



Kalonzo takes Kenya's economic pitch to Westminster
Wiper Democratic Movement leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka yesterday arrived in London for a series of high-level engagements centred on positioning Kenya as a regional financial hub, with appearances at the House of Commons

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Daily ePAPER

Countdown 2027 **The accusations strip away any residual pretence that the two men retain any relationship**

Ruto calls Kenyatta a conman

President William Ruto launched the most personal and unrestrained attack of his presidency against former President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday, branding him a serial political deceiver and warning opposition leaders now aligned with Kenyatta that they were courting the same betrayal he says he suffered — as Kenya's 2027 general election campaign began in all but name.

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President William Ruto, inset former President Uhuru Kenyatta



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Ruto commissions Uasin Gishu dam to boost year-round farming

BY John Mwangi

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

President William Ruto yesterday commissioned the Ziwa 2 Earth Dam Irrigation Project in Soy Constituency, Uasin Gishu County, in a KSh147 million investment designed to bring 500 acres of farmland under irrigation and extend reliable agricultural activity to 1,000 farmers throughout the year.

The project promises to reduce dependence on seasonal rainfall, increase productivity and lift incomes for smallholder farmers in the region. By enabling year-round cultivation, it addresses one of the most persistent vulnerabilities facing Kenyan agriculture — the exposure of millions of farmers to erratic and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

Ruto said the Ziwa 2 dam forms part of a broader national water infrastructure plan targeting the construction of 50 mega dams, 200 medium-sized dams and 1,000 micro dams across the country. The programme is intended to expand irrigation coverage nationally, reduce rain-fed agriculture dependency and strengthen Kenya's long-term food security. The commissioning adds to a series of infrastructure launches the President conducted during his North Rift development tour, signalling the government's focus on agricultural transformation as a cornerstone of its economic agenda ahead of the 2027 general election.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki yesterday assumed chairmanship of the Council of Governors following elections held during a full council meeting in Nairobi, with Bungoma Governor Kenneth Lusaka elected vice chairperson and Baringo Governor Benjamin Cheboi named as the Council's whip. Njuki inherits leadership of the body that coordinates interests of Kenya's 47 county governments and represents governors in engagements with the national government, where he will drive debates on devolution financing, resource allocation and intergovernmental relations. The meeting also constituted technical committees. Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru takes Agriculture and Livestock Development; Nandi Governor Stephen Sang chairs Resource Mobilisation; Mombasa Governor Abdulsamad Nassir heads Health; Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja leads Transport and Energy; and Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika oversees Lands and Housing. Samburu's Jonathan Leleliit chairs Security, Narok's Patrick Ole Ntutu oversees Tourism, and Migori's Ochilo Ayacko heads Legal Affairs.



Democratic Party leader Justin Muturi yesterday demanded an independent investigation into alleged mishandling of a possible Ebola-related incident at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, calling on Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale to account for the government's response or resign. Muturi said a whistleblower had alerted him to claims that an individual arriving from the Democratic Republic of Congo — allegedly Patient Zero — was cleared at the airport following a telephone intervention, then transferred to hospital where he may have interacted with healthcare workers, patients and visitors without his full travel history being disclosed. "If anyone interfered with the proper handling of this case, they must be held accountable, regardless of their office or influence," Muturi said, demanding transparency on screening procedures, contact tracing and protective measures for healthcare workers. He proposed 21 days of enhanced surveillance and called for full public disclosure of findings. The allegations remain unverified and await official response.



Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited has warned that over 1,100 jobs and a KSh3.62 billion expansion plan hang in the balance as its legal battle against a government-imposed mining suspension intensifies, with the company urging the court to resolve the dispute without further delay. In court papers, the soda ash producer — which has operated at Lake Magadi for nearly a century — argued the suspension was imposed indefinitely without measurable compliance criteria or transparent timelines for lifting it, leaving its operations entirely at the ministry's discretion. "The applicant will continue to be unable to meet its contractual obligations, thereby exposing it to significant and potentially irreparable losses," the company stated. The Ministry of Mining maintains the shutdown was necessary to compel compliance with statutory requirements, including unpaid royalties, while Kajiado County — seeking to join proceedings — claims KSh11.4 billion in outstanding land rates and cites broader environmental and community interests in the outcome.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua received an unexpected political briefing after Sunday church service in Boston, where Amos Kipeen and a group of compatriots sought him out for discussions on the political landscape back home. Kipeen informed Gachagua that residents of Narok West constituency had approached him to contest the 2027 parliamentary seat under the Democratic Change Party, which Gachagua described as the most popular political vehicle in Narok. The two agreed that community elders would formally communicate the constituency's decision to Gachagua upon his return to Kenya, in keeping with Maa cultural tradition. Gachagua said Kipeen's grasp of local issues and evident passion for his constituents left a strong impression. "The Future is Green," Gachagua posted, signalling that his Democratic Change Party's grassroots expansion into Narok is gathering momentum well ahead of the August 2027 general election.



Kenya has formally classified Ebola as a formidable epidemic disease under the Public Health Act, with Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale gazetted the declaration on October 12, 2026, specifically covering the Bundibugyo virus strain under Legal Notice No. 203. A companion gazette notice, Legal Notice No. 204, introduced the Public Health (Ebola Disease) Rules, 2026, establishing a comprehensive legal framework for surveillance, screening at entry points, isolation, contact tracing, quarantine and the safe handling of fatalities, including dignified burial procedures, transportation and repatriation protocols. The regulations also place obligations on transport operators regarding inspections and decontamination, and require healthcare facilities, practitioners and laboratories to meet defined notification standards. The declaration follows confirmation of an imported case linked to the Democratic Republic of Congo and does not constitute a nationwide outbreak. It provides the legal architecture for a coordinated public health response should transmission occur.



Former nominated Senator Gloria Orwoba was escorted off stage by security at veteran broadcaster Fred Obachi Machoka's 50th anniversary celebration in Nairobi after refusing to temper her political remarks — and she has no regrets about it. Orwoba, who took the microphone during the event and veered into political territory, was removed at Machoka's instruction after the host deemed her address inappropriate for the occasion. The intervention drew immediate attention on social media, where footage of the episode circulated widely. Rather than apologise, Orwoba defended her remarks, maintaining that her message was necessary and that she stood by every word. The incident has reignited debate about the boundaries between public celebration and political expression, particularly when prominent figures share the same platform.

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Rains Five deaths in five days prompt urgent call for early evacuation and road safety ahead of heavy rainfall season

Meru commissioner urges residents to act before the rains claim more lives

BY Brian Gitonga

@themkenyatimes

Meru County Commissioner George Omollo yesterday called on residents to treat meteorological warnings seriously and take precautionary measures ahead of anticipated heavy rainfall, cautioning that complacency could cost more lives in a county that has already lost five people to rain-related accidents in five days.

Speaking at a press briefing in Meru town, Omollo pointed to two recent crashes as a sobering illustration of what the approaching season could bring. The first, at Riverland, involved a lorry that reportedly suffered brake failure during a heavy downpour before ramming into several vehicles and pedestrians, killing four people and seriously injuring 16 others. The following day, an accident at Thimangiri left an assistant chief injured. He later succumbed to his wounds, bringing the five-day death toll to five.

“Even though we have not experienced much rainfall yet, we are still concerned because of the recent accidents that occurred while it was raining,” Omollo said. “That is why we urge people to be cautious.”

The commissioner directed particular concern at families living in areas susceptible to flooding and landslides, singling out Maua as a locality



Meru county commissioner George Omollo speaks to the press | Photo: Brian Gitonga

where early relocation could prove the difference between safety and tragedy. He warned that waiting for conditions to deteriorate before seeking shelter was a risk no family should take.

“Let us ensure that people living in areas prone to flooding and landslides, especially in Maua, begin moving to safer places,” he said.

Omollo also addressed motorists directly, urging drivers to slow down on slippery roads, avoid driving while fatigued and refrain from attempting to cross flooded rivers or roads — decisions he described as potentially fatal.

“For those using our roads, I appeal to you not to put people’s lives in danger, especially where roads are slippery because of the rains

and terrain. Let us also avoid crossing flooded rivers, because such decisions could prove very costly,” he said.

With the Kenya Meteorological Department forecasting increased rainfall across the region, Omollo said preparedness was no longer optional. The deaths recorded in recent days, he stressed, were a warning the county could not afford to ignore.



Bodaboda wreckage following the Riverland accident. | Photo: Brian Gitonga

Electricity access must lead to local opportunity



Photo courtesy Opiyo Wandayi Communication unit.

BY James Kilonzo Bwire

@themkenyatimes

The flag-off of Last Mile Connectivity Programme projects in Nandi and Uasin Gishu counties at the start of President William Ruto’s North Rift development tour is a welcome reminder that electricity access remains central to Kenya’s development ambitions. Sites in Maraba, Kaptumo, Kenya School of TVET Moiben Campus and Sirkwa-Ziwa Machine Road are set to receive power connections serving homes, businesses and institutions. Their significance, however, will be determined not by the ceremony but by what residents experience after it.

A household connection has limited value if supply is unreliable, costs are prohibitive or customers lack the equipment and knowledge to make productive use of electricity. For the Moiben campus, power must support practical instruction and functioning equipment, not merely basic

lighting. For small businesses, it must be dependable enough to plan around. For families, it must be affordable and clearly explained.

These benefits do not arrive automatically. Electrification creates conditions for enterprise, but lasting opportunity also requires access to finance, skills, markets and transport. County and national institutions must recognise these connections and ensure that power access is coordinated with broader local development planning.

Implementation must be open and accountable. Communities deserve clear information about project scope, timelines, connection procedures and channels for reporting faults. Maintenance and responsive customer service are not afterthoughts — they are part of the programme’s development purpose.

The North Rift flag-off is the beginning of a public obligation, not its fulfilment. Delivery is the only measure that matters.

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KERICHU

All survive as Kenya Forest Service helicopter crashes at Kericho golf club

Aircraft overturns on takeoff as environment PS and officials are pulled from wreckage



BY Charity Mogesi
@themkenyaintimes

A Kenya Forest Service helicopter crashed yesterday at Kericho Golf Club during takeoff, overturning on the grass and sustaining extensive damage in an incident that left several people injured but, remarkably, no lives lost.

The green and white aircraft, registration 5Y-FSK, had barely gained altitude before losing lift and coming down heavily on its side within the club compound. The tail rotor and fuselage bore the brunt of the impact, and the aircraft was left in a badly damaged state. Witnesses described a scene of immediate panic as the helicopter went down, with bystanders and emergency personnel rushing toward the wreckage within seconds. Passengers were pulled clear before the situation could deteriorate further.

Police confirmed that all occupants survived, though several sustained injuries of varying severity and were rushed to South Rift Hospital for treatment. Among those on board was Environment Principal Secretary Festus Ng'eno, alongside other senior government officials whose identities had not been formally released at the time

of publication. Some uncertainty persisted over the exact number of passengers, with police citing five occupants while separate accounts from the scene suggested there may have been six.

Preliminary assessments point to poor weather conditions as a contributing factor. Heavy rains had been reported across the Kericho area at the time of the incident, raising questions about whether the flight should have proceeded at all under such conditions. Authorities have since launched formal investigations to establish the precise cause of the crash, and a full report is expected in due course.

The incident at Kericho is the latest in a deeply troubling series of aviation accidents recorded in Kenya in recent months, following fatal crashes in Samburu and Kajiado West that claimed lives and drew widespread public concern. That no one perished yesterday is a relief that should not obscure the broader pattern now emerging.

Aviation authorities and relevant government agencies owe the public a transparent and urgent response. Grounding questions, safety audits and crew protocols must be examined without delay. The skies over Kenya must be made safer — and that work cannot wait.



Wiper Democratic Movement leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka

Keeping your pet healthy: What every owner needs to know

Wiper leader arrives in London for high-level financial diplomacy talks at the House of Commons and Chatham House

BY Ann Musyoki
@themkenyaintimes

Wiper Democratic Movement leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka yesterday arrived in London for a series of high-level engagements centred on positioning Kenya as a regional financial hub, with appearances at the House of Commons and the influential Chatham House think tank signalling a deliberate shift in how the opposition is framing its approach to global economic diplomacy.

Kalonzo served as Chief Guest at a reception hosted by Rt Hon Sir Gavin Williamson MP and the Westminster Africa Business Group, themed “Kenya as a Regional Financial Hub and the Future of East African Capital Markets.” The event drew policymakers and investors to explore mechanisms for mobilising African capital toward sustainable development, with Nairobi’s potential as a continental financial nerve centre placed squarely at the heart of discussions.

The London engagements come

as Kenya’s foreign policy posture moves away from traditional aid dependency toward strategic economic partnerships — a shift that Kalonzo’s delegation appeared designed to reinforce. Officials accompanying the Wiper leader framed the visit not as a ceremonial trip but as a working mission aimed at securing concrete investment and trade linkages for the country.

Today, Kalonzo is scheduled to deliver keynote addresses at Chatham House covering the opposition’s policy outlook and its roadmap for economic recovery. The platform will test whether Kenya’s political leadership can articulate a coherent vision capable of bridging domestic governance priorities with international economic opportunity. The themes of financial integration and regional cooperation carry particular weight at a moment when East Africa is accelerating its push toward common markets and cross-border investment frameworks.

The visit also raises pointed questions about the evolving role of opposition leaders in economic diplomacy — a space historically

dominated by sitting governments. That Kalonzo is pursuing these conversations from outside government reflects both the growing sophistication of Kenya’s opposition politics and the recognition that international partners increasingly seek engagement across the political spectrum, not solely with those holding executive power.

For Kenya, the stakes are considerable. Nairobi has long harboured ambitions of becoming East Africa’s pre-eminent financial centre, a goal that requires not only domestic regulatory reforms but sustained international credibility. Engagements of this nature, pursued at the level of Westminster and Chatham House, lend weight to that ambition and signal to global capital markets that Kenya’s political class — in government and opposition alike — is prepared to make the case for the country on the world stage.

Kenya’s long-term prosperity, the delegation’s message implies, will depend as much on how effectively its leaders engage the world as on the reforms they champion at home.

Ruto calls Kenyatta a conman as Kenya's 2027 battle begins in earnest

The President's blistering North Rift offensive signals a political season of personal scores, realigning loyalties and a governing coalition fighting to hold its ground

BY David Kimani

@themkenyatimes

President William Ruto launched the most personal and unrestrained attack of his presidency against former President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday, branding him a serial political deceiver and warning opposition leaders now aligned with Kenyatta that they were courting the same betrayal he says he suffered — as Kenya's 2027 general election campaign began in all but name.

Speaking to thousands of supporters across Nandi and Uasin Gishu counties on the opening day of a ten-day North Rift development tour, Ruto abandoned the careful language of incumbency and reached instead for the raw idiom of the campaign trail. The message was pointed, personal and clearly designed to reframe the political contest ahead as a referendum on loyalty, trust and the character of the man most analysts still consider the most consequential broker in Kenyan opposition politics.

"I, William Ruto, voted for you four times. I stood with you in your quest for leadership. I stood with you in 2013 and 2017. You deceived me," Ruto told the crowd, addressing Kenyatta directly in Swahili. "You said ten years for Uhuru and ten for Ruto. When my time came, you betrayed me, you abandoned me, you told Kenyans not to vote for me."

The accusations strip away any residual pretence that the two men, who governed together for a decade and whose political partnership once seemed unbreakable, retain any relationship beyond mutual political hostility. For Ruto, the timing is deliberate. With just under a year before the August 2027 election, the President is moving to disqualify Kenyatta as a credible political sponsor before the opposition has had sufficient time to coalesce around a unified candidate.

His warning to opposition figures currently working with Kenyatta was delivered with a theatrical directness that drew roars from the North Rift faithful. "Those people running around with Uhuru Kenyatta should ask me. That man is a very big conman. If he betrayed me after I campaigned for him, will he not fin-



President William Ruto

ish them before breakfast?" The language was calculated. It was also, by the standards of Kenyan presidential rhetoric, extraordinarily blunt.

Ruto extended the charge beyond his own experience, accusing Kenyatta of having deceived former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, Wiper Democratic Movement leader Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka and former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i in succession. "You deceived Raila Odinga, you deceived Kalonzo Musyoka, you deceived Matiang'i. You are the one who sent him abroad. My friend, leave me alone," he said. The claim about Matiang'i — who departed Kenya under circumstances that remain contested — will reverberate in political circles for days.

The intervention carries significant electoral logic. Kenya's 2027 race is shaping up as a three-way contest between Ruto's Kenya Kwanza coalition, a reconstituted opposition whose shape remains fluid, and the wild card of Kenyatta's political weight, which he has so far declined to attach formally to any candidate. By portraying Kenyatta as politically toxic, Ruto is attempting to quarantine that influence before it can be

directed effectively against him.

The broader political landscape into which these attacks land is one of considerable volatility. The opposition remains fractured following the death of Raila Odinga — whose first anniversary is being marked on Thursday in Bondo, Siaya County, at a commemoration Ruto and Kenyatta are both expected to attend. That occasion will be watched intensely for signals about whether either man is prepared to modulate his public posture, or whether Thursday becomes another staging ground for the confrontation that has been building throughout the year.

Kenyatta has not responded publicly to yesterday's remarks. His allies were similarly quiet. But the political temperature his silence is now operating within has risen several degrees.

Ruto used the North Rift tour to do what incumbent presidents in democratic contests must do: appear above the fray while simultaneously conducting politics at full intensity. The development launches — roads, markets and electricity connections under the Last Mile Connectivity Programme — provided the gov-

erning optics. The Kenyatta attack provided the political substance. Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen reinforced the civic mobilisation message, urging residents to acquire national identification documents and announcing plans to launch digital birth certificates during Mashujaa Day celebrations. Kapsaret MP Oscar Sudi, accompanying the President, dismissed opposition claims about their numerical strength in the region, insisting that Ruto's support base in the North Rift remained formidable and unshaken.

That claim will be tested. Uasin Gishu and Nandi have historically been among Ruto's most reliable strongholds, and the reception he received yesterday suggests that base remains energised. But the 2027 race will not be decided in the Rift Valley alone. Ruto needs to consolidate his Mt Kenya flank, navigate the complex politics of the Coast and Western Kenya, and manage the internal dynamics of a broad governing coalition that has shown periodic signs of strain.

The opposition, meanwhile, faces its own reckoning. Without Odinga, the field lacks a figure of equivalent

national stature and cross-regional appeal. Kalonzo has positioned himself as a serious contender, as his London engagements this week — including a reception at the House of Commons on Kenya's potential as a regional financial hub — were designed to demonstrate. Other names circulate, but none has yet consolidated the kind of coalition that could credibly challenge a sitting president deploying the full resources of incumbency.

What Ruto's broadside against Kenyatta has done is clarify the emotional register of the campaign to come. This will not be a technocratic contest about economic management or service delivery, though those issues will feature in the manifesto rhetoric. It will be a deeply personal political war, shaped by old alliances, perceived treacheries and a fight over whose version of recent Kenyan political history the electorate chooses to believe.

The 2027 election is still ten months away. But in the heat of the North Rift yesterday, William Ruto made clear that he has no intention of waiting for it to begin.

Mashujaa Day A stadium full of spectators may make for a memorable occasion. Its real worth, however, will be determined by whether young athletes can train there long after the bunting comes down

Eldoret must deliver more than a ceremony

The KSh3.5B Kipchoge Keino Stadium upgrade is a test of public accountability, not just a Mashujaa Day backdrop

BY Levis Wangamati
@themtkenyatimes

Eldoret is racing against the clock ahead of Mashujaa Day, but the real measure of this national celebration will begin long after the last dignitary has left Kipchoge Keino Stadium. As workers push to complete the facility before October 20, Kenyans must look beyond the flags, speeches and ceremonial splendour to ask a harder question: what lasting value will this investment deliver to the people of Uasin Gishu and the country at large?

The stadium was reported to be 78 per cent complete as of October 12, with hundreds

of workers undertaking finishing activities ahead of the scheduled handover to event organisers on October 16. The urgency is understandable. Eldoret has earned the right to showcase its sporting heritage and economic energy. But meeting a ceremonial deadline must never overshadow the obligation to deliver a safe, functional and genuinely sustainable public facility.

A stadium full of spectators may make for a memorable occasion. Its real worth, however, will be determined by whether young athletes can train there long after the bunting comes down, whether schools can access its facilities, and whether commu-

nities across the region benefit from the investment for years to come. Public projects should be judged not by how impressive they appear on a single afternoon, but by how effectively they serve citizens over time.

The reported project cost of KSh3.517B makes this responsibility considerable. According to the State Department for Sports' 2025 budget projections, the upgrade runs from August 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026 — meaning the October celebrations arrive well before the stated completion deadline. Authorities must be transparent about what will be ready for Mashujaa Day, what remains unfin-



ished, and how spectators will be kept safely away from active construction zones. That clarity is not a bureaucratic nicety. It is a basic obligation to the public.

The stadium's history makes scrutiny especially important. Previous Auditor-General reports documented stalled works and missed completion targets across earlier construction phases. Phase I costs reportedly rose from KSh304.2M to KSh369.7M, while Phase II was contracted at KSh325.8M — both phases missing their January 2023 deadlines. Those findings concern earlier work and do not establish wrongdoing in the current upgrade. But they do underline why rigorous supervision, clear contractual obligations and independent verification cannot be treated as optional extras. The public deserves evidence that lessons from previous delays have been learned and applied.

On safety, there can be no compromise. The pressure of a national deadline must never become justification for cutting corners. Before the gates open, structural, electrical, fire-safety and operational inspections must be completed for all areas to which the public will have access. Emergency exits, crowd-control arrangements and emergency response systems must be fully operational. Where sections remain unfinished or lack safety clearance, access should be restricted without exception. No ceremonial timetable is worth a preventable tragedy.

Completing construction, of course, is only the beginning. The greater challenge is ensuring the stadium remains

operational, accessible and financially sustainable once the national spotlight moves elsewhere. Who will manage Kipchoge Keino Stadium after the celebrations? Which institution will fund routine maintenance? How will local schools, youth academies, athletics clubs and community organisations gain access? These are not secondary questions to be answered later. They are the questions on which the project's long-term value entirely depends.

Eldoret's sporting identity is among Kenya's most distinctive assets. The North Rift region has produced world-beating athletes for generations, but talent requires more than inspiration. Young people need safe training environments, qualified coaching, organised competitions and structured opportunities. A well-managed stadium could provide all of that — hosting school competitions, supporting emerging athletes and attracting events throughout the year. None of it will happen by accident. It requires deliberate planning, fair access policies and competent, accountable management.

The economic opportunity surrounding Mashujaa Day is real. Hotels, restaurants, transport operators and traders stand to benefit from increased visitor numbers, and the celebrations could strengthen Eldoret's reputation as a destination for athletics and sports tourism. Uasin Gishu, working alongside Nandi and Elgeyo Marakwet counties, has the foundation for a compelling regional sports tourism strategy. But a temporary commercial boost must not be mistaken for last-

ing transformation. The goal is to attract future events, deepen tourism networks and give visitors reason to return — not simply to fill beds for a weekend.

Mashujaa Day honours those who sacrificed to shape Kenya's history. It should equally remind today's leaders that public service is measured in tangible improvements to people's lives, not in the scale of ceremonies or the number of dignitaries in attendance. Residents of Uasin Gishu still need clean water, serviceable roads and functioning health facilities. National celebrations must strengthen the bond between government and citizens, not signal that public needs matter only when the country is watching.

The verdict on this investment will not be delivered on October 20. It will come in the months and years that follow, when the decorations are packed away and public attention drifts elsewhere. If the stadium is completed safely, managed transparently and opened meaningfully to athletes and communities, it could become a lasting tribute to Kenya's heroes. If accountability slips and maintenance is neglected, the country risks turning a potentially transformative project into an expensive backdrop for a single afternoon.

Honouring Kenya's heroes also means respecting the citizens whose taxes make national projects possible. As Eldoret prepares to welcome the nation, the challenge to its leaders is clear: deliver a celebration worthy of Kenya — but leave behind a legacy worthy of its people.

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Jobless The cycle this creates is vicious. A graduate needs employment to gain experience, but employers demand experience before offering employment

Kenya's educated jobless: A generation waiting for a chance

Degrees are multiplying, but decent work is not — and the gap between what universities teach and what employers need keeps widening

BY Collins Kibet
@themkenyatimes

Every year, Kenya's universities and colleges release thousands of graduates into a labour market that appears increasingly unable to absorb them. Degrees, diplomas and certificates that were once reliable passports to employment are no longer enough. For many young people, graduation is not the beginning of a career. It is the beginning of a long, demoralising search for an opportunity that may never arrive.

The contradiction is difficult to ignore. Kenya has invested heavily in education, promoted it as the surest path to personal advancement and national development, and asked parents to sacrifice savings, students to sacrifice years, and taxpayers to finance institutions — all on the promise that learning would eventually translate into productive livelihoods. Yet after graduation, many young people find themselves carrying certificates without employment, experience without opportunity, and ambitions without a platform on which to build. The result is a deepening sense of betrayal among a generation that was told education would change its circumstances.

The problem is not that young Kenyans lack qualifications. In many cases, it is the widening gap between what institutions teach and what the labour market actually demands. Employers seek practical experience, digital proficiency, communication skills, problem-solving capacity and specialised technical knowledge. Many graduates leave college with solid academic foundations but

limited exposure to real work-place environments. When they enter the job market, they are told they lack experience. The question that follows is both simple and brutal: how does a young person gain experience when employers are unwilling to give first-time job seekers a chance?

The cycle this creates is vicious. A graduate needs employment to gain experience, but employers demand experience before offering employment. Internship opportunities are scarce, apprenticeships are often poorly remunerated, and entry-level positions routinely attract hundreds of applicants for a handful of posts. Many qualified young people spend months — sometimes years — submitting applications without receiving meaningful responses. Some eventually accept positions far below their qualifications. Others turn to informal work simply to survive.

The situation is compounded by the rising cost of living. Searching for employment costs money. Transport to interviews, internet access for online applications, document printing and appropriate clothing all require resources that graduates from low-income households frequently do not have. For such young people, the job search itself becomes financially exhausting before it has produced a single offer. Some are forced to depend on relatives long after completing their education. Others abandon their ambitions entirely.

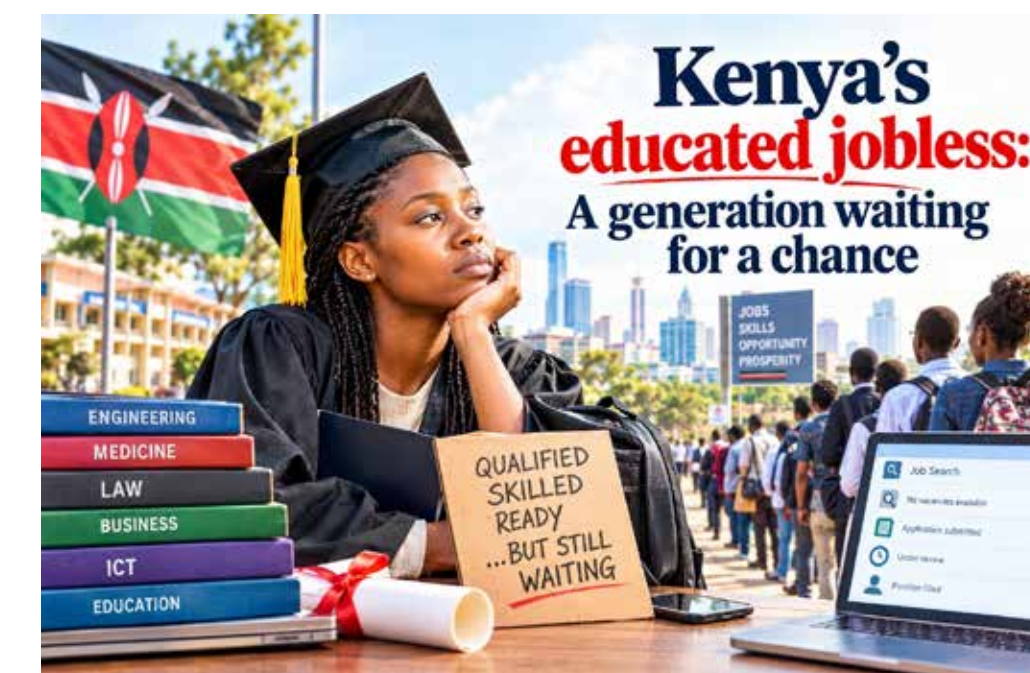
Underemployment adds another layer to the problem. Having a job does not necessarily mean having economic security. Many young Kenyans move from one short-term contract to another

— casual, temporary, poorly paid — without pension protection, medical cover or a discernible career path. A university graduate may spend years in this state, technically employed but economically precarious. The question this raises is uncomfortable but necessary: is Kenya creating employment, or is it simply creating survival arrangements?

Kenya's economy faces the structural challenge of generating enough productive work for a rapidly growing population. Agriculture, manufacturing, technology, construction and tourism all carry enormous potential, but their growth must translate into tangible opportunities for ordinary citizens. Economic expansion measured in national statistics means little to a graduate who cannot find work or build a sustainable business. Development must eventually be visible in households, workplaces and communities, or it is development in name only.

The government must treat youth employment as more than an election-cycle slogan. Policies must move beyond the announcement of programmes and establish mechanisms that produce measurable, verifiable results. Technical and vocational education needs to be strengthened, but training must be aligned directly to actual market demand rather than inherited assumptions about which skills matter. Partnerships between universities, colleges and private employers should be formalised, giving students access to meaningful internships and apprenticeships before they graduate rather than after.

The private sector carries its



own responsibility. Businesses that continuously demand experienced workers while declining to invest in developing young talent are contributing to the very shortage they complain about. Structured graduate trainee programmes and properly resourced entry-level opportunities are not acts of charity — they are investments in the future workforce and consumer base of the country. Companies that understand this tend to be the ones that grow.

Young people themselves must also adapt. Academic qualifications remain valuable, but they are more powerful when accompanied by practical and digital skills. Entrepreneurship, freelancing, online work and emerging technologies offer real alternative pathways to income, and young Kenyans are already pursuing them with considerable creativity. It would be unfair, however, to place the entire burden of solution on individual young people. Not every graduate can become an entrepreneur, and not every ambitious person has the capital or connections to

launch a business. A functioning economy must still create decent employment. Self-reliance cannot substitute for structural reform.

Kenya must also reckon honestly with corruption, favouritism and opaque recruitment practices. Young people lose faith in institutions when they believe opportunities are awarded through connections rather than competence — and in too many cases, that belief is not unfounded. Recruitment processes in both public and private sectors must be transparent, competitive and genuinely merit-based. Public institutions, in particular, have an obligation to demonstrate that qualifications and ability, not proximity to the right people, determine who gets a chance.

The country's youth are not a statistic. They are teachers, engineers, journalists, farmers, technicians, researchers, entrepreneurs and future leaders — a generation whose energy and creativity represent one of Kenya's most valuable assets. An educated generation that cannot find meaningful opportunity does

not disappear. It accumulates frustration, and frustration, left unaddressed long enough, has consequences that extend well beyond economics.

Kenya cannot afford to waste its human capital. The question is no longer whether young people are educated enough. It is whether the economy is generating enough opportunities to put that education to use. If thousands of graduates continue entering unemployment and underemployment each year, the country risks transforming education from a ladder of opportunity into a certificate of disappointment.

Kenya's youth do not need sympathy. They need opportunity — an economy that rewards competence, creates decent jobs and gives every young person a fair chance to build a future. The measure of the country's progress should not simply be how many students graduate each year. It should be how many of those graduates can eventually stand on their own, earn a dignified living and contribute meaningfully to the nation they were educated to serve.



Anti-corruption The traditional approach to fighting corruption has concentrated, understandably, on the institutions empowered to investigate, prosecute, regulate and punish offenders

Kenya's anti-corruption war is losing ground where it matters most: Fund the citizens who can protect public money

"The ultimate test of a government's commitment to fighting corruption is not how loudly it condemns corruption, but how effectively it empowers citizens to prevent public money from being stolen, wasted or diverted from its intended purpose."



BY Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo

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Kenya's war against corruption has reached a point where the country must confront an uncomfortable question: can we defeat a problem that flourishes within communities, public institutions and development projects while leaving ordinary citizens at the margins of the fight? For decades, the country has invested in constitutional safeguards, legislation, investigative agencies, prosecution, international conventions and elaborate regulatory frameworks. These remain indispensable pillars of accountability. Yet corruption persists, public confidence is strained, and citizens continue to encounter development projects whose promises appear considerably greater than their results. The problem, therefore, is not simply whether Kenya has enough laws and institutions. It is whether the architecture of accountability reaches the places where public money is actually spent and where the consequences of its misuse are most painfully experienced.

This is why the work of the Attorney-General's Office,

through the Department of Justice and Human Rights, the National Anti-Corruption Campaign Steering Committee (NACCSC) and its affiliated County Anti-Corruption Civilian Oversight Committees (CACCOCs), deserves far greater national recognition, institutional support and financial investment. Their community-centred approach offers an opportunity to bridge the persistent divide between the formal machinery of government accountability and the lived experiences of the citizens whom that machinery is supposed to protect. Kenya cannot win the war against corruption by treating citizens as spectators to the management of their own resources.

The traditional approach to fighting corruption has concentrated, understandably, on the institutions empowered to investigate, prosecute, regulate and punish offenders. However, by the time a scandal reaches national headlines, public money may already have disappeared, a contractor may have abandoned a project, or intended beneficiaries may have endured years of deprivation. A dispensary remains unfinished. A community water project fails to deliver a reliable supply. Farmers wait for agricultural inputs that were budgeted for and supposedly procured. A school project consumes substantial resources but delivers less than the public was promised. In each case, the people

living with the consequences often possess valuable information about what happened, yet lack the knowledge, confidence or institutional channels to make that information count.

The grassroots approach offers a different starting point. Instead of waiting for public resources to be lost before accountability begins, it encourages citizens to participate in preventing losses, identifying warning signs and monitoring implementation as it happens. Properly trained and facilitated, community oversight structures can help residents understand project budgets, compare promised deliverables with actual results, document discrepancies and refer credible concerns to the competent authorities. They can equally identify projects that are working, recognise honest public servants and contractors, and provide evidence that helps distinguish genuine government achievements from individual failures.

This approach is firmly aligned with Kenya's constitutional philosophy. Article 10 of the Constitution establishes accountability, good governance and public participation as national values. Article 201 requires openness and accountability in public finance, while Article 232 promotes accountability for administrative actions. These provisions should mean more than formal compliance at government offices. They



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should empower a citizen in a remote village to ask whether the money allocated to a public project produced the promised benefit.

The NACCSC's published mandate provides an institutional foundation for this work, encompassing public education, research, resource mobilisation, complaints-related functions, corruption-risk identification and county-level campaign structures. Its affiliated civilian oversight committees can help translate these responsibilities into practical community engagement. Internationally, Article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption similarly calls for active participation by individuals and groups outside the public sector in preventing and combating corruption. Kenya is therefore not pursuing an isolated experiment; it is advancing a principle recognised within the international anti-corruption framework.

The urgency is reinforced by evidence. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission's National Ethics and Corruption Survey 2024 reported that 97.2 per cent of bribery incidents went unreported. This finding exposes a disturbing gap between the experience of corruption and the willingness or ability to report it. Fear of retaliation, distrust and uncertainty about reporting mechanisms can silence people who might otherwise help expose wrongdoing. Community-based structures cannot eliminate these bar-

riers overnight, but they can help build awareness, create trusted referral pathways and reconnect citizens with the formal institutions responsible for acting on credible allegations.

The question that follows is unavoidable: if Kenya recognises the value of citizen participation, why should the institutions facilitating it be expected to operate without the resources necessary to make that participation meaningful?

NACCSC and CACCOCs cannot be sustained by goodwill, unpaid commitment and occasional meetings alone. Meaningful oversight requires trained personnel, transport for field visits, accessible public forums, communication facilities, documentation tools, reliable referral procedures and periodic reporting. Citizens cannot effectively monitor projects across vast geographical areas when those expected to coordinate the work lack even the basic means to reach communities and verify concerns. To celebrate citizen vigilance while withholding the resources needed to sustain it would be to praise the destination while deliberately weakening the journey.

The national government should therefore provide predictable, transparent and adequate funding, supported by a clear operational framework. Parliament, the Treasury and the relevant oversight institutions should examine the resources required to enable the committees to perform their

lawful functions effectively. County governments should explore permissible partnerships, appropriately budgeted public education activities and other lawful avenues of support, without compromising the committees' independence or turning them into instruments of political patronage.

The economic case for investment is particularly compelling. Consider a public project whose value is substantially undermined by inflated costs, poor workmanship, fictitious deliveries or avoidable implementation failures. If timely community scrutiny exposes the problem before the entire allocation is lost, the value protected could exceed the cost of monitoring many times over. Early intervention may also prevent expensive remedial works, stalled services, protracted investigations and the social damage caused when citizens lose faith in public institutions.

The precise financial return must, of course, be established through credible monitoring and independent evaluation rather than unsupported promises. NACCSC should publish measurable indicators showing the projects monitored, concerns referred, corrective actions secured, verified losses prevented or recovered, and improvements in service delivery. Such evidence would estab-

Pet “Pet health is not something you attend to only in a crisis,” Okinyi explains. “It is a daily commitment — to observation, to understanding, and to early intervention.”

Keeping your pet healthy: What every owner needs to know

From arthritis to aggression, veterinarian Dr. Linnet Okinyi breaks down the most common challenges facing pets — and how to handle them

BY Stephen Ochieng
@themtkenyatimes

For most pet owners, their animals are not merely companions — they are family. The bond between a person and a well-loved dog or cat runs deep, which is why pet health is a matter that deserves serious attention, not just occasional visits to the vet when something goes wrong. Dr. Linnet Okinyi, a veterinarian and the chief ex-

ecutive of Sulwe Vet Organisation, has built her career on exactly that philosophy. Her clinic focuses on diagnosing and treating common pet diseases, managing behavioural challenges and helping owners understand what their animals genuinely need to thrive. “Pet health is not something you attend to only in a crisis,” Okinyi explains. “It is a daily commitment — to observation, to understanding, and to early intervention.” That outlook shapes everything her

organisation does, and it is the right place for any pet owner to start.

Arthritis is one of the conditions Okinyi sees most frequently, particularly in older dogs. As joints deteriorate with age, pets experience pain and stiffness that makes movement increasingly difficult. An arthritic dog may be slower to rise in the morning, reluctant to climb stairs or visibly uncomfortable after exercise. The condition is manageable through



Dr. Linnet Okinyi

a combination of pain relief medication, controlled weight loss to reduce pressure on affected joints and appropriate joint supplements. Owners who notice these signs should consult a veterinarian promptly, because early intervention makes a significant difference to the animal’s quality of life.

Dental disease is another condition that receives far less attention than it deserves. Bad breath in a pet is not simply unpleasant — it is frequently a warning sign of gum disease, tooth decay or infection. Left untreated, dental problems can cause serious pain and tooth loss, and the bacteria involved can affect other organ systems. The solution is straightforward: regular professional dental cleanings, daily tooth brushing where possible, and the use of dental chews that help reduce plaque buildup. It is one of those areas where consistent prevention is far easier than the treatment it avoids.

Skin allergies are particularly common in both dogs and cats. They cause persistent itching, scratching and hair loss, and they are often frustrating to resolve because identifying the specific trigger requires patience and sometimes specialist investigation. Allergens can range from certain foods and grasses to dust mites and grooming products. Treatment typically involves identifying and eliminating the allergen where possible, applying topical creams to reduce inflammation and, where necessary, prescribing antihistamines. Okinyi stresses that

untreated skin allergies cause real suffering, and owners who notice their pets scratching persistently should not wait to seek advice.

Ear infections are equally worth watching for. They manifest as ear pain, frequent scratching at the ears and visible discharge, and they can become seriously uncomfortable if left unaddressed. Treatment involves thorough ear cleaning, application of prescribed ear drops and antibiotics in more severe or persistent cases. Regular ear checks as part of a pet’s routine care can catch infections early, before they become entrenched.

Beyond physical health, Okinyi places considerable emphasis on managing pet behaviour — particularly aggression, which she regards as one of the most misunderstood challenges facing pet owners. Aggression in pets is rarely simple bad temper. It is most commonly a response to an underlying cause: pain, fear, territorial instinct or a past experience the animal has not recovered from. An aggressive pet is often a distressed one, and treating the behaviour without understanding the root cause rarely works.

The first step, Okinyi advises, is always a veterinary consultation to rule out any medical condition that may be driving the behaviour. Pain in particular is a frequent and overlooked trigger. Once medical causes are excluded or addressed, behavioural modification becomes the focus

— and this is where patience, consistency and professional guidance matter most. Certified animal behaviourists and experienced trainers can develop customised plans that address the specific triggers affecting a particular pet, replacing aggressive responses with calmer, more manageable ones over time.

The environment in which a pet lives also plays a larger role in behaviour than many owners appreciate. Animals need quiet spaces to retreat to, reduced exposure to startling noises and a sense of security within their surroundings. Rewarding calm, obedient behaviour through treats, praise and affection reinforces what owners want to see more of. Positive reinforcement, applied consistently, is one of the most effective tools available — and it strengthens rather than strains the bond between owner and animal.

What emerges from Okinyi’s approach is a picture of pet ownership as an active and informed responsibility. Understanding the diseases most likely to affect your animal, recognising the early signs, seeking help without delay and creating a stable, nurturing environment are not extras — they are the foundation. A healthy, well-cared-for pet is a happier companion, and the effort invested in that care is returned many times over.

Stephen Ochieng, is a communication and Public Relations Student, Rongo University



The wisdom of stepping back



Sometimes the road to moving on
Begins by turning back a while,
Not every backward step is loss,
Nor every pause denies the mile.

Look at the archer calm and still,
He pulls the bowstring far behind,
The farther back the arrow goes,
The greater the forward flight it finds.

So step back, not in defeat,
But to see where you went wrong;
To mend the cracks, correct the course,
And gather courage to move strong.

Retrace your steps with honest eyes,
Let yesterday become your guide,

A mistake, when wisely understood,
Can be a compass, not a tide.

Polish the plan, repair the flaws,
Relearn what haste forgot to see,
For sometimes progress needs a pause
To shape the person we must be.

The river bends before it flows,
The seed retreats beneath the ground,
The eagle rises only after
Its wings have mastered every bound.

So never fear the step behind,
It may be preparation's art;
For every thoughtful step backward
Can launch you closer to your heart.

Step back, reflect, repair, renew,
Then rise with vision, strength and grace
For sometimes the wisest way ahead
Begins by retracing your own pace.

Nandini Anandkumar
Educator, Writer, Motivator

If my pencil could talk



When I was two years old,
My pencil asked me to scribble something,
And my scribbling turned into a beautiful drawing.

When I was three years old,
My pencil asked me to colour the pictures,
The beautiful apple, orange and some portraits.

When I was five years old,
My pencil asked me to write alphabets in Tamil
and English, and numbers,
My notebooks were filled with stars and ice
creams.

When I was eleven years old,
My pencil asked me to write colossal sentences,

Suggesting that I elevate myself by writing with
a pen.

But it advised me to think before I leap,
Because when I make any mistakes,
The pencil's friend, the eraser, will be unable to
help me.

Then I completely switched to a pen,
But I didn't forget to draw portraits,
With my beloved pencils.

Now, after forty,
The pencil still says,
"I am always there to learn with you".

- N. KANCHANAPRIYA
Sg teacher
Pups Alangattuvalasu
Pallipalayam union
Namakkal district
Tamilnadu

The fear of the unknown



What will be there?
In the darkest night of the year,
I peep out to see
The tall trees with their leaves.

An unlit road sends fear through me,
My mind searches for a beacon,
But fails to find one.
I run tirelessly to unravel the mystery,
The sound of an owl adds feathers to fear.
I find a house where no one lives,
Afraid to move, even a bit.
Stars twinkle in the sky,
A horror-filled night I have never known.

Viji T.
Cw. Writer.
Namakkal
Tamilnadu
India



Sometimes the bravest move is not to race,
But to step back, to pause, to find your place.
The world says "Go! Keep moving fast!"
But wisdom knows that haste won't last.

Like the archer who pulls the string back low,

To give the arrow farther to go.
One step behind is not defeat,
It gives your soul the strength to meet.

So when you're stuck, don't push in fear,
Step back, breathe, and see more clear.
For sometimes, to go forward true,
You must step back to see the view.

- K. A. Santhoshi
9th std
Government Model Girls Higher Secondary
School, Komarapalayam, Namakkal district,
Tamilnadu. 638183.

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Gives us a keener emotional interpersonal return

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The small beginning, the best relief for any burden

Shaping our thoughts with magical words
Polishing our behaviour in every possible way
Conceiving clearer thoughts every single day
Carefully removing the hurting swords

N. SIVASANKARI
CREATIVE WRITER
TEACHER IN ENGLISH
MADURAI DISTRICT TAMILNADU



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life lessons.
So, remember that a good book can change your
life.

___ G. Yasmin Sirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

Anti-corruption The traditional approach to fighting corruption has concentrated, understandably, on the institutions empowered to investigate, prosecute, regulate and punish offenders

Kenya’s anti-corruption war is losing ground where it matters most: Fund the citizens who can protect public money

Contd from page 12

lish whether the programme delivers value for money. It would also demonstrate that the institutions promoting accountability are themselves accountable.

Funding alone, however, will not unlock the initiative’s full potential. Legal and institutional empowerment is equally necessary. NACCSC and CACCOCs need clearly defined responsibilities, transparent appointment procedures, protection against political interference, appropriate access to public information, safe channels for good-faith reporting and dependable referral arrangements with legally authorised investigative and oversight bodies. Their members must be protected against intimidation when raising legitimate concerns. At the same time,



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allegations must be handled responsibly, confidentiality respected and the rights of accused persons protected. Community committees must not become alternative courts, political weapons or instruments for settling personal scores.

The highest offices in the land have an important responsibility to give this work the visibility and political goodwill it deserves. The Presiden-

cy, the Attorney-General and Parliament should recognise citizen-centred corruption prevention as an essential component of national development, rather than a peripheral public education activity. Such support must be expressed through sustained funding, appropriate legal safeguards, institutional co-ordination and public recognition of the committees’ contribution. Political goodwill

should protect their independence, not dictate whom they investigate or which findings they publish.

There is also a larger national opportunity. Kenya needs a credible way to identify and celebrate development champions from the communities where public programmes are implemented. Citizens should help identify the public servants who deliver honestly, the contractors who honour

their obligations, the community leaders who protect public assets and the programmes that genuinely transform lives. Where evidence establishes misconduct, the responsible authorities should act through due process. Where projects succeed, their achievements should be documented and recognised. This distinction would help separate the legitimate performance of government from the wrongdoing of individual actors, allowing citizens to judge public programmes on evidence rather than political rhetoric.

Ultimately, the success of this approach will be measured not by the number of workshops held, banners displayed or speeches delivered, but by public money protected, projects completed, services improved and citizens who regain confidence that their voices matter. A farmer should be able to question undelivered inputs. A parent

should be able to follow the progress of a school project. A resident should be able to establish whether a promised water scheme works. These are not acts of hostility towards government. They are acts of responsible citizenship.

Kenya has invested heavily in building the formal architecture of accountability. The next frontier is to connect that architecture to the people who see development unfold at the grassroots. NACCSC and CACCOCs deserve adequate resources, stronger lawful institutional support, greater public visibility and the political goodwill necessary to fulfil their preventive mandate. The country should give them the opportunity to demonstrate, through measurable results, how citizen participation can protect public resources and strengthen confidence in government.

“Public money belongs to the people, and its protection cannot be left to institutions alone. When citizens are empowered to question, verify and defend the use of their resources, corruption loses the silence in which it thrives—and development gains the trust on which it depends.”

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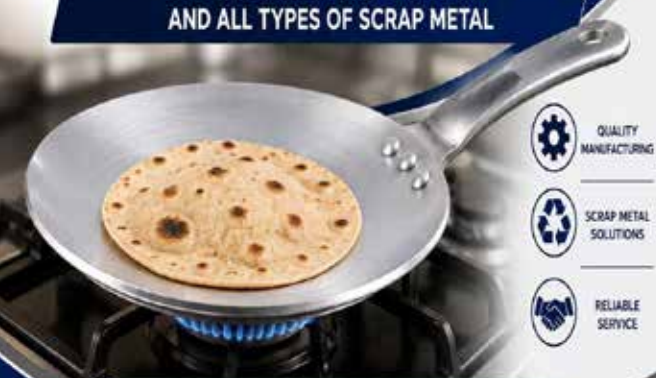
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Education Kenya's ongoing university lecturers' strike has emptied classrooms and thrown academic schedules into uncertainty

When lectures stop, student lives stand still

Kenya's university strike is not just an industrial dispute — it is a crisis landing hardest on the young people least able to absorb it

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themtkenyentimes

A university is more than a collection of lecture halls and libraries. It is the place where young people build futures, discover abilities and prepare to take their place in the country's economic and social life. For many students, it represents years of sacrifice — their own and that of parents who have stretched modest incomes, exhausted savings and taken on debt in the hope of something better. When that institution suddenly grinds to a halt, the cost is not measured in missed lectures alone. It is measured in disrupted lives, strained households and a quiet, accumulating anxiety that no academic calendar can easily repair.

Kenya's ongoing university lecturers' strike has emptied classrooms and thrown academic schedules into uncertainty. For students, the familiar rhythm of lectures, assignments and examination preparation has been replaced by long, unstructured days. Hostels that should sit between classes now function as waiting rooms, and the only announcements students can depend on are those confirming that nothing has yet been resolved.

Some students will use the break productively — picking up new skills, pursuing internships, reading ahead or developing small enterprises. Many others will struggle without structure, not out of laziness but because they are young people caught in a situation they did not create and cannot resolve. The distinction matters. The temptation to dismiss idle students as undisciplined ignores the reality that discipline is far easier to maintain when tomorrow has a clear shape. When it does



UASU protests

not, the postponements accumulate.

The risks of prolonged inactivity are real and should be acknowledged honestly. University life already exposes young adults to new social environments and the full weight of independent decision-making. When lectures disappear and days lose their structure, some students — particularly those already managing stress, loneliness or financial pressure — may find themselves in environments where alcohol and other substances offer the easiest escape. This is not a condemnation of students as a generation. It is a recognition that vulnerability increases when support systems thin out and constructive alternatives are absent.

Relationships and major personal decisions are also affected in ways that rarely feature in industrial dispute coverage. Extended time in hostels, away from academic routine, can create conditions in which important choices are made impulsively — decisions about cohabitation, early marriage or parenthood that deserve far more considered circumstances. Young people are still shaping their identities. A disrupted routine is a poor moment to be making commitments with lifelong

consequences.

Behind every student sitting idle is a financial story that deserves attention. Rent does not pause because lectures have. Food must still be bought. Families on modest incomes continue to send money they can barely spare, sometimes without fully understanding why their student remains on campus without attending class. Students whose graduation timelines have shifted face disrupted employment plans, delayed entry into the labour market and the quiet frustration of watching carefully laid plans unravel through no fault of their own.

None of this diminishes the legitimate concerns of lecturers. Staff welfare, fair remuneration and sustainable working conditions are not peripheral matters — they are central to the functioning of any credible academic institution. But students must not become the forgotten casualties of a dispute they have no power to resolve. Every additional week of inactivity has consequences for learning continuity, mental health, family finances and young people's faith in the education system.

The government, university managements and lecturers' unions must negotiate

with genuine urgency. Clear communication, honest timelines and concrete recovery plans would go some way toward reducing the sense of abandonment that students currently feel. Universities should also consider what practical support is possible in the interim — access to learning materials, independent study guidance, counselling services, information about legitimate skills development opportunities. These cannot replace teaching, but they signal that the institution still considers its students worth attending to even when the doors are technically closed.

Students, for their part, are not powerless. Maintaining a

daily routine — even a modest one built around reading, revision or a practical skill — preserves academic discipline and provides structure when the institution has withdrawn it. Rest and social connection are legitimate and necessary, but every day need not be surrendered to waiting. Volunteering, short courses, community engagement and creative work are all within reach for students who choose to look for them. And when the uncertainty becomes genuinely overwhelming, seeking support from family, counsellors or trusted mentors is not weakness. It is good judgment.

A lecturers' strike is typically

framed as a dispute between employers, employees and the government. That framing is accurate but incomplete. At its edges sit tens of thousands of young Kenyans whose futures are being quietly disrupted while negotiations proceed at a pace that seems indifferent to the clock they are running against.

When lecture halls fall silent, the consequences do not stay on campus. They travel home with students, settle into family kitchens and sit alongside parents doing arithmetic they did not expect to be doing at this stage of their children's education.

The question is not simply how long students will remain out of class. It is how much uncertainty a generation must absorb before the institutions entrusted with their futures decide that enough is enough. Because when lectures stop, the clock does not. And young people continue to grow older while waiting for an education they have already paid dearly to receive.




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Health PTSD can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender or perceived strength. Its symptoms fall broadly into four categories

The long road back: How to conquer PTSD

For millions living with the silent aftermath of trauma, healing is possible — but it begins with understanding

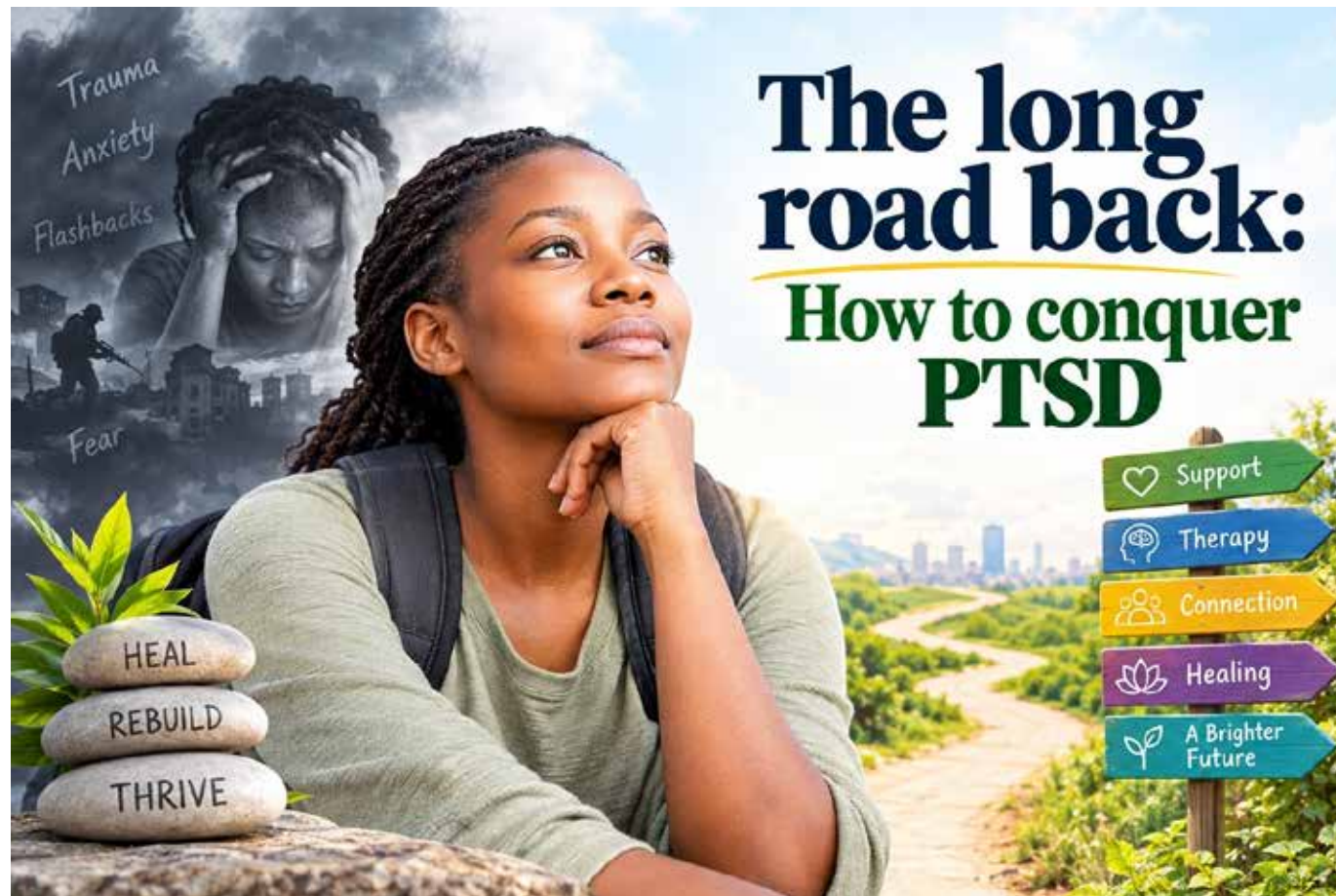


By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi
@themkenyatimes

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is not a sign of weakness. It is a normal response to an abnormal event — what happens when the mind and body are unable to process a terrifying experience and remain locked in survival mode long after the danger has passed. In Kenya and around the world, PTSD follows road accidents, gender-based violence, childhood abuse, bereavement, medical emergencies, political violence and the simple but shattering experience of witnessing something no human being should ever have to see. The event may be over, but the nervous system has not yet received the message.

PTSD can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender or perceived strength. Its symptoms fall broadly into four categories. Re-experiencing occurs when flashbacks, nightmares or intrusive memories make the trauma feel as though it is happening all over again. Avoidance leads survivors to steer clear of people, places, conversations or thoughts that carry any association with the original event. Negative changes in mood and thinking produce feelings of numbness, guilt, hopelessness or persistent self-blame. Hyperarousal keeps the person permanently on edge — easily startled, irritable, unable to sleep or concentrate. These symptoms often surface weeks or months after the trauma and, left unaddressed, can persist for years. When they have lasted more than a month and are disrupting daily life, professional support is not optional. It is essential.

Healing, however, cannot begin until safety is established. This means physical safety —



distance from the person or situation that caused harm — and emotional safety, the assurance of being around people who listen without judging or demanding that you simply move on. Many survivors exhaust themselves trying to appear strong, projecting a composure they do not feel. True strength, though, lies in the honesty of saying: I was hurt, and I need help. Building a daily routine, creating a calm space at home, and reducing exposure to violent or triggering media content all help the nervous system begin, slowly, to settle.

Once that foundation is in place, it becomes important to understand that PTSD lives in both the mind and the body. Trauma freezes experience at a physical level, which is why talking alone is frequently not enough. The body needs to be brought into the healing process. Breathing exercises are a powerful starting point. When a flashback or panic attack arrives, breathing becomes rapid and shallow, signalling danger to the brain. Slow diaphragmatic breathing

— inhaling deeply through the nose for four counts, exhaling through the mouth for six — interrupts that signal and begins to restore calm. Grounding techniques serve a similar purpose. When a person feels pulled back into the trauma, the five-four-three-two-one method — naming five things you can see, four you can touch, three you can hear, two you can smell, one you can taste — anchors the mind in the present. Splashing cold water on the face or pressing both feet firmly into the floor can achieve the same effect. Regular physical activity, whether walking, running, dancing or farming, helps burn off excess adrenaline and rebuilds the body's sense of its own agency.

As the body steadies, healing requires something more demanding: processing the memory itself. Avoidance keeps PTSD alive. The brain needs to gently confront what happened so it can finally file the experience as past rather than present. This should not be attempted alone. Evidence-based therapy is the

most effective path through it. Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy helps survivors identify and challenge distorted thinking — the belief that the event was their fault, or that the world is irredeemably dangerous. Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing, known as EMDR, enables the brain to reprocess traumatic memories so they become less vivid and less debilitating over time. Narrative Exposure Therapy, widely used across Africa, helps survivors construct a coherent account of their lives in which the trauma has a place but does not define the whole story. These approaches are available through psychologists and psychiatrists at county referral hospitals, private facilities and organisations including Amani Counselling Centre, Chiromo Hospital Group, Befrienders Kenya and Kenya Red Cross psychosocial support teams. Seeking therapy is not madness. It is wisdom.

Rebuilding connection is equally central to recovery. Trauma isolates. Shame —

the belief that no one will understand, that what happened marks you as different or broken — thrives in silence. It heals in community. Reconnecting with trusted people, whether through a survivor support group, a faith community, a respected elder or a friend willing to listen without rushing to offer solutions, gradually reduces the power of isolation. Sharing your story in small, manageable portions lightens its hold. Faith, prayer and cultural ritual can be profound sources of healing when they affirm rather than shame. Many survivors also find that helping others — through service, advocacy or mentoring — transforms pain into purpose, and purpose into resilience.

Forgiveness, frequently misunderstood in the context of PTSD, deserves a careful word. It does not mean excusing what happened. It does not require reconciliation with someone who remains dangerous. It means, simply, releasing yourself from the weight of carrying another person's offence indefinitely.

ly. It is a personal decision, arrived at in personal time, and should never be forced or rushed by anyone outside the survivor's own journey.

Long-term recovery demands patience. Healing is not a straight line. Anniversaries, a particular sound, a familiar smell — any of these can surface a memory months after significant progress has been made. That is not failure. It is the nervous system asking for more time and care. Resilience is built steadily, through consistent sleep, regular meals, reduced use of alcohol and substances that numb without healing, and the daily practice of self-compassion — speaking to yourself with the same gentleness you would offer a dear friend who had been deeply hurt. Small victories matter: sleeping through the night, returning to a market previously avoided, telling your story for the first time. Celebrate them.

If thoughts of self-harm arise, if hopelessness becomes total, or if alcohol or drugs have become the only way to cope, reach out immediately. The Kenya Red Cross toll-free line is 1199. Befrienders Kenya can be reached at 0722 178 177. The nearest hospital emergency department is always an option. You do not have to face this alone.

PTSD is conquerable. Thousands of people who once lived with nightmares, constant fear and intrusive memories now live full, productive and joyful lives. They did not heal by forgetting. They healed by learning to remember without reliving — by calming their bodies, reprocessing their memories with professional guidance, rebuilding their connections and finding new meaning in what remained. Healing does not erase the past. It restores your power over your present and your future. If you are still in the middle of this journey, hold on. Your story is not over.

Justice Centuries later, the trial of Jesus Christ stands as perhaps the most profound example of injustice shaped by political expediency

When justice fails: Men who faced unjust trials but won history

From Socrates to Mandela, the courtroom has often been a stage for power — not truth

BY Ashford Kimani
@themtkenyaintimes

Courtrooms are designed to be sanctuaries of justice — places where truth is weighed, evidence examined, and fairness upheld. Yet history repeatedly shows that trials are not always about justice. Sometimes they become instruments of power, fear and control. In such moments, the accused are not criminals in the true sense; they are individuals who threaten the status quo. Across centuries and continents, men have faced unjust trials, only for history to vindicate them long after their condemnation.

The story begins with Socrates, one of the earliest recorded victims of judicial injustice. In 399 BCE, he was charged with corrupting the youth of Athens and impiety — accusations that concealed a deeper discomfort. Socrates questioned authority, dismantled false wisdom and encouraged independent thought. In a society still reeling from political instability, his ideas were seen as dangerous. His trial was swift, his defence unapologetic, and his sentence final: death by hemlock. He chose to accept the verdict rather than flee, cementing his legacy as a martyr for intellectual freedom.

Centuries later, the trial of Jesus Christ stands as perhaps the most profound example of injustice shaped by political expediency. Arrested on religious charges but executed under Roman authority, his case exposed the collision between faith, power and public pressure. Pontius Pilate, the presiding governor, reportedly found no basis for execution, yet yielded to the crowd's demands. The result was crucifixion — driven less by law than by fear of instability. The trial is remembered not for its legality, but for its moral failure.

In the realm of science, Galileo Galilei suffered for



presenting truth before society was ready to accept it. In 1633, the Roman Catholic Church tried him for supporting heliocentrism — the assertion that the Earth revolves around the Sun — a position that contradicted Church doctrine and threatened its authority. Galileo was forced to recant and lived the remainder of his life under house arrest. His trial underscores a recurring theme: institutions resist ideas that undermine their control, even when those ideas are empirically sound.

The injustice of the legal system is perhaps most stark when prejudice takes hold. The case of Alfred Dreyfus in late 19th-century France illustrates this vividly. Falsely accused of passing military secrets to Germany in a climate of rampant anti-Semitism, Dreyfus was convicted on fabricated evidence. His case divided the nation, sparking fierce debate about justice, identity and state power. He was eventually exonerated, but the damage to his life — and to France's moral fabric — was profound and lasting.

In colonial and racially segregated societies, trials were frequently tools of oppression. Mahatma Gandhi faced multiple prosecutions under British rule, most notably for

sedition in 1922. His real offence was mobilising millions through nonviolent resistance. Gandhi did not deny his actions; instead, he challenged the legitimacy of the laws themselves. His trial exposed a fundamental contradiction: when laws are unjust, obedience becomes complicity.

Nelson Mandela stood before court during the Rivonia Trial fully aware that the verdict was predetermined. Charged with sabotage, Mandela used the courtroom as a platform to expose the moral bankruptcy of apartheid. His life sentence symbolised the regime's fear; his eventual presidency marked history's decisive reversal of that judgment.

In the United States, Martin Luther King Jr. encountered a legal system that frequently criminalised dissent. Arrested numerous times on charges ranging from minor infractions to orchestrated accusations, his trials were less about law enforcement and more about suppressing the civil rights movement. His imprisonment in Birmingham became a defining moment, producing one of history's most powerful defences of civil disobedience. King's experiences reveal how legal systems can be manipulated to maintain social hierarchies.

Not all unjust trials were rooted in politics. Some were driven purely by societal prejudice. Oscar Wilde was prosecuted in 1895 for "gross

indecentcy" — a charge stemming from his homosexuality. Victorian England's moral rigidity turned his private life into a criminal matter. The trial destroyed his career and led to imprisonment, a grave injustice now widely acknowledged as emblematic of how law can enforce conformity rather than deliver justice.

Even in modern contexts, questions of fairness persist. The trial of Saddam Hussein illustrates the complexity of justice in politically charged environments. While few dispute the severity of his actions, critics argue that the legal process itself was flawed — marked by interference, instability and procedural shortcomings. The case is a reminder that justice is not only about the outcome but about the integrity of the process.

Across these cases, a consistent pattern emerges. Un-

just trials occur when legal systems are subordinated to power, prejudice or fear. Yet history has a way of revisiting such moments. Time exposes the weaknesses of flawed judgments and restores the reputations of those wronged.

What makes these stories enduring is not merely the injustice suffered, but the response of the accused. Many used their trials as platforms — opportunities to articulate truth, challenge authority and inspire change. In doing so, they transformed personal suffering into collective progress.

Ultimately, unjust trials force a critical question: is legality synonymous with justice? The answer, as history demonstrates, is often no. Laws can be manipulated, courts pressured and verdicts corrupted. But truth outlasts any ruling. The men who stood condemned in their time are now remembered as pioneers, reformers and moral leaders. Their trials, once instruments of suppression, have become testimonies of resilience — and reminders that justice, though delayed, is rarely denied forever.

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Marriage For two decades, we did a good thing badly. We said, empower the girl child. Take her to school. Give her capital. Protect her. We were right to do so

God had to break your marriage to save your mother's house

How Tamar, Rahab, Abigail and Esther prove that sometimes a daughter must return home so her father's house can survive



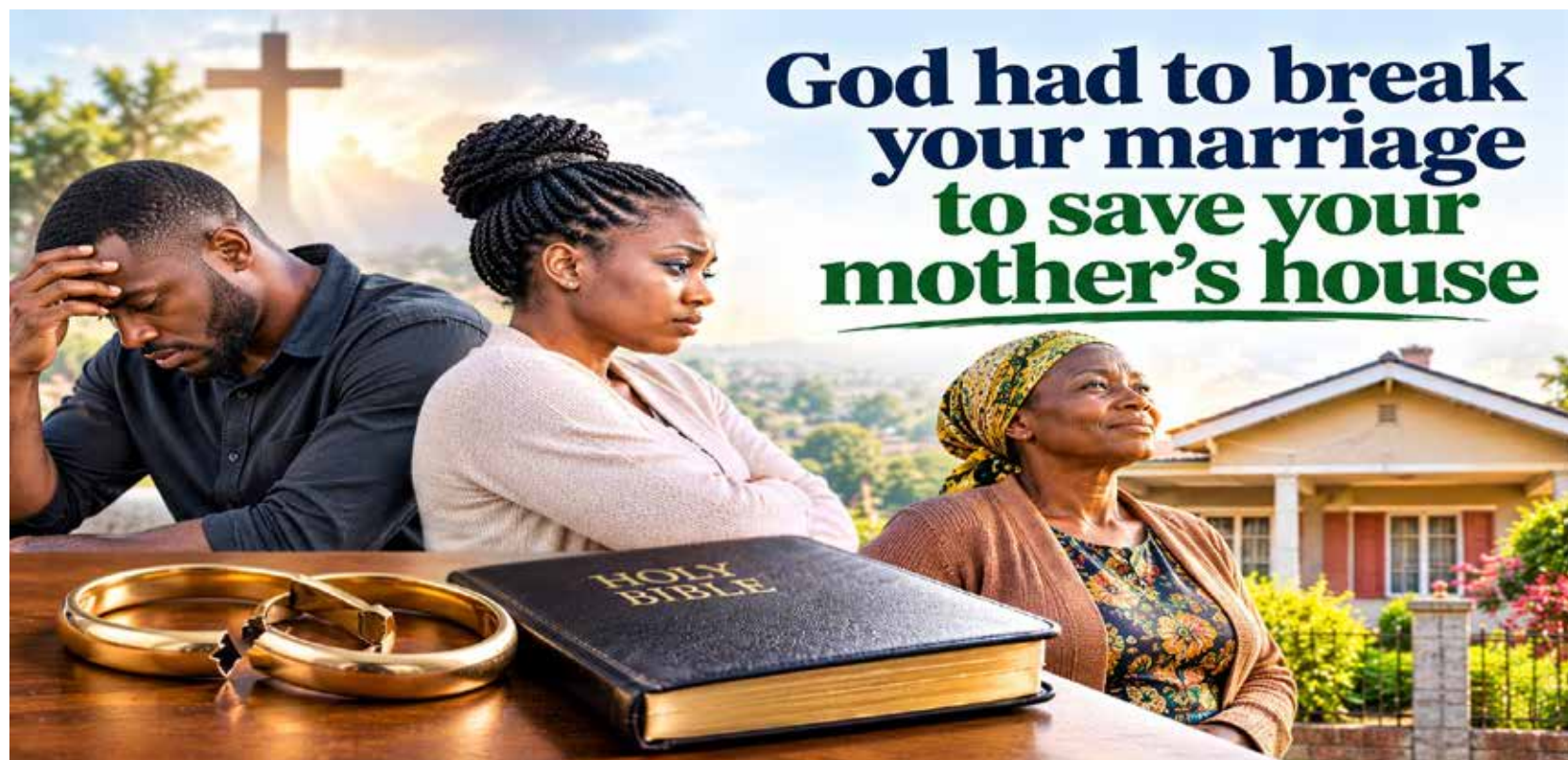
By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
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Have you considered that we failed the boy child? We empowered the girl child and forgot her brother. Now our daughters return home with suitcases — not because they failed, but because we gave them boys to marry instead of men.

We also misread Chinua Achebe. He wrote: “When a man loses his way, he returns to his mother. When a woman loses her way, she returns to save her mother.” For years we read that as a statement about gender. It was not. Achebe was raised on the Bible and on Igbo proverbs. In that tradition, “man” does not mean a bearded male. It means mankind. Genesis 1:27 confirms it — God created mankind, male and female, in his own image. The Hebrew is Adam. Humanity. Genesis 5:2 says plainly: “He called them Mankind.”

When Achebe says a man who loses his way returns to his mother, he means any human being who loses their way returns to the source — to be reset, restored, remembered. And that is exactly where we are today. Our society has lost its way, and our daughters are returning home to reset us.

For two decades, we did a good thing badly. We said, empower the girl child. Take her to school. Give her capital. Protect her. We were right to do so. But in the noise of that empowerment, we forgot her brother entirely. The boy child was left on the boda boda, left to drop out, left to believe that because he was male, he would simply survive. Nobody taught him to be faithful, to manage anger, to provide, to lead without raising a fist, to stay when marriage gets difficult. So our daughters — educated, independent, capable — married boys in men's bodies. And when those marriages broke, the village whispered that she had failed to



keep a man. No. The village failed to raise a man worth keeping.

This is not merely a marriage crisis. It is a national prophecy. And the Bible already showed us what happens when the boy child is abandoned.

Tamar married Er, Judah's firstborn, who was so wicked God took his life. She then married Onan, who was selfish and irresponsible — God took him too. By law, a childless widow returned to her father's house. So Tamar returned, empty and mocked, washing plates while younger sisters married before her. But from that place of apparent shame, she rose with wisdom and gave birth to Perez. From Perez came David. From David came Jesus. Matthew 1:3. As Maya Angelou observed, it may be necessary to encounter defeat so you discover what you are capable of rising from. Tamar's return was not her ending. It was her repositioning. What God intended to birth through her could not be born in an immature boy's house.

Rahab was called a prostitute in Jericho — condemned quickly and without curiosity about why. She became what men paid for because no boy in her community had been raised to be a protector, a provider or a man who valued women. Yet when

the Israelite spies arrived, she did not beg for a husband. She said: “Swear to me that you will save my father, my mother, my brothers and my sisters.” Joshua 2:12. When Jericho fell, only her family survived. God later gave her a prince, placed her in the lineage of Christ, and listed her in Hebrews 11 among the heroes of faith. Her past was not her prison. It became her pulpit.

Abigail was wise, capable and industrious — everything we celebrate in an empowered woman. She was married to Nabal. The Bible is direct: the name means fool. He was wealthy but reckless, abusive and drunk. No one had raised him to know better. When Nabal insulted David and four hundred armed men came to kill every male in that household, Abigail did not wait for her husband to act. She packed provisions, rode out alone and saved her entire family — because her husband could not. As Oprah Winfrey has said, sometimes you must walk away from what you thought was everything in order to find what actually is. Abigail's departure was not sin. It was surgery. She left foolishness to save her house.

Esther was an orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai in a community

with no king strong enough to protect her. She was taken to marry a foreign king — not out of love but out of necessity. She was placed in a strange palace far from everything familiar. But Mordecai told her the truth that steadied her: “Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14. She fasted, gathered her courage and used her position to save Mordecai and an entire people. The palace was not her punishment. It was her preparation. Today, many of our daughters go to Dubai or London or into difficult marriages with older, unfamiliar men — not because they prefer it, but because the boys in their villages are not building anything worth staying for. God places some of our daughters in strange palaces to train them, expose them and bring them home with tools to save their families. The palace experience was not wasted. It was their university.

So hear this, daughter.

Your marriage did not fail because you are a bad wife. It failed because we raised you as a queen and handed you to a boy who was never raised to be a king. Achebe's “man” is all of us. Society lost its way, and now you — the returning daughter — are

not home to be pitied. You are home to heal the bloodline.

God is saying: I allowed that door to close because I need you to break a cycle. I need you to raise your sons differently. I need you to tell your mother: stop only praising your daughter's degree and start also disciplining your son. Your suitcase of shame is not what it appears. It is a toolbox of rescue.

Tamar lost two immature boys and birthed a tribe. Rahab lost her reputation and saved her parents. Abigail left a fool and became a queen. Esther left her village and saved a nation. You lost a boy. But you are about to raise a man.

Wipe your tears. Stand up in your father's compound. Start that business. Go back to school. And when God gives you sons — biological or spiritual — raise them to be the kind of men our daughters have always deserved.

You did not fail. You were sent home because home forgot how to raise men, and heaven chose you to remember.

It is well. Home is safe now — because you are in it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The hidden pressure of being a university student

Behind the laptops and lecture halls, Kenya's campus generation is carrying a weight that nobody talks about



Behind the laptops and lecture halls, Kenya's campus generation is carrying a weight that nobody talks about

By Simon Juma

When society imagines university life, the picture is invariably cheerful — freedom, friendships, and graduation photographs with wide smiles. That is the story parents tell their children. But there is another story, quieter and far less comfortable, that rarely gets told. It is the story of silent pressure, grinding anxiety and daily survival.

Being a university student in Kenya in 2026 is one of the most demanding transitions a young person can make. Behind the smart casual wear and the open laptops, many students are struggling in ways that would alarm the people who love them.

The academic pressure alone is formidable. From childhood, the message is consistent: pass, excel, make your parents proud. On campus, the reality is more brutal. One lecturer teaches hundreds of students. Assignments arrive weekly. Continuous assessment tests are scheduled without consultation. The final examination carries 70 per cent of a student's grade and,

with it, 70 per cent of their anxiety. During exam weeks, students sleep for three hours and survive on photocopied notes, YouTube tutorials and fear — fear of retaking a unit, fear of missing the graduation list, fear of being discontinued. This is not a test of intelligence alone. It is a test of mental endurance.

Financial pressure runs alongside academic pressure, quietly and relentlessly. The Higher Education Loans Board disburses KSh17,500 per semester — an amount that delays for months and covers little when it finally arrives. Hostel rent in towns such as Nakuru, Nyahururu and Nairobi ranges from KSh5,000 to KSh12,000. Many parents in rural areas are supporting other children and cannot send money regularly. So students improvise. In lecture halls across Kenya, there are students who ride boda bodas after 5pm, run second-hand clothing businesses on Instagram, or do academic writing until 3am for KSh500. They attend an 8am lecture on an empty stomach, smile through the session, and check their M-Pesa knowing the balance will disappoint them. Concentration is a luxury when hunger is the dominant thought.

The mental and emotional burden may be the least visible and the most damaging. University is frequently the first time young Kenyans live far from home, separated from family, community and the support systems they have always known. Loneliness arrives quickly. So does comparison. Social media presents a relentless stream of former classmates who appear already employed, already mobile, already ahead. At 23, a student can feel like a failure before their career has even begun.

Anxiety, stress and depression are widespread on Kenyan campuses, but the culture of disclosure is thin. Men are told they do not cry. Women are told to endure. Counselling offices exist, but a single counsellor serving 10,000 students is not a mental health service — it is a gesture. Students fear the stigma of seeking help, so they suffer privately, withdraw from those around them, and in some cases make decisions that cannot be undone.

Final-year students carry an additional weight: the fear of what comes next. They watch graduates from 2019 still searching for work. They observe how corruption and

connections shape hiring decisions. They wonder quietly whether their degree will matter, whether their mother's sacrifices were worthwhile, whether the village they left will be the village they return to — empty-handed. That uncertainty does not merely cause stress. It erodes the motivation to keep going.

The solutions are neither complicated nor beyond reach. Universities must invest seriously in mental health — more counsellors, peer support structures, and services that are free, confidential and genuinely accessible. The academic calendar needs reform that prioritises learning over volume. Parents and guardians should ask not only about grades but about wellbeing. A phone call that begins with “are you alright?” costs nothing and can mean everything. And students

must build the habit of honest conversation with each other — about failure, about being broke, about fear — without shame and without judgment.

University should build young people, not break them. If you are a student reading this and the weight feels unbearable, please understand that you are not carrying it alone. Many around you are feeling the same things and saying nothing. Talk. Reach out. Support each other.

We shall get through this. Tutavuka.

Youth surge in Kenya's 2027 elections: From protest to power

By Jeremiah Kingamu

Kenya's youth, long dismissed as a restless protest bloc, are moving decisively from the streets into the ballot box ahead of the 2027 general elections — and the country's political establishment is beginning to feel the weight of that shift.

The numbers are striking. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission projects 28.5 million registered voters by 2027, with youth forming the majority. The Niko Kadi campaign has already mobilised 2.3 million new voters, particularly in Nairobi and other urban centres. Yet the push is about more than turnout. With only 6.5 per cent of MPs currently under 35, young Kenyans are arguing, with justification, that their exclusion from parliament undermines Kenya's democratic credibility. Unlike traditional politicians who depend on rallies and



patronage networks, Gen Z candidates are campaigning on TikTok, X and Instagram — reaching voters directly, cheaply and at scale. Many figures who organised the 2024 Finance Bill protests are now contesting Member of County Assembly seats, with some targeting parliament. Their message is unambiguous: frustration must translate into policy.

The obstacles are real. Youth candidates face thin finances, weak party structures dominated by older elites, and ad-

ministrative barriers including delayed issuance of identity documents. These are not trivial hurdles.

But 75 per cent of Kenya's population is under 35. That demographic reality does not guarantee victory, but it makes continued political exclusion increasingly difficult to sustain.

The 2027 elections will be the first in which Gen Z arrives as a serious electoral force. Kenya's old guard would be unwise to treat that as a footnote

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Once Europe's brightest young winger, the 26-year-old is now a free agent training with a non-league side as his career hangs in the balance

Sancho searches for a way back

By Andalo Christine Ingutia

Jadon Sancho's football career has arrived at a crossroads that few who watched him dazzle in the Bundesliga could have predicted. The England international is reportedly a free agent, without a club and facing the most uncertain period of a career that once promised so much.

Sancho rose to prominence at Borussia Dortmund after leaving Manchester City's academy at 17 in search of first-team football. The gamble paid off handsomely. His creativity, directness and eye for goal made him one of the Bundesliga's most exciting players, and his performances in Germany attracted admiring glances from across Europe's elite clubs.

Manchester United moved decisively in July 2021, paying approximately €73 million to bring him to Old Trafford. It proved a troubled investment. Sancho struggled to reproduce the form that had made him such a coveted talent, and his relationship with the club's management deteriorated sharply following a public dispute over his training standards. The falling-out led to his exclusion from the first team, effectively ending his time at United before a formal exit was arranged.

Loan moves followed, with mixed outcomes. A return to Dortmund offered him a platform to rebuild his confidence, and a subsequent spell at Chelsea produced flashes of the attacking quality that had once defined him. Yet neither club moved to sign him permanently. A further loan to Aston Villa yielded 23 appearances but no goals — a return that did little to silence growing doubts about whether he could recapture his best form.

Off the pitch, financial complications have reportedly hampered his search for a new club. Talks with interested parties, in-



Jadon Sancho

cluding clubs in Italy, are said to have stalled over salary demands and transfer terms. In the meantime, reports suggest Sancho has been training with Flixton FC, a non-league side, simply to maintain his fitness while he waits for his next opportunity — an image that stands in stark contrast to the packed stadiums and Champions League nights of his peak years.

Interest from beyond Europe has also surfaced. Brazilian side Palmeiras and Arabian Falcons

of the United Arab Emirates have been linked with the winger, though no formal agreement appears imminent with either club.

At 26, Sancho is not finished. He carries with him the experience of playing for major European clubs and representing England at international level — qualities that retain genuine value in the right environment. The question is no longer one of talent; it is one of circumstance,

timing and will.

His next move will say a great deal about the kind of player — and person — he has become. Whether he returns to the Premier League, heads abroad or charts an altogether different course, the decision carries weight. The story of Jadon Sancho is not yet written, but the pen is very much in his hand.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *The World Cup winner is reportedly enrolling in a professional coaching course as he maps out life after playing

Kroos eyes the dugout as new career plans take shape



Toni Kroos

By Pascal Okoth

Toni Kroos, one of the finest midfielders of his generation, is reportedly considering a move into first-team coaching, with plans already forming less than two years after he hung up his boots. Spanish publication AS reports that Kroos has informed the Royal Spanish Football Federation of his intention to enrol in its professional coaching course next year — the first formal step toward a potential career in management. The development will delight football supporters who

have long wondered whether a player of his tactical intelligence could make the transition from orchestrating matches to directing them. Kroos retired in 2024 following Germany’s European Championship campaign on home soil, bringing the curtain down on a playing career of exceptional distinction. He won multiple UEFA Champions League titles with Real Madrid, claimed domestic honours at Bayern Munich and lifted the FIFA World Cup with Germany in Brazil in 2014 — a tournament in which he was central to his country’s

triumph. His playing style, built on immaculate passing, positional discipline and an almost preternatural ability to control tempo, made him one of European football’s most admired figures across a decade at the highest level. The reported coaching ambition is still at an exploratory stage. Kroos has not been linked to any specific managerial appointment, and no official announcement has been made. For now, the focus appears to be on acquiring the qualifications that would make him eligible to work with clubs at professional level,

subject to the applicable licensing regulations. Coaching, of course, is an altogether different discipline from playing. Where a player’s influence is physical and immediate, a manager must build training programmes, manage personalities, communicate a coherent football philosophy and make high-stakes decisions under sustained pressure. The qualities that made Kroos exceptional on the pitch — composure, clarity of thought, tactical awareness — are valuable starting points, but they are no guarantee of success in the dugout. Football history offers no shortage of brilliant players who found management a humbling experience. What Kroos does possess, however, is a rare education. Years working under Pep Guardiola at Bayern Munich and Carlo Ancelotti at Real Madrid — two of the most accomplished coaches of the modern era — will have furnished him with insights that no classroom course can fully replicate. Whether those lessons crystallise into a coherent managerial identity remains to be seen. For Real Madrid supporters in particular, the prospect of Kroos eventually returning to the club in a coaching capacity carries obvious appeal. His contribution to the club’s success across a decade in the Spanish capital made him a deeply popular figure at the Bernabéu. Whether that connection translates into a future role there, however, is entirely speculative at this stage. What is clear is that Kroos is not content to simply walk away from the game. If he follows through on his reported plans, football may yet see another chapter from one of its most compelling figures — this time from the technical area.

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From Uzbekistan to the world: Young Poet Madina Mirzayeva publishes her first poetry collection



By: Madina Mirzayeva
@themtkenyatimes

At a young age, Uzbek student and aspiring journalist Madina Mirzayeva has reached an important milestone in her creative journey with the publication of her first poetry collection, *Umidbaxsh orzular*.

A New Chapter in a Young Writer's Journey

For many writers, a book represents years of thoughts, inspiration and a desire to share something meaningful with others. For Madina Mirzayeva, a young student from Uzbekistan, the publication of her first poetry collection, *Umidbaxsh orzular*, marks a special step towards developing her voice as a writer.

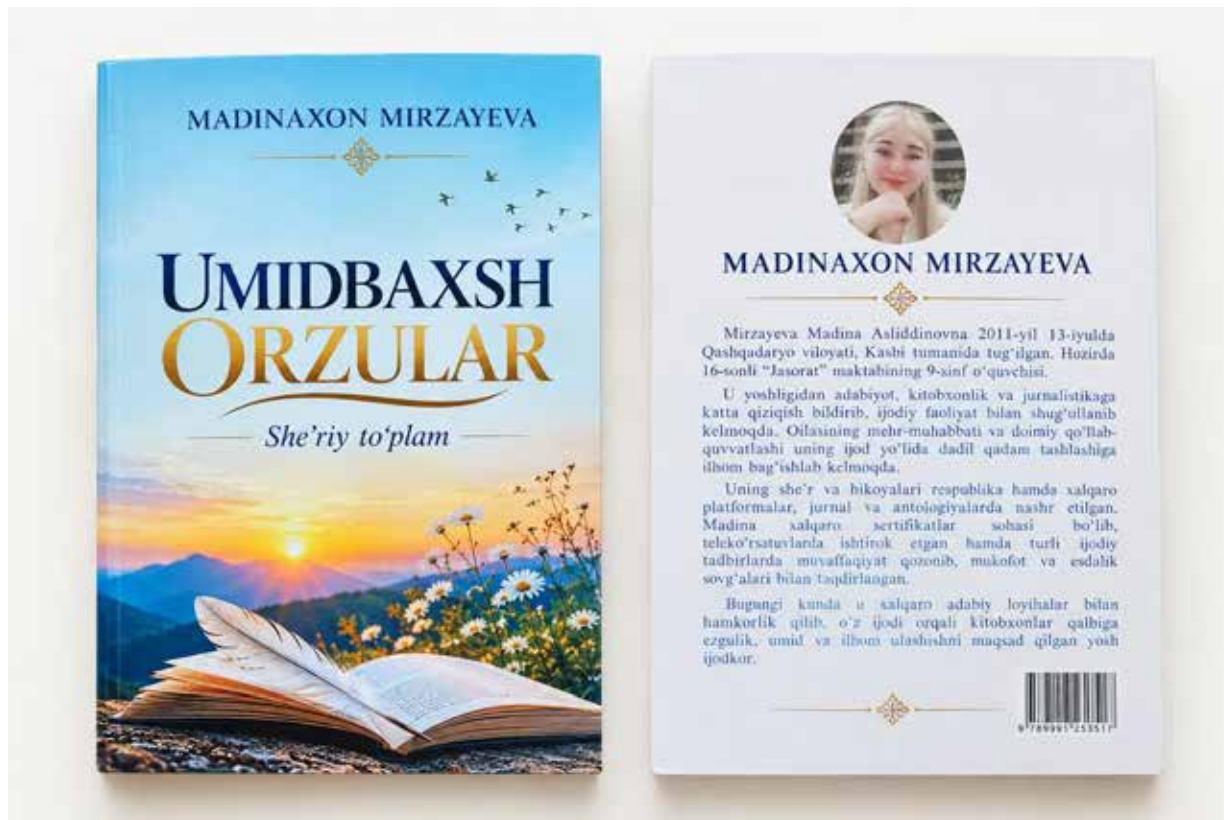
The title, which can be translated as *Hopeful Dreams*, introduces a collection that brings together poems on different subjects. Rather than focusing on a single theme, the collection reflects the variety that poetry can offer, allowing different ideas and perspectives to find a place within one book.

For a young author, seeing a first collection published is an opportunity to move beyond writing for oneself and begin sharing creative work with a wider readership. It is also the beginning of a continuing journey of learning, exploration and literary growth.

The Beauty of Writing About Different Subjects

Poetry has a unique ability to give words to thoughts, feelings and observations. Some poems invite readers to reflect, while others encourage them to look at familiar experiences from a different perspective.

A collection featuring different



subjects can offer readers a varied literary experience. Each poem has its own space, tone and meaning, allowing readers to discover the pieces that speak to them personally.

For emerging writers, exploring different subjects can also be an important part of developing a literary identity. Writing provides room to experiment with language, discover new ideas and gradually understand how best to communicate with readers.

Through *Umidbaxsh orzular*, Mirzayeva has taken a meaningful step in sharing her creative work in book form.

A Young Creative Voice from Uzbekistan

Mirzayeva is a Grade 9 student who is developing her interests in literature and journalism alongside her education. Her experience highlights how young people can pursue creative interests while continuing to learn and grow academically.

A young person's first published book is not simply a finished product. It can also be a starting point for

new ambitions, further writing and opportunities to connect with readers beyond familiar surroundings.

Across countries and cultures, young writers have stories and perspectives worth discovering. Providing opportunities for them to share their work helps bring new voices into literary conversations and encourages the next generation to participate in creative life.

For young authors in Uzbekistan, opportunities to introduce their work to international readers can also create a bridge between local literary experiences and a wider world of ideas.

Literature Beyond Borders

Books can travel beyond the places where they are written. A writer may begin with personal ideas and experiences, yet the finished work can reach readers whose lives and backgrounds are very different.

This is one of the enduring strengths of literature: it creates opportunities for people to encounter new perspectives and find points of connection across cultural and geographical

boundaries.

For a young Uzbek poet, introducing a first collection to international audiences is an opportunity to share a small part of her creative world and contribute to the wider visibility of young literary voices.

Such opportunities matter because cultural exchange is not only about established authors or famous works. It also begins when emerging writers are given the chance to present their ideas, develop their craft and take part in conversations about literature.

The Beginning, Not the End

The publication of *Umidbaxsh orzular* marks an important milestone in Madina Mirzayeva's journey as a young author. It is a reminder that creative ambitions can begin early and develop through consistent effort, curiosity and a willingness to share one's work.

Every writer's journey continues beyond a first publication. There are new ideas to explore, new skills to develop and new readers to reach. For Mirzayeva, this collection represents

a beginning from which further creative opportunities may grow.

Her story carries a simple message for other young people who enjoy writing: there is value in taking your ideas seriously, giving your creativity room to develop and having the courage to share what you create.

A first book may be only one chapter in a much longer story, but it is a chapter worth celebrating.

For Madina Mirzayeva, *Umidbaxsh orzular* is that chapter—a first collection of poems from Uzbekistan and a new step in a journey that is still unfolding.

About the Author

Madina Mirzayeva is a young Uzbek poet, writer, student journalist and youth volunteer from Uzbekistan. Currently a Grade 9 student, she is passionate about literature, journalism, education and creating opportunities for young people.

She is the author of *Umidbaxsh orzular*, her first poetry collection, which marks an important milestone in her creative journey. Through her writing, she continues to explore the world of literature and develop her voice as a young author.

Alongside her creative pursuits, Madina actively engages in youth initiatives, volunteering and educational projects. She is also involved in sharing international learning opportunities and encouraging young people to develop their skills, express their ideas and pursue their ambitions.

With a strong interest in journalism and cross-cultural communication, Madina hopes to share stories that connect people, highlight young voices and introduce readers to perspectives from Uzbekistan and beyond.

She believes that age should not be a barrier to creativity and that every young person deserves an opportunity to learn, create and make their voice heard.