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Countdown 2027 Kenya's 2027 election is on: Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna yesterday formally launched The Equitable Party

Sifuna draws his sword

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna yesterday formally launched The Equitable Party (TEP) as his presidential vehicle for the 2027 general election, ending months of legal delays and political uncertainty and marking the most significant escalation yet in Kenya's gathering electoral storm.

The ceremony at the Stanley Hotel in Nairobi was more than a party launch. It was the opening salvo of what promises to be the most consequential electoral contest Kenya has seen since the 2002 election that swept Mwai Kibaki to power and ended two decades of Kanu rule. With ten months to polling day and a fractured but increasingly animated opposition assembling behind a single flag, the country's political landscape shifted measurably on Sunday afternoon.

Suba South MP Caroli Omondi announced the formation during the ceremony, declaring Sifuna as its presidential candidate. "In this journey to deliver this change, we are going to be led by one, and I now want to declare here that this formation will be led by one presidential candidate, Edwin Watenya Sifuna; we shall be united in this course," Omondi said.



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Edwin Sifuna - TEP Party leader



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Sifuna puts TEP on the map

Kenya's most watched senator formally plants his 2027 flag

BY James Mwangi

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna yesterday launched The Equitable Party as his presidential vehicle for the 2027 general election, drawing a packed crowd of opposition principals and igniting fresh anticipation across Kenya's political landscape.

Flanked by Siaya Governor James Orenge, Trans Nzoia Governor George Nitembeya and Embakasi East MP Babu Owino, Sifuna was declared party leader and presidential flagbearer at a ceremony at the Stanley Hotel in Nairobi. The occasion marked the formal end of months of legal delays that had blocked his preferred Linda Mwananchi Movement registration.

Sifuna announced that TEP would soon rebrand to the Linda Mwananchi Movement, describing the party as a home for Kenyans who believe the country deserves better leadership. He urged supporters to register under party code 100. "Young Kenyans must have a meaningful voice in shaping the leadership of this country," he told the crowd. With August 2027 approaching fast, yesterday's launch signals that the race to State House is no longer a matter of speculation — it has formally begun.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Democracy for the Citizens Party leader Rigathi Gachagua yesterday dismissed claims that former President Uhuru Kenyatta is bankrolling the opposition, insisting his party requires no external financing to build its 2027 electoral campaign. Gachagua said the DCP was capable of mobilising Kenyans on its own terms, pushing back against persistent narratives that opposition activity is being sustained by money from Kenyatta's camp. The denial comes as speculation about behind-the-scenes political financing has intensified ahead of next year's general election, with the ruling Kenya Kwanza coalition repeatedly suggesting that opposition momentum is donor-driven rather than organic. Gachagua, who was removed as deputy president by parliament in 2024, has since repositioned himself as a central figure in the anti-incumbent bloc.



Kenya's government has committed to enacting the Older Persons Bill, 2024, before the close of 2027, as the country grapples with the growing needs of an ageing population and persistent gaps in health-care, income support and social protection. Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs Principal Secretary Joseph Motari said the legislation would establish a more robust framework for safeguarding the rights and welfare of older Kenyans. The pledge comes amid mounting pressure on the state to address the vulnerabilities faced by millions of elderly citizens who remain outside formal social protection systems. Advocates have long argued that without dedicated legislation, older persons remain exposed to poverty, neglect and inadequate access to essential services, leaving a critical gap in Kenya's social policy architecture.



Wiper Patriotic Front party spokesman and lawyer Ndegwa Njiru yesterday cautioned opposition leaders against rushing the selection of a United Alternative Government presidential flagbearer, arguing that a decision of such national consequence deserved a proper and considered forum. Njiru's remarks came amid growing calls within opposition ranks to accelerate the process of identifying a consensus candidate ahead of the 2027 general election, with various factions pressing for early resolution to avoid the divisions that cost the opposition the 2022 presidential race. He did not elaborate on the specific context that prompted the warning, but his underlying message was clear: settling on a candidate to face President William Ruto requires deliberate consultation, not a hasty announcement seized upon at an inappropriate moment.



People's Liberation Party leader Martha Karua yesterday expressed gratitude to the thousands who turned out to mourn her father, Mwalimu Jackson Karua, describing the public outpouring as a profound testament to a life well lived. Writing on X, Karua said the large turnout was a moving expression of love and respect for her father, and a reminder of the many lives he had touched over the course of his lifetime. The funeral drew significant public attendance, reflecting both the esteem in which Mwalimu Karua was held within his community and the prominent public profile of his daughter, one of Kenya's most recognised opposition figures. Karua thanked all who stood with the family during their period of loss.



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna yesterday confirmed plans to rename The Equitable Party the Linda Mwananchi Movement, following a tribunal ruling that cleared the name for reservation. Speaking at the party's launch in Nairobi, where his allies formally unveiled him as movement leader, Sifuna said the rebranding would proceed within days. "As has been resolved by the principals of Linda Mwananchi, who you see here, we shall be seeking to rebrand this party, the Equitable Party, to the Linda Mwananchi Movement," he said. The ruling ends months of legal uncertainty that had forced Sifuna and his allies to operate under the TEP banner while their preferred political identity remained tied up in dispute.



Political commentator Tony Gachoka yesterday declared his support for a unified opposition behind Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, revealing that he had dispatched a direct message to former President Uhuru Kenyatta urging him to back the senator's 2027 presidential bid. Writing on X, Gachoka said he had met Kenyatta's cousin Peter Kihanya over coffee at Westgate and sent word that the time for unity was now. "We must all unite behind Edwin Sifuna or perish," Gachoka said, drawing a pointed parallel with the 2002 "Kibaki Tosha" declaration that galvanised opposition support and swept Mwai Kibaki to power. Gachoka, who described Kenyatta as a friend and brother, argued that consequential political decisions are made in the open, not behind closed doors.

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Jobs The event effectively transformed the tournament grounds into a one-stop information platform

Government takes diaspora jobs drive to the grassroots

Officials use Meru football tournament to warn youth on migration risks and connect them with legitimate overseas opportunities

BY John Kariuki

@themtkenyatimes

The government yesterday called on young Kenyans seeking work abroad to conduct thorough due diligence, equip themselves with accurate information, acquire the right skills and secure proper documentation before pursuing overseas employment opportunities.

The message was delivered during a diaspora sensitisation exercise held on the sidelines of the third Kazi Majuu Football Tournament at Kianjai Primary School in Tigani West, Meru County — a deliberate choice of venue that brought official guidance directly into a community setting rather than a government boardroom.

Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary Roseline Kathure Njogu said the government was taking information on opportunities and support services to communities so that citizens could pursue jobs abroad safely, responsibly and from a fully informed position. “Our role is not just to connect Kenyans to jobs abroad, but to ensure that every prospective diaspora worker understands the processes, the opportunities, the risks and the government support services available to them,” she said.

Njogu was joined by Cooperatives Principal Secretary Patrick Kilemi, who praised



Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary Roseline Kathure Njogu

the initiative and called for stronger cooperation among stakeholders to ensure young Kenyans are adequately prepared to take full advantage of the global labour market. Together, the two officials signalled that the drive to support safe and orderly labour migration is a cross-government priority, not the concern of a single ministry.

The event effectively transformed the tournament grounds into a one-stop information platform, bringing together institutions from national and county government, development partners and the private sector. Young people interacted directly with agencies responsible for labour mobility, skills development, enterprise support and access to government services — conversations

that for many would otherwise require multiple trips to Nairobi.

Presentations were made by the National Employment Authority, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, HAART Kenya, the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Huduma Kenya and the Premier Maritime Training Institute. Each agency shared details of its programmes, services and the specific opportunities available to participants, giving attendees a practical understanding of the legitimate pathways available to them.

The initiative reflects the government’s broader effort to protect Kenyans from the dangers of irregular migration and predatory recruitment practices — a problem that

has left many young people stranded, exploited or in debt after pursuing overseas work through unverified channels. By bringing credible institutions directly to communities and pairing the outreach with a football event that draws large crowds, officials are trying to reach young people where they already gather, rather than waiting for them to seek out information independently.

The underlying message from Njogu and her colleagues was straightforward: opportunity abroad is real, accessible and growing — but only for those who prepare properly, use legitimate channels and understand exactly what they are signing up for before they board a flight.

Veterans to petition Ruto over Samburu cattle killings



MMV Associates CLG Director General James Njuguna Mahuria addressing the press | Photo: Courtesy

BY Brian Gitonga

@themtkenyatimes

A caucus of former freedom fighters has vowed to petition President William Ruto over the killing of hundreds of cattle by security officers in Samburu County, demanding compensation for herders who lost their livelihoods in what the group describes as indiscriminate action under the guise of flushing out criminals.

MMV Associates CLG, the organisation leading the push, said the government must commit to compensating affected families as the country prepares for Mashujaa Day celebrations on 20 October in Eldoret. Director General James Njuguna Mahuria said the killings were unacceptable and that his group planned to first meet affected Samburu

community members in Nakuru before formally presenting the petition to the President.

Mahuria said the organisation was also preparing a documentary on former freedom fighters, their descendants and their current activities, which would accompany the petition as part of their broader and long-running campaign for recognition and compensation. He thanked the government’s Heroes Council for honouring earlier requests to recognise and commend several Kenyans the group had nominated.

He added that MMV Associates CLG was preparing to field its largest-ever contingent at this year’s Mashujaa Day celebrations, using the national occasion to amplify their demands and keep the spotlight on a community still awaiting justice.

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Education For generations, our education system buried footballers under chemistry textbooks and silenced carpenters with exam grades — and we called it progress

The stolen hands: How we killed the craftsman to create a clerk



By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza
mukphix@gmail.com

Let me say what we have been afraid to say. The education system most of us went through was never designed for all of us.

It was not built to develop a nation. It was built to staff an office. At its root, it was a colonial project — constructed to produce clerks and typists for a master who was not us. It was never intended to make builders, farmers, welders, artists or creators. As Ngugi wa Thiong'o warned in *Decolonising the Mind*, it taught us to see ourselves through the eyes of another. As Paulo Freire described in *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, it was banking education: the child arrives as an empty account, the teacher makes deposits, and the child withdraws everything in an examination room. That is not learning. That is rehearsal for obedience.

But this narrow colonial project swallowed everyone. It wrapped our grandparents, then our parents, then us, then our children inside one suffocating cocoon — a cocoon of fear, of caning, of cramming and of grade letters that determined human worth. For six decades we have been trapped inside it, and we are only now beginning to name what it cost us.

Where are our best craftsmen? Where are the skilled hands that every genuinely developed nation is built upon? We lost them. We lost them in primary school. A boy who could carve a bird from a piece of wood with a razor blade, who could dismantle and reassemble a broken radio with no formal training, was told he was a failure because he could not balance a chemical equation. We lost them in secondary school. A girl whose voice could hold an entire assembly in silence, whose feet moved a ball with instinctive elegance, was told she was useless because she could not label the reproductive parts of a flower.

We told an entire generation that their worth lived in a grade. That their future was a letter — F, P, C, D. So the footballer abandoned football



Craftsman

trying to pass Chemistry. The debater lost his voice trying to survive Mathematics. The boy who could repair any engine in the village was shamed in front of his class because his essay had no proverb. He did not become a doctor. He also did not become a mechanic. We got a frustrated young man who hates books and has forgotten his gift.

As Howard Gardner argued in *Frames of Mind*, a child carries multiple intelligences, not one. When we measure fifty children with one ruler, we murder many geniuses. We built a system that looked at those fifty children with fifty different gifts and told forty of them they had failed — simply because they did not fit inside the narrow twenty percent box designed for office work. We created job seekers because we shamed job creators. We told the child who loved farming that agriculture was for the dull. We told the child who loved construction that building was for those who could not study. We told the child who loved football that the game was for hooligans. Then we turned around and asked why we import skilled workers from outside, why our stadiums are empty and why unemployment is a national cri-

sis in a country bursting with young people.

We have unemployed graduates and unskilled communities existing simultaneously. That is not an accident. That is the logical outcome of a system that refused to value what hands can do.

A child arrives at school at four years old with brightness in his eyes. At four he shapes cattle from clay. At six he builds a toy car from wire. At ten he can draw, sing and construct things from nothing. By fifteen, after years of being instructed to sit still, to cram, to fear the cane and dread examinations, that brightness is gone. He is a frightened boy waiting to be labelled. We did not educate him. As John Holt observed in *How Children Fail*, we extinguished him.

Nobody becomes exceptional at something they are forced to endure. As Aristotle understood, where your talent meets the needs of the world, there lies your true vocation. Excellence is born from passion. Passion comes from freedom. And freedom arrives when a child is permitted to become who they were born to be. Sir Ken Robinson made this point as plainly as it has ever been made: schools, as currently structured, kill

creativity. We have known this for decades. We have simply lacked the courage to act on it with sufficient urgency.

This is why the Competency-Based Curriculum must be embraced fully — not as a political slogan, not as an administrative burden, but as a genuine rescue operation for a generation whose gifts we have spent decades systematically suppressing. The CBC carries a revolutionary idea dressed in simple language: let a child do what they know best, discover their strength early and become an expert in it. As Maria Montessori demonstrated through a lifetime of practice, when a child follows genuine interest, they work with joy and develop into a master of their craft.

A child who loves building should be building from the age of ten, on a path toward becoming the finest mason, architect or engineer the country has produced. A child who loves football should be trained with exactly the same seriousness, the same institutional investment and the same social respect extended to a future surgeon. A child who loves to argue, to lead, to communicate should be nurtured from an early

age into a lawyer, a statesman or a broadcaster. Imagine a school where the best farmer in the district teaches agriculture as a profession of dignity and pride. Where a carpenter teaches design. Where a professional footballer is regarded with the same esteem as a medical doctor. That is how countries build genuine wealth.

We do not need every young person struggling toward the same narrow corridor of medicine and law. We need excellent doctors, yes — but we equally need passionate farmers, world-class athletes, gifted artisans, fearless innovators and joyful teachers who love what they do. We need all of them, in abundance, operating at the height of their individual abilities. That is how a nation truly prospers.

Chinua Achebe understood what we still struggle to accept: a man who does not know where the rain began to beat him cannot know where he dried himself. Our rain began the moment we despised working hands and worshipped only the office. Our old system created clerks. We need a system that creates builders. Our old system taught children to cram. We need one that teaches them to think, to make, to solve. Our old system taught children to fear failure. We need one that teaches them to attempt, to fall, to rise and to build something lasting from the experience. As Thomas Edison reminded us, our greatest weakness is not in failing — it is in giving up.

We cannot afford to lose another generation to an examination paper. We cannot bury another footballer under a Chemistry textbook. We cannot silence another debater because Mathematics did not suit her mind. Let the child born to farm, farm — with knowledge, with modern tools and with the pride of feeding a nation. Let the child born to play, play — with discipline, with coaching and with the ambition of carrying a flag into stadiums the world is watching. Let the child born to build, build — roads, bridges, homes and industries that will long outlast the people who conceived them.

The future has never lived in the office alone. It lives in the field, in the workshop, in the studio, in the stadium — and in the hands of a child who has finally, mercifully, been allowed to become exactly who they were meant to be.

Give us back our stolen hands.

Politics The Equitable Party launch thrusts Nairobi’s senator into the frontline of a bruising electoral battle that will define who governs Kenya next

Sifuna draws his sword: Kenya’s 2027 election is on

BY James Mwangi
@themkenyaintimes

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna yesterday formally launched The Equitable Party (TEP) as his presidential vehicle for the 2027 general election, ending months of legal delays and political uncertainty and marking the most significant escalation yet in Kenya’s gathering electoral storm.

The ceremony at the Stanley Hotel in Nairobi was more than a party launch. It was the opening salvo of what promises to be the most consequential electoral contest Kenya has seen since the 2002 election that swept Mwai Kibaki to power and ended two decades of Kanu rule. With ten months to polling day and a fractured but increasingly animated opposition assembling behind a single flag, the country’s political landscape shifted measurably on Sunday afternoon.

Suba South MP Caroli Omondi announced the formation during the ceremony, declaring Sifuna as its presidential candidate. “In this journey to deliver this change, we are going to be led by one, and I now want to declare here that this formation will be led by one presidential candidate, Edwin Watenya Sifuna; we shall be united in this course,” Omondi said.

The path to the podium was not smooth. The launch followed legal challenges that had derailed Sifuna’s preferred Linda Mwananchi Movement vehicle, forcing a strategic pivot onto The Equitable Party, a registered entity that was reoriented under his leadership after months of regulatory delays and disputes with rival parties. Sifuna was defiant, vowing that hurdles would not stop The Equitable Party from contesting the 2027 election, saying that if more obstacles blocked the rebranding of the party, his team would retain the TEP identity and go to the ballot regardless.

The hall was packed with the principals of the Linda Mwananchi Movement, a coalition that has spent the better part of a year building cross-regional support while testing the boundaries of what a unified opposition can look like in a country historically carved along ethnic fault lines. Among those present were Embakasi East MP Babu Owino, Siaya Governor James Orengo, Trans Nzoia Governor George Na-

tembeya, Kakamega Senator Boni Khalwale, Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi and Omondi. Kisii Senator Richard Onyonka was also in attendance in a show of solidarity that underscored the breadth of Sifuna’s Western alliance networks.

Each speaker framed the occasion not as a party formality but as the formal declaration of an alternative government in waiting. Orengo, the Siaya governor and one of Kenya’s most experienced constitutional litigators, challenged the team to adopt a national outlook. “You are in the right place, you are in the right movement and you have the right leadership to take you to the promised land, and we owe it to the people of Kenya,” he said.

Natembeya, the Trans Nzoia governor who has emerged as one of Sifuna’s most vocal regional champions, urged opposition leaders to set aside individual ambitions and unite behind the senator. He went further, saying he would leave the country if President William Ruto retained the presidency because opposition leaders failed to consolidate. The remark drew laughter but carried an undertow of genuine anxiety about the consequences of a repeat of 2022, when a divided opposition handed Ruto a first-round victory.

Khalwale offered perhaps the most theatrical line of the day, addressing the incumbent directly. “Now Ruto, utado? Utado?” — loosely translated: “Now Ruto, what will you do?” — before turning to the youth in the crowd with a message about generational change. He also offered a striking piece of political intelligence, claiming that reported plans by Orengo, Owino and Natembeya to register separate parties had been deliberate decoys designed to confuse the Kenya Kwanza camp about the opposition’s true organisational strategy.

Sifuna himself was characteristically combative and strategically coy in equal measure. He declined to reveal the details of TEP’s policy platform, warning supporters against disclosing too much of the manifesto before its formal unveiling. “Let me not give away too much of our manifesto because Kasongo has become a copycat,” he said, deploying his now-familiar political nickname for the President. He presented TEP as a home for Kenyans who believe the country can do better, saying the par-



Babu Owino, Edwin Sifuna and George Natembeya

ty would focus on equal opportunity, youth participation, women’s leadership, regional dignity and national unity. “Young Kenyans should not be invited to political rallies; they must have a meaningful voice in shaping the leadership of this country,” Sifuna said.

The congratulations that poured in from outside the hall were as politically significant as the speeches inside. Former deputy president Rigathi Gachagua, who was removed from office by parliament in October 2024 and has since positioned himself as a leader of the Mt Kenya opposition bloc, welcomed the launch warmly. “My cousin, Senator Edwin Sifuna, congratulations are in order on the launch of your political party today. Democracy must prevail. To those who thought they could stop an idea whose time had come, we are sorry. Your time is up,” Gachagua wrote. He urged Sifuna to move quickly to build party structures and recruit strong candidates to dislodge what he called “Ruto sycophants and surrogates who have betrayed the electorate.” Gachagua described the TEP launch as “the real beginning” of Sifuna’s journey to national lead-



Edwin Sifuna, George Natembeya, James Orengo and Bonnie Khalwale

ership and framed the coming election in stark terms: “It will be wantam and round one.”

The convergence of Gachagua’s Mt Kenya networks with Sifuna’s Western alliance is the central arithmetic of the opposition’s 2027 strategy. A recent survey found that a united opposition candidate could com-

mand as much as 76 per cent of the vote against Ruto, but cautioned that no single opposition figure has yet achieved the dominance needed to automatically unify the broad-

Politics The Equitable Party launch thrusts Nairobi's senator into the frontline of a bruising electoral battle that will define who governs Kenya next

Sifuna draws his sword: Kenya's 2027 election is on

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er anti-incumbent bloc. The same analysis found that if the opposition fragments, the election is likely headed to a runoff between Ruto and Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka, with none of the candidates reaching the constitutional threshold of 50 per cent plus one vote in the first round.

Kalonzo has already signalled flexibility, indicating he would have no problem serving as Sifuna's running mate if demographics and coalition arithmetic demanded it. "I have no problem depu-

tising Sifuna, but you must take into account Kenya's demographics," he said, adding that a united opposition could replicate the decisive 2002 political moment. He described the United Alternative Government as "a government in waiting."

Jubilee Deputy Leader Fred Matiang'i has also entered the coordination fold, meeting Sifuna and allied legislators to discuss strategic alignment ahead of 2027. "Our discussions focused on strengthening strategic coordination across the United Alternative Government and aligning our efforts as we continue to offer Kenyans a credible, principled, and people-centred

alternative," Matiang'i said after the meeting.

The challenge for Sifuna is threefold: sustaining coalition discipline among leaders with their own presidential ambitions, building TEP into a functional national party structure within ten months, and expanding his appeal beyond his urban and Western Kenya base into regions where he currently polls below his rivals. Surveys show that Kalonzo retains dominance in Lower Eastern, Matiang'i commands strong support in Kisii and parts of Nyanza, while Gachagua remains influential in sections of Mt Kenya. Sifuna's candidacy draws primarily from



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna

urban centres and the Western bloc — a formidable base, but one that has historically needed cross-regional reinforcement to cross the constitutional threshold.

President Ruto, for his part, is not standing still. His Kenya Kwanza administration has been aggressively courting Western Kenya through development projects and political appointments, aware that Sifuna's grip on the region is the cornerstone of the opposition's electoral architecture. Ntembeya dismissed Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula as leaders who had lost touch with the region, saying Western Kenya is fully behind Sifuna. Whether that loyalty holds through ten

months of intense government counter-programming will be a critical test.

The deeper story of TEP's launch is not the party itself — it is what the occasion revealed about the state of Kenyan politics as the country enters its most contested electoral period in a generation. The opposition's mood is not merely oppositional; it is purposeful and increasingly structured. The Linda Mwananchi Movement has developed a consistent message around the cost of living, corruption, unemployment and what its leaders characterise as a governance crisis under Ruto. Omondi, addressing the crowd, spoke of peace, justice, unity, liberty and plenty for all — the ideals embedded in Kenya's national anthem

— and argued that the country had yet to fully realise those aspirations under the current administration.

Kenya goes to the polls in August 2027. Between now and that date, the country will watch whether a coalition of ambitious, regionally anchored leaders can subordinate individual interests to a shared electoral project — and whether the man who was ousted from ODM, survived a bruising internal war and now stands at the head of a newly minted party can sustain the momentum of one very loud Sunday afternoon at the Stanley Hotel all the way to State House.

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Pauline Njoroge and Babu Owino



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Family That distinction matters enormously, and it requires an honest look backwards before the present can be understood.

The generation that wants freedom but fears family

As Kenya's young people turn away from marriage and parenthood, the real question is not whether they have lost faith in family — but whether family ever gave them reason to believe

BY Hadassah Karangu
@themtkenyatimes

A quiet but consequential shift is under way in Kenya, where growing numbers of young people are openly rejecting marriage and parenthood in ways that would have been unthinkable to previous generations.

Listen to conversations among Kenya's young people and the language is striking in its directness. "I do not want to get married." "I do not want children." "Marriage is not for me." "I would rather build my career and enjoy my life." These are not fringe opinions whispered in private. They are increasingly mainstream sentiments, shared openly in workplaces, universities, social media threads and ordinary conversations between friends. They do not represent the views of every young Kenyan, but they represent enough voices to demand serious attention.

Yet beneath the surface lies a striking contradiction. A generation that says it does not want marriage is simultaneously producing some of the highest rates of single parenthood the country has seen. Young single mothers and fathers, co-parenting arrangements and families formed entirely outside the traditional marriage ceremony are now a visible and growing part of Kenyan social life. The more precise question is therefore not whether young Kenyans have abandoned family. It is whether they have abandoned the particular version of family they grew up watching.

That distinction matters

enormously, and it requires an honest look backwards before the present can be understood.

Many members of Gen Z grew up as close observers of their parents' relationships. Some were fortunate. They watched two adults who genuinely supported one another, navigated hardship together and modelled what a functional partnership looks like over time. But many others witnessed something far more complicated. They saw fathers disappear. They saw mothers carry the full weight of the household alone. They saw infidelity handled with silence or explosive conflict. They saw marriages held together not by affection but by the pressure of children, religion, community expectation or sheer fear of starting again.

And then there is perhaps the most psychologically complex category of all: the marriage that remained technically intact while emotionally collapsing years before. The house was still standing. The family photographs looked serene. But behind closed doors there was resentment, distance and a silence heavy enough to fill every room. For a child raised in that environment, marriage does not become a dream. It becomes a cautionary tale. A young person watching their parents' quiet misery is entitled to ask, with complete seriousness, why they would voluntarily enter something that brought the people who raised them so little joy. That question deserves not dismissal but genuine engagement.

Family breakdown leaves marks that outlast the moment of rupture. An absent father

does not merely leave an empty chair at the dinner table. He leaves a child quietly wondering whether they were enough reason to stay. An emotionally absent parent — present in body but long since departed in spirit — can inflict wounds just as lasting as physical absence, sometimes more so because they are harder to name. Some young people respond to this inheritance by becoming fiercely determined to build the family they never had. Others develop a deep and reasonable fear of repeating history. They grow cautious around commitment. They associate intimacy with the risk of betrayal. They worry about becoming the parent they resented, or worse, bringing a child into a home that will eventually fracture the same way theirs did.

When a young Kenyan says "I do not want children," it is too simple to take the statement at face value. Sometimes it means precisely that. But sometimes it means something quieter and more painful: I am afraid I will not know how to be a good parent. I do not want my child to feel what I felt. I have not yet healed enough to offer someone else stability. These are not irresponsible positions. They are, in many cases, among the most responsible a young person could hold.

It would be equally unfair, however, to lay the entire weight of this shift at the feet of family dysfunction. Kenya's young people are coming of age in an economic environment that makes the traditional sequence of marriage, home and children feel less like a natural progression



and more like an unaffordable aspiration. Unemployment is high. Housing costs have risen sharply. The cost of raising a child has climbed alongside everything else. Can I afford a house? Can I support a family on my salary? What happens to my career if I become a mother? What happens to my children if the relationship fails? These are rational questions deserving rational answers rather than moral pressure.

Previous generations entered marriage in a world that offered fewer alternatives. A woman's financial dependence on a husband was not merely cultural expectation but economic reality. Today's young people inhabit a fundamentally different landscape. Women are building independent careers. Men are questioning inherited definitions of manhood. Both are exposed to a vastly wider range of ways to live and define a meaningful life. Marriage has moved from expectation to option — and when something becomes a choice, people begin exercising it differently.

Social media has accelerated this transformation in ways that are difficult to overstate. A young Kenyan can absorb hundreds of opinions about relationships before leaving their bedroom in the morning. The problem is not access to information but the incentive structures shaping it. Nuanced perspectives on love do not generate the same engagement as provocative declarations. "Marriage requires

patience, communication and continuous effort" does not travel as far as "Marriage is a trap." The result is a generation extensively educated about the ways relationships fail and comparatively little about the practical skills required to make them work. They know the vocabulary of toxicity and red flags. They are far less certain about conflict resolution, emotional repair and the daily unglamorous work of maintaining commitment over time.

It is also worth resisting the temptation to romanticise the past. Traditional marriages that lasted forty years were not automatically happy marriages. Some endured because divorce carried an intolerable social stigma. Some women remained in harmful relationships because financial independence was simply unavailable. Some men stayed because leaving would have cost them their community standing. Longevity in a marriage is not, by itself, evidence of quality. Gen Z is right to reject the idea that staying together at all costs is a virtue. Older generations are right to resist the notion that commitment is outdated. Both positions, held without nuance, lead nowhere constructive.

What Kenya's young people need is neither pressure to conform to a traditional model nor validation for reflexive rejection of it. They need something more practical: genuine education about what healthy relationships require. How to choose a partner with

intention. How to communicate during conflict. How to recognise emotional abuse early. How to understand what responsible parenthood demands before a child arrives. Kenya has invested heavily in teaching young people to pass examinations and navigate competitive job markets. It has invested far less in teaching them how to build relationships that last or parent with the emotional intelligence the next generation will need.

The future of the Kenyan family will not be determined by whether young people are persuaded to adopt their grandparents' model. What can still be shaped is whether the choices being made — about partnership, parenthood and independence — are made with maturity, preparation and genuine responsibility. Freedom and responsibility are not opposites. In any life worth living, they are inseparable. A generation that has seen what went wrong, learned from it honestly and committed to building something better is not a generation in decline. It is a generation in the difficult, necessary and ultimately hopeful process of growing up. Kenya's task is not to judge that process but to support it — because the families this generation eventually builds will shape the country's future far more profoundly than any policy, any election or any speech ever could.

Cost-of-living Kenya's economy continues to record growth, and government spokespersons continue to cite the figures with satisfaction

The price of survival: Kenya's cost-of-living crisis bites deeper

For millions of ordinary families, rising prices have stopped being a statistic — they have become a daily reckoning between what is needed and what can be afforded

BY Collins Kibet

@themtkenyatimes

For millions of Kenyan families, the cost-of-living crisis has long since stopped being an abstract debate conducted in government offices and financial reports — it is now the first calculation a parent makes every morning, before breakfast, before the children wake up, before the day has properly begun.

The arithmetic of daily survival in Kenya in 2026 is unforgiving. Food, transport, rent, school fees, electricity and healthcare each compete for money that is never quite enough. Every trip to the market carries the risk of another unwelcome surprise. Household incomes, where they exist at all, consistently fail to keep pace with rising expenses. The question that once felt rhetorical has become genuinely urgent: how much longer can ordinary families hold on when almost everything costs more and almost nothing costs less?

Kenya's economy continues to record growth, and government spokespersons continue to cite the figures with satisfaction. But economic growth means very little to a household that cannot comfortably afford a basic meal. For families living from one payday to the next, the national GDP is an abstraction. What is concrete is the choice between paying rent on time or buying enough food for the week. What is concrete is postponing a child's medical treatment because the money has already gone to school expenses. What is concrete is a

young person, educated and willing to work, unable to find employment stable enough to contribute to the family or build any kind of independent future.

Food sits at the centre of the crisis. It cannot be cut from the budget the way other expenses can — it is not discretionary. When the price of maize flour, cooking oil, milk, vegetables, rice and bread rises, households do not choose to buy less; they are forced to. Low-income families carry the heaviest burden because even a marginal increase in the price of a basic commodity can cascade through an entire month's planning. The problem deepens when multiple costs rise simultaneously, which is precisely the pattern Kenya has experienced. A family managing expensive food while also absorbing higher transport fares, rent increases and school-related costs does not face a series of individual financial pressures. It faces a single, compounding crisis across every dimension of household life.

Transport illustrates how far the pressure extends beyond the obvious. Millions of Kenyans depend on public transport to reach work, school and markets. When fuel prices rise, the consequences radiate outward — through the cost of moving goods, through the operating costs of businesses, through the prices consumers ultimately pay. A worker commuting long distances may spend a significant portion of their weekly income simply getting to and from the place where they earn it. The question that follows is a difficult one: what is the practical

value of employment when the cost of reaching the workplace consumes a substantial share of what it pays?

Housing adds another layer of strain, particularly in urban centres where rent absorbs a disproportionate share of low- and middle-income household budgets. The choices available to families are rarely good ones. Living near work is expensive. Living farther away means spending more time and money on transport. For families with children, housing decisions are further complicated by proximity to schools, access to healthcare and basic security. Neither option provides genuine relief, only a different version of the same financial pressure.

Young Kenyans entering the labour market are inheriting a particularly hostile environment. Many have invested years in education, carrying the expectation that qualifications would open doors to stable, dignified employment. A significant number instead find themselves searching for work for months or years, settling for temporary contracts, informal arrangements or positions that pay too little to cover rent and food simultaneously, let alone build savings or support ageing parents. When prices rise faster than earnings — and in Kenya today they routinely do — financial independence becomes less a milestone than a receding horizon.

Education, which families regard as both a moral and economic priority, is not exempt from the pressure. School fees are only the most visible cost. Uniforms, textbooks, transport to school, meals and



High cost of goods

accommodation for boarding students all add up, and they all have to be paid from the same strained household budget. Healthcare adds a different kind of uncertainty — one that cannot be planned around. Illness does not announce itself in time to be budgeted for. A medical emergency can undo months of careful financial management in a single week, pushing a family that was coping into genuine hardship and a family already in hardship into crisis.

The consequences are not only financial. Sustained economic pressure reshapes the texture of daily life in ways that do not appear in inflation statistics. It creates tension in households where parents are unable to meet children's basic needs. It generates anxiety among young adults who cannot achieve the independence their education was supposed to guarantee. It exhausts small-business owners who work longer hours for diminishing returns. Behind every data point in Kenya's economic reports is a real household making painful choices that no amount of resilience should be required to absorb indefinitely.

There is a particular danger in the gradual normalisation of hardship. When struggling to afford basics becomes routine, society risks accepting it as simply how things are. Kenyans are justly admired for their resilience — their capacity to adapt, to start small businesses, to find supplementary income, to reduce consumption without abandoning

the responsibilities they carry for their families. But resilience is not a substitute for adequate economic policy. A country cannot perpetually demand that its citizens be more resilient while declining to address the structural conditions that make their lives harder. People can only cut so much before basic human needs are compromised.

The government has a clear and pressing responsibility here. Economic policy that focuses exclusively on national growth aggregates while ignoring whether ordinary households are experiencing genuine improvement is incomplete policy. A growing economy should be creating employment, strengthening household incomes and improving access to essential services. Kenya's agricultural sector requires sustained investment — in reliable markets, affordable inputs, irrigation, storage infrastructure and rural roads — so that food can be produced and distributed at prices that are fair to farmers and accessible to consumers. Employment must remain a central policy objective, not a secondary consideration. Kenya's young population is one of its greatest assets; treating youth unemployment as an acceptable feature of the economic landscape is a failure of both imagination and responsibility.

Support for small and medium enterprises matters equally. These businesses employ millions of Kenyans and sustain entire communities. Many operate under

conditions that would defeat less determined people — expensive credit, unpredictable markets, regulatory friction and rising costs on every side. Creating conditions in which small businesses can survive and expand would generate employment, strengthen household incomes and build economic activity at precisely the level where it is most needed.

The real measure of Kenya's economic progress is not to be found in aggregate growth figures. It is to be found in ordinary homes. Can parents feed their children adequately? Can graduates find decent work? Can workers pay rent without sacrificing food? Can families access healthcare without falling into debt? These are the questions that should determine whether growth is meaningful. Kenya has the potential — a young population, productive farmland, a growing technology sector, a strategic location and significant natural resources. But potential cannot feed a family tonight. Economic growth must reach the people who need it most, or it is growth in name only.

Kenyans can survive through sacrifice and creativity. But survival should never be the ceiling of national ambition. Citizens deserve an economy in which hard work provides dignity, young people find opportunity and families can afford not just to endure the present but to plan with confidence for tomorrow.

Education The award acknowledged the school's effective implementation of Competency-Based Education, a curriculum framework that emphasises the practical application of knowledge

Sharp school wins national award for career and workforce readiness

The Nairobi institution's competency-based approach earns second place at the Global Peace Foundation's education recognition awards

BY John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Sharp Education Centre and Junior School has been recognised as one of Kenya's outstanding learning institutions, finishing second in the Career Development and

Workforce Readiness category at a national awards ceremony organised by the Global Peace Foundation. The award acknowledged the school's effective implementation of Competency-Based Education, a curriculum framework that emphasises the practical application of

knowledge and skills over rote learning and examination performance alone. Speaking to the media after the ceremony, school Director Dr Paul Wanjohi said career pathways and the development of genuine competencies form an essential foundation for national progress. He



Dr Paul Wanjohi



argued that a country advances when its people can apply knowledge, produce goods, deliver services, solve problems and create opportunities — and that education carries a direct responsibility to help every learner discover and develop their abilities into a meaningful contribution to society. Wanjohi said career guidance in schools should go well beyond the familiar question of what a child wants to be when they grow up. It should help learners understand their interests, identify their strengths and connect their classroom learning to the real demands of the world of work. A learner drawn to agriculture, he said, should begin to see the connections between science, food production, technology, business and environmental conservation. A learner interested in construction should appreciate the roles of mathematics, design, safety and teamwork. Those drawn to healthcare should develop scientific understanding alongside compassion and communication. Such exposure, he said, broadens learners' understanding of what success looks like and affirms the dignity of professional, technical, vocational, creative and entre-

preneurial careers equally. On competencies, Wanjohi drew a clear distinction between knowing and doing. Knowing a scientific principle is valuable, he said, but using it to investigate a real water problem makes that knowledge useful. Understanding mathematics matters, but applying it to prepare a budget or analyse business costs demonstrates genuine competence. He highlighted critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, digital literacy and self-management as the core abilities that learners need across all career paths — and insisted these must be accompanied by integrity, responsibility and respect for others. A technically skilled person who lacks honesty, he noted, can undermine an entire institution. Capability and character must develop together. Wanjohi also challenged schools to use community problems as the starting point for purposeful learning. Rather than studying solely to obtain certificates, he said, learners should be encouraged to observe their surroundings, ask questions, investigate challenges and propose practical responses — whether

in water conservation, waste management, food production or improved local services. Through guided projects requiring research, planning, budgeting and teamwork, learners begin to understand how ideas become solutions and how solutions can generate social and economic value. He was careful to caution against placing the entire burden of employment outcomes on graduates alone. Schools need genuine partnerships with families, businesses, government and community organisations to provide mentorship and practical exposure. He called on schools to engage local artisans, farmers, health professionals and entrepreneurs as partners who can help learners see the living relationship between what they study and how the world actually works. For Sharp Education Centre and Junior School, the award affirms that getting this relationship right — between early career awareness, practical competence and responsible citizenship — is precisely what education is for.

Trust, but let wisdom stand beside you



Trust, but let caution walk by your side,
Let wisdom be your compass, your quiet guide.
Believe in people, but open your eyes,
Not every smile carries truth in disguise.

Be kind, but let kindness know where to bend,
For a giving heart need not break or spend.
Help those in need with a generous hand,
But don't let your goodness become their command.

Give love, but don't surrender your worth,
Be warm to the world, yet remember your berth.
A helping hand should not become a chain,
Nor should compassion invite needless pain.

Even the tongue, though sheltered by teeth,
May sometimes be wounded by those underneath.

So trust like a river, but build banks with care,
Let love flow freely, but keep wisdom there.

Not every person who asks should be trusted,
Not every promise deserves to be adjusted.
Discernment is not a heart turned cold,
It is kindness with boundaries, courage with gold.

Be good, but never be easy to use,
Be generous, but wisely choose.
For boundaries don't make your spirit less kind,
They simply protect what is precious inside.

Trust, but verify.
Love, but discern.
Help, but don't surrender.
Give, but know when to learn.

For even the teeth that protect the tongue
Can hurt it when caution is left undone.
So walk with a heart that is tender and true,
But let wisdom and caution walk with you.

Nandini Anandkumar
Educator, Writer and Motivator

Trust with Caution



Trust, but with caution, because sometimes even
your own teeth can bite your own tongue.

Trust is a hopeful and valuable quality.
It is difficult to earn but easy to lose. Sometimes,
even people we trust may hurt us,
just as our own teeth may accidentally bite our tongue.

It can happen unknowingly,
like things that suddenly fall without warning.

So, trust others, but be careful. You may listen

to other people's opinions,
but the final decision should be yours.
This can protect you from making the wrong choices.

Some cunning people may try to trap you by
taking advantage of your trust.
Therefore, you should trust yourself,
make your own decisions,
and walk your own unique path. These qualities
can help you achieve your goals and protect you
from false trust.

So, trust the right people,
but always do so with caution.

__G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

Loneliness



When alone,
she looks at the wall,
where lizards move silently.

She watches them peacefully,
while her eyes search
for something—
anything—to hold their purpose.

The work waiting to be done
slowly fades away,
while emotions
spill out in tons.

Her hands do not wipe
the tears from her face.
Her body remains still,
as though time has stopped.

No one is there to care.

Her loosened hair
remains untied.

She reaches for the phone,
scrolling up and down,
searching for something
she cannot name.

Sleep stays distant,
as far away
as the moon in the sky.

Then—
the calling bell rings.

For a moment,
everything changes.

Loneliness disappears,
vanishing like a shadow
under the wand
of an angel.
Viji. T
Ghs kvpudur
Namakkal
Tamilnadu
India



Feet on the streets
where my heart belongs,
life singing endless songs.

Shadows and sunlight,
laughter and pain,
each step I took,
never in vain.

Walls holding memories and dreams,
echoes of childhood flowing in streams.

The city remembers and knows me true,
its sky being my favourite view.

Through nights of wonder
and mornings of hue,
it shaped my spirit,
it carried me through.

And when I look back
at all that I have been,
that's when I realise—
I left my heart
with the city I grew in.
Akshita Kalkal
XII Humanities
D.A.V Public School
NH-3 ,NIT ,Faridabad

Punctuate your punctuality!!!!



Be a full stop for all negative thoughts nd deeds,
Be a comma for consequent successive attempts,
Be a colon for introducing positive events lists,
Be a semi colon for relating good things,

Be a quotation mark for specialising others expressions,
Be an hyphen for prevailing distance,
Be a question mark in the minds of critisizers,
Be an apostrophe in holding possessive relationships,
Be an exclamatory sign in your attire I amazing other person's!!!!
Be the brackets in staying unique among others!!!

Be punctual in using the punctuation signs in life,
To live a meaningful life with care nd clarity!!!!
V.R.VIJAYALAKSHMI, GRADUATE TEACHER,
CW WRITERS GROUP,KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT,
TAMILNADU,INDIA.

Social media & it's impact:



Introduction:
I would like to share my views of social media & it's impact.
As I believe my words will not manipulate but manifest the content of digital tools that's spread world wide.

Mr Andrew Weinreich is the Father of social media,who launched six degree.com in 1967.
Later what's app,face book, instagram,you tube, tic tock, pinterest were born followed by it.

Subject:
These social networking digital tools globally connects people through computer & mobile phone.It facilitates easy way of sharing exchanging informations.It has spread it's wings in economic structure & is flying to the great height of socialisation.
Social media's positive impact:
It's the key innovation of modern technology with an easy & quick way of transformation to communicate. It touches people across the world instantly promoting easy ways of learning and

updating materialistic content every moment.

Social media's negative impact:
It gravitates consistent checking through notification fussing off productive sense. Pushes to mental issues with the resultant of cyber bulling, analysing untruth events ruining time & isolation as that's pity. It adversely affects the eyesight due to sleepless nights.

And now AI : Artificial Intelligence though analyzes massive data with improved skill it consumes abundant pure water endangering natural cycle.

The insta : crazy counts it's followers Acts knocking out ever. WhatsApp deducts pleasure By consuming time which is our treasure. Birds tweet is sweet But social media tweet shares false treat. The face book which is widely opened Wears the wrong mask & is strongly equipped.

CONCLUSION:
Thus the social media is a wealthy tool Unless its utilisation is concentrated by healthy rule....
G.Sarala Devi
Creative Writers.

Politics The centrepiece of his constituency record is the Masomo Bora programme — translated as “good learning” — which he presents as both a local achievement and a national blueprint

From Kiharu to State House: Nyoro's bold presidential gamble

The MP has a record, a party and a plan. Whether that is enough to clear a crowded field is the question Kenya's opposition must now answer

BY Munene Gitonga and Njeri Mickeydan Kioko

[@themkenyaintimes](#)

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro was once so close to President William Ruto that the President publicly described him as “the young man I am mentoring.” By August 2026, Nyoro had left Ruto's United Democratic Alliance, crossed to the opposition, launched his own party and declared, with characteristic bluntness, that he could beat the President “hands down” in next year's general election. The first instinct of many observers was scepticism. A constituency MP vaulting straight to a presidential bid is an unusual proposition in any political system. But spend time looking at what Nyoro has actually done in Kiharu, and the confidence begins to make a degree of sense.

The centrepiece of his constituency record is the Masomo Bora programme — translated as “good learning” — which he presents as both a local achievement and a national blueprint. The headline figure is a reduction in day secondary school fees from KSh1,000 to KSh500 per term across 65 public schools, benefiting more than 12,000 students. In the context of Kenya's cost of living in 2026, that saving translates directly into household budget relief for families with multiple children in school. But the programme goes considerably further than fee reduction. Students receive free lunch from Monday to Saturday — chapati on the last Friday of each month has reportedly become the most anticipated item on the menu — and KSh50 million from the National Government Constituency Development Fund has been directed into laboratories and libraries, with an additional KSh10 million for revision books and KSh50,000 per school for ex-



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro

tracurricular activities. Extra tuition is capped at KSh1,000 per term, and arbitrary additional charges have been banned entirely. The best-performing subject teachers receive a week in Mombasa. Top principals travel to Dubai or Malaysia. Teacher morale in Kenya's public schools is a persistent and well-documented problem; at the very least, Nyoro has acknowledged it and attempted an answer.

The physical transformation of schools in Kiharu has been equally visible. All 112 public primary schools in the constituency have been renovated, with classrooms retiled and compounds paved with cabro. The results have been striking enough that locals now rent some school grounds out for weekend weddings — an unplanned but telling indicator

of how dramatically the facilities have improved. Parents have noted a practical benefit: pupils return home cleaner, reducing uniform wear. Nyoro's method for financing this transformation is worth examining. He bypassed the conventional contracting system entirely, training 150 local youths in tile installation and another 150 in professional painting, then deploying them directly on school construction projects. His arithmetic is straightforward: under standard procurement, a KSh1 million classroom project loses KSh160,000 to VAT and roughly KSh300,000 to contractor profit before a single brick is laid. By removing the contractor, he argues, the full allocation reaches the project, effectively doubling output per shilling spent.

Beyond education, Nyoro's record covers roads, water and employment. The Kiangochi-Muchungucha Irrigation Project in Mbiri Ward has placed 500 acres under year-round farming, generating 2,000 direct construction jobs and projecting 5,000 indirect jobs on completion. A borehole in Gatari now supplies 90 households with domestic water. The constituency has shifted toward concrete roads in steep terrain, replacing murrum surfaces that deteriorate rapidly under heavy rainfall. A newly constructed road in Kandundu Estate, completed in under a year, has visibly stimulated local commercial activity. More than 1,200 youths have been sponsored through short artisan courses in hospitality, cosmetology and driving, with tuition ful-

ly covered by the CDF — in addition to the 300 trained directly for the school infrastructure programme.

His national policy proposition extrapolates directly from Kiharu. He argues that combining KSh10 billion annually from CDF allocations, KSh10 billion from county governments and KSh10 billion from the national budget produces KSh30 billion — enough to make day secondary education free across Kenya. He says he could implement the policy within three months of taking office. The ambition is clear. The arithmetic is debatable. Critics will note that redirecting existing CDF and county allocations is not new money; it means other projects absorb the cost. He has not yet provided a detailed account of what gets cut to make the numbers work. Scaling a model that covers 65 schools to a national system of approximately 9,500 schools serving 3.5 million students is also a fundamentally different management challenge. In Kiharu, Nyoro can and does maintain direct oversight. Nationally, that proximity disappears and the complexity multiplies exponentially.

His political positioning carries its own complications. He was among Ruto's most committed supporters in 2022, and when former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua faced impeachment, Nyoro chose to abstain rather than stand against it — a decision that Gachagua's allies have not forgotten and are unlikely to set aside easily. He has been labelled a government plant and a spoiler by elements of the opposition who question the sincerity of his transition. Dismissing those concerns as political mudslinging, as he does, is easier than disproving them, and that gap remains a vulnerability. On Saturday, October 3, during a live press interview in Chuka, Tharaka-Nithi County, he addressed his People's Party directly. “People's Party is a national party — the fastest-growing party in terms of registration, with over 2,000 aspirants in a short period,” he said. He spoke of a parent who brought her daughter to the party so she could contest an MCA seat in Embu, presenting it as evidence of the kind of inter-

generational trust he is working to build.

His age is arguably his most underappreciated political asset. Kenya's presidential field is customarily populated by figures who have been cycling through the same positions for decades. Nyoro, in his early forties, is a genuine millennial candidate in a political culture that speaks endlessly about youth but rarely delivers it at the top of a ticket. As one supporter put it at a rally in Murang'a: “Even if he loses this time, he can try again in 2032.” That calculation is not defeatist. It is strategic, and it reflects a patience that older rivals simply do not have.

His stated strategy for 2027 is coalition-minded rather than narrowly competitive. He has indicated willingness to contest within the opposition for a single presidential ticket and to support whoever emerges from that process — a position that leaves him a credible role in any opposition coalition even if the presidential nomination goes elsewhere. That flexibility is either genuine political maturity or a carefully constructed exit option, depending on one's reading of the man. Probably it is both.

What distinguishes Nyoro from much of Kenya's political class is specificity. He does not speak in adjectives. He speaks in numbers, menus, kilometre lengths and named schools. His record can be walked into and questioned. Students in Kiharu's day secondary schools can tell you which day chapati is served. That accountability, however modest in national terms, is rarer than it should be. Whether it is sufficient to carry him to the presidency is a different question entirely — one that only August 2027 can answer.

Politics This first edition of Kenya Political Weather is a weekly column intended to read those changes without becoming another political megaphone

Kenya political weather — The winds are changing



BY Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo

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There is a moment before a storm when the sky has not yet darkened, yet something in the air tells experienced eyes that the weather is changing. The wind feels different. Conversations become more deliberate. People begin looking towards the horizon. Kenya has entered such a moment.

The country is not yet in the full intensity of the 2027 election, but politics is acquiring a different rhythm. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission has published its election operation plan for the August 10, 2027 poll, while political parties are moving towards organisational decisions that will shape nominations and alliances. The electoral calendar is beginning to influence political behaviour.

This first edition of Kenya Political Weather is a weekly column intended to read those changes without becoming another political megaphone. Each week, we will examine claims, evidence, pressure points and what citizens should watch next, especially locally. We will not tell Kenyans whom to support. We will not mistake a rally for a constituency, a photograph for a coalition or a declaration for a programme.

The first pressure point is preparation. The IEBC timetable places the 2027 election firmly on the national calendar and sets milestones for parties, candidates and electoral administration. Party primaries are scheduled for 2027, while the formal campaign period will begin later in the year. What happens inside parties before those



Gen Z

deadlines will matter because nominations are often where political competition becomes most immediate to ordinary voters.

For citizens, the coming months deserve attention. Who writes the nomination rules? Who participates in deciding them? Are internal processes transparent? How are disputes handled? Which communities, women, young people and persons with disabilities are genuinely represented? The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties describes party rules and internal procedures as fundamental to inclusive participation, accountability and responsible representation. Those principles deserve scrutiny before campaign trucks arrive.

The second pressure point is the county. Kenya's political conversation is often excessively Nairobi-centred, yet much of the politics determining whether a household feels abandoned or heard happens in county governments. A road can determine whether a farmer reaches a market. A county hospital can determine whether a family receives treatment. A procurement decision can determine whether a young entrepreneur gets an opportunity. A disability programme can determine whether inclusion becomes real or remains an empty phrase. The counties are political weather

stations, revealing where expectations rise and leadership is judged by delivery rather than rhetoric.

The third pressure point is trust. An election is ultimately a constitutional process, and that process requires confidence in institutions. The IEBC is already undertaking preparations for 2027, while questions around electoral technology, registration, administration and institutional credibility remain part of public debate. Such questions must be tested against evidence, not amplified as political fact. Confidence is built before election day through transparency, clear procedures and visible adherence to the law.

The most important pressure point is the household. Politics becomes real when the parent is calculating school fees, when the farmer is negotiating fertiliser prices, when a young graduate is searching for work, when a trader is trying to keep a business alive, or when a person with a disability asks whether inclusion exists beyond speeches and budget lines. This is where political language meets lived experience. That is why citizens should increasingly ask simple questions of complicated promises: Who benefited? What was delivered? Where is the evidence? What did it cost? Who was left out? What happens next? These

are essential democratic questions.

The weeks ahead will provide plenty to watch. Parliament resumes scheduled

business on September 29. Political parties are entering important organisational and nomination-related phases. Government will explain its record. Opposition formations will discuss their future configuration. Counties will remain arenas where national politics, local interests and development expectations intersect. None of these developments, by themselves, tells us how 2027 will unfold. They show that the political environment is becoming more consequential.

Our work will be neither prophecy nor propaganda. We will examine movements, follow evidence and listen beyond familiar political voices. Nairobi will matter, but so will every county where citizens experience government

in practical terms. We will watch institutions, parties, counties and, above all, people.

Because political storms rarely arrive without warning. Pressure accumulates quietly. Alliances evolve. Institutions make decisions. Citizens change the questions they ask. Issues that appear peripheral today can become central tomorrow.

Some clouds will bring rain. Others will pass. Our responsibility is to watch carefully enough to know the difference.

Welcome to Kenya Political Weather. Every Monday, we will read the changing atmosphere—not to tell Kenyans what to think, but to help them see more clearly what is happening around them.

The weather is changing. The Kenyan citizen must keep watching the barometer closely, carefully.




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El Niño Livestock keepers face their own set of risks. Some KSh2.1 billion has been allocated under the National Livestock Sector El Niño Preparedness and Anticipatory Action Plan

Before the water rises: Kenya braces for another punishing rainy season

BY Oduor Rosequillet Nabwire

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Anne Wanjiku expected her husband to come home on the evening of 6 March 2026. Muthee had left for work that morning as usual, promising to return and spend time with the family. He never did.

As darkness fell over Mathare and the rain intensified, Wanjiku waited. On his way home, Muthee had stopped to help neighbours struggling to cross between Mathare North and Kiamaiko as floodwaters rose rapidly. Using a cart, he ferried people to safety, some paying him KSh20 for the crossing. Then the water took him. His body was never found. Wanjiku, who was pregnant with their third child at the time, is now raising her children alone. The baby will grow up without ever knowing its father. "Floods came and took away my husband," she said.

A few kilometres away, other Nairobi residents were confronting the same rising waters. In Baba Dogo, Florence Owilo and her neighbours climbed onto rooftops as the Mathare River burst its banks. In Nairobi's city centre, car accessories seller Frederick Wasonga watched helplessly as floodwater poured into shops, sweeping away vehicles and destroying stock. Bus driver John Mwai, caught in gridlock and rerouted onto Grogan Road, found his vehicle overwhelmed by water with 33 passengers aboard. He and his passengers spent the night helping others to safety, prioritising women and children.

By 7 March, Nairobi Regional Police Commander George Seda reported ten confirmed deaths in the city — eight swept away by floodwaters, two electrocuted — and at least 71 vehicles stranded across flooded roads. By 3 May, the toll had spread across the country: 27 counties affected, 122 lives lost and 42,259 people displaced, with roads, bridges and water systems damaged across multiple regions.

The water receded. For Wanjiku and her children, that night did not end when it did.

Now, as Kenya moves into another October-December rainy season, the warning has arrived before the rain. The Kenya Meteorological Department forecasts above-average rainfall across much of the country during the coming months, with prolonged wet spells and isolated storms expected in several areas. Rainfall onset will vary by region, with many areas expected to receive rains between the second and fourth weeks

of October. All 47 counties have been directed to map flood-prone areas, identify evacuation grounds and strengthen their response frameworks before the season begins.

Acting Director of Meteorological Services Edward Maina Muriuki offered an important clarification during a joint government briefing on 10 September. "El Niño is not rainfall itself, but a climate phenomenon associated with unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean that influence weather patterns globally," he said. The forecast does not mean uniform heavy rain everywhere — but it does mean that communities, authorities and households must prepare as if it might arrive at their door.

For farmers, the forecast must translate into decisions on the ground, often under considerable uncertainty. In Oyani, Migori County, maize farmer Paul Otieno knows the cost of a forecast that does not materialise. In late August, farmers in his area prepared their fields and planted after meteorological officials predicted El Niño conditions — only for the dry spell to continue. "We were told there would be adequate rains within the past one week, and many of us took advantage of the prediction by meteorological officials to prepare and plant our farms, only for the dry spell to continue," he told the Kenya News Agency. A forecast shapes when farmers plant, what they grow and how much they invest. When it proves wrong, the losses are theirs to absorb.

The government has moved to mitigate those risks ahead of this season. Agriculture Principal Secretary Dr Paul Kipronoh flagged off 99,000 metric tonnes of subsidised fertiliser at the Port of Mombasa on 8 September for distribution to small-scale farmers, with a 50-kilogramme bag priced at KSh2,000 under the scheme. Kenya's 2026-2030 National Agri-Food Systems Investment Plan includes measures for climate-smart inputs, early-warning systems, water harvesting and risk-financing mechanisms at county level.

Livestock keepers face their own set of risks. Some KSh2.1 billion has been allocated under the National Livestock Sector El Niño Preparedness and Anticipatory Action Plan, initially targeting 24 counties, covering vaccines, veterinary medicines, emergency kits, evacuation support and feed reserves. Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe was direct in his warning to pastoralists. "If we keep goats in low-lying



areas, that means the rain will sweep away the goats, cows and whatever is in its path," he said, urging herders to move animals away from flood-prone terrain before conditions deteriorate.

The health sector has also activated contingency plans. The Ministry of Health's El Niño Contingency Plan, covering all 47 counties, addresses disease surveillance, safe water provision, sanitation, laboratory capacity and continuity of essential health services. Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni Muriuki warned that flooding inevitably raises the risk of waterborne diseases. "We need to check on drainages, check on reliable water supplies, sanitation, particularly in areas where facilities are limited," she said. Between 8 and 11 September, the Kenya Defence Forces health security team and World Health Organization experts conducted a joint training exercise based on a flood scenario involving displaced families and a cholera outbreak, testing how emergency medical teams would coordinate across national and county levels under field conditions.

Education presents a further vulnerability. The October-December season coincides directly with national examinations, placing enormous pressure on schools in flood-prone areas to remain accessible and safe. Basic Education Principal Secretary John Ololua said on 10 September that contingency measures were in place, including mapping high-risk schools, strengthening feeding programmes and pre-positioning examination materials. Where schools are considered unsafe, learners may be

moved to alternative venues. Helicopters and drones are being considered for delivering materials to areas that become cut off. "The national examinations will proceed as scheduled despite the predicted El Niño rains," Ololua assured parents and candidates. That assurance, however, rests on conditions that flooding can rapidly overturn. At Imani Primary School in Tana River County, pupils were left learning under trees after earlier floods destroyed their classrooms. For children in vulnerable areas, preparedness ultimately comes down to something very simple: having a safe place to sit when the rains arrive.

Road access is equally critical. The Narok-Mai Mahiu Road was temporarily closed during the March floods after silt accumulated near Kedong Ranch. Transport operators have called for improved drainage along the corridor before the next season begins. Andrew Mwangi, a director at Narokline Services and spokesman for transport operators in the region, urged the Kenya National Highways Authority to deploy engineers to vulnerable sections now. "We should not wait for the rains to come and block the road," he said. Keeping such routes open is not merely a logistics matter — they connect people to hospitals, children to schools and emergency teams to communities that cannot wait.

In Budalangi, Busia County, where flooding along the River Nzoia is a recurring reality, preparations have focused on infrastructure designed to redirect and control water rather than simply respond to it. Secondary dykes along the river have pro-

tected and rehabilitated farmland previously submerged for extended periods. Riparian restoration, including bamboo planting to strengthen riverbanks and reduce erosion, has been undertaken alongside dredging of waterways and rehabilitation of flood-control structures. For farmer Kevin Okumu, the changes have opened land once considered uncultivable. "When they said El Niño was coming, I knew this is sandy soil, meaning the water does not stay for long, so I planted maize and beans," he said.

In Nairobi, the challenge is different in character but equally serious. Dense settlement, overwhelmed drainage infrastructure and the pace at which heavy rain can transform streets into rivers make the capital particularly vulnerable. Governor Johnson Sakaja said the city was not waiting. "We cannot wait for the rains to come and then start responding. We must prepare in advance, identify the risks, clear our drainage systems and make sure our teams are ready to respond when called upon," he said. Drainage channels are being cleared, widened and deepened. Additional earth-moving equipment has been deployed to chronically flooded areas. An Emergency Operations Centre at Charter Hall will coordinate the response when emergencies occur. Residents can reach emergency services on hotlines 1508 and 1199. Evacuation drop-off points and shelters have been identified for those who may need to move quickly.

The city's preparedness framework was stress-tested through Operation Okoa Maisha, a two-day multi-agency simulation concluded on 2 October 2026, which took responders from first alert through communication, deployment, evacuation and rescue. Nairobi teams worked alongside national agencies and neighbouring counties — Kiambu, Machakos and Kajiado — under a "One County, One Plan, One Command" framework designed to ensure coordinated, rapid response when the real emergency arrives.

Principal Secretary for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Stephen Isaboke reduced the public message to its essentials: "Stay informed. Prepare early. Follow official advisories. Act when advised to do so."

Government preparations can strengthen the collective response. They cannot eliminate every risk, reach every family or replace the individual decisions that will determine whether a community survives the season intact. The real test of Kenya's preparedness will not come when the authorities hold a press conference. It will come when the rain does.

For Anne Wanjiku, raising three children in Mathare while carrying the absence of the man the water took, that test has never really ended.

Teachers Every profession rests on a foundation laid by a teacher. Doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, scientists, administrators and political leaders all pass through the hands of educators

World Teachers’ Day 2026: Standing with teachers for 60 years

Six decades after a landmark global commitment, Kenya’s educators remain central to the nation’s future — yet much remains to be done

BY Ashford Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

Teachers are among the most influential professionals in any society. They nurture young minds, transmit knowledge, instil values, discover talent and prepare learners for an increasingly complex world. As Kenya joins the global community in marking World Teachers’ Day 2026, the theme — “Standing with Teachers: 60 Years of Protecting the Profession, Advancing Its Status and Shaping Our Futures” — offers a moment to reflect on how far the profession has come, and how far it still needs to go.

This year’s celebration marks six decades since the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, a milestone that reminds governments, education stakeholders, parents and communities that quality education cannot be separated from the welfare, professional standing and working conditions of the people who deliver it.

Every profession rests on a foundation laid by a teacher. Doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, scientists, administrators and political leaders all pass through the hands of educators who equip them with knowledge, skills and values. A country that invests in its teachers is, in effect, investing in its human capital and long-term development.

In Kenya, teachers are at the centre of implementing the Competency-Based Education curriculum, which emphasises practical skills, creativity, innovation and learner-centred approaches. That transformation demands more than revised syllabuses and new learning materials. It requires competent, motivated and adequately supported teachers who can translate policy into meaningful class-



room experience. Institutions such as the Kenya Education Management Institute, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa each demonstrate that the success of education reforms depends significantly on the capacity of teachers and school leaders to carry them through.

The 2026 World Teachers’ Day programme places considerable emphasis on recognition. The Roll of Honour spans categories including Early Years Educators, Lifetime Achievement, School Leadership Excellence, Child Protection Champion, Co-curricular and Talent Development, Early Career Educator, Inclusive Educator, Innovation and ICT Integration in Teaching, Most Resilient Teacher, Sustainable Development Educator and Teacher Mentor. The programme also recognises recipients of the President’s Award, National Honours and international distinctions.

These categories illuminate the full breadth of what effective teaching involves. A good teacher does more than deliver lessons. Teachers protect children, mentor colleagues, nurture talents, integrate technology, promote inclusion and often serve communities under difficult and under-re-

sourced conditions. Recognising such contributions matters because it signals that teaching is a profession requiring commitment, expertise, creativity and continuous improvement. It also provides role models for young educators and encourages experienced teachers to sustain their service.

Recognition, however, must extend well beyond ceremonies. Every teacher — including those working in remote, marginalised and under-resourced communities — deserves respect, professional support and working conditions that make effective service possible. The Kenya National Union of Teachers and the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers continue to provide an organised voice for the profession, advocating on welfare, fair remuneration, career progression and constructive engagement with government. Their advocacy highlights issues that remain central to the future of education.

Teachers cannot consistently deliver their best when they lack essential resources, carry excessive workloads or work in environments that undermine their professional dignity. Motivation must therefore be understood as a shared responsibility — one that falls on the government, the Teachers Service Commis-

sion, school administrators, unions, parents and education partners alike.

Equally important is meaningful teacher participation in policy. Reforms are more likely to succeed when educators are consulted, their classroom experiences are taken seriously and implementation challenges are resolved through genuine dialogue rather than top-down directives.

Technology and innovation present new opportunities and new responsibilities. Digital resources and ICT integration can enrich learning and broaden access to information, but technology cannot substitute for the human qual-

ities that make teaching meaningful — empathy, patience, mentorship and the ability to recognise each learner’s individual needs. The future of education lies in combining the right tools with strong teacher-learner relationships.

Inclusive education also demands sustained attention. Learners arrive with different abilities, backgrounds and needs. Teachers require appropriate training, accessible materials and supportive environments to ensure that no learner is left behind.

World Teachers’ Day should be more than an annual occasion. It should serve as a national accountability moment

— an opportunity to evaluate honestly whether teachers receive the respect, resources and support necessary to fulfil their responsibilities. As Kenya marks six decades of international commitment to the status of the profession, the message is straightforward: protecting teachers means protecting the future of learners and the nation itself. Awards and public appreciation are valuable, but they must be accompanied by sustained investment in teacher welfare, professional development and effective education management.

The ultimate measure of this celebration will not be the speeches delivered or the certificates presented. It will be whether teachers return to their classrooms feeling valued, empowered and equipped to make a difference — because standing with teachers is, ultimately, standing with every learner whose future depends on quality education.

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Feature Jane Manoti has spent most of her life cooking over a traditional fire. The smoke, she says, was simply part of the work.

After nearly 60 years in darkness, Nyabiendi awaits the light

BY Elizabeth Angira

@themkenyaintimes

For almost six decades, nightfall in Nyabiendi village, Bomariba Ward, Bonchari Constituency, has meant lanterns, candles and firewood. Families have cooked and studied by their weak glow, and elderly women have prepared meals in kitchens thick with smoke, many left with chest discomfort and a persistent cough.

That long wait is now ending. About 150 households in the village are set to be connected to electricity, and residents say the project could improve schooling, make homes safer after dark and open the way for small businesses. At the same time, elderly women in the area are receiving improved cooking jikos meant to cut their exposure to smoke from open fires.

Cooking in smoke

Jane Manoti has spent most of her life cooking over a traditional fire. The smoke, she says, was simply part of the work.

"Sometimes you cook while the smoke is all over the house. You breathe it in because there is nowhere else to go," she says.

It has taken a toll on her chest and made cooking harder with each year. Firewood was always easy to find, and for a long time there was no practical alternative. Now she hopes the new jiko will clear her kitchen.

"We have used firewood for many years. If this jiko can reduce the smoke, it will help us because our chests have suffered for a long time," she says.

Esther Kerubo, another beneficiary, describes the same experience. "When you are cooking, the smoke enters your chest. Sometimes you finish cooking and you are still coughing," she says.

To her, the jiko means that someone has noticed the women's health. "We are happy that someone is thinking about our health. We have cooked with firewood for many years, and now we have something that can make cooking easier."

Their experience is common in rural households that still depend on solid fuels. Women spend long hours near cooking fires, often in poorly ventilated rooms where smoke lingers.



Elderly beneficiaries carrying improved jikos, say the improved jiko gives them hope of reducing the smoke that has affected their chest after years of cooking with firewood | Photo: Elizabeth Angira



Kisii Woman Representative Dorice Donya, who spoke during the launch of last mile electricity connection project event, she believes the connections will also make the village safer | Photo: Elizabeth Angira

The World Health Organization counts household air pollution from polluting fuels and cooking technologies among significant health risks. Improved jikos can reduce smoke and use less fuel than an open fire, though the health benefit depends on the design of the stove, the ventilation in the kitchen and how consistently it is used.

Both women want the programme to reach others. "There are many women like us who still cook using firewood.

They also need these jikos because they have been breathing smoke for many years," Kerubo says.

Light after six decades

Electric lighting stands to change evenings in Nyabiendi. Children will be able to read and do homework in better light, and parents will no longer have to rely on kerosene lanterns.

Elderly residents will find it easier

to move about their homes and compounds after dark. Young people may gain access to digital devices and information, and perhaps new ways of earning a living.

Safety and livelihoods

Kisii Woman Representative Dorice Donya, who spoke during the launch of last mile electricity connection project event, she believes the connections will also make the village safer. "Insecurity cases are going to drop," she said. Better lighting makes it easier to move around at night and improves visibility in the community.

She said that, electricity is no guarantee against crime, but lighting can help make public spaces safer when it is backed by effective policing and community vigilance.

Donya also expects the power to spur enterprise. "Even people are going to open businesses," she said. Shops can stay open later, and bar-

bershops, salons, phone-charging points, welding workshops and refrigeration services become possible.

According to Donya, for young people with few job prospects, such businesses could provide work close to home rather than in distant towns.

Part of a national drive

The Nyabiendi project belongs to a wider national effort to bring power to underserved communities

The Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (RE-REC) is mandated to implement rural electrification projects and lead Kenya's renewable energy drive. Its programmes target households and public facilities that have long had limited access to the national grid, and the corporation points to benefits for education, health, entrepreneurship, employment and security.

For residents of Nyabiendi, these goals are concrete: a bulb in a child's bedroom, a shop open after sunset, a phone charged in the village, and an elderly woman able to see clearly in her own home at night.

Protecting girls

Donya also links her community work to the welfare of girls. She says cases of defilement and teenage pregnancy have declined in the area, which she attributes to community interventions aimed at protecting children.

Official records from health facilities, schools, police and child-protection agencies would be needed to establish the scale of any decline.

Such problems have many causes, and no single measure can end them. Parents, schools, community leaders, health workers, law enforcement and child-protection organisations all have a part to play.

Donya said that, better lighting may help make surroundings safer, but it cannot by itself prevent sexual violence or teenage pregnancy. The real test is whether new infrastructure is matched by stronger social protection and accountability.

The political backdrop

The programme is unfolding ahead of the 2027 General Election, in which Donya is expected to contest the Bonchari parliamentary seat, and

her development work is likely to draw political attention.

For the residents on the receiving end, though, the concerns are practical. They want electricity, cleaner cooking and safer homes. They want their children to study under proper light and a chance to earn a living without leaving the village.

For Manoti and Kerubo, the jikos matter most. After years over smoky fires, they hope to breathe more easily.

Manoti hopes the help will not end with the first beneficiaries. "There are many elderly women who need this kind of support. We have lived with smoke for many years," she says.

A different Bonchari

The women also hope for something larger. They want to see their homes lit after sunset, and they want younger generations to grow up in a different Bonchari from the one they inherited.

As the first connections reach Nyabiendi, the change will be measured less by the number of poles erected or households wired than by what families do with the light: a child studying for an examination, a mother running a small business in the evening, an elderly woman cooking in a cleaner kitchen. For a village that has waited almost 60 years, that is the real meaning of electricity.

Donya promised residents that more development would be brought to Bonchari, saying the constituency had been left behind compared with other constituencies that, she noted, had benefited from being aligned with the government.

She said her priority would be to push for more development projects and bring meaningful changes to the constituency. Donya urged residents to support her bid, assuring them that electing her would usher in increased development and new opportunities for the people of Bonchari.

She also urged residents to support President William Ruto for a second term, saying that working closely with the national government would help attract more development projects to the constituency.

Donya said the electricity project was an important step towards transforming Bonchari, noting that access to electricity would create opportunities for businesses, improve security and support other forms of development.

"With electricity, a lot of development will come out of it," she said, adding that improved access to power would give residents an opportunity to invest in businesses and improve their livelihoods.

Politics Speaking during a media interview at Lowlands Hotel in Chuka ahead of a tour of Meru County, Nyoro was unapologetic about his political evolution

Nyoro turns on Ruto over Dangote deal, tea bonuses and broken promises

The Kiharu MP, once among the President's most vocal champions, says he has seen enough — and is building a coalition to prove it

BY Dennis Mutua

@themkenyatimes

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro yesterday dismissed claims that he is a political project, defended his growing opposition alliances and launched a broadside against President William Ruto's administration over the Dangote investment deal, falling tea bonuses, the cost of education and what he described as a presidency that has abandoned the people who put it in power.

Speaking during a media interview at Lowlands Hotel in Chuka ahead of a tour of Meru County, Nyoro was unapologetic about his political evolution. He acknowledged that he was among the leaders who campaigned vigorously for Ruto during the 2022 presidential election but argued that the man who won that election was not the same man now governing the country. "I knew and supported Ruto, but I have now chosen to oppose him," he said, framing the shift not as betrayal but as a response to what he characterised as a presidency that had departed from the will of the people.

The "project" tag, which critics have used to suggest that Nyoro's opposition activities are being orchestrated and financed by others, drew a sharp response from the MP. He said he had anticipated the accusation and urged Kenyans to treat it as the political mudslinging it was. He insisted that his engagements with opposition leaders were aimed at building numbers and assembling a credible political force ahead of the 2027 general election, not at undermining any individual party or formation. He said his decision to retain his own party rather than fold into an established opposition outfit was deliberate, giving him the flexibility to engage diverse groups across the political spectrum. He claimed the party had attracted more than 2,000 aspirants nationally since its revival, presenting it as a growing national outfit rather than a regional vehicle.

On the Dangote investment, Nyoro was pointed and specific. He said he supported foreign investment in principle but questioned the terms and transparency of the deal the gov-



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro

ernment had negotiated. He alleged that Ruto had a personal interest in the investment and challenged the administration to disclose the identities of its shareholders publicly. He also alleged that public funds had been used to compensate individuals who previously occupied land linked to the project — a claim the government has not publicly addressed. Most seriously, Nyoro alleged that an agreement tied to the investment could restrict Kenya's ability to import petroleum products independently, potentially binding the country to source its supplies from Dangote. He gave the government a two-week ultimatum to release the full terms of the agreement, warning that he would make the details public himself if it failed to act.

When reminded that Ruto had pointed out that Nyoro himself holds shares in Kenya Power while questioning the Dangote deal's ownership structure, the MP said the comparison was entirely misplaced. Kenya Power, he argued, is a public-

ly listed company whose shares are accessible to any Kenyan willing to invest. Dangote, he said, is a private investment whose ownership is not similarly open or transparent. The distinction, he maintained, was not a minor technicality but a fundamental question of public accountability.

Nyoro then turned to agriculture, where his frustration with the government was equally evident. He criticised the recently announced tea bonuses as among the lowest farmers had received in recent memory, accusing the administration of failing an entire sector while claiming to be transforming Kenyan agriculture. He also questioned why the country continues importing large quantities of maize when local production capacity exists, and levelled serious allegations at the government's fertiliser subsidy programme. He claimed the programme had been converted into a commercial arrangement involving individuals close to the President, with farmers receiving less support than the scheme's stated objectives

promised. He said he had proposals to revive the tea sector and improve farmer earnings, and called for a genuine commitment to implementing them.

On education, Nyoro covered significant ground. He proposed that Early Childhood Development Education teachers be brought under the Teachers Service Commission, arguing the move would standardise and improve their pay and working conditions — a proposal that has long been discussed but repeatedly deferred. He went further, claiming that basic education could be made entirely free without additional taxation, saying the opposition had a costed plan to achieve this. He was particularly critical of the government's approach to university financing, opposing what he described as an increasing shift toward a loan-based model that would require graduates to repay the cost of their education after securing employment. He said opposition Members of Parliament would reject any framework

that institutionalised this approach and threw his support behind university workers currently on strike, criticising a government directive that had instructed universities to find the money to honour collective bargaining agreements from their own resources rather than from the national budget. Forcing universities to raise money from students to fund employee agreements negotiated at the national level, he argued, was neither fair nor sustainable.

The MP also addressed the insecurity crisis affecting herding communities, accusing the government of responding too slowly and too timidly to a situation that had been escalating for months. While acknowledging that a security operation was under way, he said statements had outpaced action and directed specific criticism at Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen's handling of the crisis. He also took aim at what he described as inflammatory remarks by Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, questioning why Ruto had not moved to rein in a member of his own Cabinet making divisive statements about regional political numbers. Nyoro argued that Mt Kenya had contributed decisively to Ruto's 2022 victory and that Duale's comments reflected an ingratitude that the region was entitled to call out.

He defended his current alignment with retired President Uhuru Kenyatta, acknowledging that he had previously opposed Kenyatta politically but arguing that the circumstances had changed. He and other leaders, he said, had been misled by Ruto and had since recognised what had happened. He dismissed suggestions that Kenyatta was financing the opposition as propaganda designed to discredit a legitimate political movement. The opposition, he maintained, would ultimately converge on a single presidential candidate to face Ruto in 2027, and the work of building the coalition capable of making that happen was already well advanced.

Whether Nyoro's journey from Kenya Kwanza insider to opposition critic becomes one of the defining political stories of the 2027 cycle remains to be seen. What is clear is that he has made his choice — and he appears in no hurry to walk it back.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *A depleted side showed character and collective strength in Porto as the post-Ronaldo era takes shape

Portugal hold firm to down Norway without Ronaldo



By Andalo Christine Ingutia

Portugal beat Norway 2-1 in Porto yesterday to maintain their perfect record in Nations League Group A4, winning without Cristiano Ronaldo for the first time since the superstar's abrupt departure from the national camp earlier in the week.

The victory meant more than three points for coach Jorge Jesus and his players. It was a statement — measured, hard-earned and timely — from a squad determined to move forward amid the noise surrounding Ronaldo's reported fallout with the coach and his sudden exit from the squad.

Norway arrived at the Estádio do Dragão with a clear plan and executed it well in the opening stages. Martin Ødegaard pulled the strings in midfield with his customary precision while Erling Haaland posed a constant physical threat in attack. Portugal, still finding their footing

without their talisman, struggled to impose themselves and looked unsettled as the first half wore on.

The breakthrough went to the visitors. In the 36th minute, Ødegaard delivered a dangerous ball into the Portuguese penalty area and, when the home defence failed to deal with it cleanly, Kristoffer Ajer punished them with a composed finish. For a team already carrying the weight of Ronaldo's departure, going behind was the last thing Portugal needed.

They responded with admirable composure. Within two minutes, João Cancelo provided the equaliser his side desperately needed, lifting the mood inside the stadium and shifting the contest's momentum. From that point, Portugal grew into the match. They began to move the ball with more confidence and authority, pressing Norway deeper into their own half as the hosts searched for a winner before the interval.

for the interval.

The second half brought greater urgency from Portugal. Jesus's side returned from the break with clear intent, gradually asserting themselves in possession and subjecting Norway to sustained pressure. The task became easier for the hosts in the 66th minute when Haaland, clearly hampered, was substituted — a significant blow to Norway's ability to hold the line and threaten on the counter.

Portugal made the breakthrough count thirteen minutes later. Vitorinha won the ball in midfield and moved it quickly to Félix, who read the moment perfectly and slipped a clever pass through to Gonçalo Ramos. The striker finished with the confidence of a player who understood what the goal meant. With Ronaldo no longer leading the attack, Portugal's younger forwards have faced sharper scrutiny and greater expectation. On Sunday night, Ramos answered emphatically.

The closing stages were nervy. Francisco Conceição received a second yellow card in the 86th minute and was dismissed, leaving Portugal to defend their lead with ten men. Norway sensed an opportunity and pushed forward, pumping balls into the penalty area in search of a leveller. Rúben Dias marshalled the rearguard with authority, and the Portuguese defence held firm until the final whistle.

The 2-1 win keeps Portugal top of Group A4 with a perfect record. More significantly, it demonstrated that the squad possesses the character and collective resilience to perform under pressure — and to absorb the distraction of a story as large as Ronaldo's departure without letting it seep into their football. For a team in transition, that may prove to be the most important lesson of all.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *The Algerian winger ends months of uncertainty with a short-term deal, adding another chapter to one of African football’s most decorated careers

Mahrez agrees Qatar move to join Al-Shamal as free agent

By **Pascal Okoth**

Riyad Mahrez has verbally agreed to join Qatari club Al-Shamal as a free agent, ending months of uncertainty over the former Manchester City and Leicester City winger’s future and setting up yet another chapter in one of African football’s most storied careers.

The 35-year-old Algerian is understood to have reached terms with Al-Shamal on a short-term contract, initially for one season with an option for a further year, after leaving Saudi Pro League side Al-Ahli earlier this year. The move is expected to be completed once a medical examination and contract signing are finalised — the last formalities standing between Mahrez and his new club.

Mahrez has been without a club since July, when Al-Ahli confirmed his departure after three seasons in Jeddah. The Saudi club parted ways with him warmly, acknowledging his contribution to a period of genuine achievement. The numbers from his time in Saudi Arabia speak for themselves: 122 appearances across all competitions, 37 goals and 46 assists, with a haul of continental and domestic honours that underlined his continued quality well into his thirties.

His career, however, stretches far deeper than three seasons in the Gulf. Mahrez first announced himself to the world at Leicester City, where he was instrumental in one of English football’s most improbable and celebrated moments — the 2015-16 Premier League title triumph that stopped the sport in its tracks. He was not merely a participant in that remarkable season; he was one of its driving forces, winning the PFA Players’ Player of the Year award and cementing his reputation as one of the most dangerous wide players in Europe.

That reputation earned him a

move to Manchester City in 2018, where Pep Guardiola handed him a stage commensurate with his talent. Over five seasons at the Etihad Stadium, Mahrez became a key figure in one of English football’s most dominant sides, collecting multiple Premier League titles and, in 2023, a UEFA Champions League winners’ medal — the crowning achievement of a club career that had already produced more than most players ever dream of.

From Manchester, he headed to Saudi Arabia and Al-Ahli, joining the wave of elite players drawn to the Saudi Pro League’s expanding ambitions. He adapted without difficulty, continuing to produce at a level that kept him relevant in conversations about Africa’s finest footballers of his generation.

Now comes Qatar, and Al-Shamal. The move carries a particular resonance for Algerian football supporters. Al-Shamal already count veteran striker Baghdad Bounedjah among their ranks, giving the club a strong Algerian presence. Mahrez and Bounedjah are familiar with each other from years of shared service with the national team, a connection that adds a layer of warmth and familiarity to a transfer that might otherwise read as purely business.

For Al-Shamal, the signing represents a statement of intent. A player who has won the Champions League, multiple Premier League titles and competed at the highest levels of European and Asian football does not arrive unnoticed. His experience, technical quality and winning mentality are precisely the kind of attributes clubs build around when they are serious about competing domestically and on the continental stage.

For Mahrez personally, the move offers continuity and purpose. He recently brought his



Riyad Mahrez

international career to a close following Algeria’s participation in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, meaning he enters this new phase of his career with complete focus on club football — no international windows, no divided attention, just the business of performing for Al-Shamal and prolonging a career that has given so much to the game.

At 35, some players begin to slow and settle. Mahrez, whose career has been defined by reinvention and an ability to thrive in new environments, appears determined to do neither. From Quimper in France to Leicester, from Manchester to Jeddah, and now to Doha — the journey of one of Algeria and Africa’s finest

footballers continues, and those who have underestimated him at each turn have invariably been made to regret it.

The formal announcement awaits. But the deal, in every meaningful sense, is done.

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Building Africa's Future: The remarkable rise of Professor Clemence Jaricha

A Zimbabwean visionary whose business reaches across continents, and whose heart belongs to those who have nothing



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Every so often, Africa produces a builder whose ambition is matched only by his generosity. Professor Clemence Jaricha is one of them. Born in Bikita, Masvingo, he has become one of Zimbabwe's most celebrated sons abroad: a scholar, an industrialist, a devoted father and a philanthropist whose name now stands on property in Chicago, London and across Southern Africa.

By God's grace, he is the Owner and Founder of CJ Global Express Group Unlimited, a group spanning logistics, supply and business development, with a footprint stretching from Southern Africa to Dubai and beyond. Today he divides his time between South Africa and Dubai, for business and for family. And at every step of his remarkable climb, he has carried one conviction: business must lift people, not just profits.

At a glance: founded in 1999 • 9 business divisions • US\$890m Zimbabwe & Botswana programme • 3 children raised as a single father

Strength forged early

His story did not begin with privilege. As a boy he was very close to his mother, helping her at home and with her small business to put food on the table. Those days taught him hard work, respect and compassion. Then came a loss no child should face: he lost both his parents while still very young, and had to learn to stand on his own and build his life from scratch through education.

"It was painful, but it made me the man I am today — a man who values family, education, hard work and God."

A scholar who chose to build

Professor Jaricha holds a PhD in Finance from Manchester University in the United Kingdom. With that expertise he could have taken a comfortable seat in any boardroom.

Instead, he chose the harder and bolder path of building something of his own.

In 1999 he founded CJ Global Express as a logistics and transport company. Within a decade he had grown it into a respected enterprise, steering it through one of the most turbulent economic periods in Zimbabwe's history. From his base in South Africa, the company's growth became extraordinary.

An empire built division by division

Today CJ Global operates across nine divisions, a portfolio few African-owned groups can match:

- CJ Global Construction: infrastructure development, civil engineering, and commercial and residential building projects
- CJ Global Mining: mineral exploration and sustainable resource extraction
- CGEG Unl. Logistics: comprehensive supply chain, freight and transportation solutions
- CJ Global Properties: commercial and residential real estate investments and property portfolio management
- CJ Global Mall: premier retail shopping centres and commercial spaces, with malls in Hyde Park, Zimbabwe, the Durban CBD, South Africa, and in Botswana and other countries
- CJ Nightclubs & Restaurants: high-end dining, entertainment venues and nightlife experiences
- CJ Global Saloons & Spas: luxury wellness, beauty and health sanctuary services
- CJ Vodka Premium Spirits: manufacturing and distribution of premium spirits, anchored out of Chicago
- CJ Global Foundation & Global Footprint Holding Management: the humanitarian charity division and the group's overarching corporate and international strategic coordination arm

Taking African enterprise to the world

In the United States, the group acquired a building in Chicago to launch its premium vodka brand for the American market, supported by manufacturing hubs in KwaZulu-Natal and Lesotho. It ranks



Professor Clemence Jaricha

among the most high-profile international investments ever made by a Zimbabwean-owned private group. In January 2026, the company was formally honoured in America for that investment, with Professor Jaricha receiving a trophy in recognition of its achievements in the global market.

In Europe, the group has acquired prime commercial property in London, its official entry into the European market, with plans for CJ nightclubs, restaurants and a spa. The goal is unmistakable: a truly global African brand.

"We are not just expanding geographically. We are expanding our vision."

Investing in Zimbabwe

For all his global success, Professor Jaricha has turned his energy decisively toward Zimbabwe. A US\$890 million programme is now funding shopping malls, service stations and road infrastructure across the country, alongside a five-star hotel on the corridor to Gaborone in neighbouring Botswana. Recruitment for more than 300 jobs opened in August 2026.

At Hyde Park, his group is developing CJ Global Mall, a two-storey centre with shops, offices and a service station, projected to create thousands of jobs. Further malls are planned along Mutare Road and in Masvingo, with a deliberate focus

on rural areas and townships that big investors too often overlook. He has described the work as his way of reintegrating into the Zimbabwean economy, and of encouraging other investors to follow.

He has also brought his passion to Zimbabwean football, taking a 51 percent stake in CJ Mposa Football Club in Bulawayo. His vision for the club, still a proposed plan under consideration, is ambitious: upgraded stadium facilities, a youth academy to nurture local talent, exchange programmes linking young Zimbabwean players with European academies, and, in time, a club capable of competing regularly in the CAF Champions League.

His greatest achievement

Ask Professor Jaricha about his proudest accomplishment, and he will not name a mall, a building or a balance sheet. He will speak of his children.

When his wife passed away in 2019, he took on the role of single father to their three children. Determined that they would never know the hardship he had known, he poured himself into their education. Today his two eldest are both doctors, and his youngest, his little princess, is growing up surrounded by that same love and ambition. In a career full of milestones, this is the one he holds closest to his heart.

The humanitarian at the heart of the empire

What sets Professor Jaricha apart is not the size of his balance sheet, but the reach of his compassion. He is guided by ubuntu, the African truth that I am because we are, and he has said plainly that his company does not believe in simply chasing the dollar, but in improving the lives of people and communities.

Humanitarian work is now his passion: giving back to orphans and vulnerable families, because he knows their pain. That philosophy lives through the CJ Global Foundation, a dedicated division of the group, which he leads as president. For a man who was himself orphaned young, its work is deeply personal. The foundation provides life insurance for orphans, so that children who have already lost so much are not left unprotected. It donates computers and school supplies, opening the digital world to learners who would otherwise be left behind. Its work reaches communities in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia.

It can be said with conviction: wealth is common, but wealth with a conscience is rare. When a business leader insures an orphan's future, equips a classroom and creates thousands of jobs, he is not just building an empire. He is building a nation.

A legacy still being written

Looking ahead, Professor Jaricha's plans are as generous as they are ambitious: to expand CJ Global Express into more countries, to mentor young people from humble backgrounds, and to do even more charitable work. His rise has already earned growing recognition, including a nomination for Zimbabwe's Men of the Year Awards in 2025.

Yet his true legacy is measured in the young Zimbabwean who receives a first payslip, the learner who opens a donated laptop, and the orphaned child whose future is protected by someone who once stood exactly where they stand.

Zimbabwe has given the world a builder. The world is now watching what he builds next. I, for one, believe the best chapters of this story are still to come.