

**Sakaja quits UDA for ODM ahead of 2027 poll**

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja yesterday officially resigned from the United Democratic Alliance and joined the Orange Democratic Movement, in one of the most significant political defections

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**Waititu's graft bill rises to KSh74.5M as court adds money laundering fines**

Ferdinand Waititu, the former Kiambu governor, yesterday had his total financial penalty in a KSh588.7 million corruption case rise to KSh74.5 million after the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court

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Daily ePAPER

**Countdown 2027** "Mr Gachagua must understand one fundamental truth: no Kenyan President has ever been made by one community alone," Muturi said

# Muturi to Gachagua: Stop the bullying

Democratic Party leader Justin Muturi yesterday delivered his sharpest public rebuke yet of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, accusing him of political bullying, intimidation and systematically undermining the opposition unity that Kenya's anti-government coalition must maintain if it is to mount a credible challenge to President William Ruto in the August 2027 General Election.

In a strongly worded statement issued on Monday, Muturi — a former Attorney General and Speaker of the National Assembly — called on Gachagua to abandon what he described as double-speak and attempts to dominate partner political parties, warning that the opposition's presidential ambitions could not survive if one individual was allowed to dictate terms to everyone else.

"Mr Gachagua must understand one fundamental truth: no Kenyan President has ever been made by one community alone," Muturi said. "The presidency is won through national consensus, strategic alliances and the ability to unite Kenyans across ethnic and regional boundaries."

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*L-R: Democratic Party leader Justin Muturi, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua*

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# Kalonzo draws his line in the sand

BY Anita Ndeti
@themtkenyatimes

Wiper Democratic Movement leader Kalonzo Musyoka Sunday ruled out joining President William Ruto's administration, delivering an unambiguous public declaration at Kyumbi Junction along Mombasa Road that will sharpen opposition battle lines ahead of the August 2027 General Election.

"To those who keep asking whether I will join the predator regime — thanks, but no thanks," Kalonzo told supporters gathered at the roadside rally. "I am not joining the predator regime."

The remarks, characteristically direct and strategically timed, signal that Kenya's opposition realignment is hardening into something more durable than political posturing.

Kalonzo positioned the Ukombozi movement not as an electoral vehicle but as a governing vision. "Ukombozi is not a slogan," he said. "It is a promise to every Kenyan who has been left behind."

His speech touched on corruption, economic hardship and the dignity of ordinary citizens from Kyumbi to Turkana — a deliberate attempt to cast the opposition's appeal as national rather than regional.

With coalition talks intensifying and the 2027 contest taking shape, Kalonzo's declaration removes any remaining ambiguity about where he stands — and who he stands against.

*Some of the moments as captured in pictures*











Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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

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# NEWS IN BRIEF



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen yesterday called on Kenya's security and legislative institutions to move beyond reactive measures and build a robust, forward-looking cybersecurity framework capable of defending citizens' constitutional rights in an increasingly digitalised world. Murkomen argued that the country can no longer afford to respond to digital threats after the damage is done — protection must be built into systems before vulnerabilities are exploited. His remarks arrive at a moment of heightened concern over data privacy, state surveillance and the integrity of digital public services, all of which carry direct implications for the freedoms guaranteed under Kenya's 2010 Constitution. As cyber threats grow more sophisticated and state systems more interconnected, Murkomen's call signals a recognition that national security and digital rights are no longer separate conversations.



Governor Muthomi Njuki of Tharaka Nithi yesterday turned up the political temperature on Wiper Democratic Movement leader Kalonzo Musyoka, publicly urging him to cross the floor and align with President William Ruto's Kenya Kwanza administration. Njuki's appeal was pointed and specific: the country's third-highest office — the Prime Cabinet Secretary position — remains available, and Kalonzo, he suggested, would do well to take it seriously. The remarks place Kalonzo in an increasingly uncomfortable spotlight. Opposition allies will read the overture as exactly what it is — a recruitment pitch dressed in the language of national interest. For Kalonzo himself, who has staked his 2027 campaign on leading the Ukombozi resistance movement, the offer arrives at a moment designed to test his resolve and sow doubt among his supporters.



Kenya National Examinations Council Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Evaleen Mitei yesterday presided over the official opening and distribution of examination materials at the container stationed at the Deputy County Commissioner's offices in Lang'ata, marking the commencement of the 2026 KCSE examination administration process in the area. Mitei used the occasion to deliver a firm and unambiguous message to school administrators, invigilators and all examination stakeholders: integrity is not negotiable. She reminded those present that a result obtained through honest effort carries a weight and credibility that no compromised grade can ever replicate, and that the council's commitment to fairness applies equally and without exception across both public and private institutions. Her presence at the distribution point underscored KNEC's determination to oversee the process with hands-on accountability from the very first day.



Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi has moved to silence the public chatter within Orange Democratic Movement ranks over the party's ongoing negotiations with the United Democratic Alliance, warning members to hold their tongues and allow the party leadership to manage the process without interference from the floor. Mbadi's instruction was unambiguous: the talks are under way, the leadership is in charge, and unsolicited public commentary from members is neither helpful nor welcome. The directive reflects the sensitivity surrounding the ODM-UDA negotiations, which have become a growing source of internal tension as individual leaders jockey for position and stake early claims on whatever political rewards an eventual arrangement might deliver. With 2027 drawing closer, discipline within ODM is clearly becoming as important to its leadership as the deal itself.



Democracy for the Citizens Party Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala yesterday delivered a pointed defence of Ndindi Nyoro, acknowledging the Kiharu MP's political past while challenging the opposition to exercise greater maturity and tolerance if it is serious about unseating President William Ruto in 2027. Malala was direct: no Mount Kenya leader now aligned with the opposition arrived there with clean hands, having at some point worked alongside the very administration they now oppose. He singled out Nyandarua Senator John Methu, noting that Methu once enjoyed close proximity to Ruto, including access to Air Force One. The message beneath the candour was clear — an opposition that disqualifies leaders for their past associations will struggle to build the broad coalition that defeating an incumbent president actually demands.



Moi University yesterday announced the death of David Mwenje Mureithi, its beloved former Dean of Students, who passed away aged 78 after three decades of distinguished service to one of Kenya's most prominent public universities. Known affectionately across generations of alumni as D.O.D Mureithi — and more reverently as the "Dean of Deans" — Mureithi was far more than an administrator. He was a compass for thousands of young people who arrived at Moi University uncertain of themselves and left carrying the quiet confidence that comes from being genuinely seen and guided by someone who cared. His influence stretches across boardrooms, courtrooms, hospitals and public offices throughout Kenya, embedded in the careers of the men and women he shaped. He will be deeply missed.

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Politics **"I was told to become the Deputy President. And I was told by senior people in the government," - Kang'ata**

# Kang'ata: 'I turned down the Deputy President's job — it was a trap'

**The Murang'a governor's explosive account of a rejected promotion and a presidential showdown lays bare the fractures inside Kenya's ruling establishment.**

**BY Jane Njeri**
*@themtkenyatimes*



Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata

Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata has revealed that he was offered the position of Deputy President by senior government officials before he left the United Democratic Alliance, but declined, fearing it was a political trap that would cost him his credibility with voters.

Speaking in an interview with Kameme FM on Monday, 2 November 2026, Kang'ata disclosed that the offer came from senior figures within the government and that he subjected it to careful political analysis before rejecting it. "I was told to become the Deputy President. And I was told by senior people in the government, but as to whether I wanted it or not, I looked into other reasons," he said.

Those reasons were stark. Advisers warned him that accepting the position would brand him a traitor in the eyes of the electorate and would not alter the political tide already turning against President William Ruto in the Mt Kenya region. "I was told by people that this was a trap because even if I accepted, I would not change the decision of the people, and the people would see me as a traitor. Another person told me that hurry-hurry has no blessings," Kang'ata revealed. He concluded that the risks outweighed the reward. "I saw there could have been a much bigger problem ahead of me. When I did the whole totality, I saw there was no need," he added.

His reasoning reflects a governor who had already calculated that alignment with a weakening administration carried greater electoral risk than departure from it. Kang'ata framed the decision in terms of purpose rather than rank. "The essence is not about being given the position but what you would deliver," he said — a line that functions equally as political philosophy and as justification for a rejection that, had it become public earlier, would have reshaped Kenya's political calendar.

Kang'ata also disclosed that before formally distancing himself from the government, he sought a direct meeting with Ruto to deliver the news personally. The encounter did not go well. "Before I exited the government side about a year ago, I saw the best thing was to look for the President and tell him that I would no longer be with him, and I did so. And we argued because he did not want to hear that. We did not come to terms, and I remained silent because he is my senior," he said. The exchange, by his account, illustrated a deeper problem within the administration. "That is where I got the impression that people don't want to be told," he added. He also cited accusations from within government that he had failed to defend the administration during its political engagements in Murang'a — a charge he did not dispute.

The revelations follow a well-documented political trajectory. On 3 May 2026, Kang'ata announced he would not defend his seat on a UDA ticket. By 24 July 2026, he had formally joined former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's Democracy for Citizens Party, declaring he would contest the 2027 Murang'a gubernatorial election under its banner.

Taken together, the interview paints a portrait of a ruling party that offered a governor its highest office to forestall a defection — and still lost him anyway.

# UDA and ODM on a collision course with destiny



Cooperatives Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya

**BY David Kimani**
*@themtkenyatimes*

Cooperatives Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya yesterday confirmed that the United Democratic Alliance and the Orange Democratic Movement will hold formal negotiations to agree on a power-sharing framework before the August 2027 General Election, setting the stage for one of the most consequential political pacts in Kenya's recent history.

Speaking during political rallies in Kakamega County, Oparanya disclosed that a ten-member negotiating team — five representatives from UDA and five from ODM — has already been constituted to work on a framework ahead of the polls. He was emphatic about his own place at that table. "I have invested a lot in ODM — spiritually, time and resources — and I must be part of the negotiations," he said, warning that his exclusion could force him to reconsider his position within the party.

The deputy president's slot has swiftly emerged as the central prize in the emerging arrangement. ODM leaders have increasingly rallied behind Oparanya as their preferred candidate for the position, with National Assembly Minority Whip Junet Mohamed stating publicly that if UDA produces the presidential candidate, the deputy president's seat belongs to ODM — and should go to Oparanya.

If sealed, the pact could redraw Kenya's political map across Western Kenya, the Coast, Gusii and Central Kenya. With nine months to polling day, the deal being quietly assembled between State House and ODM's leadership may yet prove the election's defining story.

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NAIROBI

# Sakaja quits UDA for ODM ahead of 2027 poll

***Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja's defection to the Orange Democratic Movement reshapes the capital's political contest and raises fresh questions about the city's gubernatorial race.***



Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja

**BY Yvonne Wambui**
*@themtkenyatimes*

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja yesterday officially resigned from the United Democratic Alliance and joined the Orange Democratic Movement, in one of the most significant political defections to emerge from the capital ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The announcement, made on Monday, immediately drew attention across Kenya's political landscape, and for good reason. Nairobi is not just another county. It is the country's economic engine, its most watched political battleground and the prize every serious national political formation wants firmly in its corner. When its governor changes parties, people take notice.

Sakaja's exit from UDA — the party of President William Ruto — comes at a moment when political leaders across the country are rapidly repositioning themselves ahead of 2027. His move to ODM is widely seen as both a personal and strategic decision, shaped in part by his longstanding admiration for former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, whose influence over the Orange party and its deep roots in Nairobi's political culture remains considerable even in his absence from the domestic scene.

ODM has historically commanded strong support in the capital, giving Sakaja a potentially powerful platform from which to defend his seat. But the move is not without risk. Several politicians have already signalled interest in the Nairobi governorship, and securing ODM's nomination in a competitive field will be far from straightforward. The party's internal dynamics, combined with the heightened stakes of a Nairobi race, mean Sakaja enters his new political home as a significant figure but not an uncontested one.

The defection also raises broader questions about the future of the broad-based government arrangement between Ruto's administration and ODM. How UDA responds to the loss of Nairobi's governor — and whether other leaders draw similar conclusions about their own political futures — will be closely watched in the weeks ahead.

For Nairobi residents, the more pressing question is simpler: will any of this translate into better roads, cleaner streets, more jobs and improved services for a city that has long deserved more than it receives from those who govern it?

The coming months will test whether Sakaja's new political home strengthens his hand or simply exchanges one set of challenges for another.



Veteran journalist Jeff Koinange and Democracy for the Citizens Party Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala

# Koinange and Malala trade blows in fiery live TV clash

***A Sunday night interview on Citizen TV descended into sharp personal exchanges as veteran journalist Jeff Koinange and DCP's Cleophas Malala squared off over careers, party loyalty and political relevance.***

**BY Yvonne Wambui**
*@themtkenyatimes*

A live television interview on Citizen TV's Sunday Live programme Sunday evening turned into one of the most talked-about confrontations of the political season, as veteran journalist Jeff Koinange and Democracy for the Citizens Party Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala exchanged pointed personal remarks in front of a national audience.

The interview, broadcast on Sunday 1 November, began as a discussion on political ambitions, leadership changes and Malala's position within DCP. It quickly moved onto sharper ground. When Koinange pressed Malala on his trajectory — moving from one political position to another — Malala pushed back hard, turning the lens on his interviewer. He compared Koinange to Central Organisation of Trade Unions Secretary-General Francis Atwoli, describing the veteran journalist as the "Atwoli of the media" — a man, he suggested, who had grown too comfortable in one seat and stopped evolving professionally.

Koinange did not let it pass. He defended his standing vigorously, pointing to his experience and the calibre of guests who continued to seek out his platform as evidence that his influence in Kenyan media remained firmly intact. He then shifted the attack, questioning Malala's political consistency and labelling him a party hopper whose standing within DCP was under serious internal pressure.

The exchange sharpened further when Koinange raised Nyandarua Senator John Methu, suggesting that Methu had effectively assumed the political space Malala once occupied within the party. Malala rejected the framing outright, insisting that his ambitions were not confined to a single role and that political growth, by definition, requires movement.

The confrontation landed at a sensitive moment for DCP. The party, founded around former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, is navigating heightened scrutiny over its internal leadership structures and preparations for the 2027 General Election. Malala has previously denied being sidelined, maintaining that he remains a founding member with a clearly defined regional role.

Public reaction to the exchange was swift and divided. Some viewers praised the unfiltered frankness of the encounter, while others questioned whether personal jabs serve the public interest in what should be a substantive political conversation.

What the exchange confirmed, beyond the headlines it generated, is that as 2027 draws closer, the line between political interview and political theatre in Kenya is becoming increasingly difficult to locate.

**Politics** **"Mr Gachagua must understand one fundamental truth: no Kenyan President has ever been made by one community alone," Muturi said.**

# Gachagua must end political bullying, Muturi warns as opposition unity fractures

***Democratic Party leader Justin Muturi accuses the former Deputy President of intimidation and double-speak, warning that no single community or individual can claim ownership of Kenya's presidency or its fragile opposition coalition.***

**BY James Mwangi**
*@themtkenyatimes*

Democratic Party leader Justin Muturi yesterday delivered his sharpest public rebuke yet of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, accusing him of political bullying, intimidation and systematically undermining the opposition unity that Kenya's anti-government coalition must maintain if it is to mount a credible challenge to President William Ruto in the August 2027 General Election.

In a strongly worded statement issued on Monday, Muturi — a former Attorney General and Speaker of the National Assembly — called on Gachagua to abandon what he described as double-speak and attempts to dominate partner political parties, warning that the opposition's presidential ambitions could not survive if one individual was allowed to dictate terms to everyone else.

"Mr Gachagua must understand one fundamental truth: no Kenyan President has ever been made by one community alone," Muturi said. "The presidency is won through national consensus, strategic alliances and the ability to unite Kenyans across ethnic and regional boundaries."

The statement is the most direct and public challenge yet to Gachagua's growing authority within the opposition, arriving at a moment of acute sensitivity for a coalition struggling to reconcile competing presidential ambitions, regional interests and questions of party identity ahead of one of Kenya's most consequential elections in recent memory.

At the heart of Muturi's intervention is a dispute over the tripartite arrangement that Gachagua has been advocating as the structural basis for opposition cooperation. The former Deputy President has argued that dividing the opposition into three political formations would create a coherent governing framework and strengthen the coalition's hand against Ruto. Muturi was blunt in his rejection of that logic. "A tripartite arrangement is not a magic formula for State House," he said. "Fragmenting an opposition that needs unity raises serious questions about the political direction being pursued."

He went further, questioning whether Gachagua was genuinely committed to the collective goal of capturing the presidency or was instead using the opposition umbrella as cover to secure parliamentary seats, county positions and regional influence for himself and his allies. "Is the objective to win the presidency or to control MPs, legislators and devolved units while sacrificing the bigger national ambition?" he asked — remarks that will have landed with considerable force within Gachagua's inner circle.

Muturi also reached into political history to reinforce his argument, invoking the memory of Gachagua's late brother, former Nyeri Governor Nderitu Gachagua, as evidence that political alliances carry no guarantees of regional loyalty. He recalled that Nderitu won the Nyeri gubernatorial race against The National Alliance — the party associated with former President Uhuru Kenyatta — despite the Grand National Union backing Kenyatta's formation at the time. The implication was deliberate and pointed: no individual or party holds permanent title over any region's political support, however confidently they may claim it.

"Let it be clear: no individual owns the United Opposition, and no community has a monopoly on Kenya's presidency," Muturi said. "Political partnerships must be built on mutual respect, not ultimatums, political bullying or supremacy contests."

These are not diplomatic words. They are words chosen to sting, and they reflect the depth of frustration that has been building within sections of the opposition since August 2026, when Muturi joined Party of National Unity leader Peter Munya and Devolution Empowerment Party leader Lenny Kivuti in publicly rejecting Gachagua's calls for smaller opposition parties to dissolve and merge into his Democracy for the Citizens Party. The three leaders accused Gachagua then of belittling his coalition partners and attempting to dictate their political futures. They insisted that opposition cooperation did not require parties to surrender their individual identities, and that alliances must be grounded in equality, trust and institutional respect — not absorption.



**Democratic Party leader Justin Muturi**

Gachagua had argued that parties seeking relevance in opposition negotiations should demonstrate genuine grassroots strength, positioning DCP as the vehicle capable of fielding candidates nationally and anchoring a credible presidential bid. His critics interpreted those arguments as thinly veiled pressure on smaller parties to fall into line or face marginalisation. Monday's statement from Muturi suggests that interpretation has hardened into conviction.

The immediate backdrop to the confrontation is the increasingly urgent and unresolved question of who will carry the opposition's presidential banner in August 2027. On 26 October, Gachagua hosted Wiper Patriotic Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka at his Wamunyoro residence in Nyeri, where the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to backing a single presidential candidate and pledged that the opposition would make the necessary sacrifices to agree on a joint flagbearer. The meeting followed separate engagements between Gachagua and Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna of the Linda Mwananchi movement, whose 13 November National Delegates Conference is expected to clarify that formation's coalition strategy and potentially sharpen the timeline for a presidential candidate decision.

Taken together, these engagements reveal an opposition that is simultaneously drawing closer together on rhetoric and pulling itself apart on substance — united by its opposition to Ruto's administration, but divided by questions of leadership sequencing, party hierarchy, regional entitlement and the distribution of political reward when power is eventually won or lost.

Muturi and his allies have been careful to frame their criticism as internal correction rather than a clean break. They say they remain committed to the broader opposition project. But the language he deployed on Monday — bullying, intimidation, ultimatums, supremacy contests — is not the language of an alliance in rude health. It is the vocabulary of a coalition under real strain, one in which trust is depleting faster than strategy is advancing, and in which the gap between public declarations of unity and private calculations of advantage is widening by the week.

With less than nine months before Kenya's political formations must begin the formal business of candidate selection and party nominations, the opposition faces a defining test of character. It can find a mechanism for resolving its internal disputes with the discipline and maturity the moment demands — or it can allow personal rivalries, ethnic arithmetic and individual ambition to fracture a movement that, united, would represent a formidable threat to an incumbent administration facing its own mounting pressures.

Muturi's warning to Gachagua was personal, public and unambiguous. Whether it will be heeded — or whether it simply deepens the very divisions it has sought to address — may well determine the opposition's fate long before a single vote is cast in August 2027.

**Business** **Standard Bank's decision to anchor the partnership is rooted in a conviction that has shaped the Group's investment philosophy for decades.**

# Standard Bank backs Africa's youth at Cape Town global summit

**BY Grace Wanja**
*@themtkenyatimes*

Standard Bank Group has announced a headline partnership with One Young World for the organisation's annual global Summit, taking place in Cape Town from 3 to 6 November 2026 — marking the first time the gathering has returned to African soil since its inaugural continental hosting in Johannesburg in 2013. Stanbic Bank Kenya, a member of the Standard Bank Group, confirmed yesterday that the partnership will see the bank sponsor 61 young delegates to attend the Summit, among them representatives from East Africa.



Lungisa Fuzile - SBG AR CE

The One Young World Summit is one of the world's most prominent forums for emerging leadership, bringing together young people from more than 190 countries alongside senior business executives, policymakers and global changemakers to confront some of the most urgent challenges of the age. That it returns to Africa at a moment when the continent's demographic story is drawing unprecedented global attention gives this year's gathering a particular resonance.

Standard Bank's decision to anchor the partnership is rooted in a conviction that has shaped the Group's investment philosophy for decades. "For Standard Bank, this partnership reflects our belief that Africa's future growth and prosperity depend on investing in the potential of its young people," said Lungisa Fuzile, Chief Executive for Africa Regions and Offshore at Standard Bank. "With a young population under 25 years old totalling an estimated 900 million, Africa is decidedly on the cusp of a demographic dividend. This partnership is perfectly aligned to our purpose — Africa is our home, we drive her growth."

The 61 sponsored delegates represent a cross-section of the bank's investment in youth development. Thirty form a special delegation assembled to mark the approaching 30th anniversary of Standard Bank's Graduate Development Programme, comprising 24 alumni of its graduate programmes and six current graduates, including participants from East Africa. A further 21 are students currently supported through the bank's bursary programme, while the remaining ten are drawn from young entrepreneurial clients and youth-focused corporate social investment partners.

The Graduate Development Programme, established in 1997, has become one of the most recognised initiatives of its kind on the continent. In 2025 alone, 251 graduates joined the programme across 11 countries, gaining structured workplace experience, mentorship and career pathways within one of Africa's largest financial institutions. The Cape Town Summit provides a compelling backdrop against which to mark that milestone, placing the programme's beneficiaries at the centre of a global conversation about leadership, innovation and the future of the continent.



Lungisa Fuzile - SBG AR CE Kate Robertson

Standard Bank's contribution to the Summit extends beyond delegate sponsorship. Goolam Ballim, Chief Economist and Head of Research at Standard Bank Group, will participate in the Future of Africa session, offering analysis of the continent's economic outlook and the role young leaders must play in shaping it. As main sponsor of the Summit's Closing Ceremony, Fuzile will deliver an address urging delegates to translate the ideas, connections and inspiration generated over the four days into concrete and lasting action.

The partnership is the latest expression of a sustained investment in human capital that the Group has pursued across Africa. In 2025, Standard Bank committed an estimated KSh2B to corporate social investment initiatives continent-wide, funding programmes focused on access to quality education and the development of digital and entrepreneurial skills.

For One Young World, securing Africa's largest bank by assets as a partner for a Summit hosted on African soil carries clear symbolic and practical weight. "We are immensely proud of this very special partnership," said Kate Robertson, Co-Founder and Chief Executive of One Young World. "With this year's Summit taking place in Africa, it made sense to partner with Africa's biggest bank by assets. Standard Bank has done genuinely impressive work to drive youth development and this aligns perfectly with the values of One Young World. The Closing Ceremony marks the first step of a development journey that will undoubtedly benefit thousands of young people in Africa and beyond."

The Summit's attendee list underlines the scale of the gathering. Among those expected in Cape Town are Forest Whitaker, Graça Machel, Nomzamo Mbatha, Tendai "Beast" Mtawarira, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau and Mteto Nyati, alongside hundreds of delegates, corporate leaders and public figures from across the globe.

For the East African delegates making their way to Cape Town this week, the Summit represents something more immediate than a conference. It is an invitation to step into a global conversation about where Africa is heading — and to return home with the tools, networks and resolve to help shape the answer.



**Political** The government must explain how its fiscal and economic decisions are translating into improved livelihoods on the ground

# Kenya's political weather: Coalition deals, economic pain and the demand for accountability

***As the 2027 election draws nearer, Kenya's political landscape is being reshaped by coalition bargaining, rising inflation and a public growing impatient with promises unmatched by results.***



**BY Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo**

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Kenya's political atmosphere is thickening. As the country opens the first full week of November, competing ambitions, economic anxieties and mounting pressure for institutional accountability are converging into a landscape that is becoming harder for political leaders to navigate with slogans alone. With the 2027 General Election moving from distant prospect to imminent reality, the business of coalition formation, grassroots mobilisation and the contest over national credibility is now well under way.

Within the opposition, unity remains both an aspiration and a formidable organisational challenge. The 30 October unveiling of the Linda Mwananchi Movement headquarters in Lavington brought together prominent political figures, among them Kalonzo Musyoka, Rigathi Gachagua and Edwin Sifuna. Yet the disagreements and heckling that erupted around discussions of presidential candidature exposed the difficult tension between collective mobilisation and individual political ambition. Subsequent statements suggesting willingness to rally behind an agreed candidate have not resolved the fundamental questions of leadership, nomination procedures, coalition governance and the distribution of political responsibility.

The 13 November Linda Mwananchi National Delegates Conference may offer an opportunity to clarify the movement's organisational direction, but the immediate expectation is continued negotiation rather than overnight resolution. A credible political alternative requires more than a common adversary. It demands an agreed national programme, institutional discipline and a demonstrable capacity to accommodate competing interests. Without these, the coalition risks becoming another gathering of personalities rather than a coherent governing proposition.

President William Ruto's political engagements also deserve close attention. Following his North Rift tour and the Mashujaa Day celebrations in Eldoret, the administration is expected to sustain its emphasis on development delivery and grassroots engagement. The governing coalition has increasingly relied on direct community interactions, development inspections and regional mobilisation to communicate its priorities, while opposition leaders seek to extend their influence beyond traditional strongholds. This emerging competition matters because Kenyan politics is gradually evolving into a more extensive contest for grassroots organisational presence. Yet the number of rallies or political personalities attending an event cannot independently establish public support. The more substantive question is whether these engagements produce accountable development, meaningful participation and policies genuinely responsive to community needs.

Economic pressure remains the issue most likely to cut across political, social and regional boundaries. The rise in annual inflation to 7.3 per cent in October, alongside increased transport costs, has renewed serious concerns about household purchasing power. Higher petroleum prices carry consequences far beyond motorists, affecting agricultural production, food distribution, manufacturing and the broader cost of doing business. For ordinary Kenyans — many of whom combine formal employment with small-scale farming to supplement incomes squeezed by the rising cost of living — economic recovery cannot be measured exclusively through macroeconomic indicators when families continue struggling with food, rent, electricity, education and healthcare costs.

The government must explain how its fiscal and economic decisions are translating into improved livelihoods on the ground. Equally, opposition leaders must demonstrate that their proposed alternatives are financially realistic, legally implementable and capable of addressing the structural causes of economic hardship. Political criticism becomes meaningful only when accompanied by workable solutions rather than convenient promises.

Parliament's return adds another important dimension to the week ahead. Electoral reforms, campaign financing regulations and education legislation are likely to attract renewed attention. The debate over campaign expenditure limits, political donations and financial transparency raises fundamental questions about the influence of money in democratic competition. Legal challenges surrounding the proposed regulations further demonstrate why electoral reforms must be subjected to rigorous constitutional scrutiny and genuine public participation. Amendments to the Elections Act and the institutional arrangements governing the transmission and accessibility of results must be considered in the context of public confidence and electoral integrity. Kenya cannot afford an election in which transparency becomes a slogan invoked selectively by competing parties.




Public accountability will also remain under sharp scrutiny following the devastating Eastleigh building collapse. The tragedy has renewed urgent concerns about construction approvals, inspection procedures, professional supervision and the enforcement of building regulations. The public deserves an independent and credible account of how the structure was permitted to reach completion without effective regulatory intervention. Responsibility must be established through evidence and due process, extending to every public institution and professional whose failures may have contributed to the disaster. The country must move beyond the familiar cycle of rescue operations, expressions of sympathy and temporary enforcement campaigns. Preventing future tragedies requires institutional reform and real consequences for negligence.

Public health will provide another test of government preparedness. Kenya's Bundibugyo Ebola containment effort has required heightened surveillance, contact tracing and protection of frontline health workers. The absence of newly confirmed cases in the latest official update is encouraging, but it should not invite complacency. Effective containment depends on sustained monitoring, transparent communication and adequate health-system capacity. The management of the outbreak also carries implications for international travel, trade and diplomatic relations, particularly where other countries have introduced restrictions affecting Kenyan travellers.

Education financing and labour relations remain unresolved. The lecturers' strike, though it has ended, exposed the financial pressures bearing down on public universities and the difficulty of reconciling institutional sustainability with fair remuneration. Students and families have borne the consequences of prolonged disruption, while uncertainty over proposed reforms to tertiary education financing raises questions about equitable access and the long-term viability of public universities. The government must move beyond negotiations that generate expectations without providing credible implementation timelines.

Disability inclusion is emerging as another significant test of constitutional accountability, particularly in Nakuru and Uasin Gishu counties. Disability-related matters are now before the courts in Nakuru, bringing questions of equality, representation, accessibility and the practical enforcement of constitutional guarantees into the judicial arena. In Uasin Gishu, a petition is to be presented to the County Assembly, while the disability community awaits the governor's response within the stipulated 30-day period. Kenya's Constitution guarantees equality, dignity, participation and protection against discrimination, yet persons with disabilities continue confronting institutional barriers in public representation, employment, budgeting and access to essential services. Disability inclusion should not depend on demonstrations or political patronage; it is a constitutional obligation.

The coming week will be shaped by opposition consultations, government mobilisation, economic pressures, parliamentary business and increasingly assertive demands for accountability. In the counties, citizens will continue questioning whether public allocations are reaching intended beneficiaries and whether development priorities reflect genuine community needs.

Ultimately, Kenya's political weather cannot be understood merely through the movements of political personalities or the excitement of public rallies. It must also be read through the anxieties of households, the struggles of university students, the safety of urban communities and the continuing demands of citizens whose constitutional rights remain inadequately realised. As 2027 approaches, every political formation will face the same fundamental questions: what does it stand for, how will it finance its promises, whose interests does it represent and how will citizens hold it accountable?

**Courts** **"On Count 10, Ferdinand Waititu Babayao is fined KSh10 million, in default imprisonment of five years," Magistrate Barasa ruled from the bench.**

# Waititu's graft bill rises to KSh74.5M as court adds money laundering fines

***A former governor's corruption reckoning deepens — and with it, a pointed warning to Kenya's political class ahead of 2027.***

**BY David Kimani**
*@themtkenyatimes*



**Ferdinand Waititu, the former Kiambu governor and contractor Charles Chege in court on Monday, November 2, 2026**

Ferdinand Waititu, the former Kiambu governor, yesterday had his total financial penalty in a KSh588.7 million corruption case rise to KSh74.5 million after the Milimani Anti-Corruption Court imposed an additional KSh21 million in fines across three money laundering counts.

Milimani Anti-Corruption Chief Magistrate Harrison Barasa handed down the sentence on Monday, 2 November 2026, fining Waititu KSh10 million on Count 10, KSh6 million on Count 11 and KSh5 million on Count 12, with default imprisonment of five, four and two years respectively should he fail to pay. The three sentences will run concurrently with the 12-year custodial term previously imposed.

"On Count 10, Ferdinand Waititu Babayao is fined KSh10 million, in default imprisonment of five years," Magistrate Barasa ruled from the bench.

The fresh penalties follow a High Court decision on 14 October 2026, in which Judge Rose Ougo set aside the lower court's acquittal on the money laundering charges and convicted Waititu alongside his wife, Susan Wangari, contractor Charles Chege and Beth Wangeci on all three counts. Judge Ougo directed that the money laundering sentences run concurrently with those already imposed at trial court level. "The sentence the Chief Magistrate imposes for the money laundering counts shall run concurrently with those imposed for the ACECA counts," she ruled.

The three counts relate to specific sums the court found were laundered. On Count 10, Waititu and four co-accused were convicted of laundering KSh12.41 million. Count 11 concerned KSh7.21 million involving Waititu and five others. Count 12 involved KSh6 million shared among Waititu and four co-accused — transactions the court found were deliberately structured to obscure their origin.

The KSh21 million in fresh fines pushes Waititu's cumulative financial penalty from KSh53.5 million to KSh74.5 million. He was previously ordered to pay KSh53.5 million or serve 12 years in jail after being found guilty of corruption related to the KSh588 million road tender. Monday's ruling adds a further financial sting without extending the custodial sentence beyond what the High Court's concurrency direction permits.

The case has its roots in Waititu's tenure as Kiambu's second governor between 2017 and January 2020. Investigations by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission established that once funds were paid by the Kiambu County Government, a total of KSh25.6 million was remitted to entities associated with Waititu. In July 2019, twelve suspects were arrested and arraigned at the Nairobi Milimani Anti-Corruption Court, where they pleaded not guilty. The prosecution called 32 witnesses and produced 149 documentary exhibits in support of its case. What began as an investigation into a single road tender ultimately unravelled a broader web of financial misconduct touching the governor's office, his wife, a contractor and several county officials.

In December 2025, the Anti-Corruption Court separately ordered the forfeiture of assets valued at approximately KSh131.2 million in a case concerning unexplained wealth. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission is also pursuing a civil case seeking to recover KSh170 million from Waititu and Testimony Enterprises Limited as alleged proceeds of corruption. That civil suit remains pending, meaning Waititu's legal exposure is far from exhausted.

**The fresh penalties follow a High Court decision on 14 October 2026, in which Judge Rose Ougo set aside the lower court's acquittal on the money laundering charges and convicted Waititu alongside his wife, Susan Wangari, contractor Charles Chege and Beth Wangeci on all three counts. Judge Ougo directed that the money laundering sentences run concurrently with those already imposed at trial court level. "The sentence the Chief Magistrate imposes for the money laundering counts shall run concurrently with those imposed for the ACECA counts," she ruled.**

The court also barred Waititu, his wife and other co-convicts from holding public office for ten years. That disqualification carries particular political weight. Kenya's electoral cycle is accelerating rapidly towards the August 2027 General Election, and Kiambu — one of the country's most populous and economically significant counties — now faces a leadership contest without its most prominent recent figure on the ballot. Waititu himself attempted to frame his prosecution as political persecution. While presenting his defence in August 2024, he alleged that the corruption charges were fabricated owing to his strong support for President William Ruto during the 2022 succession politics, claiming the case was a political witch-hunt orchestrated to force him from office. The court found those claims unpersuasive and the conviction stood.

The broader pattern of accountability emerging from Kenya's judiciary carries its own significance. Waititu became only the second governor in Kenya's history to be convicted of corruption, after Samburu's Moses Lenolkulal was sentenced to four years for corruptly pocketing more than KSh83 million from his county government. High-profile figures including former Migori Governor Okoth Obado, former Muranga Governor Mwangi wa Iria, former Busia Governor Sospeter Ojaamong and former Nairobi Governor Evans Kidero are among those facing graft charges, illustrating how corruption became structurally embedded in county governance in the years following devolution in 2013. The Waititu case, arriving at this particular political moment, adds pressure on the judiciary to demonstrate that accountability is applied consistently rather than selectively.

Legal analysts watching the proceedings note that Monday's ruling matters not merely for its financial quantum but for what it establishes procedurally. The High Court's reinstatement of the money laundering convictions — overturning a lower court acquittal — signals a willingness by the appellate bench to apply rigorous scrutiny to anti-corruption proceedings. That scrutiny has historically been inconsistently applied in Kenya, where high-profile prosecutions have on occasion stalled or collapsed at critical procedural junctures. The Ougo ruling suggests the courts are prepared to correct those failures when they occur, a development that lawyers and civil society observers have cautiously welcomed.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, for its part, has invested considerable institutional resources in the Waititu prosecution over seven years. The case tested the commission's resolve through multiple procedural challenges, a change of magistrates, defence applications and an acquittal that the High Court subsequently reversed. That the prosecution has reached this point — with convictions sustained, fines escalating and asset forfeiture orders in place — represents one of the more complete accountability outcomes the commission has secured against a sitting or former governor.

For Waititu personally, the arithmetic is now sobering. Between the KSh74.5 million in court-imposed fines, the ten-year bar from public office, the KSh131.2 million in forfeited assets and the pending KSh170 million civil recovery suit, his total financial exposure approaches KSh376 million — every shilling traceable to decisions made from the governor's seat in Kiambu between 2017 and 2020.

With Kenya's political season intensifying and anti-corruption accountability emerging as a defining electoral theme for 2027, the Waititu case now functions as a live stress test of institutional resolve. The question it poses is not whether the courts convicted one former governor — they did — but whether the system that convicted him can sustain that standard when the next politically connected accused steps into the dock.

The bill for Kiambu's stolen millions is still being tallied — and the ledger is not yet closed.

**Macadamia** Kenya Macadamia Growers Association Vice-Chairman Mureithi Gichabi has called for an urgent extension of the export window

# Kenya's macadamia crisis: 30,000 tonnes unsold as export window fails farmers




***A government-authorised export initiative shipped just a fraction of its target, leaving smallholder macadamia farmers across eight counties counting the cost of a market failure years in the making.***

**BY Collins Kibet**
*@themtkenyatimes*

More than 30,000 metric tonnes of raw macadamia nuts are sitting unsold on farms and in storage facilities across Kenya, after a government-authorised export window closed last month having delivered results that fell dramatically short of expectations. The development has reignited serious questions about agricultural policy, market access and the government's ability to protect the smallholder farmers who depend on the crop for their livelihoods.




The export window, which ran from July to October 2026, was designed to open international markets, ease a growing domestic surplus and improve the prices farmers received for their harvest. The results were sobering. When the window closed on 10 October, only 700 metric tonnes had been shipped against an anticipated 14,000 metric tonnes — a delivery rate of five per cent. The remaining produce, much of it already harvested and awaiting buyers, is now stranded in warehouses and on farms, leaving farmers and agricultural investors facing an uncertain financial outlook heading into the final months of the year.

The affected farming communities are spread across some of Kenya's most productive agricultural counties — Murang'a, Nyeri, Embu, Meru, Kirinyaga, Uasin Gishu, Baringo and Taita Taveta. In many of these households, macadamia farming is not a side venture. It is the primary or supplementary source of income that pays school fees, services loans and keeps families afloat between seasons. For those farmers, the current surplus is not an abstract market statistic. It is a harvest they tended, invested in and cannot sell.

The situation exposes a structural vulnerability that agricultural experts and farmer representatives have flagged for years: production in Kenya's macadamia sector has grown, but the market infrastructure, processing capacity and regulatory framework have not kept pace. When output increases without a corresponding expansion of reliable buyers and processing facilities, the burden falls almost entirely on farmers, who have the least power to absorb the shock.

Kenya Macadamia Growers Association Vice-Chairman Mureithi Gichabi has called for an urgent extension of the export window to allow exporters to fulfil existing contractual obligations that could not be completed before the October deadline. Gichabi has also raised serious concerns about the difficulties exporters experienced in completing the required inspection procedures — a bureaucratic bottleneck that, in the view of many in the industry, contributed significantly to the poor uptake during the window's operational period.

The temporary export authorisation had been seen, when it was announced, as a practical response to a well-documented surplus that local processors could not absorb on their own. The macadamia processing industry in Kenya, though growing, does not yet have the capacity to handle the volumes that a good harvest produces, making export access not a luxury but a necessity for market stability. When that access is restricted, timed poorly or undermined by procedural obstacles, it is the farmer at the bottom of the value chain who pays the price.

The broader concern is one of policy consistency and trust. Farmers who invested in macadamia cultivation did so partly on the basis of expectations about market access and government support. Repeated disruptions — whether through abrupt window closures, inspection delays or shifting regulatory positions — erode that trust and discourage the kind of long-term agricultural investment that Kenya needs if it is to build a resilient and productive farming sector.

For the government, the macadamia surplus presents both an immediate challenge and a longer-term policy test. In the short term, an extension of the export window, combined with a streamlined inspection process, would provide meaningful relief to farmers and exporters with outstanding contractual commitments. Over the medium term, Kenya needs a more coherent and stable macadamia sector strategy — one that aligns production support with market development, processing investment and regulatory predictability.

As thousands of tonnes of produce continue to sit in storage, the cost of inaction is rising daily. Macadamia nuts have a shelf life, and so does farmer patience. The government's response in the coming weeks will say a great deal about whose interests agricultural policy in Kenya is ultimately designed to serve.

# Loyalty to the homeland



I press your soil to my eyes, my Homeland,
You are my golden cradle where I was born.
My body and soul are devoted to serving you,
You opened for me the bright door to happiness.

My loyalty to you and my vow are firm,
I will protect every inch of you.
My heart's beating is bound to you,
Let us cherish and safeguard the peace of our land.

You belong to the spirits of the ancestors,
Who gave their lives for your peace, my home.
The light of freedom has reached our hearts,
Hold your head high, my beautiful garden.

The future is in our hands, know this,
Let us protect the Homeland like the pupil of our eye.
Every bright heart will overcome the darkness,
May loyalty live on, like a glowing ember of light.

Sadatova Ruxshona is a young poet, artist, journalist, and creative individual. She was born on May 16, 2006, in Sherobod District, Surkhandarya Region, Uzbekistan. She is currently a third-year student at the Faculty of Arts and Social Work at Termez State University. She is the author of two poetry collections, "Beg'ubor bolalik" (Innocent Childhood) and "Sukutda gullagan satrlar" (Verses Blooming in Silence). She is also a recipient of the Termez State University Scholarship and the Shukur Kholmirzayev Scholarship. She actively pursues her creative work in poetry, visual arts, and journalism.

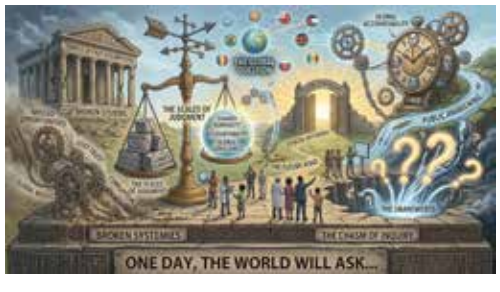
# No matter how good you are



Your goodness doesn't matter at all,
Your sweetness is not considered,
Your kindness may be ignored,
Your innocence may be avoided,
Your blessings may be sprinkled,
Your sacrifice may be thrown out,
Your hard work may be wasted,
You may be ill treated,
You may be body shamed,
You may be insulted,
You may be scolded,
You may be mislead,
You may be strongly hit,
By bluffers around us,
Never care about them,
ignore them to your very best,
Chase them out of your life if you can,
The tiring efforts is yours,
The hardships is yours,
Overcoming difficulties are your's,
Never let the cowards nd selfished ones to overrule you,
Let them stand aside of you,
Being afraid of your insult,
Walk with bold brisky look,
And straightforwardness,
Blended with righteousness,
For plucking the fruits of success!!!

VIJAYALAKSHMI.V.R., GRADUATE TEACHER,
CW WRITERS GROUP, KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT,
TAMILNADU,INDIA.

# One day, the world will ask...




They say, that good people are used
And it's good to be bad
Or do they say, it's better when you're worse?
One day, the world will ask you...
In the loneliest of time
When all bad has happened
Or when all good has happened
What made you happy?
One day, the world will ask you!

One day, the world will ask you,
How much bitterness you bore
And like one gulps the juicy lemons
And squashes upon its bitterness
Will you whine in bitterness forever
And say how much the world hates you alone
Yet so many so happy but bear no bitterness?
One day, the world will ask...

By Bettie Atemo
November 2026

# The invisible steps



Not every victory makes a sound,
Not every seed blooms above the ground.
Some of the greatest things we do,
Are quietly growing inside us too.

A little effort, a little change,
Can take us somewhere far and strange.
The world may not notice what we do,
But every small step builds something new.

I don't need applause to move ahead,
Or follow the paths that others tread.
I will create what I believe,
And achieve what I can conceive.

Let my questions become discoveries,
Let my ideas create new possibilities.
I am more than what today can see,
There is a whole universe inside me.

D.Dhanyasri
Grade 8
John Dewey Matric Higher Secondary School,
Panruti, Tamil Nadu, India.

# Tick...Tick... Tick.



Tick.. tick.. tick..
Yelled my clock to be quick
At the dawn after the sound of alarm
Made me run as its hand
With pouring sweat gland.
Started to kick..kick.. kick
My chariot(jupiter) which was sick
At last it co operated
But stopped with a sound not tolerated-
Whee..whee..whee..the whistling
Of a cop; with his eyes as wrestling
Enquired to pay for not wearing mask
Yes! agreed, as it was hard task.
Click.. click..click..
Opened my box to pick
My clutch--
But found only key bunch.
Ting..ting..ting..
Took my cell to ping
My best half;
Alas! he whipped as a golf.
Bang..bang..bang..
With roasted words as cracker
Stirred my sleep- my hubby: the attacker.

G.Sarala.
Creative writers

# Ban before it is too late

Save innocent minds from evil before it is too late. We happen to watch so many visuals of murder and gang killings on TV and in visual media news. They are live footages recorded through CCTV cameras. Whether we like it or not, as soon as we switch on the TV, we are forced to watch the cruel, barbarous and inhumane deeds of animals in the disguise of human beings. Some TV channels telecast such visuals in a blurred form, but still the murderers' cruel actions can be seen and understood, though the footage is blurred. Even these blurred visuals are sufficient to impact the onlooker's mindset. I am afraid that watching these kinds of visuals time and again may create a lasting negative impact in the minds of innocent people, especially in the minds of the younger generation who happen to watch these kinds of visuals.

It is the nature of the innocent mind that, in the initial stage, it may experience a terrible shock on witnessing such incidents, and then it may begin to accept those terrible visuals without expressing its earlier shock and emotions.

Gradually, the mind that experiences these kinds of cruel visuals will start to see them as usual and will fail to see the cruelty behind the incidents. In due course of time, if the situation demands, there is a great possibility for them to react in a very similar way. So, the evil seed is sown right here, at the moment of watching those cruel incidents.

Moreover, some TV channels organise special crime programmes in which they narrate the incidents inch by inch in a dramatic way and show those crime CCTV footages again and again throughout the programme. When we have no choice, or when we become interested in watching such narrations of crime events, there is a great possibility for the innocent mind to get corrupted, and when the situation demands, they also have a greater chance to act or react in a very similar way.

Moreover, films that portray crime scenes should be banned. The majority of films portray crime and crime-oriented incidents and dramatise crime visuals. The younger generation is very vulnerable to these kinds of visuals. It is human psychology that man will follow what others do rather than what they say. So, such visuals are very dangerous, impact-creating agents in any young mind.

Therefore, such visuals of crime and such crime programmes should be banned both on TV and social media, and films which portray crimes should also be banned. It is the nature of the mind that it forgets very quickly what it does not see for a certain period of time. So, when we ban all forms of crime visuals and the dramatic narrations of crime, we ensure our first step towards a promising and progressive society.

To conclude, I wish to say that all forms of disturbing visuals of CCTV footage and those crime narrative programmes should be banned to save our remaining younger generation from the jaws of evil. If we fail in this attempt, our society will have to pay a huge price.

N. Sivakumar. MA., B.Ed.
BT Assistant
GHS Linganaickanahalli
Dharmapuri Dt
TN. India

**KCSE CS Ogamba revealed that this year's candidature is historic, with more than one million candidates registered for the first time in the history of KCSE.**

# Over 1 million candidates begin KCSE written exam as Ogamba assures country of credibility

**BY Elizabeth Angira**
*@themtkenyatimes*

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba has officially launched the main written papers for the 2026 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination, assuring the country of a credible, secure and fair process.

Addressing the press after witnessing the opening of the KNEC examination container at the Borabu Deputy County Commissioner's Office in Nyamira County, the CS said today marks a significant moment for candidates, their families and teachers after years of preparation.

The 2026 KCSE season had earlier commenced on 19th October with oral, practical and low-candidature papers. Today, candidates sat for English Paper 1 in the morning and Chemistry Paper 1 in the afternoon. The examination will run until Friday, 20th November 2026 as per the KNEC timetable.



**CS Education Ogamba Migos during the launch of KCSE at Borabu Deputy County Commissioner's Office. |** *Photo:* Elizabeth Angira

CS Ogamba revealed that this year's candidature is historic, with more than one million candidates registered for the first time in the history of KCSE.

According to the CS, a total of 1,048,355 candidates have been registered this year, compared to 995,860 in 2025 and 965,172 in 2024. This represents a 5.27 per cent increase over last year, demonstrating the growing scale of the national exercise.

The examination is being administered in over 10,000 centres across the country. The CS said the Government has put in place close coordination between the education sector, national administration and security agencies to ensure the exercise is conducted in an orderly manner.

He further noted that the 2026 KCSE is significant because it is the second-last examination under the 8-4-4 system of education. The final cohort under the system is expected to sit the examination in 2027 as the country fully transitions to Competency-Based Education (CBE).

"The 8-4-4 system has for many years prepared generations of Kenyans who have contributed to this country in public service, business, education and many other fields," Ogamba said.

On inclusivity, the CS said the Ministry through KNEC will continue to give special attention to candidates with disabilities, those who are unwell and those affected by emergencies to ensure no candidate is disadvantaged.

Regarding weather challenges, the CS acknowledged that the exams are taking place during the October to December rainy season. He said the Kenya Meteorological Department has forecast above-average rainfall in most parts of the country, associated with the El Niño phenomenon, which could cause flooding and affect access to centres.

"We are working closely with KNEC, the Ministry of Interior and other relevant agencies to monitor weather conditions and coordinate interventions where challenges arise. Our priority is to safeguard candidates and examination personnel," he said.

On exam malpractice, CS Ogamba said the Government has strengthened the security of examination materials, significantly reducing the risk of leakage. However, he warned that impersonation, collusion and possession of unauthorized materials remain a concern.

He singled out mobile phones as the greatest threat to examination integrity and reiterated that possession or use of phones by candidates and examination officials during exam sessions is strictly prohibited.

"Any person found in breach will be dealt with in accordance with the law," he warned.

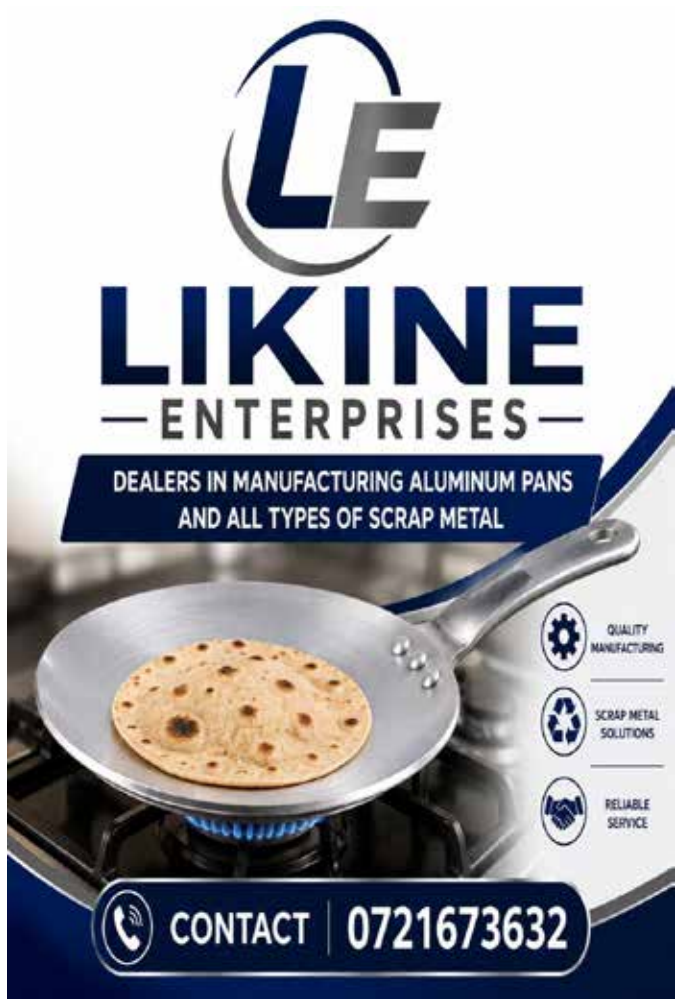
The CS also commended KNEC, the Teachers Service Commission, teachers, centre managers, supervisors, invigilators, education officers and security personnel for their dedication in managing the massive exercise.

He also thanked parents, guardians and communities for supporting the candidates throughout their schooling journey.

As the candidates complete secondary education, CS Ogamba affirmed the Government's commitment to expanding opportunities for progression to universities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and other pathways for further learning and work.

"I wish all candidates success in the examination. The Government remains committed to ensuring that the effort invested by candidates, teachers and families over the years is respected," he concluded.






**Autobiography** **My academic journey took me to Moi University in Eldoret, where I graduated with a Bachelor's degree that gave me far more than a qualification**

# A journey of education, creativity and purpose: The story of Msanifu K

***Educator, author, talent coach and environmental ambassador Kombo Josiah has spent a lifetime transforming young lives through literature, mentorship and an unshakeable belief in human potential.***

**BY Kombo Josiah (Msanifu K)**
@themtkenyatimes

My name is Kombo Josiah, though most people know me as Msanifu K. I am a teacher, an author, a talent coach, an entrepreneur and an environmental ambassador. But more than any of those titles, I am someone who believes — deeply and without reservation — that every learner carries a unique gift, every child deserves a chance to shine, and every educator holds the power to shape a better future.

That belief has guided every chapter of my life.

My academic journey took me to Moi University in Eldoret, where I graduated with a Bachelor's degree that gave me far more than a qualification. It gave me discipline, intellectual confidence and a sharpened sense of purpose. It confirmed what I had always felt: that education, pursued with sincerity, is one of the most powerful forces for personal and social transformation available to us.

I have spent my professional life teaching Kiswahili and Christian Religious Education, and I have always understood teaching as something that extends well beyond the walls of a classroom. To me, education is about nurturing character, unlocking potential and preparing young people to become confident, creative and responsible members of society. I currently serve as Head of Department for Kiswahili at Kalya Academy in Kericho County, a role that has allowed me to champion academic excellence while deepening learners' appreciation for the beauty and richness of the Kiswahili language.

One of the greatest privileges of my career has been nurturing young talent. I have coached more than twenty learners in poetry, creative writing and the arts. Among those I had the honour of working with are Isaiah Kwemoi, Doreen Mulongo, Hellen Bahati, Brendah Odhiambo and Simon Kasili — gifted poetry writers from Segero Adventist National School in Kitale. At Kalya Academy, I have also helped develop the creative abilities of Delephine Anne Chepng'eno, Jayden Kibet, Jack Kiragu, Kevin Kipchumba, Judah Kipchumba, Samantha Lee, Sasha Lee, Maxwell Kipruto, Peris Soipan, Darius, Marylinsie, Bethwel and Ashley Jenipher, among others. Each of them is, to me, a seed of hope. Their growth as writers and artists is a constant reminder that talent flourishes when it is recognised, nurtured and given room to breathe.




**Kombo Josiah — Msanifu K**

My passion for literature has also found expression through authorship. I have written six books, among them Diwani ya Mashairi and Mwangwi wa Ushairi. Through these works, I seek to preserve and celebrate the richness of Kiswahili, inspire a love for reading and encourage emerging writers to trust that their voices matter. Writing has become one of the most meaningful ways I share what I know, express what I feel and contribute to the literary world I care about deeply.

Along this literary journey, I have had the privilege of walking alongside some of the most respected authors, educators and literary personalities in the field — among them the late Professor Ken Walibora, Ustadhi Wallah Bin Wallah, Hassan Mwana wa Ali, Dr Duncan Obwocha, Sauti ya Dhahabu (Kevin Nyakundi), Senior Counsel Isoe Kevin, Principal Josphat Machogu, Kevin Akuti and Mwalimu Nickson Hamisi. Their knowledge, dedication and humility have shaped my professional outlook in ways I continue to appreciate.

Beyond the classroom and the written page, I am the Director of Msanifu K CBE Bookshop in Kericho County, through which I work to improve access to educational resources for learners, teachers, parents and schools. I also serve as Chief Executive Officer of MAP Company Ltd, an enterprise through which I pursue opportunities for innovation, community development and sustainable growth. These roles have reinforced my conviction that education and entrepreneurship, working together, can open doors and change lives in lasting ways.

As an environmental ambassador, I am committed to promoting responsible waste management and conservation. One initiative I champion actively is the recycling of waste paper into practical products such as serviettes and tissue paper, rather than burning it. I believe strongly that what many people discard as worthless can become genuinely valuable when approached with creativity and care. Environmental responsibility, I tell anyone willing to listen, is not a burden — it is an opportunity.

In the digital space, I am the voice behind Msanifu K TV, a platform dedicated to making education more accessible, engaging and inspiring beyond the physical classroom. Technology, I believe, offers extraordinary possibilities for reaching learners wherever they are and creating new pathways for knowledge to travel.

As I reflect on the road I have walked, I am grateful — to God, to my family, to my colleagues, to my mentors and to every learner who trusted me with a fragment of their journey. My vision remains unchanged: to use education, literature, entrepreneurship, digital learning and environmental stewardship as tools for positive transformation, and to inspire generations of learners, educators and emerging writers to believe in themselves and pursue excellence with everything they have.

I am Kombo Josiah — Msanifu K. A teacher by profession, a writer by passion, a mentor by calling and a servant of society by conviction. My greatest achievement will always be seeing others rise, discover their purpose and realise that their dreams are entirely within reach.



# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

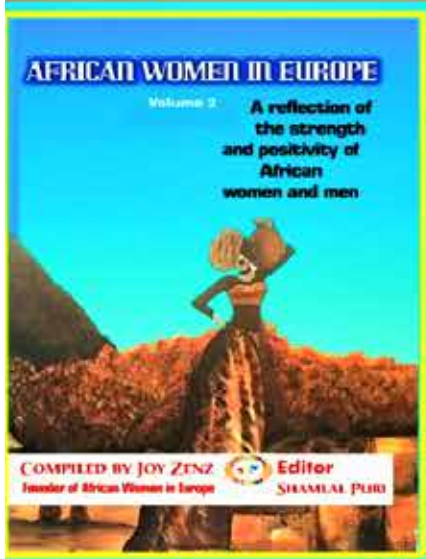
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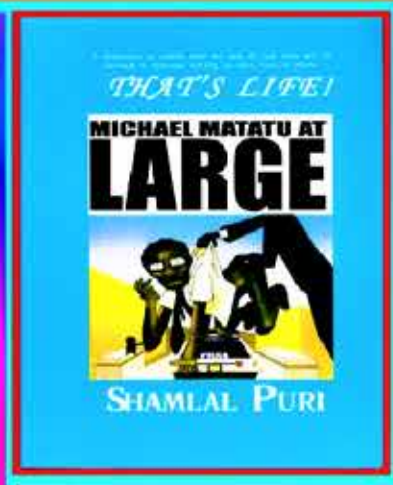
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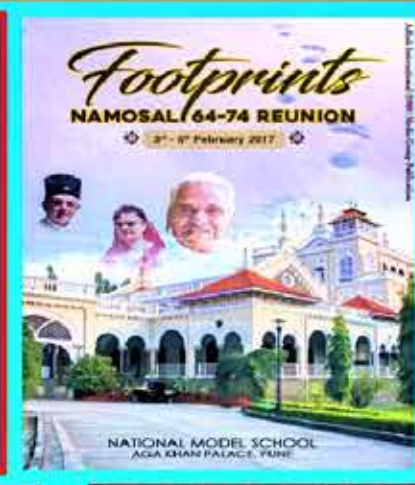
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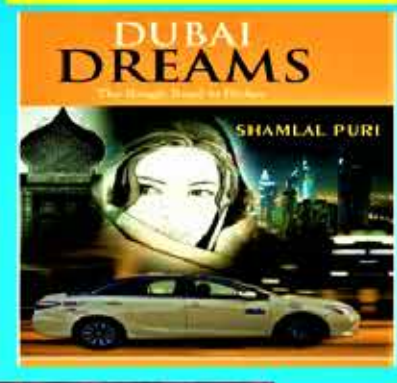


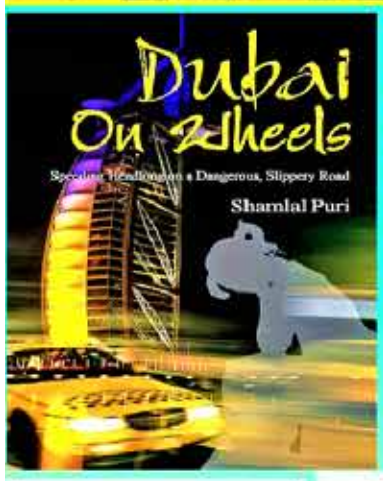


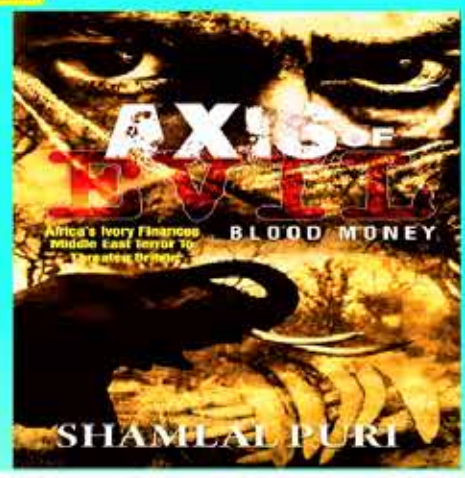


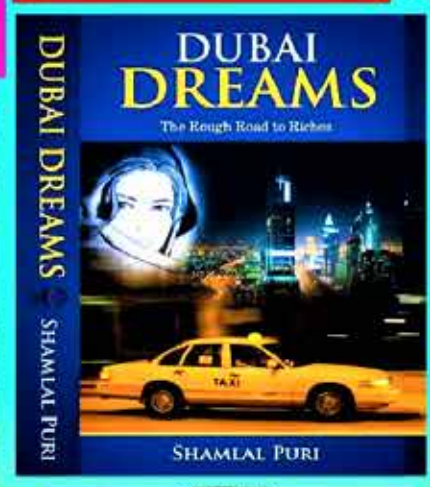




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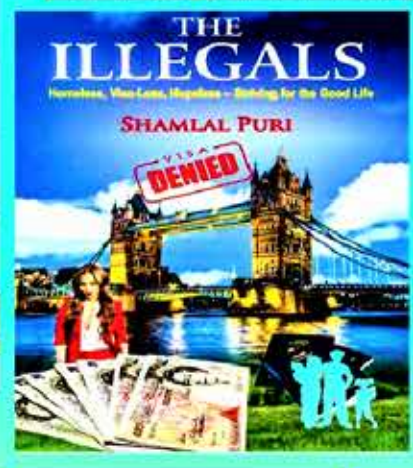


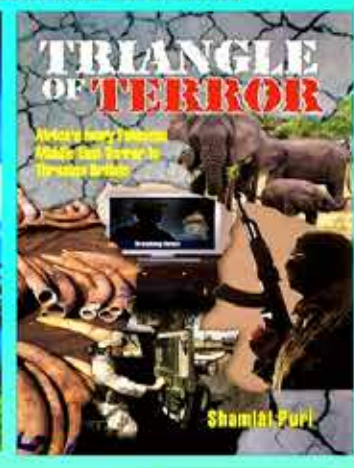



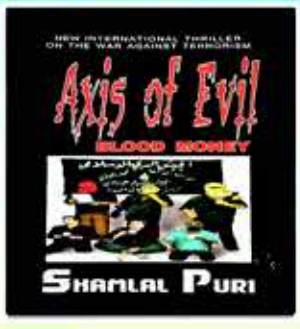




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**Politics** The registration exercise is conducted through the party's online portal, where applicants are required to submit their national identification number, names, phone number and date of birth

# Wiper sets final deadline for 2027 aspirants as Kenya's electoral race begins in earnest

***Kalonzo Musyoka's party draws its first hard line of the election cycle — and no sitting MP or MCA is exempt.***

**BY James Mwangi**
*@themtkenyatimes*



**Wiper Partriotic Front Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka speaking in a past event. |** *Photo:* /@skmusyoka/X

Wiper Patriotic Front yesterday issued a final deadline for all aspirants seeking its ticket in the 2027 General Election, directing every prospective candidate — including sitting members of parliament and county assembly members — to complete registration by Tuesday, 3 November 2026, or forfeit their chance at the ballot.

The party issued the directive in a statement on Monday, 2 November 2026, warning that no aspirant would receive an exemption regardless of their current elected status. "Tomorrow, 3rd November 2026, is the DEADLINE for registration of ALL Wiper Patriotic Front aspirants seeking party tickets in the 2027 General Election. Whether you are a first-time aspirant or a current elected leader, nobody is exempted," the party declared. The bluntness of the instruction reflects a party that is running out of patience with incumbents who delay committing to the nomination process while keeping alternative political options open.

The registration exercise is conducted through the party's online portal, where applicants are required to submit their national identification number, names, phone number and date of birth. They must also indicate the county, constituency and ward in which they intend to contest, select their preferred elective or nomination category and declare whether they currently hold elected or nominated office. Application fees vary by position: governor aspirants pay KSh50,000, Senate, National Assembly and Women Representative aspirants pay KSh20,000, and those seeking Member of County Assembly seats pay KSh10,000. Reduced rates of half the standard fee apply to women, youth and persons with disabilities across all categories.

The 3 November cutoff is not the party's first. Wiper initially invited expressions of interest in September, setting 3 October as the original deadline before extending it to allow more time. A separate notice on 14 September specifically reminded leaders already elected on a Wiper ticket to register by 2 October should they intend to defend or contest different positions in 2027. When October passed with the process still incomplete for a significant number of potential candidates, the party announced a further extension to 3 November. The firm language in Monday's statement suggests no further leniency will be offered.

Completing registration does not guarantee a Wiper ticket. Registered aspirants will still be required to participate in the party's nomination exercise, which Wiper has said will be conducted on a free, fair and transparent basis. The registration drive also covers individuals seeking nomination through the party's lists, extending the process beyond candidates contesting directly for elective seats.

The administrative exercise is unfolding against one of the most consequential political backdrops in Kenya's recent electoral history. Kalonzo Musyoka rebranded his party from the Wiper Democratic Movement to the Wiper Patriotic Front on 1 August 2025, a move designed to broaden its appeal particularly among Kenya's youth. The rebranding signalled that Kalonzo regards 2027 not merely as another electoral cycle but as his most serious and potentially final bid for the presidency. "There is no doubt about that. You are looking at the sixth President of Kenya. Leadership is a calling and I have endured a lot. I think the time is now," Kalonzo has said.

That conviction is shaping every structural decision Wiper is now making. Kalonzo has embarked on a quiet but calculated campaign to secure the united opposition's presidential ticket for 2027, with behind-the-scenes engagements with opposition principals aimed at consolidating anti-government forces into one formidable alliance. The aspirant registration process is the domestic counterpart to those external coalition-building efforts — a mechanism to ensure that by the time Wiper enters nomination season, its candidate pool is fully documented, vetted and ready to mobilise.

The political landscape within which Wiper is operating remains intensely competitive. Kalonzo's campaign strategy draws on small online donations, an expansive volunteer network and a citizen-driven movement designed to reduce dependence on wealthy political financiers. Allies describe it as his most serious bid yet for State House. But the path is complicated. Wiper has had to repeatedly dismiss reports that Kalonzo is preparing to join President William Ruto's government, insisting the party remains committed to a united opposition ahead of the 2027 election. The persistence of those rumours reflects the fluid and often unpredictable nature of Kenyan coalition politics in the months before an election year.

Kalonzo has been using Wiper Patriotic Front headquarters as a political magnet, with new entrants including former Kiambu Speaker Stephen Ndichu pledging allegiance to the party as part of a broader strategy to expand Wiper's national footprint and consolidate support beyond its traditional Ukambani base. The aspirant registration deadline is part of the same strategic logic: build the widest possible candidate network across all 47 counties, then let the nomination process identify the strongest competitors at each level.

For Kenya's political class more broadly, the Wiper deadline is an early signal that the 2027 election machinery is already in motion across party lines. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission gazetted campaign financing regulations in August, setting a presidential spending ceiling of KSh6.11B and opening a formal monitoring window. Political parties are now beginning to impose their own internal timelines, forcing aspirants to declare their intentions and commit resources months before the campaign period officially opens.

The August 2027 General Election will be contested against a backdrop of economic anxiety, governance debates and a highly mobilised younger electorate. For Wiper, the registration deadline is about more than administrative tidiness. It is an assertion that the party is serious, structured and prepared — qualities that Kalonzo's previous presidential campaigns were sometimes accused of lacking.

Whether that preparation translates into electoral success will depend on factors far beyond a registration portal. But in Kenyan politics, the discipline to build a machine before the race begins is rarely wasted.

The clock has run out for the undecided — Wiper has moved on.

**KCSE** **This year, 1,048,355 candidates are expected to sit the examination, according to the Kenya National Examinations Council**

# KCSE 2026: Your future is too valuable to gamble with

***As over a million candidates sit Kenya's high-stakes national examination, the call for integrity, preparation and institutional responsibility has never been louder.***

**BY Ashford Kimani**
*@themtkenyatimes*



**Students taking exams**

The Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examination is more than a test of academic knowledge. For the thousands of young Kenyans who sit it each year, the KCSE represents years of sacrifice, early mornings, late nights, parental investment and personal determination. As the 2026 examinations get under way, that weight is felt in classrooms and homes across the country — and it demands to be honoured with the seriousness it deserves.

This year, 1,048,355 candidates are expected to sit the examination, according to the Kenya National Examinations Council. The stakes are particularly high because the 2027 sitting will mark the final KCSE under the outgoing 8-4-4 education system, making the current examination a genuinely historic moment in Kenya's education journey. For candidates sitting their papers today and in the days ahead, that context should sharpen focus rather than add to anxiety.

The single greatest threat to that focus — and to the credibility of the entire process — is examination malpractice. It is tempting, in moments of self-doubt or panic, to seek a shortcut. Leaked papers, unauthorised materials, whispered answers: these things exist, and candidates know it. But the consequences of being caught are severe and lasting. Results are cancelled. Academic futures are derailed. Reputations are damaged in ways that follow a young person far beyond the examination room.

More fundamentally, cheating does not work in the way its proponents imagine. A certificate obtained through dishonest means does not grant the confidence, competence or credibility that employers, universities and life itself will eventually demand. The knowledge gaps that examination malpractice conceals do not disappear — they resurface, often at the worst possible moments. Candidates who invest in genuine preparation carry something far more durable into their futures than a grade: they carry the knowledge itself.

Every candidate should therefore resist, firmly and without hesitation, any pressure to engage in examination irregularities. The examination room is not a place for shortcuts. It is a place to demonstrate what you know, what you have worked for and what you are capable of achieving on your own terms.

Schools and their administrators carry an equally serious responsibility. No candidate should miss a single examination paper because of avoidable administrative failures — disputes over school fees, poor timetable communication, inadequate supervision arrangements or institutional disorganisation. These failures, when they occur, are not merely inconvenient. They are unjust. Every registered candidate has a right to sit every paper, and school management must ensure that right is protected without exception.

Administrators should also ensure that candidates are properly briefed on examination regulations, reporting times, required materials and expected conduct well in advance. Clear communication prevents confusion. Good supervision builds confidence. Schools that take these responsibilities seriously give their learners the best possible foundation from which to perform.

KNEC, for its part, must uphold the credibility and consistency of the process from start to finish. Its role extends well beyond the printing and distribution of examination papers. Suspected irregularities must be investigated professionally, transparently and fairly. Supervision must be strict but conducted with dignity. The rules must apply equally to every candidate, in every county, in every school. Public confidence in the KCSE certificate rests on exactly that assurance — that the conditions under which it was earned were fair, consistent and beyond reproach.

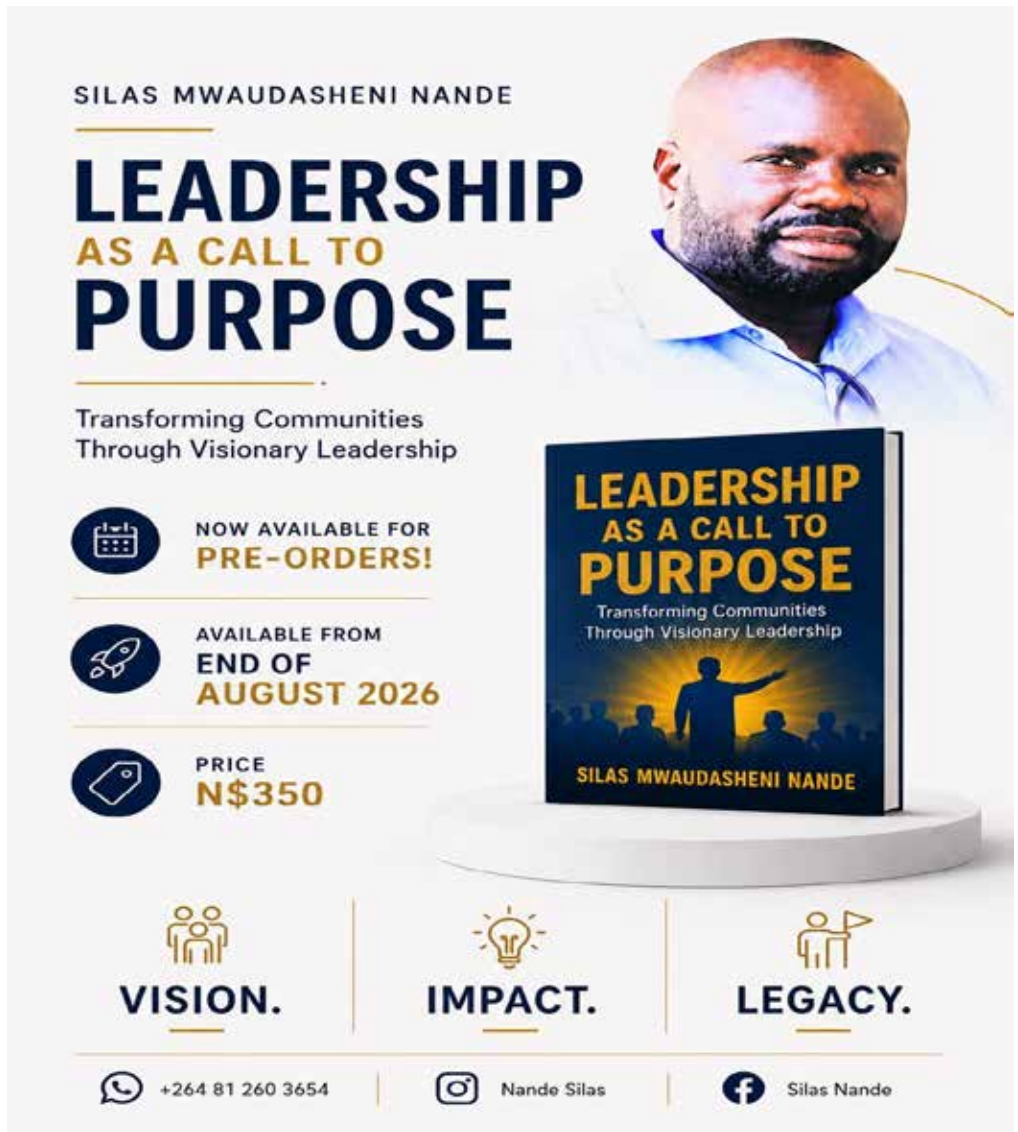
Parents and teachers are not bystanders in this process. The examination period is genuinely demanding for young people, and the emotional environment at home and at school matters more than many adults realise. Parents should provide calm, supportive conditions at home — good meals, adequate sleep, space to prepare and, above all, encouragement that is not conditional on specific grades. Teachers should continue motivating candidates without adding pressure, and schools should resist the urge to rank or compare learners publicly during an already stressful period. Every candidate has individual strengths, and every candidate deserves the space to demonstrate them.

Candidates themselves should manage their time carefully, follow all official instructions, remain composed under pressure and trust in the work they have put in. Examination nerves are normal and manageable. What matters is showing up, sitting every paper and giving each one your honest best.

The transition from the 8-4-4 system to Kenya's new education framework marks a genuine turning point in the country's academic history. The candidates sitting the 2026 KCSE are part of that story. Their results will not define the entirety of who they are or what they will become — education offers many pathways, and different learners will follow different routes to meaningful lives and careers. But how they approach this examination — with integrity, discipline and personal responsibility — will say a great deal about the kind of people they are choosing to become.

Work hard. Stay honest. Finish strong. Your future is too valuable to gamble with.

Ashford Kimani is a teacher of English and Literature and writes on education and social affairs.



**Landscapes** **"This project is not just about restoring land — it's about restoring opportunity and resilience for Kenya's rural communities, especially women, youth and marginalised groups," said Qimiao**

# World Bank's KSh26B project to restore Kenya's degraded landscapes and transform 750,000 lives

**BY Jane Njeri**
*@themtkenyatimes*

The World Bank has committed KSh26B (US$200 million) to restore degraded land across 12 Kenyan counties, in a five-year programme expected to benefit 750,000 people and create 25,000 jobs.

The Kenya Watershed and Sustainable Landscape Investment Project — known as KEWASIP — will deploy International Development Association financing to help the Kenyan government enhance sustainable land and watershed management and improve livelihoods across five high-priority ecological regions, covering watersheds in Marsabit, Marmanet, Nyambene, Chyulu Hills and Shimba Hills. The 12 counties covered are Marsabit, Samburu, Garissa, Isiolo, Baringo, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Tana River, Laikipia, Kitui, Makueni and Kwale — a geography that stretches from the semi-arid north to the coastal hinterland, encompassing some of Kenya's most ecologically stressed terrain.

The scale of the challenge that KEWASIP is designed to address cannot be overstated. Kenya's water towers — the forested highlands and rangelands that regulate river flow, recharge aquifers and sustain agricultural productivity for tens of millions of people — have been losing ground to deforestation, overgrazing, erratic rainfall and encroachment for decades. The consequences ripple outward: reduced stream flow, soil erosion, crop failures, and intensifying competition over water and pasture that has fuelled intercommunal conflict in counties such as Baringo, Laikipia and Isiolo. KEWASIP is not merely an environmental initiative; it is, at its core, a social and economic stabilisation programme dressed in conservation language.

"This project is not just about restoring land — it's about restoring opportunity and resilience for Kenya's rural communities, especially women, youth and marginalised groups," said Qimiao Fan, World Bank Division Director for Kenya. "By investing in sustainable landscapes, we are safeguarding Kenya's natural capital, which underpins food security, jobs and climate resilience."



**Environment Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa (centre), flanked by Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu (right) and Forestry Principal Secretary Gitonga Mugambi, during the launch of the Kenya Watershed Services Improvement Project (KEWASIP) in Nairobi on Monday, November 2, 2026 |** *Photo:* Courtesy

Fan's framing is deliberate. The World Bank has learned, through decades of conservation financing across sub-Saharan Africa, that restoration programmes that exclude communities tend to fail. KEWASIP is structured to avoid that trap. The project will use an integrated landscape management approach, connecting catchments that span forests, rangelands and agricultural systems, structured across three core components: policy and regulatory strengthening, on-the-ground restoration and watershed management, and project management and capacity building.

> **"This project is not just about restoring land — it's about restoring opportunity and resilience for Kenya's rural communities, especially women, youth and marginalised groups," said Qimiao Fan, World Bank Division Director for Kenya. "By investing in sustainable landscapes, we are safeguarding Kenya's natural capital, which underpins food security, jobs and climate resilience."**

Approximately 25,000 jobs are expected to be created through interventions that promote sustainable livelihoods, including agroforestry, afforestation and the development of non-timber forest product value chains. The project will also engage local enterprises to explore investment opportunities that advance climate-smart land use and sustainable forest management. For counties such as Kitui and Makueni, where youth unemployment is high and rain-fed agriculture increasingly unreliable, those jobs represent a tangible lifeline rather than a policy abstraction.

The Kenya Forest Service, one of the main implementing agencies, has already mapped out 82 tree nurseries across the 12 pilot counties in readiness for implementation. That groundwork matters. Nursery infrastructure is among the earliest and most critical bottlenecks in large-scale restoration programmes; having it in place before disbursement begins signals a degree of institutional preparedness that has often been absent in comparable initiatives.

The project became effective on 23 December 2025, and its formal launch followed in January 2026, with county leaders convened in Nairobi to align roles and responsibilities across the 12 participating counties. The coordination challenge is formidable. KEWASIP must synchronise the efforts of the State Department for Forestry, the Kenya Forest Service, county governments and local communities across an enormous geographic and ecological spread. Past restoration programmes in Kenya have foundered not on funding or intention but on that coordination deficit.

The initiative sits within a national restoration agenda seeking to rehabilitate 10.6 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2032 under the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. That target — ambitious by any measure — requires an average annual restoration rate that Kenya has never previously achieved. KEWASIP will need to deliver not merely its own objectives but also demonstrate a replicable model that can be scaled across the remaining counties and landscapes outside its current footprint.

The political and electoral backdrop adds an additional layer of complexity. Kenya heads into a general election in August 2027, and large infrastructure and environmental projects routinely become tools of political patronage in the months before polling day. With KEWASIP funds flowing into 12 counties — several of them contested political battlegrounds — the implementing agencies will need to insulate the programme from the temptation to redirect resources towards electoral calculations. Transparent procurement, independent monitoring and community-level accountability mechanisms will be essential safeguards.

Over time, KEWASIP is expected to generate multiple benefits, including restored ecological function, improved water security, increased agricultural productivity and reduced conflicts over natural resources. Those benefits, however, will not materialise uniformly or immediately. Landscape restoration operates on a decade-long horizon, and communities accustomed to seeing development funds arrive and disappear will require sustained evidence of delivery before trust is established.

What KEWASIP represents, at its most fundamental level, is a recognition — by both the Kenyan government and its international partners — that the country's land degradation crisis has moved beyond the threshold where incremental local interventions are sufficient. The scale of US$200 million, directed at five ecosystems simultaneously, reflects an understanding that Kenya is in a race against the combined effects of climate change, population pressure and policy neglect.

Whether that understanding translates into measurable, durable restoration on the ground will depend on the quality of implementation, the integrity of procurement, the genuine inclusion of local communities in governance and the willingness of county governments to enforce environmental regulations even when doing so is politically inconvenient.

Kenya's land has been patient. It cannot afford to wait much longer.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Lake Chacha: Laikipia University's overlooked natural gem

By **Ephraim Opiya**



Travellers along the Nyahururu–Nakuru Highway know Laikipia University as an academic institution. Few know it harbours a lake.

Lake Chacha sits within the university's main campus, largely unnoticed amid lectures, examinations and the routine of student life. That obscurity is a missed opportunity — for conservation, for tourism and for learning.

In institutions where academic pressure dominates daily existence, natural spaces offer a different kind of education. Lake Chacha can spark curiosity about ecology, prompt conversations on environmental stewardship and provide hands-on learning for students in tourism, environmental studies and related disciplines. The campus's tree cover and green spaces reinforce this potential, creating an environment where nature and scholarship coexist.

The lake also carries modest but real tourism potential. With proper ecological assessment, conservation measures and responsible management, it could draw visitors and strengthen the university's identity beyond its academic ranking. But promotion must follow protection, not precede it. Any development that ignores the lake's ecological condition risks destroying the very asset it seeks to exploit.

Universities are often judged solely by graduate output and research citations. Laikipia University possesses something rarer — a living natural feature embedded within its campus. That is worth far more than a footnote in a prospectus.

Lake Chacha does not need a marketing campaign. It needs documentation, protection and the simple act of being noticed.

## Campaign finance caps and education bills set Kenya's 2027 agenda

By **Jamoza Harriet**




Two regulatory processes now in the public domain will determine who competes in Kenya's 2027 General Election and how prepared the next generation of voters will be when they arrive at the polls.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission gazetted the Election Campaign Financing Regulations, 2026 on 7 August, setting contribution and spending limits for the 10 August 2027 poll. Presidential candidates face a KSh6.11B ceiling; political parties, KSh24.45B. The Nairobi City limit stands at KSh181 million. No single donor may contribute more than 20 per cent of the total allowable contributions. The spending window opens six months before the election and closes 14 days after.

History counsels scepticism. The IEBC gazetted a KSh4.4B presidential limit in 2021, then revoked it weeks later after the National Assembly rejected the regulations on a technicality. A 2016 notice met a similar fate. Whether this iteration holds will depend less on the gazette notice than on enforcement. The commission says it will deploy a monitoring team; Nairobi Law Monthly has noted the cap is only as strong as the IEBC's willingness to act against violators.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly Education Committee conducted public hearings across 31 counties between 14 and 25 September on six education reform bills. The legislation covers basic education, tertiary funding, national assessments, teacher training, qualifications and the curriculum institute, drawn from the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform. Teacher unions KNUT and KUPPET participated. A consolidated report covering all 47 counties will go to Parliament.

Rules on paper mean little without institutions willing to enforce them.

## Thieves hit Homa Bay schools as Kenya rolls out AI curriculum

By **Oduor Victor**



Six schools in Homa Bay County have been burgled and digital learning equipment stolen, exposing a security gap at the heart of Kenya's digital education drive.

Omolo Agar School in Rachuonyo North was among the worst hit, losing all 45 computers from its computer laboratory. Sub-County Director of Education Ziada Osano confirmed the break-ins at the local launch of the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project at Homa Comprehensive School. "The government has spent a lot of money to install these devices," Osano said, urging community members and stakeholders to help protect school equipment.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations has begun tracing the stolen laptops, tablets and projectors. Homa Bay Town DCI Commander Jimmy Kisobo said detectives are collecting serial numbers and working with internet service providers to track devices when they connect online. No local leads have emerged, raising the possibility that some equipment has already left the country.

The thefts come as the Information and Communications Technology Authority moves to introduce artificial intelligence into basic education. The authority closed its call for expressions of interest for consultants on 28 October. The 40-week World Bank-funded consultancy will develop digital literacy frameworks for the Competency-Based Curriculum, introduce AI at pre-primary level and promote gender-inclusive digital education.

Under Phase One of the National Digital Class Experience, the government has distributed 10,382 laptops and an equal number of interactive smartboards to public junior schools across all 47 counties, with more than 62,000 teachers trained.

Stealing from schools does not just remove hardware — it dismantles futures.

## Beyond the likes: The pressure to live up to unrealistic online lifestyles

By **Faith Chepkoech**




We have grown so accustomed to displaying our lives that we risk forgetting a life needs no audience to be meaningful.

Social media has reshaped how young people communicate, express themselves and measure their worth. Beneath the glamorous photographs and curated lifestyles lies a damaging reality: young people increasingly judge themselves against images designed to impress, not to inform.

Celebrities, influencers and reality television personalities present expensive clothes, luxury holidays and perfect relationships as the default markers of success. What audiences rarely see is the staging, editing and selective presentation behind each post. The problem starts when young people stop treating such content as entertainment and begin treating it as a standard they must meet.

Peer pressure amplifies the damage. Comparisons extend beyond celebrities to friends and classmates. Some young people borrow money or overspend to finance an appearance of wealth — turning a desire to belong into a financial burden. In Kenya, where many students are navigating tight budgets while seeking employment or financial independence, money spent on appearances is money diverted from transport, food and savings.

The emotional toll is equally serious. When everyday life fails to match a stranger's highlight reel, the result is insecurity, inadequacy and anxiety. The comparison is structurally unfair: one side shows everything, the other selects only what flatters.

Solutions exist. Schools and universities should embed digital literacy and financial education into curricula. Parents and educators must normalise conversations about self-worth beyond social validation.

Completing a semester, learning a skill or saving modestly are achievements worth celebrating — regardless of how well they photograph.

A society that rewards performance over substance teaches its youth to perform happiness rather than build it.




**Sports >>** ***Kai Havertz's early strike ends Arsenal's long wait for a Premier League victory at Anfield as Liverpool pay dearly for a costly goalkeeper error.**

# Havertz fires Arsenal to historic Anfield win



By **Andalo Christine Ingutia**

Arsenal secured a hard-fought 1-0 Premier League victory over Liverpool at Anfield yesterday, ending a painful wait for a top-flight win at one of English football's most forbidding grounds. It was a result that underlined Mikel Arteta's side's growing maturity as title contenders — composed, disciplined, and ruthless when it mattered most.

Kai Havertz scored the only goal of the game in the 16th minute, converting Declan Rice's low cross after Arsenal capitalised on a costly error from Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker. The Brazilian attempted to play out from the back but his pass went astray, allowing Martin Ødegaard to press quickly and help Arsenal regain possession. The ball was moved forward smartly, Rice surged down the right channel and delivered a crisp low cross into the area, and Havertz was on hand to slide home and hand Arsenal a Matchweek 9 advantage they would never relinquish.

Liverpool, roared on by a packed Anfield crowd, began with real intensity and pushed Arsenal into early defensive work. The hosts threw bodies forward from the first whistle, confident that their home advantage and relentless pressure would eventually tell. For a spell, it seemed it might. In the 39th minute, Florian Wirtz produced one of the afternoon's most arresting moments, sending a dipping free-kick over the defensive wall and past David Raya — only to watch his effort crack against the crossbar.

Alexis Mac Allister also squandered a clear opportunity when he met a Milos Kerkez delivery inside the penalty area, but his close-range header sailed harmlessly over the bar. Liverpool's attacking pressure was persistent but frustratingly imprecise, and they went into the break a goal down despite having carved out the better chances.

The hosts also felt aggrieved before the interval when Alexander Isak appeared to have his shirt pulled by Jurrien Timber inside the area. Liverpool appealed vociferously for a penalty, but both the referee and VAR declined to intervene.

Arsenal tightened their grip after the break, becoming increasingly compact and difficult to break down as Liverpool searched for an equaliser. Arteta's side defended crosses with authority, restricted space through the middle, and limited the home side to long-range efforts and set pieces. Where Liverpool had energy and urgency, they lacked the precise final touch needed to trouble Raya consistently.

The visitors nearly put the result beyond doubt in the 73rd minute when Christos Tzolis found space and curled an effort towards goal, forcing Alisson into a sharp diving save. The miss did not prove costly, though it served as a reminder that Arsenal remained dangerous on the break throughout.

Andoni Iraola threw on Rio Ngumoha and Dominik Szoboszlai in search of a breakthrough, and Liverpool later pushed captain Virgil van Dijk further forward in the closing stages as they chased an equaliser. Arsenal, however, held their shape with admirable discipline and dealt comfortably with the late deliveries into the box.

The closing minutes were febrile. A tense confrontation involving Mac Allister, Ødegaard, Timber and Noni Madueke added late drama, with Mac Allister and Timber both booked following a VAR review. Six additional minutes of stoppage time gave Liverpool one final opportunity to salvage something, but Arsenal rode out the storm and claimed a famous three points under the Anfield lights.

The victory was a statement as much as a result. Arsenal's defensive resilience — their ability to absorb pressure, manage difficult moments, and stay organised in hostile territory — is fast becoming one of the defining features of their title challenge. For Liverpool, the defeat exposed the price of a single lapse of concentration in goalkeeping and a lack of clinical edge in the final third when it mattered most. Three points separated the sides on the night. A goalkeeper's misplaced pass separated the clubs in the title race.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** ***Paulo Fonseca is set to return to Portuguese football after Sporting CP reached an agreement with the experienced tactician to replace Rui Borges.**

# Sporting CP appoint Fonseca as new head coach

By **Pascal Okoth**

Sporting CP yesterday moved to appoint Paulo Fonseca as their new head coach, with the experienced Portuguese tactician set to leave Olympique Lyonnais and return to his home country in the coming days.

The Lisbon club reached an agreement with Fonseca to replace Rui Borges, signalling a significant shift in Sporting's technical direction as the club seeks to consolidate its position in both domestic competition and European football. The appointment ends Borges' tenure at the helm of one of Portugal's most decorated clubs and brings in a manager with a broad and well-tested European coaching pedigree.

For Fonseca, the move represents a homecoming of sorts. The 51-year-old built his early coaching reputation in Portugal before embarking on a career that took him to Ukraine, Italy and France, earning recognition across the continent for his clear tactical identity and ability to develop attacking, possession-based football. His time in Serie A with Roma and his subsequent spell in Ligue 1 with Lyon exposed him to two of Europe's most demanding club environments, and it is precisely that depth of experience that Sporting's hierarchy believes can drive the club forward at a critical juncture.

Fonseca's coaching philosophy is rooted in high-tempo, attacking football underpinned by disciplined positional structure. Teams under his management have consistently pressed high, moved the ball quickly and created chances in volume, making him an appealing profile for a club of Sporting's ambition and tradition. At Roma, he led the club to a sixth-place Serie A finish in his debut season before reaching the Europa League semi-finals — performances that cemented his reputation as a tactician capable of competing at the highest level. At Lyon, he faced a turbulent environment beset by financial difficulties and administrative instability, yet he maintained a clear footballing identity throughout.

Sporting themselves are in a period of transition. Under Rui Borges, the club showed promise but ultimately fell short of the consistency required to challenge Benfica and Porto at the summit of Portuguese football and make sustained progress in Europe. The club's board has moved quickly and decisively to bring in a replacement with the credentials and experience they believe can shift that dynamic.

The appointment also carries symbolic weight in Portuguese football. Fonseca is a well-respected figure in the domestic game, and his return to the Primeira Liga — this time at one of its largest clubs — will attract considerable attention from supporters, rivals and observers alike. Sporting's fanbase, known for its passionate and exacting standards, will expect the new coach to deliver results quickly while also developing the club's young talent and maintaining the attacking, high-energy style that has long defined the club at its best.

The timing of the announcement, should it be formally confirmed in the coming days, positions Sporting to begin planning for the second half of the season with renewed clarity of purpose. Pre-season preparations, squad assessments and tactical implementation can begin in earnest once Fonseca formally assumes his duties, with the club eager to hit the ground running.

For Fonseca personally, the opportunity is a significant one. Managing Sporting CP carries a weight and visibility that few Portuguese clubs can match. The club's history, its passionate following, its infrastructure and its standing in European football make it an attractive destination for any ambitious coach. Returning to lead them after his years away from the Primeira Liga will be seen, in many quarters, as the most important appointment of his managerial career.

Whether the move translates into silverware and European progress will ultimately define its success. But as Sporting move to close one chapter and open another, the hiring of Paulo Fonseca sends a clear message: the club is serious about competing at the highest level, and they are prepared to back that ambition with an experienced, battle-tested manager who has spent years learning his craft at the sharpest end of the European game.




*Paulo Fonseca*



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# National values and spiritual heritage in the context of globalization



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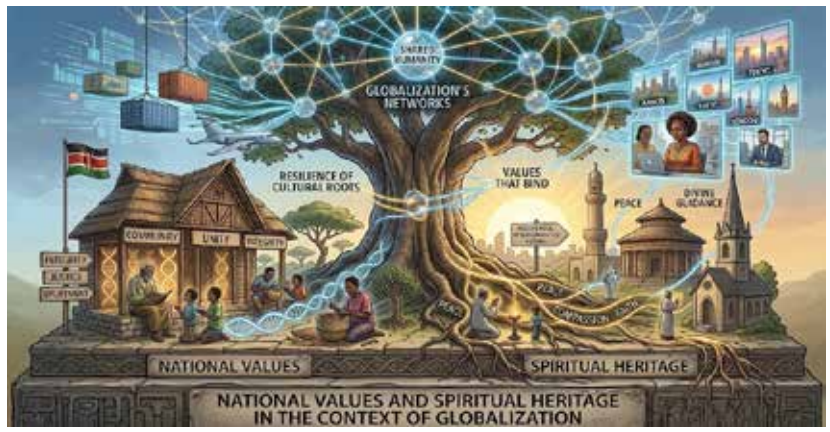
This article examines the role of national values and spiritual heritage in the context of globalization. Particular attention is paid to preserving national identity, traditions, and cultural heritage in modern society. The article analyzes the impact of globalization processes on the worldview of young people, as well as the importance of national values in shaping a spiritually developed generation.

**Keywords:** national values, spiritual heritage, globalization, national identity, youth, traditions, culture, spiritual development.

**Introduction**

National values are among the most important means of reflecting the culture, history, and identity of every nation. They represent a foundation that has been passed down from generation to generation over many years and centuries, reflecting the moral, cultural, and spiritual state of a nation. National values serve as a kind of mirror that reflects the distinctive characteristics of a people, their identity, worldview, and way of thinking. They find expression in historical works, oral folk traditions, and everyday life.

In the modern era of globalization, intercultural connections between nations are expanding, while various traditions, principles, and customs are becoming increasingly widespread. Under these circumstances, the promotion of national values at the international level, the presentation of a people's cultural identity, and the preservation of national traditions in accordance with modern requirements are becoming particularly important. The development of digital technologies, linguistic interaction, and tourism creates new opportunities for promoting national heritage, especially among the younger generation. At the same time, there is a growing need to find effective approaches to preserving national identity and the spiritual uniqueness of young people. This article examines the significance of national values in the context of globalization, ways to enhance their role in modern society, approaches to developing national self-awareness among the younger generation, and methods of presenting cultural heritage at the international level.




**Main Part**

1. National Values as the Foundation of a Nation's Cultural Identity

National values constitute an essential component of the spiritual and cultural life of society. They develop over a long historical period and reflect the distinctive features of a particular people's worldview, lifestyle, moral principles, and cultural heritage. Their significance lies not only in preserving historical memory but also in shaping public consciousness, educating the younger generation, and strengthening national identity.

As B. Isakov points out, in the context of globalization, particular importance is attached to educating young people in the spirit of respect for national and universal human values. The author emphasizes the need for cooperation between families, educational institutions, and mahallas in the process of the spiritual upbringing of the younger generation. The history of the Uzbek people is a vivid example of the richness of national and spiritual heritage. Over the centuries, traditions of respecting elders, honoring parents, hospitality, mutual assistance, and the pursuit of knowledge have developed. These qualities are reflected in the works of great Eastern thinkers, folk art, literature, and everyday life. The works of Alisher Navoi, Abu Ali ibn Sina, Abu Rayhan Beruni, and Mirzo Ulugbek are of particular importance. Their scientific and literary heritage occupies a significant place in the history of world civilization. Studying their works contributes to developing respect for history, enhancing intellectual potential, and understanding the moral foundations of human society. Thus, national values should be regarded not only as the heritage of previous generations but also as an important factor in the spiritual development of modern society.

2. National Traditions of Uzbekistan in the Context of Globalization

Uzbekistan possesses a rich cultural heritage manifested in national holidays, family customs, traditional crafts, music, literature, and traditional lifestyles. Many elements of this heritage have not only national but also international significance.

One of the most prominent examples is the holiday of Navruz, which symbolizes the renewal of nature, the arrival of spring, unity, and goodwill. Traditions associated with Navruz bring together representatives of different generations and contribute to strengthening social ties. The culture of preparing and sharing plov also holds an important place, reflecting traditions of hospitality, mutual assistance, and family unity.

According to UNESCO, Navruz and the culture of plov have been included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In addition, askiya, katta ashula, shashmaqom, and the Boysun cultural space have received international recognition. These examples demonstrate that national heritage can become an important part of international cultural dialogue. Becoming familiar with Uzbekistan's traditions allows representatives of other countries to gain a better understanding of the history, worldview, and spiritual characteristics of the Uzbek people.

However, the preservation of cultural heritage should not be limited to organizing festive events or displaying national symbols. It is necessary to ensure the transmission of traditions to the younger generation, support folk art, develop national arts, and create opportunities for studying native history.

3. The Influence of Globalization on the National Identity of Young People

Globalization is a complex social and cultural process that promotes the expansion of international relations, the exchange of information, and interaction among different peoples. The development of the internet, social media, international education, and tourism has significantly expanded opportunities for cultural exchange. At the same time, these processes have a certain influence on the worldview of the younger generation. Modern young people encounter various cultural models, values, and behavioral patterns every day. This contributes to broadening their horizons, developing language skills, and increasing their interest in other cultures.

In J. Xasanov's research, particular attention is given to the socio-philosophical factors involved in shaping the worldview of young people based on national and universal human values. The author examines the influence of family, the education system, the spiritual environment, and digital culture on the formation of the younger generation's consciousness. In our opinion, one of the main challenges of modern times is finding a balance between openness to global cultural processes and preserving one's own national identity. Learning foreign languages, studying foreign literature, and gaining international experience should not become reasons for losing interest in one's native culture.

On the contrary, young people who are well acquainted with their country's history and traditions are capable of presenting its cultural heritage more consciously at the international level. Therefore, educational institutions, family upbringing, cultural events, and independent study of historical heritage play an important role.

M. Alimova also emphasizes the importance of national values in educating young people, considering families, educational institutions, mass media, and cultural organizations as important institutions for transmitting spiritual heritage.

4. The Role of Modern Technologies in Promoting National Heritage

In today's information society, digital technologies provide extensive opportunities for preserving and promoting national values. The internet, social media, digital libraries, and virtual museums make it possible to introduce the history, culture, and traditions of different peoples to a wide audience. Young people play a particularly important role in this process. By using modern digital platforms, they can create educational materials, publish information about historical monuments, share knowledge about national holidays, and present traditional art to an international audience. For example, publications about Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva can attract attention to Uzbekistan's historical and architectural heritage. Video materials about national cuisine, traditional crafts, music, and cultural celebrations also contribute to spreading information about the country's cultural identity.

Creating high-quality content in foreign languages is of particular importance. This not only helps expand the audience but also makes national heritage more accessible to people from other countries. International educational projects, cultural forums, scientific conferences, and youth initiatives serve as important tools in this area.

Thus, modern technologies can serve as effective instruments for preserving national identity. Their proper use makes it possible to connect historical heritage with modern forms of communication and transmit cultural values to future generations.

Conclusion

To summarize, national values and spiritual heritage play an important role in preserving a people's cultural identity, shaping public consciousness, and educating the younger generation. They serve as a link between the past, present, and future, ensuring continuity between generations and the preservation of historical memory.

In the context of globalization, preserving national identity becomes particularly important. The expansion of international relations and the development of information technologies create new opportunities for cultural exchange. However, at the same time, they require a conscious attitude toward one's own historical and spiritual heritage.

In our opinion, the preservation of national values should not be viewed as something opposed to modern development. On the contrary, it is necessary to find a harmonious balance between national traditions and universal human values.

The younger generation bears particular responsibility in this process. Young people should not only study their nation's cultural heritage but also actively participate in its preservation and promotion. National values are an important factor in the spiritual development of society and the strengthening of national identity. Their preservation, study, and presentation at the international level should become one of the priority areas of activity for educational institutions, cultural organizations, and young people themselves.

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*Published at Shashil Court Westlands & Printed at Mombasa Road, Nairobi by Exponential International Limited. P.O. Box 101675 - 00101 Nairobi.*
*Email: editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke | To place Adverts: Email: ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke Tel: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262, 0781 894 777. www.mtkenyatimes.com*