



Ruto turns Nandi rally into opposition assault as 2027 battle lines harden
President William Ruto used a rally in Kapsabet, Nandi County, yesterday to launch a sustained attack on opposition leaders while announcing infrastructure and health-care projects

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Countdown 2027 **Kenya's divided opposition cannot afford another fragmented campaign**

One Ticket or Defeat?

The Kalonzo Musyoka-led Komboa Kenya alliance will this week open formal talks with former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's camp and the Linda Mwananchi movement led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, in a push to forge a single unified presidential ticket against President William Ruto in the August 2027 General Election.

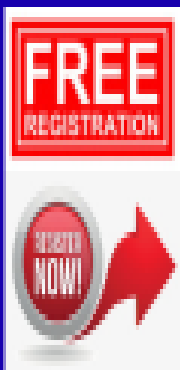
The announcement came from Democratic Action Party of Kenya leader Eugene Wamalwa, speaking at Priesthood Fellowship Church in Kahawa West, Nairobi, yesterday. His message was direct: Kenya's divided opposition cannot afford another fragmented campaign. "This week and next month, we are asking those others in Linda Mwananchi, including Sifuna and Orengo, to come together with us so that we get one candidate," Wamalwa said.

The stakes could not be higher. With fewer than 300 days before polling day, opposition leaders are confronting the brutal arithmetic of Kenyan electoral politics — a lesson written in the results of 2013, 2017 and 2022. Each cycle, a divided field of challengers has allowed Ruto or his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta to consolidate sufficient regional and ethnic coalitions to secure victory. The question now is whether the opposition has finally absorbed that lesson, or whether personal ambitions will again fracture what might otherwise be a formidable political challenge.

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Kalonzo Musyoka, Rigathi Gachagua, Fred Matiang'i, Edwin Sifuna, Martha Karua and Eugene Wamalwa



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DCP takes healthcare pledge to Murang'a heartland

BY John Kamau

@themtkenyetimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

The Democracy for the Citizens Party yesterday took its 2027 campaign to Ciumbû in Maragûa Constituency, Murang'a County, where Secretary General John Methu pledged to overhaul healthcare financing and forge stronger partnerships with county governments if the party forms the next government.

Addressing residents in one of Mount Kenya's most politically competitive constituencies, Methu assured the crowd that DCP would prioritise timely disbursement of county funds — a persistent grievance that has repeatedly undermined healthcare delivery across Kenya's 47 counties under the current administration. The commitment went beyond policy language; it was positioned as a fundamental reset of the relationship between the national government and devolved units.

"I have assured the good people of Murang'a County of DCP's commitment to transforming healthcare when we form government by ensuring counties



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Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Embakasi East MP Babu Owino yesterday stood firm on his bid for the Nairobi governorship, brushing aside concerns that his candidacy alongside Winnie Odinga's senatorial bid would place two politicians from the same ethnic community at the county's helm. "You elected Sakaja as governor and Sifuna as senator yet they come from the same ethnic community, so I don't see any problem with that," Owino told residents amid laughter. He equally declined to oppose Winnie's ambitions, describing her as the daughter of his political mentor, the late Raila Odinga. Winnie declared her senatorial interest during her father's first anniversary, entering a race where Lang'ata MP Felix Odiwuor had already staked his claim — a contest shaping up as one of Nairobi's most closely watched in 2027.



Around 500 Rwandans and supporters gathered at Utalii Sports Club in Nairobi on Sunday for the second Rwanda Cultural Gala and Exhibition, celebrating the country's heritage through sport, business and the arts. Participants competed in football, volleyball and igisoro, a traditional board game, before an evening of dance, song and drumming that drew the event to a close. Rwanda's High Commissioner to Kenya, Ernest Rwamucyo, commended the organising committee and urged the diaspora to uphold national values and preserve cultural identity while living abroad. Community leadership committee chairperson Innocent Butare echoed the call, asking members to protect Rwanda's positive image beyond its borders. A business exhibition ran alongside the cultural programme, giving Rwandan entrepreneurs a platform to showcase products and services to the assembled community and its guests.



Kenya's Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission held talks with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna on Thursday, seeking deeper cooperation on cross-border corruption investigations and the recovery of public resources. EACC Chief Executive Abdi Mohamud met UNODC Executive Director Monica Juma, with discussions centring on law enforcement capacity, forensic technology and mutual legal assistance across Eastern Africa. Mohamud briefed Juma on the establishment of the Africa Anti-Corruption Studies and Research Centre in Nairobi, requesting UNODC support for its research and policy programmes. He also acknowledged existing UNODC backing through the Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya and called for expanded technical cooperation and joint capacity-building initiatives. The EACC said strategic international partnerships remain central to its mandate of safeguarding public resources and upholding accountability.



Kieni MP Njoroge Wainaina on Saturday broke from President William Ruto's United Democratic Alliance, unveiling Ufanisi Kenya Party as his new political home during a meeting in Kieni Constituency, Nyeri County. Wainaina, elected on a UDA ticket in 2022, framed his departure in characteristically blunt terms. "Because we have occasionally been reminded that we went to a wedding with someone else's vehicle, I have made my 504 which will carry the people of Kieni — and that is the Ufanisi Kenya Party," he said. He positioned the party as a national outfit open to leaders and voters across all regions, not a Mount Kenya vehicle. Wainaina also noted he was the second Nyeri politician to lead a party after former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, founder of the Democracy for the Citizens Party, as the Mount Kenya region's steady drift from UDA ahead of 2027 continued.



Nairobi police are hunting a man accused of suffocating his 21-year-old girlfriend to death with a pillow before filming the act and sending the video to her family. The suspect, Nelson Ambia, allegedly killed Feruz Hussein following a domestic dispute at a house in the Githurai-Sunton area of Kasarani Sub-County. The matter was reported at Sunton Police Station on September 30, 2026, under OB number 37, and Hussein's body was subsequently admitted to a mortuary pending postmortem examination. Ambia is also accused of threatening Hussein's younger siblings, aged 19 and 15. Former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko, who disclosed the case publicly, said the suspect was recently spotted in Kakamega County and offered a KSh 50,000 reward for information leading to his arrest. Police have urged the public not to confront Ambia but to report his whereabouts to the nearest station.



A bitter dispute between President William Ruto and Trans Nzoia Governor George Ntembeya over development projects in the county escalated sharply yesterday, with Ntembeya vowing to storm the newly launched Masinde Muliro market in Kitale and redistribute stalls to traders originally assigned spaces — directly defying the president's launch of the facility. Accusing Ruto of claiming credit for county-built projects, Ntembeya also threatened to visit the contested Kitale Level 5 Hospital site on Monday, arguing the KDF-handed project occupies county land without the county government's involvement. "Let them come with guns and bombs, but I am taking Trans Nzoia residents into that market," he said. Ruto had committed KSh 1B to the hospital during Friday's groundbreaking. Ntembeya's security detail was withdrawn earlier this week after he publicly criticised the national government at a Kiminini gathering.

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Ebola The development marks a significant escalation from the three confirmed cases reported as recently as Friday

Kenya's Ebola cases climb to eight as outbreak spreads beyond health workers

Authorities insist community transmission risk remains low even as contact tracing intensifies across 130 identified exposures.

BY Annet Njeri

@themtkenyentimes

Authorities insist community transmission risk remains low even as contact tracing intensifies across 130 identified exposures.

By Annet Njeri

Kenya's confirmed Ebola infections rose to eight yesterday after a 49-year-old man tested positive for the Bundibugyo virus, one day after the Ministry of Health announced four new cases in a single bulletin.

Director General for Health Patrick Amoth disclosed the latest infection during a Sunday night television appearance, describing the patient's condition and the pace of testing under way. "Today we tested 38 persons; one turned positive — not a direct health care worker, a 49-year-old gentleman who developed symptoms of fever, headache, and muscle pain, and his test came out positive," Amoth said. The patient has since been isolated at a designated treatment facility.

The development marks a significant escalation from the three confirmed cases reported as recently as Friday. Saturday's announcement alone added four infections — three health workers aged 29, 32 and 35 who had treated the index patient in hospital, and a close male relative of that patient, who died from the disease. The health workers had been in quarantine since 9 October, the relative since 6 October, meaning all



Director General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth

four developed symptoms while already under monitoring — a fact the Ministry cited as evidence that its containment protocols were working.

The Ministry has not disclosed the latest patient's exposure history or confirmed whether he was among the 130 contacts already identified and being monitored. That gap in information will concern epidemiologists, as an infection outside the established contact network would suggest the outbreak's boundaries are less clearly defined than authorities have indicated.

Despite the rising tally, Amoth maintained that the threat to ordinary Kenyans remained contained. "The risk to the general public remains low as there is no evidence of community transmission of the disease," he said in Sat-

urday's statement, a position the Ministry has held consistently since the outbreak was declared. As of Saturday, 128 of the 130 identified contacts had been traced and placed in quarantine; efforts to locate the remaining two were continuing.

The Ministry warned that additional cases could emerge among quarantined contacts before their 21-day monitoring periods expire, a standard feature of Ebola outbreak management that reflects the virus's incubation window rather than a failure of containment.

Kenya's index patient, whose death triggered the outbreak investigation, was linked to the Bundibugyo strain — one of several species of Ebola virus, distinct from the better-known Zaire strain responsible for the catastrophic West African out-

break of 2014 to 2016. Bundibugyo virus disease spreads exclusively through direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected or deceased person, not through airborne transmission. The Ministry has confirmed there are no restrictions on travel, trade or public gatherings.

Amoth's closing message was unambiguous. "Early reporting saves lives," he said. Members of the public experiencing fever, unusual fatigue, muscle or joint pain, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea or unexplained bleeding are urged to seek medical attention immediately and can contact the Ministry's toll-free line on 719.

Eight cases in four days is a trajectory that demands vigilance — and transparency.

DCP takes healthcare pledge to Murang'a heartland



John Methu

Contd from page 2

receive their funds on time and building strong partnerships with county governments to guarantee seamless, equitable access to quality healthcare for every Kenyan," Methu said.

The timing and location of the visit were deliberate. Murang'a sits at the heart of the Mount Kenya region, the vote bloc that delivered President William Ruto his 2022 victory and which every credible opposition formation must now contest vigorously. DCP's party leader, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua — whose dramatic impeachment in October 2024 transformed him from insider to opposition figurehead — is currently in the United States, leaving Methu to run an active ground campaign in his absence. The party has maintained that Gachagua's influence over the Mount Kenya electorate remains fully intact

and that his return will energise the campaign significantly.

Methu used the occasion to issue a direct appeal for national cohesion, urging Kenyans to reject negative ethnicity as the country moves into an increasingly charged electoral season. "Together we shall reclaim the nation," he told the crowd, framing DCP as a broad national movement rather than a regional interest group — a positioning the party will need to sustain well beyond Mount Kenya if it is to be taken seriously as a presidential vehicle.

With opposition coalition talks between Komboa Kenya, Linda Mwananchi and DCP advancing, Methu's grassroots campaign in Murang'a signals that the party intends to compete for every vote rather than wait passively for a unity deal negotiated in Nairobi boardrooms.

The mountain is in play. And every opposition formation knows it.

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Politics The Ruto-Natembeya stand-off has been building for weeks and has now escalated into one of the more combustible sub-plots of Kenya's pre-election landscape

Ruto turns Nandi rally into opposition assault as 2027 battle lines harden

The president's western Kenya tour mixed development pledges with sharp political attacks, as the opposition fired back and a bitter stand-off with a county governor threatened to overshadow the visit.

BY James Mwangi

[@themkenyaintimes](#)

President William Ruto used a rally in Kapsabet, Nandi County, yesterday to launch a sustained attack on opposition leaders while announcing infrastructure and healthcare projects for the region, as the political contest ahead of the August 2027 General Election moved into an unmistakably combative new phase.

Addressing supporters following a church service in Kapsabet town, Ruto singled out Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, former Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i and Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka by name, deploying the kind of personalised ridicule that has become a signature of his campaign style. "Mr Empty and Shiny Things, Mr Yala and Ruaraka and Mr 40, you have no agenda for this country. You are angry and planless. We will not allow you to divide Kenyans along ethnic lines," he told the crowd.

The remarks were pointed in their specificity. The reference to Sifuna — whose Linda Mwananchi movement has emerged as one of the more energetic opposition formations ahead of 2027 — reflected the degree to which the president's camp views the Nairobi senator as a genuine irritant rather than a peripheral figure. The tagging of Kalonzo, whose Komboa Kenya alliance is actively seeking to unite opposition factions behind a single presidential candidate, signalled that Ruto's political strategists are tracking the consolidation talks with close attention.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen sharpened the tone further, directing an explicit warning at Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya, who had reportedly planned a protest for Monday to coincide with the president's scheduled opening of a hospital in the county. "I hear he has planned to protest on Monday when the president opens a hospital in Trans Nzoia. I am warning him not to try that," Murkomen said, a statement that drew immediate criticism from opposition figures as an abuse of executive authority.

The Ruto-Natembeya stand-off has been building for weeks and has now escalated into one of the more combustible sub-plots of Kenya's pre-election landscape. Natembeya has accused the president of appropriating county-built projects for political credit during national government visits to the region — a charge that strikes at the heart of the intergovernmental tensions that periodically surface when the electoral cycle approaches and both levels of government compete for public visibility. On Saturday, the governor publicly dismissed Ruto's launch of the newly constructed Masinde Muliro market in Kitale as a political stunt, and said he would not be intimidated by any threats to his personal security. He subsequently had his security detail withdrawn — a move widely read as punitive rather than administrative.

Ruto addressed the healthcare dispute directly, insisting the Trans Nzoia hospital project would proceed regardless of the political friction with the county's governor. Translating his remarks from Swahili, the president said: "The one in Trans Nzoia is troublesome, but I will build the hospital because the hospital is not his — it belongs to the people. When he is sick he can go abroad, but others cannot, so I must build it." The comment, delivered with theatrical contempt, drew applause from supporters while encapsulating the sharper edge of Ruto's political personality — the ability to frame a political attack as an act of public service.

Beyond the confrontation, Ruto outlined a substantial healthcare infrastructure programme. He confirmed that hospital projects are under way in Kapsabet, Kakamega, Bungoma and Kitale, with a further ten facilities being developed in Bomet, Embu, Kwale and other counties. An additional fifteen hospitals are expected to begin construction next year — a rollout that, if delivered, would represent one of the most significant expansions of public health infrastructure in Kenya's recent history. The timing, with a general election less than a year away, means every ribbon cut and every founda-



President William Ruto

tion laid will be interpreted through a political lens, whatever the merits of the projects themselves.

Sifuna, responding from Nairobi, was dismissive of the president's characterisation of the opposition as agenda-free. He also rejected Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi's suggestion that a newly formed political formation could not plausibly win the presidency. "In 10 months we will prove to everyone that a new entrant can become president," Sifuna said — a statement that was short on detail but long on the confidence that has characterised his public positioning in recent months.

The exchange captures the peculiar rhythm of Kenyan politics in the year before a general election. Policy and personal attack exist in permanent, unselfconscious proximity. A presidential visit to open a hospital becomes simultaneously a health-

care announcement, a political rally and a confrontation with a hostile county chief. A senator's response to a presidential insult carries within it a coded challenge to the entire architecture of incumbency advantage that Ruto's campaign will seek to exploit.

The structural challenge for the opposition remains formidable. Ruto controls the machinery of a sitting government, commands significant public investment budgets and has demonstrated a consistent ability to use state visits to project authority and generosity simultaneously. His Kenya Kwanza coalition, while not without internal tensions, has not fractured in the way opposition strategists once predicted it might following Gachagua's removal from the deputy presidency.

For the coalition talks between Komboa Kenya, Linda Mwananchi

and Gachagua's camp to amount to something capable of unseating an incumbent, they will need to produce not merely a unified candidate but a unified organisation — shared structures, shared finances and a shared narrative that transcends the individual ambitions of the leaders involved. None of that is simple, and none of it is guaranteed.

What Sunday's rally confirmed is that Ruto intends to fight 2027 on his own terms, on his own timetable and with his characteristic willingness to make the contest as personal as it is political.

The opposition has ten months to find an answer.

Politics The stakes could not be higher. With fewer than 300 days before polling day, opposition leaders are confronting the brutal arithmetic of Kenyan electoral politics — a lesson written in the results of 2013, 2017 and 2022

Kenya's opposition gamble: One ticket or another defeat

With fewer than 300 days to the 2027 polls, the fragmented opposition faces its defining moment — unite or lose again.

BY David Kimani

[@themkenyaintimes](#)

The Kalonzo Musyoka-led Komboa Kenya alliance will this week open formal talks with former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's camp and the Linda Mwananchi movement led by Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, in a push to forge a single unified presidential ticket against President William Ruto in the August 2027 General Election.

The announcement came from Democratic Action Party of Kenya leader Eugene Wamalwa, speaking at Priesthood Fellowship Church in Kahawa West, Nairobi, on Sunday. His message was direct: Kenya's divided opposition cannot afford another fragmented campaign. "This week and next month, we are asking those others in Linda Mwananchi, including Sifuna and Orengo, to come together with us so that we get one candidate," Wamalwa said.

The stakes could not be higher. With fewer than 300 days before polling day, opposition leaders are confronting the brutal arithmetic of Kenyan electoral politics — a lesson written in the results of 2013, 2017 and 2022. Each cycle, a divided field of challengers has allowed Ruto or his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta to consolidate sufficient regional and ethnic coalitions to secure victory. The question now is whether the opposition has finally absorbed that lesson, or whether personal ambitions will again fracture what might otherwise be a formidable political challenge.

Kenya's political landscape heading into 2027 is more volatile than at any point in recent memory. Gachagua's dramatic removal from the deputy presidency in October 2024 — only the second impeachment of a sitting deputy president in African history — injected a disruptive and unpredictable force into opposition politics. Gachagua commands deep loyalty in the Mount Kenya region, a vote bloc that delivered Ruto his 2022 margin of victory. His defection to the opposition, if consolidated into a formal coalition, would represent a significant structural shift in the electoral map.

Sifuna's Linda Mwananchi move-



Kalonzo Musyoka, Rigathi Gachagua, Fred Matiang'i, Edwin Sifuna, Martha Karua and Eugene Wamalwa

ment adds a different dimension. Anchored in Nairobi and with roots in the Azimio la Umoja network, it brings urban working-class energy and organisational infrastructure that any serious presidential campaign needs. James Orengo, the Siaya governor and veteran opposition figure, carries historical credibility and western Kenya reach. Together, these formations represent constituencies that, unified, could mount a genuine challenge to Ruto's incumbency advantage.

Yet unity among Kenyan opposition movements has historically been easier promised than delivered. The 2022 Azimio coalition, which brought together Raila Odinga and Kalonzo Musyoka among others, ultimately fell short — undone by a combination of late defections, internal mistrust and Ruto's masterful mobilisation of the hustler narrative among lower-income voters. The wounds of that campaign have not fully healed, and the negotiations now beginning carry the weight of those unresolved grievances.

Wamalwa described the opposition not merely as a political grouping but as an alternative government in waiting. "But hope is the way. In the next 10 months, we will bring changes," he said, framing the coalition project in terms of national transformation rather than partisan competition. Whether that language resonates beyond committed opposition supporters will depend heavily on the coalition's ability to articulate a credible economic programme at a time when the cost of living continues to dominate public concern.

On that front, the opposition believes it holds strong ground. Wamalwa pointedly cited rising fuel prices and the increasing cost of basic commodities, including milk, as issues that will define voter sentiment in the months ahead. Ruto's economic record — marked by controversial tax proposals, the collapse of the Finance Bill 2024 amid deadly street protests and persistent inflation — has eroded the goodwill that carried him to power. For millions of ordinary Kenyans, the promise of the

hustler movement has not translated into tangible relief, and the opposition intends to prosecute that case relentlessly on the campaign trail.

The electoral infrastructure question is equally consequential. Wamalwa called on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to release the existing voters' register to political parties ahead of a planned mass voter registration exercise next month. "Next month, IEBC, we are going for the final mass voter registration. We want the register by now, already registered members be availed to all of us," he said. The demand reflects broader concerns about the integrity of the voter roll, including allegations that foreign nationals have been registered as voters — a claim the opposition intends to scrutinise closely.

The IEBC itself remains a source of institutional anxiety. The commission operated under considerable controversy during the 2022 election, with a minority of commissioners publicly disputing the declared result. Rebuilding public confidence

in electoral administration will be essential to ensuring that a competitive 2027 contest produces an outcome that all sides accept — and that Kenya avoids the post-election turbulence that has periodically destabilised the country since the violence of 2007 and 2008.

Wamalwa urged religious leaders and the broader public to pray for unity and a peaceful process, warning explicitly against violence as parties position themselves for the polls. The appeal carried weight in a country where elections have historically been accompanied by ethnically charged tension, displacement and, at their worst, organised bloodshed. With political temperatures already rising more than a year before polling day, the responsibility on all leaders — governing and opposition alike — to lower the temperature is considerable.

The coming weeks will test whether the opposition's unity rhetoric survives contact with the negotiating table. Agreeing on a single presidential candidate requires not only a shared platform but an agreed process for determining who leads it — a question that has derailed previous coalitions at precisely the moment they appeared most promising. Kalonzo, Gachagua, Sifuna and their respective allies each carry regional loyalties and personal ambitions that will not dissolve easily.

What is clear is that the window for building a credible unified challenge is narrowing. Campaigns must be funded, candidates identified, running mates selected and manifesto commitments made. None of that can wait until the final months before an election.

Kenya's opposition has the political raw material to mount a serious challenge. Whether it has the discipline and selflessness to use it is the question that will define 2027 — and perhaps the country's democratic trajectory for a generation beyond it.

Business Oryx Energies CEO Mr Moussa Diao said the transaction marks a significant milestone in East Africa's downstream energy landscape

Amsons Group acquires Oryx Energies Tanzania business in a historic energy transaction

BY James Murimi

@themtkenyatimes

Pan-African Energy and Manufacturing conglomerate Amsons Group has acquired Geneva-based Oryx Energies' Tanzania downstream business in a transaction worth more than US\$ 230 million.

In the landmark deal, a pan-African enterprise is acquiring an oil major's assets, and Amsons Group will now control all the downstream activities Oryx previously conducted in Tanzania.

The transaction is part of Oryx Energies' ongoing strategic

review of its downstream asset portfolio in Africa.

Speaking when he confirmed the acquisition, Amsons Group Managing Director Mr Edha Nahdi said the diversified Tanzanian business group, with an established presence in the region, is well positioned to build on the foundations Oryx Energies laid and pursue further growth opportunities in the Tanzanian market.

Oryx Energies CEO Mr Moussa Diao said the transaction marks a significant milestone in East Africa's downstream energy landscape,

transferring key retail service stations, storage terminals, and distribution infrastructure into local hands.

"We are pleased to have reached this agreement with Amsons Group, a Tanzanian business with strong roots in the country and a clear ambition for growth. Tanzania has been an important part of Oryx Energies' history, and we are proud of the business we have built and the relationships we have developed over the years. We believe that Amsons Group is well placed to take this business into its next chapter, building on its existing strengths and



Edha Nahdi, Managing Director Amsons Group.

creating new opportunities for its employees, customers and partners. This transaction is also an important step in Oryx Energies' evolving strategy, as we focus our capital and efforts on developing energy infrastructure across Africa and strengthening our trading activities. Africa remains at the heart of our business and our long-term ambitions," Diao said.

On his part, Amsons Group Managing Director Mr Edha Nahdi added that, "We are delighted to finalise this acquisition, which marks a transformative step in our strategic vision to expand Amsons Group's footprint in energy and logistics. Integrating Oryx's extensive distribution network and storage capabilities allows us to strengthen domestic fuel security and anchor Tanzania as a vital regional logistics hub for East and Central Africa."

The completion of the transaction is subject to the necessary regulatory approvals and other customary conditions. In the meantime, Oryx Energies will continue its activities in Tanzania as usual, maintaining its focus on customers, partners, and the safe, reliable delivery of its services.

The acquisition cements Am-

sons Group's position as the leading independent energy conglomerate across East and Central Africa. The deal grants Amsons unmatched operational scale, uniting the region's largest fuel storage capacity, an expansive retail service station network, and key logistics infrastructure.

Through this deal, Amsons will integrate Oryx's extensive bulk storage terminals, its vast network of strategic retail stations, and equity interests in strategic fuel hub partnerships, including key storage operations at TIPER in Dar es Salaam.

The deal will also raise Amsons Group's storage ca-

capacity from 300,000MT to 800,000MT and expand its retail network to 300 stations and growing across several countries.

Furthermore, the acquisition of Oryx has added to the already aggressive strategic approach of Amsons Group, which has taken shape in the last 2 years or so through the acquisition of Mbeya Cement in Tanzania and launching multi-million dollar buyout offers for blue-chip giants like Bamburi Cement and East Africa Portland Cement (EAPC) in Kenya. A 1,000-megawatt solar investment in Zambia matches Amsons Group's energy logistics with heavy industrial demand.

Historically, East African energy networks operated in silos. By building a network that physically links Tanzanian ports, Mozambican transit corridors, Kenyan industrial strongholds, and the Zambian/Congolese mining belts, Amsons Group is single-handedly constructing a private energy corridor.

Led by Group Managing Director Edha Nahdi, the group is moving away from traditional localised trading and solidifying its position as a self-sustaining infrastructure and energy titan.

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PWD The County Governments Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, sponsored by Senator Crystal Asige, offers an important opportunity to address this historical exclusion

Five per cent is not a favour: Kenya must open the doors of county power to persons with disabilities

“Nothing about us without us must become more than a slogan. It must be reflected in the laws we enact, the leaders we elect and the decisions that shape our lives.”



BY Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
✉ fkpchelimo@yahoo.com

By Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo – PWD
Email; fkpchelimo@yahoo.com
“Nothing about us without us must become more than a slogan. It must be reflected in the laws we enact, the leaders we elect and the decisions that shape our lives.”
Kenya’s democracy has an unfinished obligation to millions of its citizens: ensuring that persons with disabilities are not merely counted during elections, consulted when convenient or remembered during political campaigns, but are represented where public decisions are made and resources are allocated. Equally important, they must be able to access the rights, services and opportunities guaranteed by the Constitution and the law without begging, pleading or depending on the goodwill of individual officials.
The County Governments Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, sponsored by Senator Crystal Asige, offers an important opportunity to address this historical exclusion. Its proposed reforms seek to amend the Elections Act and the County Governments Act to strengthen the representation of persons with disabilities in county assemblies,

including through a minimum five per cent representation mechanism. The National Assembly’s invitation dated 5 October 2026 for stakeholder views presents another important opportunity to influence the Bill’s eventual outcome.
For persons with disabilities, this is not an abstract legal debate. It is about power, dignity, public money, access to services and the right to participate meaningfully in the governance of our country. Above all, it is about transforming constitutional promises into everyday realities.
The cost of exclusion is measured in lives, not statistics
County governments make decisions that directly affect the daily experiences of persons with disabilities. They determine priorities for healthcare, vocational training, accessible infrastructure, agricultural support, bursaries, enterprise development and other essential services. County assemblies approve budgets, scrutinise expenditure and hold county executives accountable. Yet when persons with disabilities are absent from these institutions, decisions affecting them may be made without sufficient understanding of their lived realities.
Consider a county procuring assistive devices without adequately consulting intended beneficiaries. A wheelchair may be purchased without considering the user’s mobility requirements, while someone who needs a prosthesis, hearing equipment or a white

cane remains overlooked. Funds may be allocated to disability programmes, yet the people most in need may have little influence over how those resources are distributed.
The problem is not necessarily a lack of goodwill among individual officials. It is that goodwill alone cannot replace institutionalised participation, clear legal obligations and accountable representation.
Article 54(2) of the Constitution requires the State to ensure that persons with disabilities constitute at least five per cent of the members of the public in elective and appointive bodies. Article 177(1)(c) provides for representation of marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities and youth, in county assemblies as prescribed by legislation. The proposed amendments seek to strengthen the practical implementation of these constitutional commitments.
Five per cent should therefore not be interpreted as a generous political concession. It is a mechanism for advancing constitutional inclusion. The same principle applies to disability rights generally: what the Constitution and legislation guarantee must not become a favour that PWDs have to negotiate for repeatedly.
For PWDs in Uasin Gishu County, the proposed reform carries particular significance. Our county has 30 wards, each with people whose disability-related needs differ according to their circumstances, location, livelihoods and access to services. A person



with a mobility impairment in a rural ward may face barriers accessing health facilities or public transport. A deaf young person may struggle to access information or vocational training. A woman with a disability may encounter additional obstacles in accessing economic opportunities and political leadership.
These are not peripheral issues. They belong at the centre of county planning and accountability. Effective representation would give PWDs a stronger opportunity to influence county legislation, scrutinise disability-related expenditure, question exclusionary procurement practices and advocate for equitable access to public services. It could also strengthen the relationship between grassroots disability organisations and county institutions.
Crucially, this representation should help ensure that disability-related rights, services and opportunities provided for under the Constitution and the law reach their intended beneficiaries. PWDs should not have to demonstrate exceptional suffering, organise demonstrations, plead with officials or cultivate political connections to access lawful entitlements. Public institutions must fulfil their obligations as a matter of duty, not charity.
Representation must therefore be meaningful. It should recognise the diversity of disabilities, promote the participation of women with disabilities, encourage credible leadership and ensure that those occupying representative positions remain accountable to the people they serve. A seat occupied by a person with a disability is important, but the ultimate test is whether that representative advances the interests of the wider disability community.

It is appropriate to express sincere and generous appreciation to Senator Crystal Asige for sponsoring and advancing this important legislative initiative. Her work has helped bring disability representation into the national legislative conversation in a practical and consequential way. By pursuing a legal solution to a problem that has persisted through successive electoral cycles, she has helped move the debate beyond sympathy and political promises towards institutional reform.
Such legislative leadership deserves recognition. Disability inclusion cannot be achieved by persons with disabilities acting alone. It requires allies within Parliament and government who are prepared to listen, understand structural exclusion and use their positions to advance corrective measures.
We equally appreciate the senators who supported the Bill, the parliamentary officers facilitating its consideration and the institutions invited to submit views. We call upon members of the National Assembly to approach the proposal with the seriousness it deserves and to strengthen it where necessary. Our gratitude must, however, be accompanied by responsible engagement. We must contribute evidence, identify practical implementation challenges and help ensure that the final law delivers the intended benefits.
Kenya’s political class has an opportunity to demonstrate that disability inclusion is a national democratic principle rather than a campaign slogan. Political parties should develop transparent nomination procedures, identify qualified candidates with disabilities and avoid practices that reduce affirmative-action provisions to token gestures.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and other relevant institutions should support clear, lawful and consistent implementation of the eventual legislation.
The National Assembly should scrutinise the Bill carefully, protect its central purpose and clarify how representation is to be calculated and secured. Persons with disabilities and their representative organisations must be afforded accessible and meaningful opportunities to contribute. We also call upon governors, senators, Members of Parliament, members of county assemblies and county administrators of goodwill to support the broader objective: ensuring that persons with disabilities participate in the decisions that determine their future.
Their responsibility extends beyond appointing representatives or attending disability events. It includes ensuring that public institutions deliver the rights, services, reasonable accommodation and opportunities required by law. A PWD seeking accessible healthcare, an assistive device, education, employment or an economic empowerment opportunity should encounter a functioning public service, not an endless chain of appeals for assistance.
PWDs in Uasin Gishu must organise across all 30 wards, gather views from different disability groups, develop a common memorandum and engage their elected leaders. We should also strengthen ward-to-sub-county-to-county consultation structures to ensure that grassroots priorities inform our advocacy.

Exams The Kenya National Examinations Council carries the primary responsibility for safeguarding examination integrity.

KCSE 2026: Can Kenya guarantee credible, fair and stress-free examinations for every candidate?

As thousands prepare to sit their finals, the real test is whether the system is ready for them.

BY Collins Kibet
@themkenyaintimes

As thousands of Kenyan students prepare to sit the 2026 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations, the country faces a question that goes to the heart of its education system: can Kenya deliver national examinations that are credible, fair, transparent and free from unnecessary anxiety?

For candidates, this is more than an academic exercise. It is a defining moment that may shape university admission, career opportunities and future ambitions. For parents, it represents years of sacrifice, school fees and sleepless nights, held together by the hope that education will provide their children with a better future. For the government, it is a test of whether the system can uphold integrity while protecting the welfare and dignity of every learner.

National examinations occupy a central position in Kenya's education system, providing a mechanism for assessing academic achievement and determining readiness for further education and training. However, their importance also generates enormous pressure on students, teachers, parents and school administrators. When examinations become the sole measure of success, education risks being reduced to a competition for grades rather than a process of developing knowledge, practical skills, creativity and responsible citizenship. Kenya must therefore examine not only how examinations are administered but whether the system adequately prepares learners for life beyond the classroom.

The Kenya National Examinations Council carries the primary responsibility for safeguarding examination integrity. Malpractice — leaked papers, impersonation, unauthorised assistance or attempts to circulate examination content — undermines the credibility of qualifications and punishes candidates who have prepared honestly. Every certificate awarded must represent genuine academic achievement rather than access to leaked materials, financial influence or dishonest assistance. Strong supervision, secure examination materials, clear reporting procedures and impartial investigations are essential to protecting the credibility of KCSE. These are not bureaucratic formalities; they are the foundations on which public trust in national qualifications rests.

Nevertheless, examination security must not be achieved through an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. Candidates deserve clear instructions, respectful treatment and confidence that rules will be applied consistently and fairly. School administrators, invigilators, supervisors and security officers must understand that their responsibility extends beyond preventing malpractice. They must also protect learners from unnecessary humiliation, discrimination and avoidable distress. A credible examination system is one in which discipline and fairness reinforce each other rather than compete.

Psychological pressure remains a serious and underappreciated concern. Across many households, KCSE is treated as a decisive judgment on a young person's entire future. Students may fear

disappointing their parents, losing opportunities or being compared unfavourably with their peers. Such expectations produce sleepless nights, heightened anxiety and reduced concentration, particularly among learners already navigating financial hardship, family difficulties or inadequate learning resources. While preparation and discipline are necessary, excessive pressure can actively undermine the very performance families hope to achieve.

Parents and guardians carry an important role in changing this culture. Encouragement, practical support and emotional reassurance help learners approach examinations with greater confidence. Parents should avoid threatening children with rejection or portraying poor results as the end of every opportunity. Teachers too should balance academic preparation with guidance on time management, revision techniques and emotional wellbeing. Schools should ensure counselling is available and that candidates understand clearly that an examination result, however important, does not determine their human worth or permanently close every door to future success.

The government must also confront the inequalities that shape examination performance long before a candidate enters the room. Candidates do not prepare under identical circumstances. Some attend well-equipped schools with laboratories, libraries, reliable electricity, sufficient textbooks and adequate teaching staff. Others study in overcrowded classrooms, face chronic shortages of learning materials or travel considerable distances simply



to access education. Learners from financially disadvantaged households may lack quiet study spaces, nutritious meals or dependable access to digital learning resources. Expecting all students to compete under these conditions without addressing the underlying disparities risks confusing differences in opportunity with differences in ability.

Examination reforms must therefore be accompanied by sustained investment in public education. Adequate school funding, timely disbursement of capitation, teacher recruitment, improved infrastructure and reliable access to learning materials are essential to creating a fairer academic environment. The government must ensure that public schools can deliver the curriculum effectively rather than placing the burden of systemic shortcomings on teachers and learners. Examination integrity begins long before candidates enter the hall; it depends on whether schools have been adequately supported throughout the learning process.

Equally important is protecting candidates from disruptions that compromise preparation. Teacher shortages, prolonged industrial disputes, inadequate instructional materials and uncertainty over school finances interrupt learning and widen existing inequalities. Education stakeholders must prioritise constructive dialogue to resolve disputes before they damage learners' academic progress.

Teachers deserve fair working conditions and professional respect, while students deserve uninterrupted access to quality education. These interests are not contradictory; they are mutually dependent, and treating them as separate problems has repeatedly cost learners dearly.

Kenya must also reconsider its broader understanding of educational achievement. A single set of examination results cannot fully capture a student's potential. The country needs graduates who communicate effectively, solve problems, use technology responsibly, demonstrate integrity and apply classroom knowledge to practical challenges. Technical and vocational education, entrepreneurship, professional training and other legitimate career pathways deserve the recognition they have long been denied. Students who do not achieve grades required for a particular university programme should be guided towards suitable alternatives rather than labelled failures and abandoned by a system that has not adequately served them.

As the 2026 examinations approach, transparency and accurate communication are critical. KNEC should ensure that schedules, regulations, reporting procedures and official announcements reach candidates through reliable channels. Students and parents must treat unverified social media claims about leaked papers, examination

changes or guaranteed results with firm scepticism, and report suspicious activity through proper channels. Allegations of malpractice must be investigated fairly, with evidence guiding decisions rather than rumour or political pressure.

Ultimately, the credibility of KCSE cannot be measured by pass rates alone. It must be measured by the fairness of the process, the quality of preparation across all schools and the opportunities genuinely available after results are released. Kenya cannot claim to have an equitable education system if it demands excellent performance from learners while ignoring the unequal conditions under which they study and the unequal support they receive along the way.

The 2026 KCSE examinations should serve as a reminder that education is a shared national responsibility. The government must provide resources, KNEC must safeguard standards, teachers must support learning, parents must encourage their children and candidates must uphold honesty and discipline. Every learner deserves a fair opportunity to demonstrate their ability without intimidation, discrimination or preventable disadvantage. Examination results matter enormously. But fairness, integrity and equal opportunity matter just as much — and Kenya cannot claim to value its young people while ignoring the unequal ground on which they stand.

Politics Sifuna acknowledged the scepticism surrounding his candidacy but framed it as motivation rather than obstacle.

Sifuna bets his political life on a presidential run

The Linda Mwananchi leader declares his 2027 candidacy, daring the established order to underestimate him.

BY James Mwangi
@themtkenyentimes

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna yesterday declared he will contest the presidency in 2027, dismissing questions about his experience and financial resources as he formally positioned Linda Mwananchi as a vehicle capable of unseating President William Ruto.

Speaking at a church service in Donholm, Nairobi, Sifuna acknowledged the scepticism surrounding his candidacy but framed it as motivation rather than obstacle. “For now, I

am receiving a lot of pressure from Kenyans to vie for the presidency. People are asking how it will happen — they say I am young and have no money. But I know God’s guidance will lead me. I will be the first one-term senator to become president,” he said.

The declaration carries weight beyond personal ambition. The Registrar of Political Parties is currently processing a proposed name change from the Equitable Party to the Linda Mwananchi Movement, giving Sifuna’s political vehicle a formal identity and a platform with less than ten months before

polling day. It is an audacious timeline by any standard, and Sifuna showed no inclination to moderate his ambition to fit it. “We are changing how Kenyan politics is run. It is possible to make Linda Mwananchi popular across the country in less than ten months and win the presidency,” he said, adding that he had been forcefully removed from ODM but remained undeterred.

Embakasi East MP Babu Owino used the occasion to press for broader opposition unity, warning that fragmentation would hand Ruto a structural advantage he would exploit



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna

without hesitation. “We urge the entire opposition — from Gachagua to Kalonzo to Matiang’i — to unite so that Kenyans can have a new beginning in 2027,” Owino said, framing consolidation not as a preference but as an electoral necessity.

Sifuna also accused the government of deploying security withdrawals as instruments

of political intimidation, citing the cases of Siaya Governor James Orengo and Trans Nzoia Governor George Nantembeya, whose security detail was pulled amid a bitter public dispute with Ruto over credit for county development projects. “We will not kneel before that pharaoh,” Sifuna said, in language that drew a sharp line between his move-

ment and the presidency.

Whether Linda Mwananchi can translate street energy and church-hall declarations into a credible national campaign in the months available remains the defining question. Sifuna has answered the first one: he is running, and he intends to be taken seriously.



Five per cent is not a favour: Kenya must open the doors of county power to persons with disabilities

“Nothing about us without us must become more than a slogan. It must be reflected in the laws we enact, the leaders we elect and the decisions that shape our lives.”

Contd from page 11

We must reject internal divisions, political manipulation and the assumption that representation is the entitlement of a select few. Our objective should be a system that produces capable leaders, reflects disability diversity and answers to the community. The Bill remains subject to the legislative process until Parliament completes the required stages and the result-

ing law takes effect. We must therefore maintain constructive pressure, verify its progress and prepare to participate in implementation.

Kenya does not need to choose between political effectiveness and disability inclusion. A more representative democracy is capable of achieving both. Nor should the enjoyment of disability rights depend on an individual’s ability to plead, protest or find a well-connected benefactor. Let this moment mark a shift from exclusion to participation, from politi-

cal promises to enforceable commitments, and from being discussed by others to helping shape our own future. Let it also mark the transition from begging for rights to claiming them lawfully, confidently and with dignity.

Five per cent is not a favour to persons with disabilities. It is a call to make constitutional inclusion real and to ensure that the rights already guaranteed by our laws are enjoyed without begging.

In the midst of change



In the midst of change,
we discover wings we never knew we had.

Like the young seagull, we all have wings that are hidden,

They come to the fore when we are in need.
Our power is concealed within us.

We may feel that it is the end,
No, it is just the beginning
when we know our talent.

We are created to rise and fly, not to dip and fall.
The force is inside,
Give strength from inside.
Then we discover wings we never knew we had.

Brinda. D
Creative writers
Ghs Melpattampakkam
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Autumn



Autumn has begun its mournful song so slow, So slow,
The sun, too, casts a pale and fading light.
The poor clouds' hearts are sick with grief,
Their tears fall endlessly, in torrents, from the sky.

Autumn has begun its mournful song so slow,
The nights have grown longer than the days.
Look, the leaves have turned to gold and fallen,
Another leaf has breathed its final sigh.

Autumn has begun its mournful song so slow,
The nightingales are leaving the garden behind.

Autumn has come, and my heart is heavy with sorrow,
My springs are slowly leaving me behind.

Autumn has begun its mournful song so slow...

Muxtorova Sevinch was born on August 4, 2006, in Pastdargom District, Samarkand Region. She is currently a third-year student at Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov and works as a teacher of Mother Tongue and Literature at Secondary School No. 62 in Pastdargom District.

Her first poem, "Ketma bolalik" ("Don't Leave, Childhood"), was published in 2024 in the newspaper "Samarqand yoshlari". Her poems have appeared in anthologies published on the prestigious American platform Lulu, including Ko'ngil kitobi, Yoshlar: orzularidan maqsad sari, Umidli g'unchalar, Ilm va ilhom chorrahasida, and Umid uchquni, as well as in the collection Dil sadolari.

He who wants honey must have the courage to face the bees.



One who wants victory,
Must learn to work harder.

A scientist spends many sleepless nights,
To discover something newer.

An athlete endures endless workouts,
Running and physical strain,
To become an Olympic gold winner.

Students spend extra time,
Work hard and give up all leisure,

To become an extraordinary winner.

A farmer toils under the scorching sun,
Through storm and drought, his work is never done,
To reap the golden harvest of his pain.

No dream is served on a silver plate,
Every sweet reward has a bitter gate.
If you fear the sting, you'll never taste,
The honey will be lost, a golden waste.

Great things never come easy,
You must be brave enough to bear the sting of barriers.

-N. KANCHANAPRIYA
SG Teacher
Pups Alangattuvalasu
Pallipalayam union
Namakkal district
Tamilnadu,638183.

Attached to nothing



Connected to everything

I carry nothing in my hands,
No borders, no demands.
No name, no place I call my own,
Yet nowhere do I feel alone.

Like empty sky, I hold no weight,

No locked door, no guarded gate.
The river flows, the birds fly free,
And in their freedom, I find me.

When I let go of "mine" and "I",
The world comes closer, earth and sky.
The trees, the winds, the seas, the sun,
All whisper softly - we are one.

To be detached is not to be apart,
It is to love with open heart.
Attached to nothing, I can see,
I am connected to all that be.

-K.A. SANTHOSHI
9th std
GMGHSS KOMARAPALAYAM NAMAKKAL DISTRICT
TAMILNADU,638183.

Nothing is easy



To taste the fruit of success,
You must bear the pain and strain
Of climbing the tall tree.
Try to keep your mind free
To accept the truth of life.

The harder you strive,
The stronger you strike -
It's the worldly truth.
Every bee that bites
Makes you taste the honey faster.
Every thorn that pricks
Strengthens your mind, never makes you sick.
Every arrow that pierces
Tests your capacity to withstand.
Success as a piece of cake
Never proves its quality in bake.

- Umadevi ArasaKumar
Panchayat Union Middle School
Kugalur
Gobichettipalayam
Erode 638313

Bee and flower



The flower bloomed
Inviting the bee by it's perfume
Elated & was proud
As the bee happily buzzed aloud
The flower in shy graced in breeze
The bee felt it's job ease
As to visit another flower

Never understood the love of the flower
Though attracted by it's beauty
As the bee paid attention only to it's duty
Collected not only the nectar
Also served as a best pollinator
But it's born highlighted to be wild
Poor flower is naturally mild
Being a spiritual factor
Yearned for a true love reactor
When I plucked & placed to God
It happily withered & never felt odd
For being lived a worthy life
But the bee's life
Ended with man's strife
While protecting it's hive resulting in rife.

G.Sarala.

El Niño Acting head of the Kenya Meteorological Service Authority, Edward Muriuki, confirmed the season was under way but urged farmers to look beyond the national outlook

Kenya braces for heavy rains as El Niño and Indian Ocean Dipole combine

Above-average rainfall is forecast across much of the country — bringing relief to farmers but raising flood and disruption risks.

BY Grace Wanja
@themkenyaintimes

The Kenya Meteorological Service yesterday announced the official onset of the October-December rainfall season, with above-average precipitation forecast across large parts of the country as El Niño conditions strengthen alongside a developing positive Indian Ocean Dipole.

Rainfall has already been recorded in 24 counties spanning western Kenya, the Rift Valley and the Coast, with the seasonal rains expected to advance progressively into remaining regions through October. The announcement brings cautious optimism for



Severe floods ravage Nairobi in past

farmers and livestock keepers still recovering from previous seasons of inadequate rain, but it carries an equally clear warning: the rains that replenish rivers and regenerate pasture can also flood farms, destroy crops and cut off rural

communities.

Acting head of the Kenya Meteorological Service Authority, Edward Muriuki, confirmed the season was under way but urged farmers to look beyond the national outlook. “County-specific weekly and monthly forecasts are available from the offices of respective county directors of Meteorological Services,” he said. Kenya’s terrain and microclimates mean neighbouring counties can experience dramatically different rainfall

within the same season, and decisions based on generalised national forecasts have repeatedly cost smallholder farmers dearly.

Counties already recording the onset span the western and Rift Valley regions, the Coast and the Tana Delta. Arid northern counties — Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Isiolo — are expected to receive rain in the first or second week of October. Central Kenya and Ukambani, including Nairobi, Kiambu, Murang’a, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Embu, Meru, Machakos, Kitui and Makueni, follow in the second or third week. Turkana and Samburu will be last, with their outlook described as poor to fair — limited relief for communities that have endured persistent water stress.

The agricultural implications cut both ways. Improved soil moisture, replenished water sources and regenerated pasture would provide direct relief to millions of Kenyans dependent on rain-fed agriculture and livestock. But above-average rainfall also brings waterlogged farms, crop disease, pest pressure and impassable rural roads that sever supply chains between farms and markets. In

flood-prone areas, sustained heavy rain poses direct threats to life and property.

The climate systems behind the forecast add further complexity. The World Meteorological Organisation anticipates a positive Indian Ocean Dipole developing between September and November alongside strengthening El Niño conditions — a combination historically associated with enhanced rainfall across eastern Africa, including the catastrophic floods of 1997 and 1998. Muriuki was careful to resist single-cause explanations. “Rainfall is influenced by several climate systems, including El Niño and the Indian Ocean Dipole,” he said. Temperatures are expected to remain above average across most of the country throughout the season.

The rains are forecast to persist into January across central, western and eastern Kenya, while winding down earlier in the northern counties by the first or second week of December.

The forecast has been issued. What Kenya does with it is the real question.

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Energy The health benefits alone make a compelling case. Radioisotopes produced through nuclear research are widely used in medical diagnosis and treatment, including cancer care

Kenya's research reactor: A bet on knowledge and self-reliance

The nuclear facility project is about science, health and building capacity — not just

energy.

BY James Kilonzo Bwire

@themkenyaintimes

Kenya's decision to establish a nuclear research reactor through a public-private partnership deserves serious public attention, because it represents far more than an energy project. It is a deliberate national investment in scientific knowledge, medical advancement, industrial capacity, education and long-term self-reliance. The facility, known as the Kenya Nuclear Research Reactor, is being coordinated by the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency and is intended to serve peaceful purposes spanning research, training, health, agriculture and industry. It should be understood not merely as the construction of a technical installation, but as the creation of a national institution that will shape Kenya's scientific future for generations.

The most compelling reason to support the initiative is Kenya's need to build durable capacity in science, technology and innovation. For many years the country has depended heavily on external expertise, imported technology and foreign laboratories for specialised scientific services. That dependence limits the speed at which local researchers can respond to national challenges and drives up the cost of accessing advanced knowledge. A research reactor would give Kenyan scientists, engineers, technicians and university students direct access to advanced nuclear research facilities within their own borders, allowing them to conduct experiments, develop specialised skills, pursue postgraduate research and participate in global scientific work without routinely travelling abroad.

The agreement signed in September 2025 between the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency and the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute provides for reactor design, technical blueprints and workforce training, placing knowledge transfer at the centre of the project rather than treating it as an afterthought. That emphasis matters enormously. Kenya's pursuit of a research reactor reflects a mature understanding that national development requires more than roads, buildings and conven-



A meeting during the IAEA INIR-RR Phase 2 Mission hosted by NuPEA in Nairobi to assess Kenya's progress in developing the infrastructure for the Kenya Nuclear Research Reactor and advancing nuclear science research and innovation.

tional infrastructure. A country that wants to compete in modern agriculture, medicine, manufacturing, environmental management and energy must possess advanced research tools — and a research reactor provides precisely that, enabling controlled scientific work that cannot easily be carried out using ordinary laboratory equipment.

The health benefits alone make a compelling case. Radioisotopes produced through nuclear research are widely used in medical diagnosis and treatment, including cancer care. Kenya continues to face a growing burden of cancer and other illnesses requiring accurate diagnosis, specialised imaging and effective treatment. A local research reactor can strengthen the availability of medical isotopes, support the expansion of nuclear medicine services and reduce dependence on imported materials. It would improve continuity of care and bring advanced diagnostic and therapeutic services closer to Kenyan patients. The reactor carries a direct human purpose: it can help save lives, strengthen hospitals and expand access to modern healthcare in ways that imported solutions have consistently failed to deliver sustainably.

Agriculture, which remains central to Kenya's economy and rural livelihoods, stands to benefit considerably. Nuclear science supports soil studies, crop improvement, pest management, food safety testing and

water resource research — applications especially relevant in a country where farmers face changing weather patterns, pests, disease and mounting pressure on land and water. By giving agricultural researchers access to advanced scientific tools, the reactor can help develop practical solutions that improve both productivity and food security, making the facility relevant not only to scientists in laboratories but to farming communities across the country.

Industry is another significant beneficiary. Research reactors support calibration services, materials testing, quality control and technical research essential in modern manufacturing and engineering. Kenyan industries frequently require specialised testing and certification services currently obtained abroad. A domestic reactor can reduce that dependence, support local enterprises and strengthen the credibility of Kenyan products in regional and international markets, while creating employment for scientists, engineers, radiographers, safety officers and laboratory professionals.

Education may prove the most enduring benefit. A research reactor creates opportunities for hands-on training in nuclear physics, nuclear engineering, radiation safety, reactor operations, radiochemistry and environmental science. Universities and technical institutions will align their programmes with practical national needs, and students will no lon-

ger learn advanced nuclear science solely from textbooks or foreign attachments. This will help Kenya develop a generation of professionals capable of operating, regulating and maintaining nuclear-related services, while inspiring young people from counties with limited exposure to advanced scientific careers to see science as a credible path to national service.

Public confidence must be built through openness, safety and accountability. Nuclear technology is powerful, and the public has every right to ask difficult questions about safety, regulation, waste management, emergency preparedness and environmental protection. Kenya's engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency is therefore significant. In January 2024 the agency conducted a Site and External Events Design review mission for the proposed reactor, focusing on site suitability and safety-related design considerations. Earlier, in December 2023, it carried out an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review for Research Reactors examining Kenya's preparedness across key infrastructure areas. These reviews demonstrate that the country is not approaching the project casually and has subjected its national plans to independent international scrutiny.

Safety must remain the first principle throughout the life of the project. This means strong regulatory institutions, qualified personnel, transpar-

ent public communication, proper emergency planning and continuous monitoring. The public-private partnership must not prioritise speed or commercial interest above safety standards. The government, the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency, regulators, universities, health institutions and private partners must work together to ensure every stage meets international requirements. Public trust will not come from slogans; it will come from consistent evidence that the facility is being developed responsibly and in the genuine interest of all Kenyans.

Legitimate concerns about cost, management capacity, public awareness and long-term sustainability must not be dismissed. A project of this nature requires disciplined planning, skilled leadership, continuous funding and honest communication. The government must ensure benefits are broadly shared and that the facility does not become accessible only to a narrow group of institutions. Universities, hospitals, agricultural research bodies and industries from across the country should have meaningful opportunities to use its services, making the reactor a truly national asset rather than a project confined to one location or sector.

Most critically, Kenya must own the knowledge. The agreement with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute should build local competence, not entrench permanent dependence. Kenyan professionals must be trained to operate the facility, manage safety systems, conduct independent research and maintain the reactor over time. True national capacity is achieved only when a country can understand, operate, improve and safely manage its own scientific infrastructure without perpetually looking abroad for guidance.

The Kenya Nuclear Research Reactor is a forward-looking project with the potential to strengthen healthcare, education, agriculture, industry and scientific research simultaneously. It offers Kenya an opportunity to move from being a consumer of advanced technology to becoming a producer of knowledge and specialised services. Its success will depend on safety, transparency, skilled leadership and genuine public engagement. If those conditions are met, the reactor will stand as proof that Kenya is prepared to invest in the knowledge infrastructure that long-term national development truly demands — and that the country possesses both the ambition and the seriousness that nuclear science requires.

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Exams The administration of the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations provides an important context for this argument

No technology can fix a failure of character

Kenya's examination security is only as strong as the people entrusted to enforce it.

BY Ashford Kimani

@themtkenyatimes

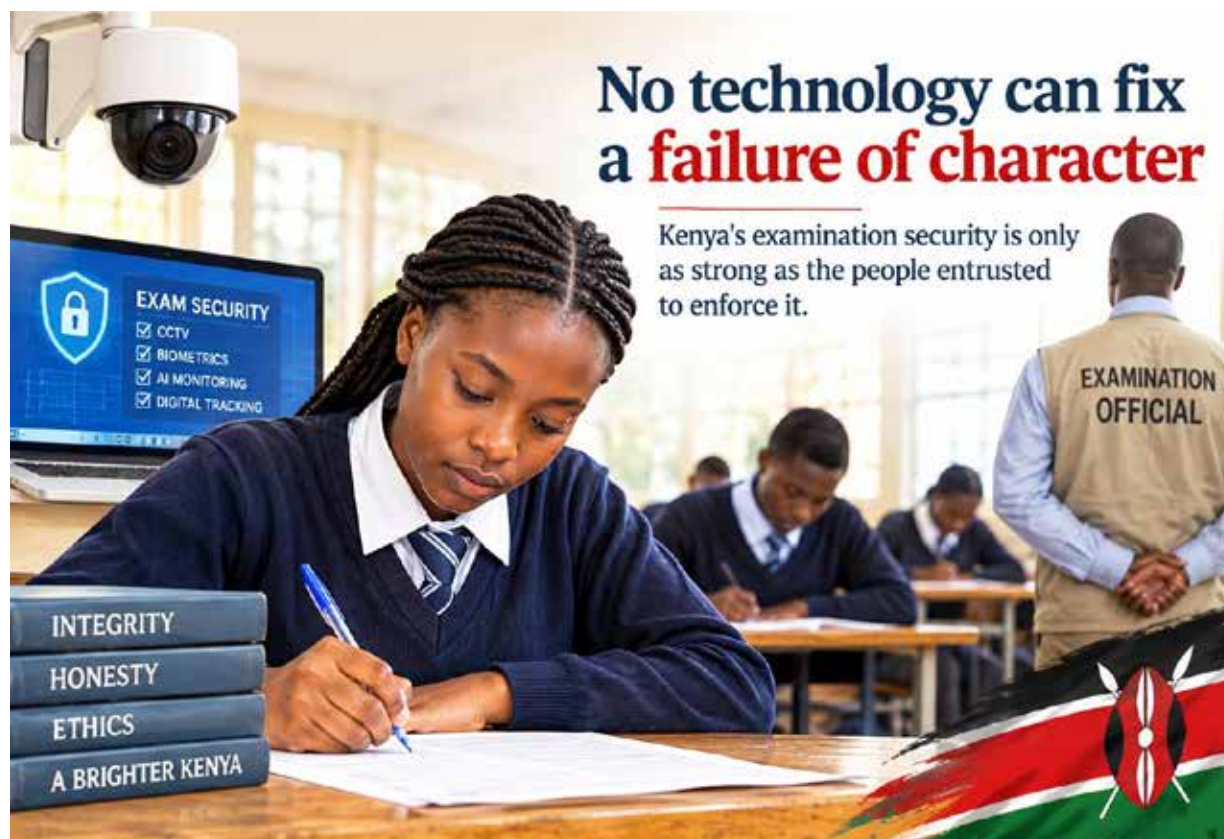
In the modern world, institutions are investing heavily in technology to prevent fraud, detect dishonesty and protect the integrity of their operations. From surveillance cameras and electronic monitoring systems to biometric identification and sophisticated security protocols, the prevailing belief is that technological advancement can significantly reduce opportunities for wrongdoing. Kenya's national examination system is no exception.

The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) has continued to rely on elaborate security arrangements to protect the credibility of national examinations. Yet one uncomfortable truth deserves greater attention: no security technology can permanently compensate for a failure of character. Where integrity is absent among the very people entrusted with protecting a system, even the most sophisticated arrangements can be undermined.

The administration of the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations provides an important context for this argument. Every examination season, the country invests considerable resources in transporting examination materials, securing storage facilities, deploying supervisors and invigilators, and monitoring examination centres. Candidates are warned against cheating while officials are reminded of their responsibilities.

These measures are necessary because national examinations determine academic progression and influence opportunities for further education and employment. Yet a fundamental question persists: what happens when the people responsible for enforcing examination security become the very individuals who compromise it? At that point, the problem is no longer simply a weakness in the security system. It becomes a crisis of character.

Technology is designed to support human responsibility, not replace it. A locked container can protect examination papers from unauthorised access, but it cannot guarantee that every person entrusted with its keys will act honestly. A surveillance



camera can record activities within its field of view, but it cannot independently ensure that everyone will behave ethically. Digital identification systems can verify identities, but they cannot eliminate every form of collusion or deliberate manipulation. Even the strictest examination regulations depend on people who are willing to obey them. When individuals deliberately choose dishonesty, security systems become obstacles to circumvent rather than principles to respect.

This reality is particularly important in schools, where examination centre managers — often school principals — carry significant responsibility for ensuring examinations are conducted according to established regulations. Their duties extend well beyond opening examination containers, distributing papers and submitting answer scripts. They must create an environment in which integrity is non-negotiable. A principal who values honesty will enforce examination rules even when doing so threatens the school's reputation or disappoints influential parents. Conversely, one who prioritises impressive grades above ethical conduct may tolerate practices that undermine the very purpose of assessment. No amount of external supervision can permanently sub-

stitute for a school leader's personal commitment to doing what is right.

The problem grows more complicated when adults begin to regard examination results as a measure of personal worth, institutional prestige or professional success. In an education system where schools are frequently judged by academic performance, pressure to produce impressive grades can become overwhelming. Parents want their children to secure opportunities, administrators want their institutions celebrated, and teachers want their learners to succeed. These aspirations are understandable, but they become dangerous when the desire for good results exceeds the commitment to obtaining them honestly. When success is valued more than the process through which it is achieved, examination malpractice becomes an attractive shortcut.

Candidates are also shaped by this culture. Young people learn not only from what adults tell them but from what adults do. A student repeatedly warned against cheating may become confused when the same adults who preach honesty appear willing to facilitate dishonesty for institutional gain. Such contradictions weaken moral education and communicate that integrity matters only when it does not interfere with

personal interests.

The fight against examination malpractice must therefore begin long before candidates enter examination rooms. It must involve teaching children that genuine achievement is more valuable than an impressive result obtained through dishonest means.

Kenya's examination security strategy must combine technological safeguards with deliberate character formation. Security containers, surveillance, strict access controls and reliable reporting procedures remain essential. But these measures must operate alongside professional ethics, accountability and a culture of personal responsibility. Examination officials must understand that their duty is not merely to avoid being caught committing an offence — it is to protect the fairness of the examination even when nobody is watching. That commitment cannot be manufactured by installing another camera or deploying another monitoring system. It must be developed through ethical leadership, professional training and consistent consequences for misconduct.

Accountability is particularly important because appeals to character alone are insufficient. Institutions must establish systems that make misconduct difficult to conceal and

ensure credible allegations are investigated fairly. Officials who abuse their positions should face appropriate disciplinary or legal consequences, while those who report wrongdoing in good faith must be protected from retaliation. Equally, accusations must be supported by evidence. An effective system does not presume that every official is dishonest; it creates safeguards that encourage honesty, expose misconduct and protect innocent individuals from unfair treatment. Technology can contribute significantly to this process, but its effectiveness depends entirely on the integrity of those who operate, interpret and enforce it.

The same principle applies far beyond examinations. Corruption in public offices, dishonesty in business, malpractice in professional assessments and abuse of authority in institutions cannot be eliminated through surveillance alone. Rules can define acceptable behaviour and technology can detect certain violations, but neither can guarantee that individuals will consistently choose what is right. Every institution ultimately depends on people who understand that public trust matters more than personal advantage. Where that understanding is absent, systems must continually grow more complicated as dishonest individuals search for new ways around them.

Kenya must therefore recognise that examination security is both a technical responsibility and a moral obligation. KNEC can strengthen procedures, deploy appropriate technologies and improve monitoring, but the success of these interventions will always depend partly on the character of the individuals involved. Principals must demonstrate integrity, teachers must uphold professional ethics, parents must resist demanding success at any cost, and candidates must appreciate the value of honest achievement.

No security technology can permanently compensate for a failure of character because technology can control access, monitor behaviour and expose certain forms of misconduct, but it cannot make honesty a personal conviction. A country that invests in secure examination containers without investing equally in the integrity of those entrusted with them will continue fighting a battle whose methods grow increasingly sophisticated while its underlying problem remains unresolved. The ultimate protection of Kenya's national examinations lies not in what is locked away, who is watching or which technology is deployed. It lies in the character of the people entrusted with protecting the future of the country's learners.

Traffic Intelligent transport systems. Video detection, radar and connected-vehicle data make it possible to measure traffic continuously and to improve the results of the measures above, but they should complement them and not replace them.

Optimizing traffic flow at urban intersections and methods for reducing congestion



By: Abror Abduvalioyev
@themkenyetimes

Abstract
Intersections are the main bottlenecks of urban road networks, so improving how they operate is one of the fastest ways to reduce congestion. This article briefly explains why queues form at intersections and reviews the most practical measures for reducing them, from signal re-timing to demand management. It concludes that cheap operational measures should come first and costly systems should be used only where measurements justify them.

Keywords: traffic congestion, signalized intersections, signal timing, adaptive control, urban mobility

1. Introduction
Cities grow faster than their streets. Car ownership rises, but the road network inside the city can rarely be widened. Most delay does not occur on the open road but at intersections, where vehicles, buses, cyclists and pedestrians must take turns using the same space. A road link can carry far more vehicles than the intersection at its end can discharge, so the intersection decides how the whole corridor performs.

2. Why Congestion Forms at Intersections
At a signalized intersection each approach is served only during its green phase, so its capacity depends on the share of the cycle it receives. When demand approaches this capacity, delay grows very quickly and a small increase in traffic creates a long queue. The problem is made worse

Optimizing traffic flow at urban intersections and methods for reducing congestion

Real-time monitoring
Detects issues and enables faster response.

Dedicated bus lanes
Keep public transport moving.

Well-designed junctions
Reduce conflicts and improve flow.

Non-motorized lanes
Safe, efficient and people-friendly.

by lost time at every phase change, timing plans that no longer match current traffic, turning conflicts, parked or stopping vehicles that block lanes, and queues that spill back and block the neighboring intersection.

3. Methods for Reducing Congestion

Signal re-timing and coordination. The cheapest improvement is to recalculate the signal plan from current traffic counts and to use separate plans for the morning peak, midday and evening peak. On main roads, signals can be coordinated so that vehicles released from one intersection arrive at the next on green, which reduces stops, delay and fuel use.

Adaptive control. Detectors let controllers adjust green times to the vehicles actually present. Systems such as SCOOT and SCATS do this across whole networks. They are most useful where demand varies strongly, and they require reliable detection, communication and maintenance.

Geometric changes and roundabouts. Sometimes the layout is the real problem.

Adding or lengthening turn lanes, moving parking away from stop lines or banning a conflicting turn at peak hours can raise capacity at low cost. At moderate and balanced traffic volumes, a roundabout can reduce delay and make crashes less severe.

Priority for people and demand management. Transit signal priority and safe pedestrian and cycle crossings move more people through the same space. Staggered working hours, parking policy and real-time traffic information reduce the number of vehicles that join the queue at the peak.

Intelligent transport systems. Video detection, radar and connected-vehicle data make it possible to measure traffic continuously and to improve the results of the measures above, but they should complement them and not replace them.

KEY METHODS FOR REDUCING CONGESTION

Smart traffic signals
Use real-time data and adaptive signals to match traffic demand and reduce wait times.

Reliable public transport
More buses, BRT lanes and integrated transport systems get people moving.

Promote carpooling and shared mobility
Fewer vehicles, less congestion, lower emissions.

Improve road infrastructure
Expand key roads, add turn lanes, bridges and better junction design.

Safer and non-motorized travel
Dedicated lanes for cyclists and pedestrians reduce conflict and improve flow.

Data and monitoring
Traffic cameras, sensors and analytics help plan and respond in real time.

Better Traffic. Smoother Cities. A Stronger Kenya.

the layout, and add adaptive control and demand management where they are justified, checking the results after each step.

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Tourism Words such as voyage (travel), touriste (tourist) and hôtel (hotel) fall into this category, allowing direct substitution without loss of precision

Bridging languages in tourism: A French-Uzbek perspective

How translation methods shape the way the world's most travelled industry communicates across cultures.

BY Abdullayeva Dildora Muhiddin

@themtkenyatimes

Tourism is among the world's most economically and socially significant industries, yet its smooth operation depends on something easily overlooked: the precise translation of terminology across languages. A comparative analysis of French and Uzbek tourism vocabulary reveals how different translation methods shape professional communication and influence the quality of service that international travellers receive.

The study of tourism terminology sits at the intersection of linguistics and professional practice. Unlike general vocabulary, specialised terms must carry consistent meaning across contexts and cultures. French, as one of the world's major languages of diplomacy and international commerce, and Uzbek, spoken by more than 35 million people across Central Asia, represent a pairing that reflects the growing diversity of global tourism flows.

Terminology, it is worth noting, differs from general lexicology in a fundamental way. Where lexicology moves from word to meaning, terminology works in the opposite direction — from concept to term. This onomasiological approach treats specialised vocabulary as a systematic set of units used in scientific and professional communication rather than as isolated words to be defined individually.

When French tourism terms are rendered into Uzbek, linguists and translators apply four principal methods. The first is transcription or borrowing, where the French term is adopted phonetically into Uzbek with minimal change. Words such as tourisme, visa and excursion follow this pattern, retaining their French form because no native Uzbek equivalent exists or because the borrowed term has achieved sufficient currency in professional use.

The second method is equivalent translation, applied where both languages possess established terms that carry identical meaning. Words such as voyage (travel), touriste (tourist) and hôtel (hotel) fall into this category, allowing direct sub-



stitution without loss of precision or professional register.

The third approach is semantic translation, used where a French term requires cultural or conceptual adaptation to communicate accurately in Uzbek. The phrase agence de voyage, for instance, carries institutional and commercial connotations

that must be preserved in translation rather than rendered word for word. The fourth method is direct translation, where the components of a compound term are translated individually. Guide touristique becomes tour guide and billet d'avion becomes air ticket through this straightforward structural correspon-

dence.

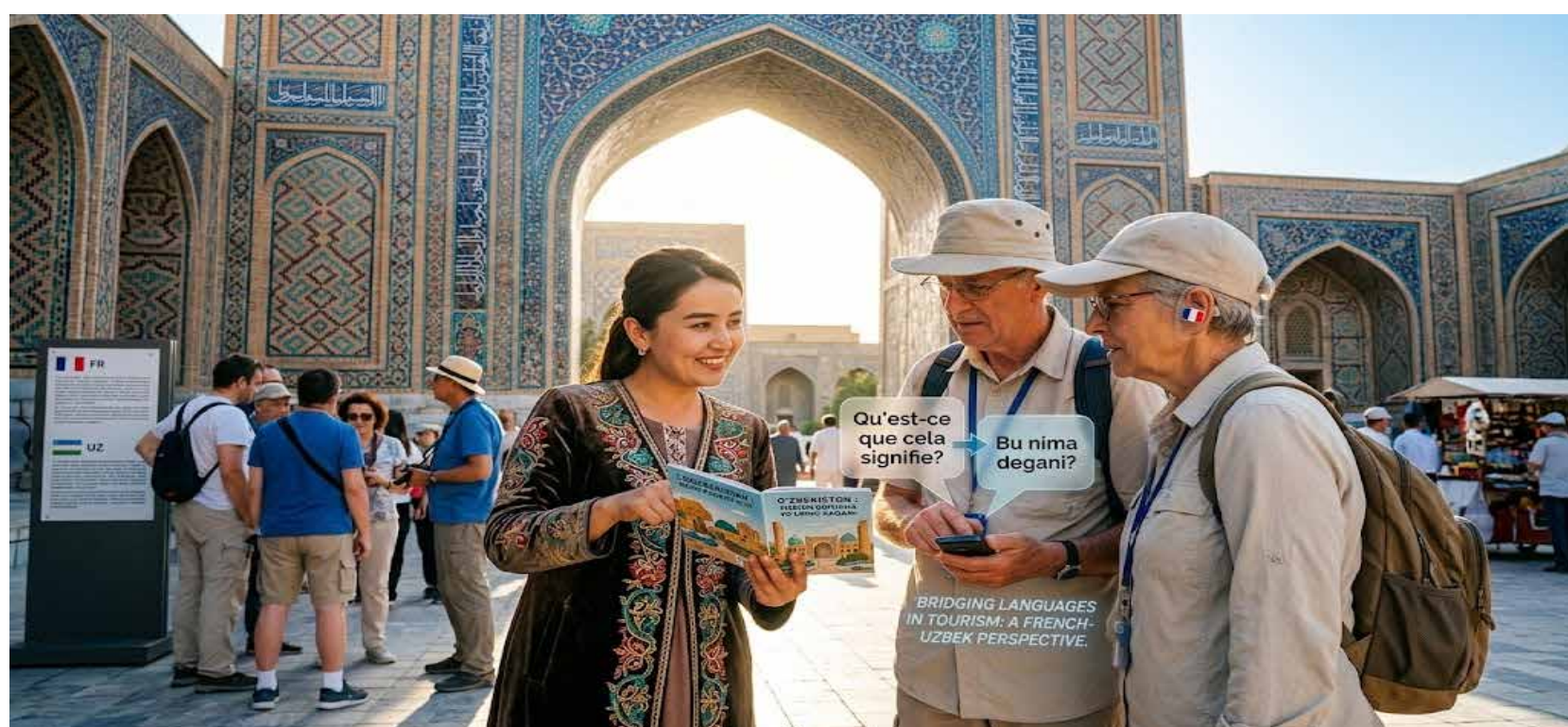
Core tourism vocabulary — covering transport, accommodation, documentation and visitor services — transfers with reasonable consistency between the two languages. Terms including réservation (reservation), aéroport (airport), passeport (passport), itinéraire (itinerary) and

destination present few translation difficulties, reflecting the degree to which international tourism has generated a shared professional lexicon that crosses linguistic boundaries.

The theoretical foundations for this kind of analysis draw on the work of the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure, whose concept of language as a structured system underpins modern terminology studies. His central insight — that meaning arises from relationships within a system rather than from isolated units — remains directly relevant to the study of how specialised vocabularies function across languages.

The practical implications extend well beyond academic linguistics. Tourism professionals working across French and Uzbek-speaking environments — whether in travel agencies, hotels, airports or cultural heritage settings — require precise command of terminology in both languages. Mistranslation or inconsistent term use can compromise service quality, create confusion in legal and contractual documents and undermine the professionalism that international visitors expect.

As Central Asia's tourism sector continues to expand and French-speaking visitors increasingly discover the region's historic cities, the alignment of professional terminology across these two languages becomes a matter of genuine commercial and cultural importance. Rigorous comparative analysis of this kind strengthens linguistic competence, supports professional training and contributes to the broader project of making tourism communication more accurate, inclusive and effective across the world's many languages.

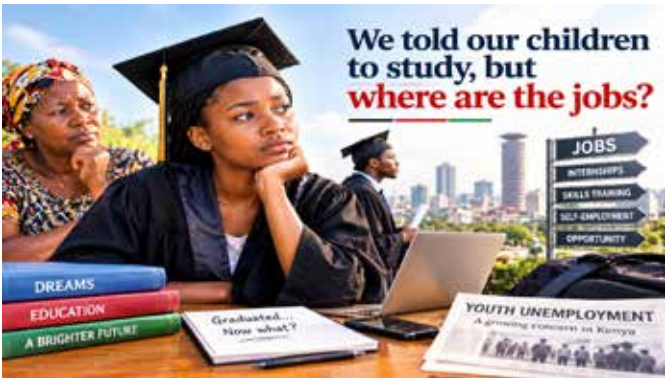




We told our children to study, but where are the jobs?

By Yvonne Wambui

For years, Kenyan families have sacrificed everything for education. Parents borrowed money, sold property and worked extra shifts, convinced that a certificate, diploma or degree would secure their children a better future. Many of those children believed it too — and studied accordingly. Yet across the country today, thousands of graduates are sending applications into silence, attending interviews that lead nowhere and returning home to families who invested everything in a promise that has not been kept. Graduation, which should mark a beginning, has for many become the start of a different and harder struggle. The problem is not that education has lost its value. Knowledge, critical thinking and professional skills remain essential. The problem is the widening gap between what in-



stitutions produce and what the economy absorbs. A young person can spend years in school, drawing on family resources and public funds, only to discover that the job market they prepared for barely exists. This gap is not felt equally. Graduates with connections, financial cushions or influential networks navigate the transition far more smoothly than those competing on merit alone. That disparity is not just unfair — it is wasteful. Kenya cannot afford to sideline talent because it arrived without the

right contacts. Employers demanding years of experience from entry-level applicants while offering no pathway to gain it are part of the problem. Internships, apprenticeships and structured graduate programmes are not luxuries — they are the mechanisms through which experience is built and careers begin. We told our children to work hard, stay in school and trust that education would open doors. It is long past time to make sure those doors actually exist.

Laikipia students swap lectures for Ingwamiti Hills

A lecturers' strike paused their studies — so they laced up their boots instead.

By Victorine Nekesa

When a lecturers' strike brought academic life at Laikipia University to a standstill, a group of students still on campus chose adventure over idleness, heading out to explore the Ingwamiti Hills and turning disruption into discovery. The hiking trip offered physical exercise, fresh air and the kind of unscripted bonding that lecture halls rarely provide. For students already frustrated by the strike's impact on their studies, the hills offered a welcome reset. Omar Joram said the group wanted to make their time count. "The strike has affected our studies, but we decided to do something meaningful. Exploring Ingwamiti Hills gave us a chance to relax, enjoy na-



ture and create beautiful memories together," he said. Kevin Hassan said the outing reminded him that university life extends beyond coursework. "We explored a new place, enjoyed the scenery and bonded with friends. Experiences like these also matter," Hassan said. A third student, Geoffrey, said the hike reinforced the value of collective resilience. "We explored together and supported one another. It was a good re-

minder that we can still make positive memories even during challenging times," he said. The students remain hopeful that the strike will end soon and normal learning will resume. In the meantime, their afternoon on the hills served as a quiet but pointed reminder that growth does not always happen in a classroom. Sometimes, it happens on a hillside — with good company and nowhere particular to be.

Hardship and peer pressure in universities

By Nicholas Mwendwa

Rising commodity prices have made university life increasingly difficult for students from modest backgrounds — and the gap between those who have and those who do not has never been more visible on campus. While some students move through university comfortably, others skip meals, wear the same clothes and watch peers flaunt smartphones and laptops they can only dream of owning. That daily contrast breeds something corrosive: pressure to appear equal to people whose circumstances bear no resemblance to your own. Peer pressure in Kenyan universities is no longer simply about behaviour. It is fundamentally about money. The desire to fit in drives some students to overspend, make poor financial decisions and in extreme cases pursue unethical means to fund lifestyles they



cannot honestly afford. When a student skips lunch to save money while a roommate orders takeaway, the psychological weight of that difference is real and cumulative. Food, clothing, accommodation and personal gadgets have become informal measures of social standing. Students who cannot meet those unspoken standards often withdraw, lose confidence or make choices that damage their academic prospects and personal integrity.

The antidote is not simple, but it begins with honesty. Students must learn to live within their means, resist comparisons fed by social media and choose friendships that are grounded in substance rather than spending power. Universities and student welfare offices also carry responsibility — financial counselling, mental health support and peer mentorship programmes should be standard, not optional. A degree is worth more than the lifestyle surrounding it.

Kenya as a global nation

By Sofi Emelda

Kenya punches well above its weight. For a developing nation without superpower status or vast oil reserves, its global reach — through technology, diplomacy, sport, culture and trade — is remarkable and still growing. The clearest proof is M-Pesa. Launched by Safaricom in 2007, the mobile money platform solved a problem that banks had ignored for decades: financial exclusion. It spread rapidly across Africa and is today studied at Harvard as a model of homegrown innovation. What began as a local fix became a global template. Kenya's diaspora extends that reach further. Kenyans working as doctors, nurses, engineers and teachers across the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and the Gulf send home billions in remittances annually while carrying Kenyan culture — language, food, fabric — into commu-



nities worldwide. The late Barack Obama Sr, father of a former US president, came from Kogelo in Siaya County. Kenya's human export has quietly shaped global leadership. On diplomacy, Kenya's record is substantive. Nairobi is the only city in the developing world hosting a United Nations headquarters, home to both UNEP and UN-Habitat. Kenyan peacekeepers have served in Haiti and Somalia, while the country has played a sustained role in peace negotiations for South Sudan and

the Democratic Republic of Congo. Then there is sport. When Eliud Kipchoge broke the two-hour marathon barrier and Faith Kipyegon shattered world records, the Kenyan flag rose in stadiums across the globe. Athletics has made Kenya synonymous with excellence and endurance. The true map of Kenya is not drawn on paper. It is drawn in the world.

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *The Aston Villa goalkeeper has expressed confidence he will be back between the posts within weeks.

Martínez targets swift return after surgery

By **Pascal Okoth**

Aston Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez underwent surgery yesterday after suffering an injury that has raised considerable concern among supporters of both his club and the Argentina national team, but the World Cup winner moved quickly to reassure fans, expressing confidence that he would return to action within weeks and that his focus remained firmly on helping his team win matches.

Martínez, widely known as Dibu, indicated that his precise comeback date would depend on rehabilitation progress and medical assessments. Despite the setback, his competitive edge appeared entirely undiminished. “The most important things are three points and a clean sheet,” he said — a statement that cut to the heart of the mentality that has made him one of football’s most respected and recognisable goalkeepers over the past several years.

For a goalkeeper, a clean sheet represents far more than an individual achievement. It signals collective organisation, defensive concentration and the kind of disciplined teamwork that separates title-contending sides from the rest. That Martínez was thinking and speaking in those terms while recovering from surgery spoke volumes about his character and his commitment to the broader objectives of the team, even at a moment when he could contribute nothing directly on the pitch.

The Argentine cemented his reputation emphatically on the global stage during Argentina’s triumph at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, where his penalty-saving exploits and commanding presence in goal proved decisive across several nerve-shredding knockout rounds. His performances throughout that tournament ele-

vated him from a highly regarded club goalkeeper to a genuine national hero, with supporters back home crediting him as a central figure in the country’s long-awaited return to the summit of world football.

At club level, Martínez has delivered consistently for Aston Villa since his arrival, helping the Birmingham club establish itself as a competitive force in the Premier League and qualify for European competition. His shot-stopping ability, aerial command and capacity to perform under pressure have made him one of the division’s standout goalkeepers, and his influence on the dressing room dynamic should not be underestimated. Goalkeepers of his quality and personality tend to set the tone for the entire defensive unit, and Villa’s backline has benefited visibly from his presence.

His absence, for however long it lasts, presents a genuine challenge for the club. Villa’s coaching staff will need to manage their goalkeeping resources carefully, particularly with a demanding run of fixtures that allows little margin for error. Supporters will be watching developments closely, and the club’s medical team will play a central role in determining when Martínez can safely resume training and eventually return to competitive action.

Any timeline, however, should be treated with caution until confirmed through further medical assessment. Recovery following surgery varies considerably according to the nature of the injury, the specific procedure performed and the individual’s physical response to rehabilitation. Returning too soon carries its own risks, and for a goalkeeper whose entire game is built on explosive reactions, precise footwork and the confidence to command a penalty area without hesitation, regaining full match



Aston Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez.

sharpness demands patience and careful management.

It is not simply a matter of feeling well enough to play. Goalkeepers returning from surgery must rebuild their mobility, test their reflexes under match-intensity conditions and recover the mental sharpness that comes only from sustained, rigorous training. A premature return that results in a further setback would serve neither Martínez nor Aston Villa, and the club’s medical staff will be acutely aware of that reality.

For Villa supporters, the hope will be that the weeks pass quickly and that Martínez emerges from his rehabilitation in full condition, ready to reclaim his place and pick up where he left

off. For Argentina followers with an eye on future international commitments, the concern will be similar — that one of the national team’s most important players returns fully fit and not a moment before he is ready.

Martínez has demonstrated throughout his career that he is at his best when the stakes are highest. The challenge of recovery, patience and disciplined rehabilitation may be different from anything he faces between the posts, but few who have watched him perform would doubt his capacity to meet it.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *In a season that is forcing Manchester United fans to dig deep for reasons to be positive, Bryan Mbeumo scored again at Elland Road.

Mbeumo offers Carrick solace as Man Utd winless run goes on



By: BBC

In a season that is forcing Manchester United fans to dig deep for reasons to be positive, Bryan Mbeumo scored again at Elland Road.

That is four goals in seven Premier League games for the Cameroon forward.

Apart from Bruno Fernandes, who scored a hat-trick against Ipswich in August, no-one else in Michael Carrick's squad has scored more than one.

But it's meagre fare. It is true to say Manchester United did reasonably well in their 1-1 draw at Leeds United, just as they did at Atletico Madrid on Tuesday after conceding inside the first minute.

Carrick told BBC Radio 5 Live afterwards he "had the headphones on" this week so he hasn't heard the external noise created by Lisandro Martinez's rant.

However, he knows his side have to win matches at some point.

That is six without a victory now, the worst run since 2018-19, when form nosedived after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was confirmed as permanent manager.

"Because they haven't lost at Leeds, we're thinking United have done all right," said former Liverpool and England defender

Jamie Carragher on Sky Sports. "But in some ways that is a negative. We are dropping the standards. We shouldn't really be talking about Manchester United like that."

A fresh start for Man Utd?

After the corresponding fixture last season, Ruben Amorim gave the explosive press conference that triggered his dismissal within 24 hours.

This time, it was Lisandro Martinez who lit the touchpaper before the game, criticising sporting director Jason Wilcox and the United hierarchy for failing, in his view, to recruit effectively during the summer.

Wilcox was in the stands at Elland Road, while Martinez started the game following his apology for the timing and forum of his attack rather than the words themselves.

To highlight the general view that United failed Carrick by not bringing in competition for Luke Shaw at left-back, Diogo Dalot became the fifth different player to start in that position this season.

It remains to be seen if Shaw will be fit enough for Wednesday's Champions League trip to Serie A outfit Como, but the repeated changes cannot be helping Carrick.

Martinez went off at half-time with a thigh injury, and such is

the delicate nature of Matthijs de Ligt's fitness after almost 11 months out with a back complaint, Carrick preferred to bring on full-back Noussair Mazraoui rather than the Netherlands international.

Carrick's side ended the game 13th in the Premier League table, with the possibility they might drop further before the match round is complete.

Unlike Amorim, Carrick found it easy to come up with a positive spin on the present situation.

"It felt like a bit of a fresh start today, to be honest, with where we're at – accepting it and doing something about it," Carrick said.

"I'm not accepting it as everything's great by any stretch. I'm realistic with that.

"But sometimes you do struggle. Sometimes there's a bit where you have to find a way through.

"There has been a cycle at times here over a period of time when it can go in different directions. We've got to be stable enough to keep doing the right things. We're more than capable of winning football matches.

"I understand the situation doesn't look too good if you look at it from a certain way, but I've got no doubts that we can go on a good run."

Mbeumo's sacrifice

Mbeumo's performance wasn't flawless by any means.

He should have done much better when he missed the target with a free header before he scored, and the former Brentford man then failed to prevent Dominic Calvert-Lewin powering in an equaliser just after half-time.

But in a campaign when so many of Carrick's attacking players are struggling – skipper Fernandes has been a shadow of the player who broke the Premier League assists record last season even though the United boss said the Portuguese was 'absolutely fine' – Mbeumo's performances have been vital.

Their importance has been heightened by the continued absence of striker Benjamin Sesko with a shin injury.

Mbeumo spent the first few games on the right of United's attack when Amad Diallo was ruled out by injury. When Amad returned, Mbeumo moved into the number nine role.

At Elland Road he was shifted again, to the left as Fernandes played more through the middle.

"When you are the kind of player who can be very good in a lot of positions, managers will always say: 'Can you do this? Can you do that?'" former Red Devils striker Dion Dublin told BBC Sport.

"When you're in this Manchester United team at the moment, you just have to go where is best for the team."

Carrick was even more effusive in his praise.

"Bryan gives so much to the team," he said. "He sacrifices so much.

"He's willing to do pretty much anything that needs to be done to benefit the team – whether that's defending in certain areas, whether that's attacking. He'll give everything he's got.

"He's getting in really good positions to be really dangerous for us, and it's great to have him."

SPORTS NEWS



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Kenya's hidden talent: The grassroots sports crisis we keep ignoring



By: Simon Juma
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Kenya is a nation of dreamers. In villages from Trans-Nzoia to the coast, children grow up convinced that their name will one day mean something. For many families, that belief is not merely ambition — it is strategy. Talent, if it can be harnessed, is a pathway out of poverty, a way to put food on the table and change the story of an entire household.
- Walk through any rural community on a weekend and you will find football teams playing on open grounds with improvised goalposts, young men and women who pooled small contributions to buy a ball and a set of jerseys. In Trans-Nzoia County, clubs such as Siata FC and Coast FC may never appear on national television, but within their communities they command the kind of loyalty that fills terraces and silences crowds.



When outsiders hear the word Kenya, they picture wildlife, world-beating distance runners and a peaceful nation on the African map. It is a flattering image, and not entirely wrong. But ask a Kenyan, and the pride comes wrapped in frustration — because they know what this country could be if it actually invested in the talent it produces so naturally and so abundantly.

Kenya is a nation of dreamers. In villages from Trans-Nzoia to the coast, children grow up convinced that their name will one day mean something. For many families, that belief is not merely ambition — it is strategy. Talent, if it can be harnessed, is a pathway out of poverty, a way to put food on the table and change the story of an entire household.

Walk through any rural community on a weekend and you will find football teams playing on open grounds with improvised goalposts, young men and women who pooled small contributions to buy a ball and a set of jerseys. In Trans-Nzoia County, clubs such as Siata FC and Coast FC may never appear on national

television, but within their communities they command the kind of loyalty that fills terraces and silences crowds. Whole villages turn out to watch, cheering as though the final of a major tournament were being played on that dusty patch of ground.

The quality, by many accounts, is remarkable. Yet it goes unseen. There are no proper pitches, no training equipment, no academies, no scouts and no coaches operating at ward level. If grassroots football in Kenya were broadcast nationally, many supporters who follow the English Premier League would be startled by what exists on their doorstep. The talent is real. The infrastructure to support it is not.

The human cost of this neglect is written on the faces of those who have lived it longest. In Siata village, there are men who have played football for more than two decades and have nothing material to show for it — no income, no property, no professional recognition. Their passion endures but their bodies are ageing and their windows of opportunity have closed. Their stories are not exceptional. They are the norm

for thousands of Kenyan athletes across football, athletics, volleyball and rugby who gave their youth to sport and received nothing back because the system was never designed to support them.

This is a failure of policy and political will, not of talent. Corruption and the misappropriation of public funds have redirected money that should have built sports academies into private accounts and lavish expenditure that serves no one but those in office. Had even a fraction of those resources been invested in grassroots sport, Kenya would today have a pipeline of professional athletes generating income, inspiring communities and representing the country on the global stage.

The remedy is not complicated, even if it requires genuine commitment. The government must establish sports centres in every county, deploy qualified coaches at ward level and create a tournament structure that begins in the village and scales to the national level. Talent identification cannot remain a Nairobi exercise. It must reach every corner of the country, because the

next generation of world-class Kenyan athletes is almost certainly not training at a well-funded urban academy. They are playing barefoot on a school field somewhere, waiting for someone to notice.

A well-supported athlete does more than compete. A player earning a professional wage builds a house for his parents, educates younger siblings and becomes a living example of what is possible for other children in his community. Sport, when properly resourced, does not merely entertain — it generates employment, reduces crime and anchors young people in purpose and discipline.

In Europe, a talented child from a modest background can become a millionaire because the system identifies, develops and rewards ability from an early age. Kenya produces the raw material at least as generously. What it has consistently failed to produce is the system.

The question Kenya must answer honestly is not whether the talent exists. It plainly does. The question is whether those in positions of authority are finally prepared to stop wasting it.