituents. Kwenya did not publicly address that claim, maintaining that his focus remained on serving Kinangop residents and delivering development. The optics, however, belonged entirely to Nyoro — a man who came, spoke, stayed and walked out with footage.

To reduce Sunday's events to a territorial dispute between two MPs is to miss the larger story entirely. Nyoro announced his departure from Ruto's United Democratic Alliance on August 17 this year, taking over the People's Party of Kenya and aligning himself formally with the opposition. That decision transformed

him from a government loyalist into the most consequential political figure currently moving through Mount Kenya's western counties — and Kwenya's alleged message was a direct response to that transformation.

Nyoro's move has exposed a deeper fault line within the anti-Ruto camp on the mountain: whether the region should rally behind a single political vehicle, as Gachagua's Democracy for the Citizens Party proposes, or allow multiple leaders and parties to compete before negotiating a broader coalition ahead of 2027. Engineer Town yesterday was not a church visit. It was Nyoro planting a flag in territory that Kenya Kwanza considers its own, and doing so with the full knowledge that the response would reveal more about his opponents than about him.

Kwenya, for his part, arrived at the church shortly before the service ended, maintaining that he had come to welcome the visitors. The explanation landed poorly. A man who allegedly sends threatening messages on Saturday and then arrives at the scene on Sunday to claim he came to welcome guests has handed his opponent a narrative that will outlast the incident itself.

The broader political arithmetic is what gives yesterday's confrontation its weight. Questions continue to shadow Nyoro about whether he is a genuine opposition figure or a disruptive presence sent to fragment the anti-Ruto camp from within — allegations

he has rejected with forceful indignation. His critics argue that his entry into People's Party complicates rather than strengthens the opposition's consolidation ahead of the general election. His supporters counter that the mountain needs multiple credible voices, not a single coronated spokesman.

What is beyond dispute is that Mount Kenya is already in election mode eleven months before the vote. The mountain's western counties — Murang'a, Nyeri, Kiambu and Nyandarua — are the prize that every aspirant is positioning for, and Engineer Town yesterday demonstrated that the contest for those communities has moved beyond rhetoric into direct, physical confrontation on the ground.

For Ruto's government, the Njabini episode is an early warning signal. The MPs who stood with Kenya Kwanza through 2022 and 2023 are now being challenged in their own backyards by a politician who left the ruling party and immediately began doing what opposition politicians do — showing up uninvited, refusing to be turned away and making the attempt to stop him the story.

The fear, as Nyoro's supporters put it, is gone. Whether that fear was ever real, or whether its disappearance will translate into votes in August next year, is the question that Engineer Town has placed squarely on the table.



Strange fate



Strange is the fate I am bound to obey,
A captive of eyes that won't turn away.
I follow your footsteps, a moth to the flame,
Yet I am the love you could never reclaim.

Strange is the fragrance that clings to your name,
The sweetest of longings, the heart of my flame.
Your hands held a warmth like the sun from above,
I burned in that fire, I was ashes of love.

Strange is the fate with its merciless art,
What more could I ask than to give you my heart?
You are the joy I could never attain,
And I am the one who loved you in vain.

Xursanaliyeva Sanobar
Uzbekistan

If only i could be like you, dad



My father, my radiant light,
My shelter, filled with love and grace,
My treasure, more precious than gold,
If only I could be like you, Dad.

Though poverty put you through pain,
You silently hid all your sorrows.
Your heart was filled with goodness alone,
If only I could be like you, Dad.

So much has your life had to endure,
And trials never seemed to leave you in peace.
Your worries never seemed to end because of us,
If only I could be like you, Dad.

Munira Abdullajanova
Uzbekistan

Some things are valued as very small,



Neither occupying space
Nor catching the eye
Yet they are profoundly useful to us

Like a safety pin holding broken pieces.

Some people are quiet and humble,
Neither speaking loud
Nor gathering in a crowd,
Yet we see their strength and wit
When they hold on through the struggle a bit.

Sheeba.S
Graduate teacher
Gghss, Pattukkottai

Disaster



Floods shattered everything—
Whom do we blame?
No place left to survive,
Only questions rise:

Was it man-made,
Or was it God's will?

In God's own abode,
Many were lost,
And only a few survived.

No warning came.
No time to prepare.

A casual day

Turned into a disaster.
Technology failed us,
And nature could not resist
The weight of human greed.

Today, we are here.
Tomorrow—where will we be?

No one knows.

In the face of nature,
our pride fades,
our plans disappear,
and all that remains
is a prayer.

Pray for forgiveness.
Pray for the lost.
Pray for those who survived.
And pray that we learn
before nature speaks again.

Viji T
Ghs, Kvpudur,
Namakkal
Tamilnadu
India

Not everyone will understand your journey. Keep walking.



Life is a beautiful journey. Everyone has a unique style.

Do not copy other people's paths in life.
Every soul is precious and unique.
It does not matter whether others understand your journey.

You should understand your own life journey because it brings you success.

You may run, walk, or crawl.
Anyway, you should keep moving continuously.
It gives you confidence and brings beautiful days ahead.

The past is your footprint, the present is your existence, and the future is your hope.
So, continue your journey with hope.

--G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

Resilience: Our Silent Strength



Struggle! Struggle! Struggle!
Though I find many hurdles,
I don't wriggle out from my side.

Shine with struggles
And kick out the hidden pebbles.

Hard to survive in these hot waves.
Not only hot but also with a tinge of betrayal dances.

Oh! I hit the bull's eye.
If I say it louder,
There comes a big snag with silent sound.

Wake-up! Wake-up! Wake-up!
To shoot up any barriers.

Struggle! Struggle! Struggle!
It's an unstoppable hurdle.

So, Wake-up! Wake-up! Wake-up!
Always stay with vigil eyes.

M. DEVIKA
PGT ENGLISH & CREATIVE WRITER
FIITJEE GLOBAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI
TAMILNADU
INDIA

Teachers



Teachers are the most important people in our life,
Not only subject but also teach good manner,
They teach discipline,
They correct our mistake,
They remove the darkness in our life,
They give a right way to us,
I will always respect my teacher,
Every teacher are special to me,

all the teacher of special to me, but,
In this standard my Tamil teacher is very special to me,
Teacher make a bright,

Special day to teacher,
I will tell thank you,
Away special day to you,
HAPPY TEACHERS DAY,
To all the teacher,

P. HEMANYA
VIII
JOHN DEWEY MAT HR SEC SCHOOL,
PANRUTI.

Rise again



I may fall, but I will stand,
I will try with courage in my hand.
If I fail, I'll try once more,
And learn what I did before.

Dark days will soon pass away,
Hope will bring a brighter day.
I will walk and do my best,
I will never stop my quest.
With a smile, I'll face each pain,
I will rise and shine again.

S. Yasir shihan
VII STD
government high school
sakkarakkottai

Minerals The accusations are serious and carry considerable political charge in a country where natural resource governance has long been a source of public anxiety

Gachagua accuses Ruto of using UNGA trip to seal niobium deal in Kwale

The DCP leader claims Kenya’s mineral wealth is being traded away in New York — the government flatly denies it

BY Anne Njeri
@themtkenyaintimes

Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua has accused President William Ruto of using his attendance at the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York as cover to finalise agreements handing Kenya’s niobium deposits in Kwale County to American firms, claims the government has denied.

Speaking to Kenyans in Kansas City during his ongoing tour of the United States, Gachagua alleged that niobium

deposits at Mrima Hills in Kwale County — which he described as worth trillions of shillings — had been earmarked for foreign exploitation at the expense of local communities that he said continue to live in poverty despite sitting atop one of the world’s significant rare mineral reserves. He went further, alleging that Ruto himself stood to benefit directly from the arrangement. “His UNGA attendance is a smokescreen to wrap up the deal,” Gachagua told his audience.

The accusations are serious and carry considerable political charge in a country where natural resource governance

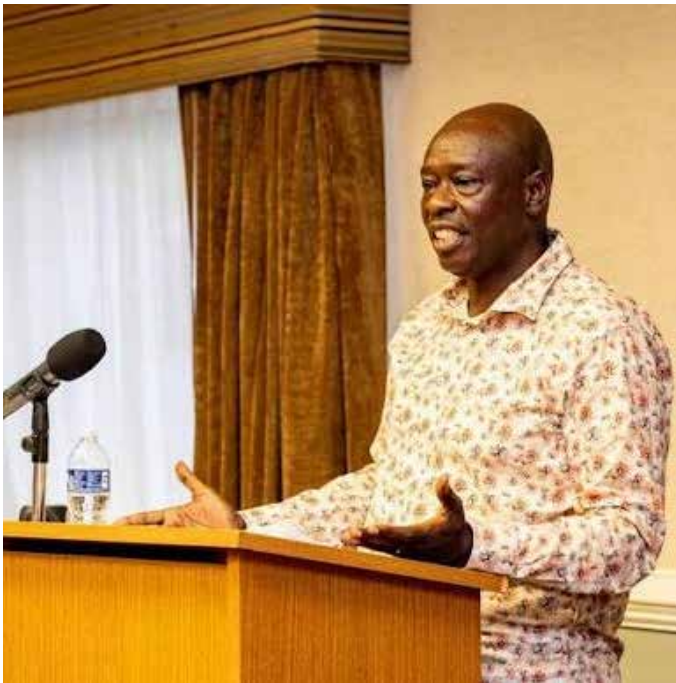
has long been a source of public anxiety. Mrima Hills is already the subject of a petition at the High Court, adding a legal dimension to an issue that Gachagua has now thrust into the centre of the 2027 election debate.

The government moved quickly to rebut the claims. Mining Cabinet Secretary Hassan Joho told media two weeks ago that no licences had been granted for mining at Mrima Hills — a statement that directly contradicts Gachagua’s narrative and that the DCP leader did not address in his Kansas City remarks.

The exchange illustrates the difficulty of adjudicating

competing claims on natural resources in Kenya’s politically charged environment. Mrima Hills is known to hold significant deposits of niobium, a mineral used in the production of high-strength steel alloys and increasingly prized in global technology supply chains. Any credible allegation of an opaque deal involving such reserves will find a receptive audience, particularly among diaspora communities attuned to Kenya’s historical struggles with resource governance.

Gachagua’s US tour has combined these economic accusations with a broader opposition consolidation message. He assured Kenyans in America that the opposition’s unity drive remained on course and that attempts by Ruto to divide the anti-government coalition had so far failed. With the general election now less



DCP party leader Rigathi Gachagua addresses Kenyans living in USA

than a year away, the DCP leader is using every international platform available to build the narrative that Kenya’s resources, institutions and democracy are at risk under the current administration — and that the opposition represents the corrective.

Whether the niobium allegations gain traction will depend partly on what Ruto brings home from New York, and partly on whether any documentation emerges to support

or refute Gachagua’s claims. Until then, the government’s denial and the High Court petition sit on one side of the ledger, and one of Kenya’s most combative opposition figures on the other.

The minerals are in the ground. The politics are very much in the air.

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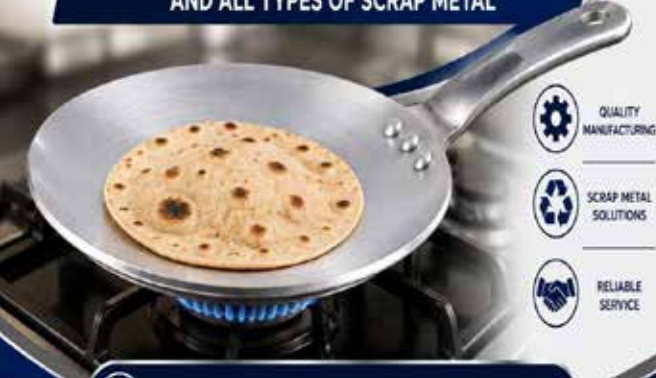


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Illicit brews The accusation is not abstract. It lands in a region where illicit alcohol has claimed dozens of lives over the past three years, destroyed families and become one of the most emotive issues

Kuria's rebuke of Kindiki on brews reopens the wound Gachagua left behind

A pointed comparison between two deputy presidents over illicit alcohol in Mt Kenya carries far more political charge than a social media post — it is a 2027 opening shot

BY Alice Njoki

@themkenyatimes

Former Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria yesterday accused Deputy President Kithure Kindiki of failing to match his predecessor's commitment to fighting illicit brews in the Mt Kenya region, in a public rebuke that strips away any pretence that the mountain's political wounds from Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment have healed.

Kuria's criticism, delivered via a post on X, was carefully constructed. He was clear that he does not admire Gachagua's political judgment — "he suffers from poor judgment and has a history of making bad choices for the community," Kuria wrote — but he drew a sharp distinction between the man and the mission. "Rigathi Gachagua was serious about fighting illicit brews in Mt Kenya region," Kuria said. "The current holder of that office is not."

The accusation is not abstract. It lands in a region where illicit alcohol has claimed dozens of lives over the past three years, destroyed families and become one of the most emotive issues in grassroots politics. Kuria was reacting to a video circulating on social media showing a woman speaking from atop a grave, warning her community about the devastation alcohol had visited on her son before his recovery through faith. "This woman would not have gone through this pain," Kuria said, had stronger action been taken against illicit brews.

To understand the weight of that comparison, one must revisit what Gachagua actually built on this issue. As Deputy President from 2022 until his impeachment in October last year, Gachagua made the fight against illicit alcohol one of the defining campaigns of



Former Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria

his time in office. He personally visited Grace Wahu, an 85-year-old widow in Kiharu Constituency, Murang'a County, who had lost seven of her eleven sons to illicit brews — and pledged publicly that the scourge would be eradicated within six months. He threatened to interdict, not merely transfer, police commanders and chiefs who failed to act. He ordered bar closures and demanded vetting of liquor outlets across the region. Whatever political use he made of the campaign, the visibility and intensity of his personal engagement was undeniable.

Kindiki, who served as Interior Cabinet Secretary under Gachagua's tenure and was then elevated to the deputy presidency following the impeachment, now finds himself measured against a standard his predecessor set deliberately and publicly. The irony is layered. As Interior CS, Kindiki was the minister responsible for implementing much of the enforcement machinery that Gachagua was directing from above — bar closures, police crackdowns, licensing reviews. Now, as Deputy President, he is being told that the machine he once operated is no longer running at the

same speed.

The government has pointed to significant enforcement activity in recent months. Official figures released in September showed that 18,650 liquor outlets had been closed across the country, including 12,150 operating without licences and 6,500 licensed premises found to have breached the Alcohol Control Act. Fourteen illegal distilleries were shut down. Thousands of raids have been conducted and hundreds of thousands of litres of illegal alcohol seized. By any statistical measure, the crackdown is active.

But Kuria's point is not about statistics. It is about ownership and intensity — about whether the Deputy President has made this issue his personal crusade the way Gachagua did, or whether it has become one item among many in a busy government portfolio. Communities on the mountain make that distinction. They remember Gachagua at the graveside of Mama Wahu. They remember his ultimatums to chiefs. They remember his warnings that the mountain's political relevance depended on preserving its young men and women from alcohol and drugs. "We

are losing our productive age groups at an alarming rate," he said in 2024. That language spoke directly to parental fear,

and it travelled.

Kindiki has visited Mount Kenya counties repeatedly since taking office — but the narrative of those visits has been dominated by political consolidation, security matters and the business of his coronation as the region's spokesman rather than a sustained, visible personal campaign against illicit alcohol. That gap, real or perceived, is what Kuria has just driven a political wedge into.

The timing is not coincidental. Kenya is now less than a year from a general election in August 2027, and the contest for Mount Kenya's loyalty is already fierce. Gachagua's Democracy for the Citizens Party is recruiting aggressively across the region. Kindiki is attempting to consolidate

the western flank of the mountain while holding his natural base in the east. Kuria himself remains an influential, unpredictable figure whose public commentary carries weight in Murang'a and Kiambu. When someone of his profile uses a social media post to draw a direct and unfavourable comparison between the sitting Deputy President and his impeached predecessor on an issue as emotional as illicit brews, the political intent is unmistakable.

For Kindiki, the challenge is not merely to demonstrate activity — the government's numbers suggest activity is happening. The challenge is to demonstrate personal commitment of the kind that Mount Kenya communities translate into trust. That requires presence, specificity and the willingness to name names, visit graves, stand in churches and make the fight against illicit alcohol feel like a cause, not a policy.

Gachagua understood that distinction instinctively. Whether Kindiki can learn it before August 2027 is now, quietly but unmistakably, a political question.




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Politics The GSMA reports that mobile technologies and services contributed approximately US\$240 billion to Africa's economy in 2025, equivalent to 7.8 per cent of continental GDP

Africa's digital generation must not become the collateral damage of political survival



BY Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo

fkipchelimo@yahoo.com

"The future is already here — it is just not evenly distributed." — William Gibson

There are moments in the history of nations when an entire generation arrives carrying possibilities that previous generations could scarcely imagine. Africa is standing at such a moment. Across the continent, young people are writing software, building fintech platforms, creating music and films, experimenting with artificial intelligence, conducting research, teaching online, trading across borders and solving problems in agriculture, health and education from laptops and mobile phones. Their greatest resource may no longer be what lies beneath African soil, but what exists between African ears—human ingenuity amplified by technology.

That opportunity, however, requires an environment in which ideas can breathe, businesses can operate, knowledge can circulate and citizens can remain connected. Africa risks undermining its own digital transformation if short-term political interests begin to take precedence over the long-term freedoms, institutions and infrastructure upon which innovation depends. This is not an argument against government. It is an argument for better government.

The economic case for digital connectivity is already compelling. The GSMA reports that mobile technologies and services contributed approximately US\$240 billion to Africa's economy in 2025, equivalent to 7.8 per cent of continental GDP, while supporting about 13 million jobs and generating US\$45 billion in public revenues. That contribution is projected to reach US\$290 billion by 2030. These are not merely technology statistics. They are development statistics. Behind them are traders finding customers, young people earning through digital work,



Africa's digital generation

farmers accessing markets, families transferring money, governments delivering services and entrepreneurs creating businesses that would have been impossible a generation ago.

Artificial intelligence could make the transformation even more profound. The African Development Bank estimates that inclusive AI deployment could generate up to US\$1 trillion in additional African GDP by 2035. In February 2026, the Bank and its partners launched the AI 10 Billion Initiative, seeking to mobilise up to US\$10 billion and potentially support the creation of as many as 40 million jobs by 2035. These are targets rather than guaranteed outcomes, but they demonstrate the scale of opportunity now being placed before Africa.

However, there is an uncomfortable contradiction. Africa is building a digital economy while parts of the continent continue to experience deliberate disruptions to connectivity. Access Now recorded 30 internet shutdowns across 15 African countries in 2025, including during political instability, protests and elections. The consequences reach far beyond political communication.

When the internet disappears, a young freelancer can lose a client. A student can lose access to a lecture. A small trader can lose an online customer. A journalist can lose communication with sources. A hospital can experience disruption. A farmer can lose access to market information. A technology company can miss an in-

ternational transaction. For a digital entrepreneur operating on thin margins, one lost day can be consequential. The internet has become part of Africa's economic bloodstream.

The World Bank has repeatedly linked affordable, reliable connectivity with employment, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, public services and economic growth. Yet the continent still faces a huge usage gap. GSMA (Groupe Speciale Mobile Association) estimates that almost one billion Africans were not using mobile internet in 2025 despite mobile broadband coverage being widely available. Affordability, devices, digital skills and locally relevant content remain major barriers. Africa therefore needs leaders who understand that connectivity is no longer simply a communications issue. It is economic infrastructure.

And there are African countries demonstrating what can happen when digitalisation, cybersecurity and public administration are developed together. Rwanda has invested in digital public services through Irembo, strengthened its cybersecurity architecture and upgraded its national CSIRT (Computer Security Incident Response Team). The ITU's (International Telecommunication Union) 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index places Rwanda in the highest "role-modelling" tier, with particularly strong scores in legal, organisational, capacity-development and cooperation measures.

Ghana provides another instructive

example. Its investments in a national cybersecurity framework, Cyber Security Authority and incident-response capacity helped it achieve a leading position in Africa in the 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index. The World Bank also reports that Ghana's digital reforms have extended into public services, including automated court processes and ongoing efforts to develop Ghana.gov as a more integrated digital service platform.

Senegal has pursued digital transformation through national strategies, expanded digital public services and more recently digital tools for public financial management, including electronic procurement and e-invoicing. The objective is not technology for its own sake, but technology that improves transparency, efficiency and access to services.

These examples do not suggest that these countries have solved every digital challenge. They demonstrate something more important: African states can strengthen cybersecurity, digitise public services and expand connectivity without treating technology merely as an instrument of political control. That distinction matters.

Governments have legitimate responsibilities to combat cybercrime, protect national security, safeguard personal data and address genuine threats to public order. But effective digital governance requires lawful, predictable and proportionate measures. Cybersecurity should protect

citizens rather than become a justification for unnecessarily disconnecting them. Political accountability is temporary; national development is generational.

A political term lasts only a few years. A young person's lost educational opportunity may shape an entire lifetime. An entrepreneur who gives up may relocate. A scientist unable to access global research may leave. A technology company that finds a more predictable jurisdiction may invest elsewhere.

Africa must therefore build an environment defined by affordable broadband, reliable electricity, competitive digital markets, strong cybersecurity, data protection, digital skills, research funding, venture capital, intellectual-property protection and responsible AI governance. It must also invest in African data infrastructure, African-language AI models and locally relevant technologies while remaining connected to the global knowledge economy.

The ITU reports that Africa has made the greatest regional progress in cybersecurity since 2021, demonstrating that the continent is capable of building stronger digital resilience. The challenge now is to ensure that cybersecurity and digital governance become instruments of trust, innovation and public service—not barriers to legitimate participation or conduits to massive looting.

Africa's young digital generation should not be forced to choose between innovation and political conformity, entrepreneurship and uncertainty, scientific ambition and restricted information, or economic opportunity and geographical exile. African leaders have been entrusted with more than political offices. They have been entrusted with a generation.

The question is no longer whether Africa possesses the talent to participate in the technological revolution. It plainly does. The question is whether African institutions will provide that talent with the freedom, infrastructure, capital, security and confidence necessary to flourish. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." — Eleanor Roosevelt

Africa has been handed an extraordinary opportunity. It must not allow the fear of accountability, political survival or the preservation of temporary power to extinguish a technological revolution capable of transforming millions of lives. The political generation will eventually leave the stage. The digital generation is only just arriving. And Africa's future may ultimately be determined by whether its institutions choose to empower that generation—or stand in its way.

Teachers It is therefore not surprising that the Bible addresses teaching with unusual seriousness. One of Scripture’s most sobering statements appears in James 3:1

Why James 3:1 prescribes the harshest judgment for teachers

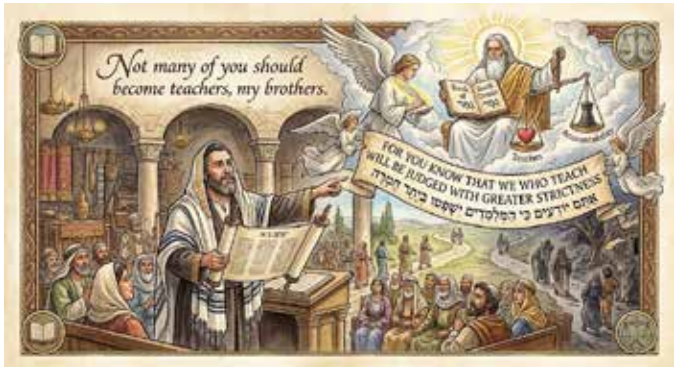
BY Ashford Kimani
@themkenyentimes

Teaching has always been one of the most influential responsibilities in human society. Across homes, schools, churches and communities, teachers shape minds, values, attitudes and futures. Long before modern education systems emerged, teaching occupied a sacred position because knowledge carried power, and those entrusted with sharing it carried enormous responsibility.

It is therefore not surprising that the Bible addresses teaching with unusual seriousness. One of Scripture’s most sobering statements appears in James 3:1: “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” This verse has challenged educators, spiritual leaders, parents and mentors for generations. At first glance it may appear discouraging, almost as though Scripture is warning people away from teaching. A deeper reading reveals something quite different. The Bible does not discourage teaching; it warns against careless teaching and reminds those who guide others that influence carries responsibility.

James wrote to early believers at a time when teachers held enormous authority within their communities. Those who taught shaped understanding, guided behaviour and influenced moral decisions. Their words carried weight because people trusted them to communicate truth. James understood that leadership through teaching was not simply about speaking publicly or sharing information. It involved shaping lives. For that reason, those who taught others carried a greater obligation to act responsibly.

The principle remains deeply relevant today. Teaching extends far beyond classrooms. Parents teach children values and behaviour. Religious leaders shape spiritual under-



standing. Coaches teach discipline and perseverance. Mentors influence career growth and character development. Every person who occupies a position of guidance carries influence over others — and influence leaves marks that often last a lifetime.

Teachers do much more than deliver content. Every lesson communicates values. Every classroom interaction shapes confidence. Every correction teaches resilience or discouragement. Every response to failure influences how learners see themselves. Education is not merely the transfer of information; it is the formation of human beings. This explains why teaching carries accountability unlike many other professions.

A teacher who humiliates a struggling learner may unintentionally teach fear instead of confidence. A mentor who demonstrates dishonesty may normalise unethical conduct among those watching. On the other hand, a patient, encouraging educator can permanently alter the direction of a young person’s life. Many adults vividly remember teachers who believed in them when few others did — words of encouragement that strengthened confidence during difficult seasons. Unfortunately, many also carry painful remarks spoken carelessly years earlier. Such memories illustrate the truth behind James’s warning. Teaching influence extends far beyond immediate outcomes.

The stricter judgment mentioned in James 3:1 should not be understood simply as punishment. Rather, it reflects ac-

countability that matches responsibility. Greater influence demands greater wisdom. Society naturally expects more from those entrusted with guiding others. Parents entrust schools with children. Communities entrust educators with preparing future citizens. Religious institutions entrust spiritual leaders with truth. Wherever trust exists, accountability follows.

Modern education demonstrates this clearly. Teachers today work under increasing expectations — to deliver curriculum effectively, monitor learner progress, maintain professional conduct, adopt evolving educational practices and support learners emotionally and socially. While accountability frameworks and professional standards matter, James points toward an even deeper responsibility. He emphasises not merely what teachers say but who teachers are.

The surrounding verses in James chapter three discuss the power of speech and the influence of words. This connection matters enormously for educators, because words possess extraordinary power. Simple statements often shape learner identity more deeply than educators realise. “You are improving.” “I believe in your ability.” “Keep trying.” These words may appear ordinary, but they can transform motivation and self-belief. Equally, careless statements made in moments of frustration — “You will never succeed” or “You cannot do this” — can become internal voices learners carry long after leaving school.

Teaching therefore requires

more than expertise. Knowledge matters, but character matters equally. Professional competence without integrity becomes dangerous. Authority without humility becomes destructive. Skill without compassion loses its effectiveness. Great teaching emerges when knowledge and character work together.

Importantly, James 3:1 should not create fear among educators. Rather, it should inspire reflection and intentionality. The teacher preparing lessons late into the night matters. The educator supporting struggling learners matters. The mentor investing time beyond official responsibilities matters. The parent teaching values consistently matters. Teaching remains one of humanity’s highest callings precisely because its

influence extends beyond visible moments.

History repeatedly demonstrates this truth. Scientists remember educators who awakened curiosity. Writers remember teachers who encouraged expression. Leaders frequently point to mentors who shaped their courage and vision. Behind countless achievements stands someone who taught faithfully, patiently and responsibly.

James therefore invites teachers toward continual self-examination. Am I teaching accurately? Am I demonstrating integrity? Am I building confidence? Am I guiding responsibly? Am I using influence wisely? These questions matter because teaching is stewardship — the stewardship of trust, influence and opportunity.

The warning that teachers will receive stricter judgment ultimately highlights the importance of the profession rather than diminishing it. Teaching matters profoundly because human lives are shaped through it. Every lesson matters. Every word matters. Every act of patience matters. Teachers quietly shape futures in classrooms, homes, churches and communities, and their impact unfolds years later in workplaces, families, institutions and society itself.

Perhaps this explains why Scripture treats teaching with such seriousness. Not because teachers should live in fear, but because teaching carries extraordinary responsibility. Those who influence others hold something precious in their hands. James reminds educators everywhere that teaching is not merely about transferring knowledge. It is about shaping lives, guiding character and stewarding influence wisely. Few responsibilities carry greater significance.

SILAS MWAUDASHENI NANDE

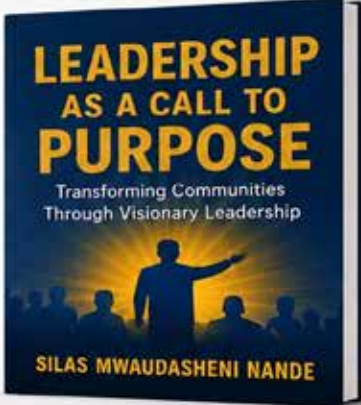
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Uzbekistan LegalTech has become increasingly important because it is changing traditional methods used by lawyers and law firms

How LegalTech changes legal education in Uzbekistan



BYHamroyeva Parichehra
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In today's fast-changing world, technology and innovation have become fundamental to every aspect of life, and the legal profession is no exception. The legal landscape is rapidly evolving, making technological integration increasingly important for legal education and practice.

The historical development of legal education in Uzbekistan is important for understanding its current state. Following independence in 1991, Uzbekistan began reforming its legal and education systems as it moved away from the Soviet model. Before independence, access to higher education was limited, and legal education largely focused on theoretical knowledge and the mechanical application of codified law. In 1997, the government introduced the National Programme for Personnel Training (NPPT), which aimed to reform the education system, develop specialists for a market-oriented economy, and make education more autonomous. As Uzbekistan continues to develop its market-oriented legal system, integrating LegalTech into legal education has become increasingly important. Technology can improve the quality of legal training while equipping future professionals with the skills required for modern legal practice. LegalTech can also make legal education more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the changing demands of the profession. Therefore, this article examines how LegalTech can transform legal education in Uzbekistan, focusing on its potential benefits, current challenges, and the need to integrate modern teaching methods and innovative technologies into legal education.

Methods

Integrating LegalTech into legal education in Uzbekistan presents numerous opportunities for enhancing

learning outcomes and accessibility. This section outlines specific strategies that can be employed to incorporate LegalTech effectively in the curriculum, focusing on six key areas:

- Streamlined access to learning resources

Digital learning platforms provide students with convenient access to a wide range of supplementary materials. AI-powered learning assistants, annotated course materials, and integrated learning tools can help students find additional resources when needed. A unified platform containing learning materials, assignments, assessments, and revisions can also improve convenience for both students and educators.

- Personalized learning paths

Integrated learning platforms can use adaptive technologies to tailor learning to individual student needs, strengths, and weaknesses. They can adjust the difficulty of assignments and assessments while providing personalized content. This increases students' learning autonomy and engagement.

- Enhanced collaboration and communication

Online learning tools can improve communication and collaboration between students and educators. Discussion forums, group projects, idea-sharing tools, and interactive learning assistants encourage active participation and create a stronger learning community.

- Data-driven insights and analytics

E-learning platforms can provide educators with data on student engagement, progress, strengths, and weaknesses. This information can help teachers evaluate learning materials, adapt teaching methods, and personalize learning. As highlighted by UNESCO, integrated technology platforms can provide a broader view of student progress and support evidence-based improvements in teaching and learning.

- Seamless assessment and feedback

Technology can make assessment more dynamic by providing immediate feedback through online quizzes, automated grading, and AI-powered tools. These systems allow educators to identify gaps in students' understanding and adapt instruction accordingly, while helping learners improve their learning strategies.

- Scalability and flexibility

Integrated learning platforms provide educational institutions with greater flexibility and scalability. Centralized data and streamlined workflows make it easier to introduce new courses, accommodate growing student populations, and support diverse learning needs. Overall, LTI and LMS integrations can contribute to more personalized, accessible, and engaging learning experiences.

Results:

The reason why LegalTech is a hot topic is due to the dynamic change it has brought to the industry, mainly as overtaking traditional methods used by Lawyers and Law Firms. Hence, if you plan to have or want to continue a career in Law, it is

crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of these two areas and how it is incorporated into the legal sector - to be aware of its advantages and disadvantages.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

LegalTech has become increasingly important because it is changing traditional methods used by lawyers and law firms. Therefore, future legal professionals need to understand how technologies such as AI are incorporated into the legal sector, including their advantages and limitations. AI can be used in the legal sector to conduct legal research and due diligence, review contracts and other documents, and predict legal outcomes. Compared with humans, AI can process large amounts of data more quickly and reduce the risk of human error, potentially saving lawyers' time and reducing costs for clients. A LawGeex study comparing lawyers with AI found that lawyers achieved an average accuracy of 85%, compared with 94% for AI, while the task took lawyers 92 minutes and AI only 26 seconds. However, AI also presents risks. If trained on biased or subjective legal data, it may reproduce existing prejudices and contribute to unfair outcomes. In addition, implementing AI can require significant investment. Nevertheless, AI can make legal work more efficient and less complicated.

Blockchain

Blockchain is a technology that stores data in a transparent and generally unalterable way. Although it was originally developed for Bitcoin and cryptocurrency, it may also have applications in the legal sector. These include smart contracts, blockchain-related legislation and

regulation, decentralized corporate filings, intellectual property, document notarization, arbitration and dispute resolution, chain of custody, criminal cases, and financial transactions.

Blockchain could provide advantages in areas such as smart contracts, intellectual property, document notarization, and criminal cases. However, the lack of clear regulation remains a significant challenge, particularly regarding data privacy. Developing appropriate legislation may be complex and time-consuming. Moreover, as with any IT infrastructure, blockchain cannot provide an absolute guarantee against data corruption.

Discussion:

Integrating LegalTech into legal education in Uzbekistan offers significant opportunities but also presents challenges. Technology can improve access to resources, develop practical skills, and increase learning efficiency. However, students must avoid over-reliance on technology and continue developing fundamental legal research and analytical skills. Financial barriers may also limit adoption, as institutions need significant investment in technology and training. Equal access to digital resources is important to avoid increasing existing inequalities. Data privacy and security are further concerns, requiring strong measures to protect sensitive information. Finally, educators must adapt their teaching methods and assessment strategies to effectively integrate LegalTech into the curriculum. Addressing these challenges will be essential for preparing future lawyers for the modern legal landscape.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, evolution is necessary. Lawyers spend too much time drafting and reviewing mountains of paperwork, which could be done effortlessly with the help of advanced technology like AI or blockchain. Technology is not looking to take away the jobs of lawyers; instead, it is looking to make their work less complicated and more manageable. Law Firms must start embracing these new changes rather than disapproving of them because change is the only constant unit in this world.

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BOOKS & LITERATURE

with Ghazia Azhar

Program: BS English – Induction One, Semester 1

Imperialism, Greed, and the Darkness of the Human Heart in Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness

Name: Ghazia Azhar

ID: BSEN: 2Y012515001

Program: BS English – Induction One, Semester 1

Title of Novel: Heart of Darkness

Author: Joseph Conrad

Title Suggested By: Muhammad Adnan Gujjar

Introduction

Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*, first published in 1899, is a significant work of English literature that explores imperialism, greed, power, morality, and the darker aspects of human nature. The novella follows Marlow, a sailor who travels into the Congo under the employment of a European trading company in search of Kurtz, an ivory agent whose reputation has made him an important figure in the region. Through Marlow’s journey, Conrad presents a disturbing picture of European imperialism and exposes the contradiction between the claimed mission of bringing civilisation and the exploitation of African people. The novella also examines how the pursuit of wealth and power can weaken moral restraints and reveal the darker possibilities within the human self.

Idea of the Novel

The central idea of *Heart of Darkness* lies in its exploration of imperialism and the darkness within human beings. Marlow’s journey into the Congo becomes both a

physical journey and a psychological journey into the darker dimensions of human behaviour. Conrad portrays the cruelty, exploitation, greed, and corruption associated with European colonial expansion while also examining the moral consequences of unchecked power. The idea of a “civilising mission” is presented ironically, as European claims of civilisation exist alongside violence and exploitation. The novella therefore connects colonial oppression with broader questions about morality, humanity, power, and the capacity for corruption.

Summary

The story begins on the River Thames in England, where Marlow recounts his experiences to a group of listeners aboard the *Nellie*. He describes how he obtained a position with a European trading company and travelled to the Congo. As he moves deeper into the region, he witnesses the harsh treatment of African people and the destructive effects of colonial exploitation. He also hears repeatedly about Kurtz, an ivory agent admired for his abilities and his suc-

cess in obtaining ivory.

Marlow eventually reaches Kurtz and discovers that the man he has heard so much about has become deeply corrupted by power. Kurtz has established authority over local people and has pursued ivory with extreme determination. His actions reveal the gap between the ideals of civilisation claimed by European imperialism and the violence and exploitation that accompany it. Kurtz becomes seriously ill during the return journey and dies after uttering the famous words, “The horror! The horror!” Marlow later returns to Europe carrying the memory of his experience and reflecting on the darkness he has witnessed.

Colonialism and Imperialism

Colonialism is one of the central concerns of *Heart of Darkness*. Conrad presents European imperialism as a system in which claims of civilisation and progress co-exist with exploitation and violence. Marlow witnesses African people being forced to work under harsh conditions and observes the destructive consequences of European commercial ambitions. The pursuit of ivory becomes a symbol of the economic motives behind imperial expansion. The novella consequently questions the moral justification of imperialism and exposes the contradiction between European claims of civilisation and the treatment of colonised people.

The work can also be read as a critique of the idea that European civilisation is in-

herently superior to African societies. Through Marlow’s observations, Conrad reveals forms of cruelty within the supposedly civilised European world. At the same time, modern readers and scholars have debated the novella’s representation of Africa and Africans, including whether Conrad’s critique of imperialism is accompanied by problematic racial representations. Such debates are important when examining the text in a contemporary academic context.

Darkness as a Symbol

The word “darkness” operates as one of the novella’s most important symbols. It refers not only to the unfamiliar environment encountered by Marlow but also to moral corruption, violence, fear, greed, and the hidden aspects of human nature. The deeper Marlow travels into the Congo, the more he encounters the consequences of unchecked power and desire. Darkness therefore becomes both a geographical and psychological concept.

Kurtz represents the moral transformation that can occur when a person is released from ordinary social restraints and given almost unlimited authority. Initially presented as intelligent and idealistic, he gradually becomes obsessed with ivory and power. His transformation demonstrates how greed can undermine morality. Through Kurtz, Conrad suggests that the potential for corruption is not limited to one particular society but can emerge when individuals are placed in conditions where power and desire operate



without effective restraints.

Major Symbols

The Congo River is an important symbol in the novella. Marlow’s journey along the river represents movement into an unfamiliar physical environment as well as a deeper exploration of human psychology and morality. The river carries him away from the familiar world of Europe and toward the increasingly disturbing realities of colonialism.

Darkness is another central symbol. It represents moral uncertainty, corruption, violence, fear, and the hidden aspects of human nature. It also contributes to the novella’s presentation of colonial Africa as a place transformed by European exploitation.

Ivory functions as a symbol of greed and economic exploitation. European agents compete for ivory because of its commercial value, and the pursuit of it becomes closely connected with violence and the abuse of power. Kurtz’s obsession with ivory demonstrates how material desire can contribute to moral corruption.

Marlow and Kurtz

Marlow is the central narrator and the character through whom readers experience much of the novella. His observations make him a reflective figure who questions the morality of imperialism and the behaviour of the people

he encounters. His journey is therefore both an external adventure and an internal process of questioning.

Kurtz serves as a contrasting and increasingly disturbing figure. He is initially described as an exceptional and capable man, but Marlow discovers that his authority has allowed him to become increasingly ruthless. Kurtz’s character demonstrates the relationship between unchecked power, greed, and moral corruption. His final words, “The horror! The horror!”, remain significant because they suggest a moment of confrontation with the terrible reality of his experiences and actions.

Conclusion

Heart of Darkness explores imperialism, greed, power, corruption, morality, and human psychology through Marlow’s journey into the Congo. Through the contrasting experiences of Marlow and Kurtz, Conrad presents a critical examination of European imperial practices and the consequences of unchecked desire. The symbols of darkness, the Congo River, and ivory deepen the novella’s exploration of moral and psychological corruption. The work remains important in literary studies because it raises complex questions about civilisation, colonial power, humanity, and the darker possibilities of human behaviour.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *The veteran goalkeeper's latest selection is a testament to longevity as the Blue Sharks prepare for the road to East Africa

Vozinha, 40, answers Cape Verde call for 2027 AFCON qualifiers



Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha

By **Pascal Okoth**

Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha has been named in the national squad for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, earning his call-up at the remarkable age of 40.

The veteran's latest selection adds another chapter to one of the most enduring international careers in Cape Verdean football. While most players at his age have long since retired, Vozinha continues to answer his coun-

try's call and remains a trusted option for the Blue Sharks.

His inclusion reflects the confidence Cape Verde's technical team continues to place in his experience as the country opens its qualifying campaign. Goalkeeping is a position where accumulated wisdom carries particular weight, and Vozinha's years at international level have equipped him with a rare understanding of the pressures involved.

At 40, he is among the oldest

players active in international football. Maintaining the physical and mental demands of competition at this level over such a sustained period is a significant achievement in its own right, and one that has defined his standing within Cape Verdean football.

Vozinha has been a constant presence across some of the Blue Sharks' most important campaigns, featuring in multiple continental competitions as Cape Verde established itself as a competitive force on the Afri-

can scene. Experienced players of his stature have been central to that rise.

The 2027 Africa Cup of Nations will be jointly hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, lending the tournament added significance for supporters across East Africa. For Cape Verde, securing qualification is the immediate priority, and the presence of seasoned campaigners will matter as the pressure of qualifying builds.

Vozinha's contribution may extend beyond what happens between the posts. As one of the squad's senior figures, he is well placed to guide younger players encountering international football at this level for the first time — players who will benefit from the composure and insight that only experience brings.

For a goalkeeper, such qualities are especially valuable. The position demands sustained concentration even during quiet passages of play, and a single lapse in judgment can prove costly. Vozinha's career has been built on the ability to manage those moments.

For Cape Verdean supporters, his continued availability will carry an emotional resonance. He has been part of the country's football story for many years and remains a familiar and reassuring presence whenever the Blue Sharks take the field.

The upcoming qualifiers offer Vozinha another opportunity to add to his international tally. Whether starting or contributing from the bench, his presence gives the squad another dependable option in goal as Cape Verde chases a place at the tournament.

At 40, the message is straightforward: age has not ended his international journey. Vozinha has once again received the call from Cape Verde — and once again, he is ready.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Manchester City remain top after a five-goal rout, while United snatch a point at Craven Cottage in the final fixtures of matchweek five

City stay perfect as late Cunha goal saves United



By Andalo Christine Ingutia

Manchester City kept their unbeaten record intact with a pulsating 5-3 victory over Sunderland at the Etihad Stadium yesterday, while Manchester United rescued a 1-1 draw against Fulham at Craven Cottage thanks to a dramatic 89th-minute strike from Matheus Cunha. The results bring down the curtain on matchweek five, after which players disperse for a three-week international break.

City's match against Sunderland was a breathless affair from the first whistle. Enzo Fernández opened the scoring in the ninth minute, only for Brian Brobbey to level three minutes later. Rayan Cherki restored City's lead before Brobbey struck again to make it 2-2. Antoine

Semenyo then put City ahead for the third time just before the interval, sending the teams into the break at 3-2.

Semenyo added a fourth early in the second half to seemingly put the match beyond Sunderland. The visitors refused to fold, however, and Brobbey completed a fine hat-trick to make it 4-3 and set up a nervy finish. Any hopes of a Sunderland comeback were extinguished in the 81st minute when Erling Haaland sealed the points, his goal confirming a 5-3 win that leaves City top of the table on 15 points.

Liverpool secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Bournemouth at the Vitality Stadium, with Alexander Isak scoring the only goal. The first half was tight, with Bournemouth's defence frustrating Liverpool's forward

line. The visitors raised the tempo after the break and broke the deadlock in the 56th minute, Dominik Szoboszlai threading a pass to Isak, who finished clinically. Bournemouth pressed for an equaliser in the closing stages but Liverpool held firm.

Crystal Palace and Leeds United played out a goalless draw in a match light on clear-cut chances. Palace appeared to have taken the lead early in the second half, only for the effort to be ruled out after a lengthy VAR review. Leeds pushed forward in search of a winner, encouraged by the home crowd, but Palace defended with discipline and organisation, blocking several efforts to earn a clean sheet on the road.

At Craven Cottage, Manchester United were forced to come from behind before snatching a share

of the spoils. Both sides started brightly, but it was Fulham who struck first in the 62nd minute when a Lisandro Martínez deflection sent the ball into his own net. United responded by pushing forward and increasing the pressure, and their persistence was rewarded in the 89th minute when Cunha found space inside the box and fired home to make it 1-1. Neither side could find a winner in the closing moments, and the final whistle confirmed a point apiece from an entertaining contest.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

Backpage



We bought the convoy and buried our own: How Uganda learned to love chrome and forget life



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

A country that chooses 17 Land Cruisers over one life-saving machine has not run out of money — it has run out of conscience

By Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
He was not a poor man. He paid. That is the painful part. He paid at the best hospitals in Kampala. They took his money, ran their scans and told him: “We see nothing.” He was not dying of poverty. He was dying in a country that chose to buy 17 cars instead of one machine that could see.

I keep returning to that because my mind keeps searching for an easy excuse. Had he been poor, I might have understood. I would have told myself the story we use to sleep at night — blamed his empty pockets and moved on. But he was not poor. That is where the wound starts to bleed.

This son of Tooro, this leader, this man whose name we now speak in whispers — when his back began to ache, he did not retreat to the village. He walked into those hospitals in Kampala. The ones with cold air conditioning that hits you at the entrance. Glass doors that slide open on their own. Receptionists who speak soft English. Bills at the end that could give a man with hypertension a second condition.

He paid. Without complaint. He paid.

They laid him on a hard table and brought in the machines. The X-ray. The MRI. They hummed and beeped and photographed his insides. Then a doctor — a good Ugandan doctor who I am certain tried his best — looked at the images, looked at the man and said the words that now haunt this country: “We see nothing.”

Imagine that moment. You are in pain. It wakes you at 2am and sits on your spine like a stone. A man in a white coat, certificates framed on the

wall behind him, tells you that your pain does not exist. That inside you, there is nothing. He was dying. And our Pearl of Africa, with all its flags and summits and anthems, could not see him dying.

Because he had money, he received something 45 million of us will never have: a second chance to learn the name of what was killing him. He bought a ticket to Nairobi. In Nairobi, there is a machine. It does not know whether you are a prince or a peasant. It does not speak Runyoro or Acholi or Luganda. It simply sees. Positron Emission Tomography. A PET scan.

That machine did not say “We see nothing.” It said: I see a thief. I see cancer eating your bones. One year later, he was dead. But he died knowing. His family could prepare. His death had a name.

How many Ugandans die every day without ever knowing what killed them? How many mothers in Bududa are told “It is just back pain” until they can no longer stand? How many fathers in Arua are given painkillers for what is actually cancer eating them alive?

The Observer captured it precisely in a line that deserves to be framed and nailed to the gate of every government office in this country: “A PET scan costs about \$3m — approximately 17 Land Cruisers. If there was a meeting of government officials, you would run out of space to park them. That is how many we have in Uganda, but a PET scan is not something we have been able to buy and install yet.”

Seventeen Land Cruisers. Not a thousand. Not a hundred. Seventeen. Stop reading for a moment and picture them: white, shining, new, each one costing more than 650 million shillings, each one ready to carry one man from his large house to his large office.

Now picture one quiet room in Mulago. One machine inside it. A machine that costs the same as those 17 cars. A machine that works for 15 years, day and night, without a fuel allowance, without a per diem, without complaining — one that looks into the bodies of 45 million Ugandans and says: I see something. Let us save you early.



Seventeen cars against 45 million lives. We chose the cars.

The cold, analytical truth: a Land Cruiser serves one person for roughly four to five years on our roads, after which it is scrap. Factor in weekly fuel, a driver’s salary and servicing, and that single vehicle costs Uganda more than one billion shillings over its lifetime while producing nothing, curing nothing and teaching nothing. It is prestige — pure, empty prestige.

A PET scan serves an entire nation for 10 to 15 years. It catches cancer early. Early detection cuts treatment costs tenfold. It spares families financial ruin, keeps productive citizens alive and reduces the enormous bill the government incurs flying patients to India, Nairobi and beyond. That one machine pays for itself within two years from savings alone.

One serves vanity. One serves life. Why did we choose vanity?

Because in Uganda, power must be seen to be believed. Okot p’Bitek saw this coming. In Song of Lawino, Lawino weeps for her husband Ocol,

who returns from education despising his own mother: “Ocol says he is a modern man, a progressive and civilised man. He says he has read many books. But he has forgotten how to carry his own mother who is sick.” We are Ocol. We speak fluently of Vision 2040 and middle-income status. We build houses of glass. But we have forgotten how to carry our sick.

The most painful truth is this: the man who signs the paper to buy 17 more Land Cruisers will never be a victim of his own decision. When his back begins to ache, his secretary calls Entebbe Airport. A business class ticket is printed. He flies to Nairobi, Johannesburg, London, Delhi. He lies in the machine his own government refused to buy for his own people. He returns and cuts a ribbon for another fleet.

They have privatised survival. They have made patriotism something for the poor to die for and treatment something for the rich to fly for. So when your father dies, they will ar-

rive in their V8s, praise him loudly, press 500,000 shillings into your hand and drive away in the car that could have been the machine that saved him.

Our pumpkin — Okot p’Bitek’s pumpkin, the one that must never be uprooted — is compassion. Common sense. The capacity for shame. We have uprooted it and planted Land Cruisers where we should have planted life.

How many more sons of Tooro, daughters of Teso, children of Acholi must be told “We see nothing” before we, the people, finally open our eyes and see?

Until we look at a long convoy and feel anger, not awe. Until we look at a hospital without medicine and feel shame, not mere sympathy. Until we choose one machine that sees cancer over 17 cars that see nothing but our own foolishness — we will remain a nation that drives in first-class luxury to bury its own people in third-class graves.