

Kenya mourns Paul Kihara Kariuki, the jurist who built the bench

Former Attorney General and retired Court of Appeal President Paul Kihara Kariuki died yesterday aged 72, triggering an immediate national outpouring of grief from Kenya's political leadership, the judiciary... Page 8



Mt Kenya's UDA exodus: How Ruto lost the region that made him president

Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi has formally declared that he will not seek re-election on a UDA ticket, becoming the third sitting governor from the Mt Kenya region to publicly break with President William Ruto's ruling party Page 12

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Daily ePAPER

Countdown 2027 **How the 2002 coalition architect could unlock Kalonzo's path to State House**

The Ngilu factor

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua met National Rainbow Coalition leader Charity Ngilu at his Wamunyoro residence in Nyeri County yesterday, a meeting that was far more significant than its quiet optics suggested — because the woman who walked through his gate helped engineer the last coalition in Kenyan history to sweep a ruling party from power in a single ballot.

Gachagua described Ngilu as one of the architects of the NARC dream, saying she, together with the late President Mwai Kibaki and the late Vice-President Michael Kijana Wamalwa, crafted the political strategy that led to NARC's landslide victory in the 2002 General Election. "This morning, I benefited greatly from Ngilu's wisdom as she took me through how NARC was crafted and implemented," he said. He called it his "2002 moment." To understand why, you need to understand what NARC actually was — and what it destroyed.

In 2002, the National Alliance of Rainbow Coalition won a landslide victory over KANU on 27 December. NARC's presidential candidate, Kibaki, captured 62 per cent of the vote against only 31 per cent for the KANU candidate, Uhuru Kenyatta. Page 9



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua met National Rainbow Coalition leader Charity Ngilu at his Wamunyoro residence on 3rd November 2026.



Gachagua draws 2002 blueprint from Ngilu for 2027 opposition push

BY Grace Wanja
@themtkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua met National Rainbow Coalition leader Charity Ngilu at his Wamunyoro residence in Nyeri County yesterday to draw lessons from the 2002 political coalition that ended KANU's decades-long grip on power.

Gachagua, who leads the Democracy for Citizens Party, described Ngilu as the "Iron Lady of Kenyan politics" and said the meeting gave him renewed clarity on the path to opposition victory in August 2027. "This morning, I benefited greatly from Ngilu's wisdom as she took me through how NARC was crafted and implemented," he said, adding that the insights would prove instrumental in the coalition's preparations.

Gachagua said Ngilu, together with the late President Mwai Kibaki and the late Vice-President Kijana Wamalwa, crafted the strategy that brought KANU's era to an end in the landmark 2002 General Election. He said Kenya now faces a comparable political moment. "We have a 2002 moment, and our promise is that we shall identify one presidential candidate who will win by a landslide," Gachagua said.

Some of the moments as captured in pictures













Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto and Deputy President Kithure Kindiki are making a calculated political investment in Meru and Tharaka Nithi, using a succession of high-profile infrastructure launches across both counties to build the development narrative they intend to carry into the 2027 re-election campaign. Kindiki, who hails from Tharaka Nithi, has been the administration's most visible presence in the region, personally commissioning roads, health facilities and other projects at a pace that leaves little doubt about the political intent behind the timing. For a government that has watched UDA's support erode sharply across Mt Kenya since Rigathi Gachagua's impeachment, the infrastructure offensive represents a deliberate attempt to shift the conversation from political grievance back to tangible delivery — and to remind voters in two strategically important counties exactly who built what.



Nyeri gubernatorial aspirant Peter Munyiri has promised to build an industrial park and draw in ICT investors as the centrepiece of a job creation agenda he says would generate more than 15,000 employment opportunities for the county's youth. Munyiri, who is positioning himself for the 2027 gubernatorial race, argued that Nyeri's economic future depends on diversifying beyond traditional sectors and building the kind of industrial and technology infrastructure that attracts serious private investment. He said young people in the county deserve more than seasonal farm work and that a structured industrial base would give them a credible path to sustainable livelihoods. His pledge joins a growing list of economic promises from aspirants across Mt Kenya as competition for county seats sharpens ahead of the August 2027 General Election.



Americans went to the polls yesterday in what both parties have framed as a defining test of Donald Trump's turbulent second term, with Democrats staking their campaign on a simple proposition: that the country needs a congressional check on a White House they say has governed by chaos rather than conviction. Control of the House is the prize that matters most. A Democratic majority there would give the party the power to block Trump's legislative agenda, open sweeping investigations into his administration and fundamentally alter the terms on which he governs for the remainder of his term. A Senate gain would go further still — threatening his ability to confirm Supreme Court justices and senior officials, and tightening the constitutional constraints around a presidency that has tested them repeatedly. The results will define what the next two years of American politics look like.

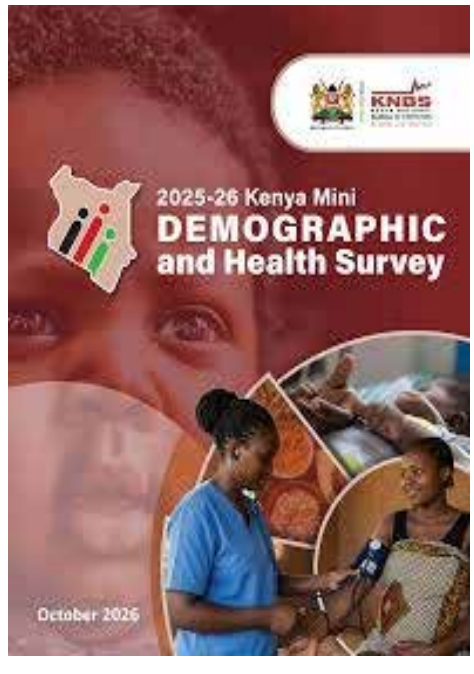


Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale told parliament yesterday that Kenya has trained more than 4,900 health workers to handle Ebola cases, as the government moved to demonstrate its preparedness amid the ongoing Bundibugyo virus outbreak. Duale made the disclosure while appearing before the Delegated Legislation Committee at Bunge Towers in Nairobi, where he presented the Public Health (Ebola Disease) Rules, 2026, alongside related epidemic disease regulations for parliamentary scrutiny. The regulations form part of a broader legal framework the government is putting in place to anchor its outbreak response in statute rather than administrative directive alone. The training figures represent a significant investment in frontline health capacity — one the CS said positions Kenya to manage not only the current outbreak but future epidemic threats with greater speed and clinical confidence.



Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi has hit back at Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro over comments on the proposed Lamu oil refinery project and Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote's prospective shareholding in the Kenya Pipeline Company, accusing the legislator of dragging a critical national infrastructure project into the political arena. Wandayi, speaking in response to Nyoro's public remarks, insisted that development of this magnitude demands sober, evidence-based engagement rather than political point-scoring. The CS argued that Kenya's energy infrastructure decisions must be driven by national interest and long-term economic logic — not by the electoral calculations of politicians positioning themselves ahead of 2027. Nyoro has been among the most vocal critics of the Dangote shareholding arrangement, raising questions about the terms and implications of foreign involvement in a strategic national asset.

Kenya's latest demographic and health data went public yesterday as officials from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Health and a range of government stakeholders gathered for the formal release of the 2025–26 Kenya Mini Demographic and Health Survey. The survey, conducted periodically to track progress on key health and population indicators between full demographic surveys, provides policymakers, researchers and development partners with updated figures on maternal and child health, nutrition, family planning uptake, disease prevalence and household welfare across the country. Its findings are expected to inform budget allocations, programme targeting and health policy decisions at both national and county level. The release marks a significant moment for evidence-based governance in Kenya, giving the health sector its most current statistical baseline ahead of planning cycles that will shape service delivery through the remainder of the decade.



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News The case has since drawn intense public attention because of who is at the centre of it

Autopsy finds stab wounds killed Regina Re's 86-year-old mother

Government pathologist Dr Bernard Midia confirms multiple stab wounds to the neck as the cause of Dorita Macharia's death, as four family members remain in custody at Gigiri Police Station.

BY Grace Wanja
@themtkenyatimes



A collage of Regina Re and her late mother. | Photo: /@reginareglobal/Instagram

Dorita Lasinder Macharia, 86, was found dead in a pool of blood inside her Loresho residence on the night of Friday, October 30, and a postmortem examination has now established that she died from severe external bleeding caused by multiple stab wounds to the neck.

Government pathologist Dr Bernard Midia conducted the examination at Lee Funeral Home on Tuesday, with lawyers representing both the deceased's family and the suspects in attendance. The process lasted more than two hours. "The injury consisted of multiple stab wounds to the neck with injury to the blood vessels, which led to severe external bleeding," Midia told those present. "Two deep stab wounds in the neck. There were also other sharp force injuries, cut wounds to various parts of the body." The findings confirmed that the wounds were not confined to the neck — Macharia sustained additional sharp force injuries across different parts of her body before she died.

The case has since drawn intense public attention because of who is at the centre of it. Among the four suspects detained in connection with Macharia's death is her daughter, veteran television personality Regina Wambui Gitau, widely known by her stage name Regina Re. Also held are Macharia's granddaughter, Thande Malaika Gitau, who is 18 years old; her son, Alton Jimmy Macharia; and Emmanuel Munyeki, identified as the granddaughter's boyfriend.

Police initially responded after Regina reportedly informed them that unknown attackers had invaded the residence and killed her mother. Investigators subsequently began examining events leading to the elderly woman's death, including a reported confrontation between Dorita and her granddaughter Thande.

Nairobi Magistrate Barbara Akinyi authorised police to detain all four suspects for ten days at Gigiri Police Station, granting investigators time to conduct forensic examinations, record witness statements and establish the precise circumstances surrounding Macharia's death. Senior Counsel Philip Murgor, appearing for the family, confirmed that Macharia was allegedly attacked inside her own home and sustained injuries that led to her death. The matter is scheduled for mention on November 12.

The autopsy findings now form a central part of the police dossier as investigators piece together what happened at the Loresho home on the night of October 30. The pathologist's testimony establishes both the nature and severity of the violence Macharia suffered — detail that prosecutors will rely on heavily if the case proceeds to trial.

For Regina Re, once a familiar face on Kenyan television, the investigation has upended her public life entirely. The question that remains — and that investigators must now answer — is not only how Dorita Macharia died, but who, in a household of her own family, decided that she should.

Kenya discharges first five Ebola patients

The recovery of five confirmed Bundibugyo virus patients and the release of 46 contacts from quarantine marks a turning point in Kenya's containment effort.



MoH Director-General Patrick Amoth

BY Anne Njeri
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya discharged its first five confirmed Ebola patients on Tuesday and released 46 contacts from quarantine, signalling a significant milestone in the country's response to the ongoing Bundibugyo virus outbreak.

The five patients — all men — completed full courses of treatment and tested negative for the virus before being cleared to leave hospital. Two were treated at Kenyatta National Hospital and three at The Nairobi Hospital. The Ministry of Health confirmed the discharges in a press release signed by Director-General Patrick Amoth, whose office has been coordinating the national response since the outbreak was declared.

The Bundibugyo strain, a species of Ebola virus first identified in Uganda in 2007, is considered less lethal than the Zaire strain responsible for West Africa's devastating 2014–2016 epidemic, but remains a serious public health threat requiring stringent containment measures. Kenya's response — drawing on rapid contact tracing, designated treatment facilities and quarantine protocols — has drawn cautious praise from regional health observers tracking the outbreak.

The release of 46 contacts from quarantine further reduces the active surveillance burden on health authorities, though officials have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspected symptoms promptly.

Five patients recovered. Forty-six contacts freed. Kenya is not out of the woods yet — but Tuesday was a good day.

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Grief Chief Justice Martha Koome announced the death on Tuesday, November 3, confirming what his family had communicated privately to colleagues hours earlier

Kenya mourns Paul Kihara Kariuki, the jurist who built the bench

The death of the former Attorney General and Court of Appeal President has drawn an outpouring of tributes from across Kenya's political and legal establishment.

BY Bethwel Kiprop
@themtkenyatimes

Former Attorney General and retired Court of Appeal President Paul Kihara Kariuki died yesterday aged 72, triggering an immediate national outpouring of grief from Kenya's political leadership, the judiciary and the legal fraternity over the loss of one of the country's most consequential judicial figures.

Chief Justice Martha Koome announced the death on Tuesday, November 3, confirming what his family had communicated privately to colleagues hours earlier. Koome, who is also President of the Supreme Court, did not hold back in her assessment of the man she had served alongside in Kenya's legal institutions. "Justice Kihara Kariuki was an accomplished jurist, an exemplary judicial leader and a dedicated public servant whose contributions to the administration of justice and the development of Kenya's legal institutions will remain an enduring part of our institutional history," she said, extending condolences to his family, friends and all who had worked alongside him across four decades of distinguished service.

President William Ruto mourned Kariuki as an accomplished jurist whose public service strengthened Kenya's legal and judicial institutions, conveying his sympathies to the family, friends and former colleagues. Ruto drew particular attention to Kariuki's foundational work in judicial education, noting that his role as founding director of the Judiciary Training Institute — the institution that later became the Kenya Judiciary Academy — had shaped the professional development of generations of Kenya's judicial officers. "His distinguished service to our nation leaves an indelible mark on our institutions," Ruto said, speaking on behalf of the Kenyan people.

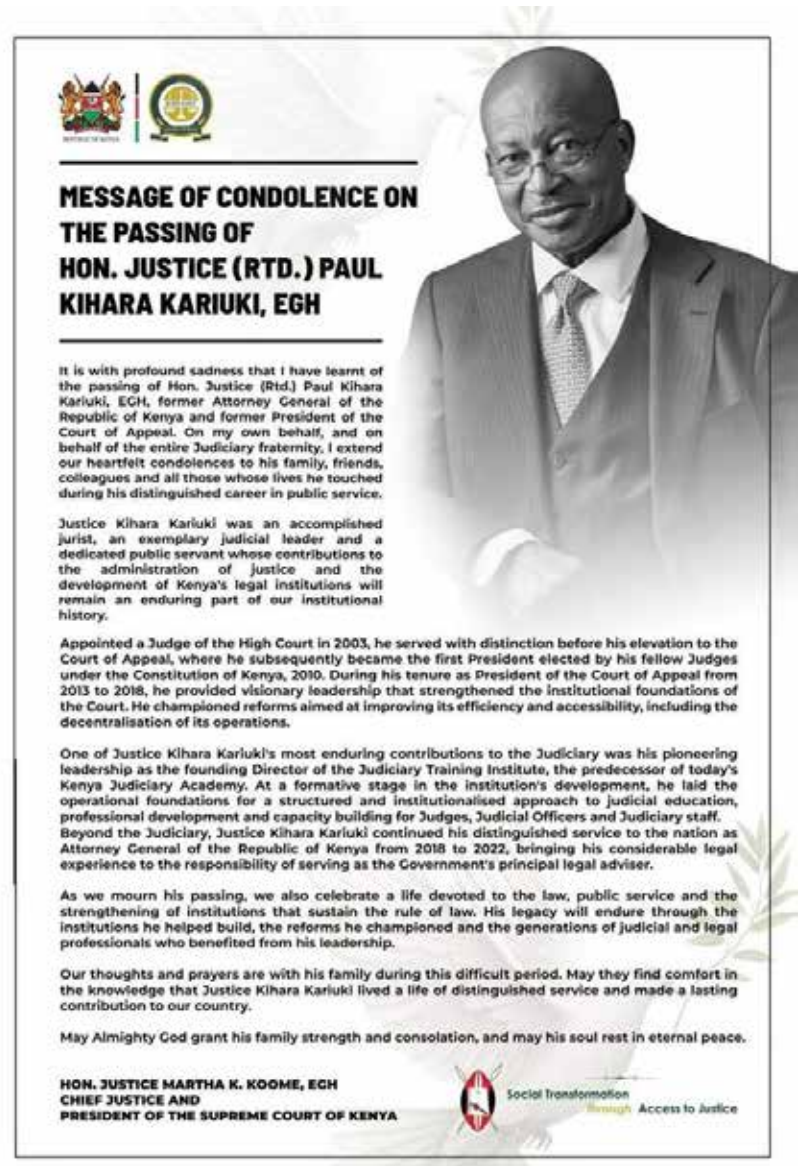
Former President Uhuru Kenyatta, who had nominated Kariuki as Attorney General in February 2018, described him as a renowned judge and dedicated public servant whose long career as both Attorney General and Court of Appeal President left an enduring mark on Kenya's judicial and public institutions. Kenyatta, whose administration Kariuki served for the final four years of his public career, prayed for peace and strength for the bereaved family.



Former Attorney General and retired Court of Appeal President Paul Kihara Kariuki

The breadth of the tributes reflects the unusual reach of Kariuki's career. He was not a jurist who occupied one role and left. He shaped institutions at every level he touched. One of his most enduring contributions was his pioneering leadership as founding Director of the Judiciary Training Institute, the predecessor of today's Kenya Judiciary Academy, an institution that did not exist before he built it. He joined the High Court bench in 2003, was elevated to the Court of Appeal, and went on to become the first judge elected by his peers to serve as President of that court under the 2010 Constitution — a distinction that spoke as much to the respect of his colleagues as to his legal ability. He served as Court of Appeal President from 2013 to 2018 before Kenyatta appointed him as Kenya's seventh Attorney General, succeeding Professor Githu Muigai. He held that office until October 2022.

Charles Kanjama, Senior Counsel and President of the Law Society of Kenya, expressed the profession's grief, describing the loss as deeply felt across the entire legal fraternity. The LSK had worked alongside Kariuki at several critical junctures in Kenya's legal development, and his death leaves a void in the institutional memory of a profession that prizes continuity and mentorship. Lawyers and advocates across the country took to social media yesterday to share personal recollections — of a judge whose courtroom manner was firm but fair, of an Attorney General who engaged on substance rather than politics, and of a legal educator who understood that the quality of justice depended on the quality of those administering it.



MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE PASSING OF HON. JUSTICE (RTD.) PAUL KIHARA KARIUKI, EGH

It is with profound sadness that I have learnt of the passing of Hon. Justice (Rtd.) Paul Kihara Kariuki, EGH, former Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya and former President of the Court of Appeal. On my own behalf, and on behalf of the entire Judiciary fraternity, I extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and all those whose lives he touched during his distinguished career in public service.

Justice Kihara Kariuki was an accomplished jurist, an exemplary judicial leader and a dedicated public servant whose contributions to the administration of justice and the development of Kenya's legal institutions will remain an enduring part of our institutional history.

Appointed a Judge of the High Court in 2003, he served with distinction before his elevation to the Court of Appeal, where he subsequently became the first President elected by his fellow Judges under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. During his tenure as President of the Court of Appeal from 2013 to 2018, he provided visionary leadership that strengthened the institutional foundations of the Court. He championed reforms aimed at improving its efficiency and accessibility, including the decentralisation of its operations.

One of Justice Kihara Kariuki's most enduring contributions to the Judiciary was his pioneering leadership as the founding Director of the Judiciary Training Institute, the predecessor of today's Kenya Judiciary Academy. At a formative stage in the institution's development, he laid the operational foundations for a structured and institutionalised approach to judicial education, professional development and capacity building for Judges, Judicial Officers and Judiciary staff. Beyond the Judiciary, Justice Kihara Kariuki continued his distinguished service to the nation as Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya from 2018 to 2022, bringing his considerable legal experience to the responsibility of serving as the Government's principal legal adviser.

As we mourn his passing, we also celebrate a life devoted to the law, public service and the strengthening of institutions that sustain the rule of law. His legacy will endure through the institutions he helped build, the reforms he championed and the generations of judicial and legal professionals who benefited from his leadership.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult period. May they find comfort in the knowledge that Justice Kihara Kariuki lived a life of distinguished service and made a lasting contribution to our country.

May Almighty God grant his family strength and consolation, and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

HON. JUSTICE MARTHA K. KOOME, EGH
CHIEF JUSTICE AND
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA

Social Transformation through Access to Justice

Opposition leader Kalonzo Musyoka, of the Wiper Patriotic Front, was among the first to issue a formal tribute. "I have learnt with deep sorrow of the death of Justice Paul Kihara Kariuki," Kalonzo said, describing him as a lawyer who dedicated his working life to the service of the law. "His passing reminds us that institutions are only as strong as the people who choose to serve them honestly," he added, extending his condolences on behalf of the Wiper Patriotic Front, the Ukombozi Alliance and his family.

Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen also conveyed his condolences, describing Kariuki as a pillar of Kenya's legal order whose absence would be felt for years. Across government offices, courts and law chambers, flags were lowered and proceedings paused as the news spread through a profession still processing the weight of the loss.

Kariuki's death marks the loss of a former senior state official whose career placed him at the centre of Kenya's legal education, judicial administration and government legal affairs — three domains that rarely intersect in a single career, and rarer still in one managed with the consistency and integrity that those who knew him say defined his approach to public service.

He trained judges. He led the court. He advised the government on the law. And in each role, by the account of those who worked alongside him, he brought the same seriousness of purpose to the task. Kenya does not produce that kind of jurist in every generation.

Paul Kihara Kariuki is gone. The bench he helped build endures.

Politics **In 2002, the National Alliance of Rainbow Coalition won a landslide victory over KANU on 27 December. NARC's presidential candidate, Kibaki, captured 62 per cent**

The Ngilu factor: How the 2002 coalition architect could unlock Kalonzo's path to State House

A reunion at Wamunyoro has revived Kenya's most consequential political blueprint — and the numbers suggest it could work

BY James Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's spouse Rev. Dorcas, DCP Organising Secretary Mithika Linturi, Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and National Rainbow Coalition leader Charity Ngilu at his Wamunyoro residence on 3rd November 2026

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua met National Rainbow Coalition leader Charity Ngilu at his Wamunyoro residence in Nyeri County yesterday, a meeting that was far more significant than its quiet optics suggested — because the woman who walked through his gate helped engineer the last coalition in Kenyan history to sweep a ruling party from power in a single ballot.

Gachagua described Ngilu as one of the architects of the NARC dream, saying she, together with the late President Mwai Kibaki and the late Vice-President Michael Kijana Wamalwa, crafted the political strategy that led to NARC's landslide victory in the 2002 General Election. "This morning, I benefited greatly from Ngilu's wisdom as she took me through how NARC was crafted and implemented," he said. He called it his "2002 moment." To understand why, you need to understand what NARC actually was — and what it destroyed.

In 2002, the National Alliance of Rainbow Coalition won a landslide victory over KANU on 27 December. NARC's presidential candidate, Kibaki, captured 62 per cent of the vote against only 31 per cent for the KANU candidate, Uhuru Kenyatta. According to Kalonzo Musyoka, who was present at its birth, the coalition was formed at a meeting at the Serena Hotel in Nairobi where the principals agreed on Kibaki for president, with Wamalwa and Kalonzo as first and second vice-presidents, Raila Odinga as prime minister and Ngilu as deputy prime minister. It was not an accidental alliance. It was architecture — carefully drawn by people who understood that KANU could not be defeated by any one bloc alone. Ngilu had joined hands with Kibaki and Wamalwa to craft an alliance of opposition parties to take on the then ruling KANU, and her reward was a Cabinet slot in Kibaki's government. She remains the keeper of that blueprint.

This matters enormously in 2027, because the electoral logic that produced NARC's victory now points — with striking arithmetic precision — towards a Kalonzo Musyoka candidacy as the opposition's most viable path to State House.

Start with the numbers. Mt Kenya remains Kenya's most influential electoral region, with about 5.77 million registered voters in the 2022 election, accounting for 26.1 per cent of the national electorate. The total votes cast across the Mt Kenya region in the 2022 presidential election stood at approximately 3.8 million, combining votes for both President Ruto and Raila Odinga. In the 2022 General Election, Ruto won the presidency with 7,176,141 votes — 50.49 per cent — narrowly defeating Raila Odinga who garnered 6,942,930 votes. Mt Kenya delivered roughly half of Ruto's total. The region that made him president is now the region most openly organising to remove him.

Political analyst Mutahi Ngunyi pegs the emerging opposition alliance — comprising Gachagua, Kalonzo, Eugene Wamalwa, Matiang'i, Mithika Linturi and Martha Karua — at approximately 9.4 million votes based on 2022 IEBC records. But that figure does not fully account for a development that transforms the entire arithmetic: the deliberate political merger of what was historically called the Kamba vote bloc with the Mt Kenya electoral machine.

Kitui, Machakos and Makueni had about 1.7 million registered voters in 2022, delivering approximately 769,386 votes to Raila and 250,161 to Ruto. The Wiper Party leader commands a loyal following in Ukambani, where he delivered a significant portion of the 2.2 million Kamba votes to Raila Odinga's Azimio coalition in 2022. Those are Kalonzo's own people. Add the loyal Ukambani base of approximately 1.6 to 2 million active votes to a Mt Kenya bloc that in 2022 alone produced 3.8 million votes across both main candidates — and further add the region's growing voter registration numbers since — and a Kalonzo ticket backed by Gachagua's Mt Kenya organisation begins with more than 5.5 million votes before it reaches Western Kenya, Nairobi or the coast.

Western Kenya's four counties — Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia and Vihiga — had a combined 2.2 million registered voters in the 2022 election and added approximately 231,000 new voters during the recent voter registration exercise. If Linda Mwananchi Movement's Edwin Sifuna consolidates that bloc behind the coalition, Kalonzo's theoretical starting point climbs well above 7.5 million votes — a figure that, when paired with a credible running mate from the Rift Valley or Nyanza, challenges seriously for the 50-per-cent-plus-one threshold the Constitution demands.

Kalonzo has been positioning himself to inherit Ruto's 2022 Mt Kenya vote bloc following the former's falling out with Gachagua. In 2022, Gachagua helped deliver Mt Kenya to Ruto, only to later find himself isolated and weakened politically.

The former Deputy President is not making that mistake twice. His series of consultations — with Ngilu, with Sifuna, with Kalonzo directly — is a methodical attempt to reconstruct a NARC-style coalition, this time with himself as the architect rather than the product.

Yet as Ngilu — who attended this week's meeting as the sitting NARC party leader — would be the first to acknowledge, the architecture of 2002 was not simply about numbers. In 1992 and 1997, Kibaki, Raila Odinga, Kijana Wamalwa, Ngilu and others ran separately; each believed they were the rightful standard-bearer. Ethnic mistrust, personal ambition and the absence of a unifying structure made coalition-building impossible, and Moi won both times with less than 40 per cent of the vote. It was the painful discipline of subordination — placing Kibaki at the top despite multiple competing presidential ambitions — that made NARC's victory possible.

The opposition coalition today brings together Kalonzo, Gachagua, Matiang'i, Karua, Wamalwa and Muturi, but has not yet settled on a single presidential candidate, a formal coalition structure or a power-sharing formula. Muturi has said publicly that if he is not chosen, he will back Kalonzo. Matiang'i and Kalonzo's camps remain visibly at odds. Karua, who co-convenes the coalition with Kalonzo, has said the alliance remains focused on building strong institutions before settling on its 2027 candidate.

That is the right instinct. But with the August 2027 General Election now nine months away, the window for the kind of patient, structural coalition-building that Ngilu helped engineer in 2002 is narrowing fast. She walked into Wamunyoro yesterday carrying the memory of how Kenya's most decisive democratic transition was built — in a hotel room, by people willing to agree, in secret, before they went public. Gachagua called it wisdom. For Kalonzo, it may yet prove to be the winning formula.

Grief .....

Paul Kihara Kariuki: Kenya loses a pillar of the law

Retired Court of Appeal President and former Attorney General who shaped Kenya's judicial architecture dies aged 72

BY Wanjiru Kamau
@themtkenyatimes



Late Justice Paul Kihara Kariuki

Paul Kihara Kariuki, one of Kenya's most consequential legal minds, died yesterday aged 72, leaving behind a judiciary he helped build, reform and professionalise over more than two decades of public service. The Judiciary paid tribute to him as a distinguished jurist whose contribution to Kenya's legal institutions will endure. From the High Court bench to Sheria House, Kariuki occupied every significant perch the law offered — and left each one measurably better than he found it.

He was born on 11 May 1954 in Kiambu, Kenya. His early life unfolded in a country still finding its feet as an independent republic, and the law would become his life's instrument for ordering and strengthening that young nation's institutions. He read for a Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Nairobi before earning a Postgraduate Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law — the very institution he would later lead as its principal and chief executive officer, a detail that speaks to the circular arc of a career devoted entirely to the legal profession.

Before ascending to the bench, Kariuki cut his professional teeth in legal education and administration. His stewardship of the Kenya School of Law gave him an understanding of how lawyers are made, not merely of how law is argued. It was a foundation that would inform his later insistence, once he reached the appellate courts, that judicial reform was as much about building people and institutions as it was about writing judgments.

In October 2003, Kariuki was among the judges appointed to the High Court by President Mwai Kibaki, joining the bench at a pivotal moment in Kenya's democratic evolution. The country had just come through the historic 2002 elections that ended more than two decades of single-party rule, and the judiciary was under mounting pressure to demonstrate independence and competence. Kariuki served on the High Court through a decade of constitutional flux, hearing cases that tested the boundaries of a legal order still being renegotiated between citizens and the state.

He was elevated to the Court of Appeal in 2012, and there made history when he became the first President of the Court of Appeal elected by fellow judges under the 2010 Constitution. The significance of that distinction cannot be overstated. Under the old constitutional order, judicial appointments flowed from presidential discretion, leaving the bench dependent on executive goodwill. The 2010 Constitution broke that link, and Kariuki became the embodiment of its new vision — a senior judge chosen by peers, not patrons.



Late Justice Paul Kihara Kariuki

He served as President of the Court of Appeal from 2013 to 2018, during which he championed reforms aimed at improving the court's efficiency and accessibility, including decentralising its operations. The decentralisation of the Court of Appeal was not a bureaucratic footnote — it meant that Kenyans in Kisumu, Mombasa and Nyeri could access appellate justice without travelling to Nairobi, a practical democratisation of a court that had long seemed remote to ordinary litigants. During his tenure, he contributed to the development of institutional frameworks for the court, including the Court of Appeal Bill and its strategic plan.

Chief Justice Martha Koome, in her condolence message, recognised his role as the founding Director of the Judiciary Training Institute, the predecessor of the Kenya Judiciary Academy. Koome said he laid the institutional foundations for structured judicial education, professional development and capacity building for judges, judicial officers and Judiciary staff. In establishing that institute, Kariuki solved a problem that had long afflicted Kenyan justice: judges and magistrates were expected to adjudicate complex disputes without any structured ongoing education. He built the architecture to change that, and its successor institution continues his work today.

The competitive nature of the 2013 Court of Appeal presidential election is itself a revealing footnote. David Maraga, who would later become Chief Justice, vied for the presidency of the Court of Appeal in 2013, losing by a single vote to Kariuki. That Kariuki prevailed in such a contest — decided by the secret ballot of his fellow judges — attested to the professional esteem in which he was held by those who knew his work most intimately.

Kariuki served as Kenya's Attorney General from February 2018 to October 2022, becoming the country's seventh holder of the office. He succeeded Professor Githu Muigai after nomination by former President Uhuru Kenyatta and was sworn in in April 2018. As Attorney General, he straddled the constitutional divide between the judiciary and the executive, serving as the government's principal legal adviser at a time of intense political turbulence. His tenure encompassed contested elections, a global pandemic and a succession of constitutional challenges that required careful, measured legal guidance. Colleagues who worked alongside him at Sheria House describe a man who brought judicial temperament to an executive office — slow to anger, meticulous in reasoning and resistant to political pressure.

Koome said Kariuki's legacy would live on through the institutions he helped build, the reforms he championed and the generations of legal professionals who benefited from his leadership. That assessment is not mere official eulogy. The Court of Appeal he restructured continues to function along the lines he laid down. The Judiciary Academy whose foundations he set continues to train magistrates and judges. The Attorney General's chambers he occupied still carry the procedural reforms he introduced during his four-year tenure.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah Njoki Kariuki. Beyond his family, he leaves behind a legal fraternity that measured itself against his standards and a country whose rule of law stands on stronger foundations because he chose to devote his life to it. Kenya has produced many lawyers. It has produced far fewer who, across so many decades and so many roles, built as much as Paul Kihara Kariuki built.

Koome prayed for strength and comfort for his family, describing his life as one devoted to the law, public service and the rule of law. In a country where public service is too often measured in what it extracts rather than what it contributes, Kariuki's career stands as a counterargument — quiet, methodical and, in its cumulative effect, profound.

Politics Gachagua has consistently insisted that opposition leaders cannot afford to enter the 2027 race divided, describing a united ticket as the only viable strategy to unseat the Kenya Kwanza

Kenya's divided opposition: Can unity win the 2027 election?

With personal ambitions clashing and a presidential candidate still undecided, Kenya's opposition coalition risks repeating the mistakes that have handed the incumbent an advantage before



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and former National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi

BY Collins Kibet
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya's political landscape is shifting with increasing urgency as leaders reposition themselves ahead of the 2027 General Election. Presidential ambitions are no longer whispered — they are being announced at church services, strategy meetings and regional rallies. Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, Democratic Action Party-Kenya leader Eugene Wamalwa, former National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi and People's Liberation Party leader Martha Karua have all emerged as principals in an opposition coalition vowing to present a single candidate against President William Ruto. The ambition is clear. The unity is not.

Yesterday, Gachagua met former Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu at his Wamunyoro residence in Nyeri County, where they discussed Kenya's political future and drew lessons from the 2002 National Rainbow Coalition campaign that ended KANU's decades in power. Gachagua said Ngilu — one of the original architects of NARC — had walked him through how that alliance was crafted and implemented, and that the conversation had given him what he called a "2002 moment." It was an evocative reference. The NARC victory remains the most instructive example in Kenya's democratic history of what becomes possible when opposition leaders place national interest above personal ambition. The question is whether today's principals are genuinely prepared to do the same.

Gachagua has consistently insisted that opposition leaders cannot afford to enter the 2027 race divided, describing a united ticket as the only viable strategy to unseat the Kenya Kwanza administration. His proposal for a three-bloc political arrangement bringing together his Democracy for Citizens Party, the Linda Mwananchi movement and Wiper — to consolidate support from Mt Kenya, Western Kenya and Ukambani — was announced on Monday, even as other coalition members were still negotiating the terms of a broader alliance. That tension between Gachagua's pace and the comfort of his partners is a recurring theme in the coalition's internal dynamics.

The coalition has stepped up efforts to conclude a formal agreement and settle on a formula for picking its presidential flagbearer, amid growing public debate over who should fly the opposition flag and concerns that premature endorsements could derail delicate negotiations. Those concerns are well-founded. Muturi has publicly challenged his opposition colleagues to stop what he described as delay in selecting a joint presidential candidate, warning against what he called "the politics of secrecy" in coalition decision-making. His frustration reflects a wider anxiety: that behind closed doors, the coalition's most powerful figures are negotiating a predetermined outcome, leaving smaller parties with little genuine say.

~~Matiang'i's candidacy has~~ become one of the most contentious questions within the coalition. Jubilee Party has backed him as its preferred presidential candidate, while Karua, who co-convenes the coalition with Kalonzo, has said the alliance remains focused on building strong institutions before settling on its 2027 candidate. His absence from a Western Kenya tour that was intended to demonstrate opposition unity drew sharp attention, with allies of Gachagua expressing discomfort over what they described as Matiang'i pursuing a parallel political strategy independent of the coalition's collective agenda. Some within the coalition have gone further. Lawyer Ndegwa Njiru, a close ally of both Kalonzo and Gachagua, accused Matiang'i of being a "state project" — a claim that, whether true or not, illustrates the depth of distrust between the coalition's principal camps.

Muturi has stated publicly that if he is not selected as the coalition's flagbearer, he will support Kalonzo for the presidency. "If it will not be me, I will support my brother Dr Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka to be the flag bearer," he said. The declaration is significant for two reasons. It acknowledges that Muturi himself is a presidential contender — and it signals that the coalition's internal arithmetic is already being shaped by bilateral understandings rather than an agreed transparent process.

Matiang'i's candidacy has become one of the most contentious questions within the coalition. Jubilee Party has backed him as its preferred presidential candidate, while Karua, who co-convenes the coalition with Kalonzo, has said the alliance remains focused on building strong institutions before settling on its 2027 candidate. His absence from a Western Kenya tour that was intended to demonstrate opposition unity drew sharp attention, with allies of Gachagua expressing discomfort over what they described as Matiang'i pursuing a parallel political strategy independent of the coalition's collective agenda. Some within the coalition have gone further. Lawyer Ndegwa Njiru, a close ally of both Kalonzo and Gachagua, accused Matiang'i of being a "state project" — a claim that, whether true or not, illustrates the depth of distrust between the coalition's principal camps.

The Kalonzo question is equally delicate. The coalition comprises at least six outfits — Wiper, Jubilee, Karua's People's Liberation Party, Wamalwa's DAP-K, Muturi's Democratic Party and Gachagua's Democracy for Citizens Party — and Kalonzo remains the figure whose Ukambani base makes him arguably the most electorally indispensable member. For Kalonzo, the question of Matiang'i's candidacy is a political calculation: associating too closely with Matiang'i risks undermining his rapport with Gachagua, whose backing in Mt Kenya remains a crucial bargaining chip in the opposition's power matrix. The personal calculations are intricate, and they are happening in public.

Beyond the alliance's internal mechanics, the constitutional arithmetic of a Kenyan presidential election demands more than regional consolidation. A winning candidate must secure more than half of all valid votes cast nationally, plus at least 25 per cent of valid votes in more than half of all counties. That standard requires genuine national reach, not just a tidy arrangement between regional barons. Kalonzo has acknowledged this, saying: "Our priority is unity and a workable formula. Once we have national consensus, we shall pick a flagbearer, first among equals, to deliver change in 2027." The sentiment is right. The mechanism for achieving it remains undefined.

There is also a more fundamental problem: Kenyans are tired of opposition politics that exist primarily as a vehicle for displacing one set of leaders and installing another. Unemployment, food costs, public debt, healthcare and limited opportunities for young people are not abstract policy concerns — they are daily realities. The opposition must demonstrate it has practical, costed answers to these problems, not simply a louder critique of the government.

Political analysts have drawn comparisons to the One Kenya Alliance of 2022, in which Kalonzo, Musalia Mudavadi, Moses Wetang'ula and Gideon Moi held extensive meetings before the alliance eventually collapsed under the weight of competing presidential ambitions. The NARC of 2002 succeeded because its leaders were willing to subordinate individual ambition to a shared vision. The current coalition has the blueprint. What it has not yet demonstrated is the discipline to follow it.

The opposition is yet to agree on a joint presidential candidate, the coalition's formal structure or a power-sharing formula ahead of the August 2027 General Election. With less than a year of serious preparation remaining before campaigning intensifies, the cost of further delay rises with every passing week. Kenya does not need another temporary political arrangement held together by electoral convenience. It needs an opposition that can govern — and that is willing to prove it, starting with how it treats its own members.

Politics The announcement marks the latest and perhaps most symbolically significant rupture in what has become a sustained collapse of UDA's standing across the mountain counties

Mt Kenya's UDA exodus: How Ruto lost the region that made him president

Three sitting governors and a growing band of MPs have abandoned the ruling party in the mountain heartland, with the 2027 election threatening to deliver a reckoning President Ruto cannot afford to ignore.



Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi addresses wananchi in Ruiru Town during a development tour

BY David Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi has formally declared that he will not seek re-election on a United Democratic Alliance ticket, becoming the third sitting governor from the Mt Kenya region to publicly break with President William Ruto's ruling party ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Speaking over the weekend in Kiambu, Wamatangi made no attempt to soften the message. "I have decided not to engage in early campaigns to finish the pending development work we promised until around December," he said. "But, like everyone else, we are sure which political party we cannot use." He added that he will reveal his new political vehicle in December, leaving the precise destination unstated but the direction unmistakable.

The announcement marks the latest and perhaps most symbolically significant rupture in what has become a sustained collapse of UDA's standing across the mountain counties. The region that delivered Ruto his margin of victory in the 2022 presidential race is now home to his most organised political opposition.

Wamatangi will be the third sitting Mt Kenya governor to ditch UDA, following Murang'a's Irungu Kang'ata and Nyandarua's Kiarie Badilisha, both of whom have formally joined former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's Democracy for the Citizens Party. Gachagua, impeached in October 2024 and since repositioned as the region's most prominent political broker, received Kang'ata at his Wamunyoro home in Nyeri in July this year — a carefully staged ceremony that announced the consolidation of an alternative Mt Kenya bloc with unmistakable clarity.

Kang'ata made reference to what had befallen Gachagua himself, Wamatangi and former Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza, arguing that such political hostility from the centre was strengthening the opposition at the expense of the ruling party. He said the decision had followed internal efforts to resolve differences within UDA, including a direct engagement with President Ruto that failed to yield a consensus. "UDA has steadily lost political ground in the Mt Kenya region," Kang'ata said, expressing doubt about whether the party could recover public confidence in time for 2027.

The governors' departures do not stand alone. Gatundu South MP Gabriel Kagombe announced his own exit from UDA in August, citing an inability to convince constituents given the party's growing unpopularity. Kieni MP Njoroge Wainaina followed, leaving UDA for the Ufanisi Kenya Party. Nakuru Senator Tabitha Karanja announced her departure and plans to contest the Nakuru gubernatorial race on a DCP ticket. Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro has also shifted away from UDA, aligning with alternative platforms including the People's Party of Kenya. Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba formalised her exit from UDA in October, and has said the ruling party is not an option she will consider for 2027. The cumulative effect is a cascade that party officials in Nairobi have so far failed to arrest.

The backdrop against which these departures are occurring is not merely electoral calculation. Wamatangi has cited political persecution as a central grievance. In April 2025, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission detectives accompanied by armed officers searched his home in Kabete. The commission said he was being investigated over alleged corruption linked to KSh1.5B in procurement transactions in Kiambu County. Wamatangi has since said the state is using corruption cases to derail him politically, suggesting the investigations are instruments of intimidation rather than genuine accountability.

For its part, UDA has not been silent. Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome and Maragua MP Mary Wamaua publicly attacked Kang'ata at the time of his exit, with Wamaua accusing him of cowardice. The party has sought to frame the departures as the choices of individuals rather than evidence of systemic failure. Those arguments are increasingly hard to sustain when governors — the most visible representatives of a party's governing record at county level — are the ones walking out the door.

The numbers provide context that party rhetoric cannot easily explain away. In the Ol Kalou by-election on July 16, DCP secured 85 per cent of the vote in a constituency that sits within the Mt Kenya bloc. That result, in a race that was widely read as a proxy contest between Gachagua's emerging movement and Ruto's incumbent machinery, sent an unambiguous signal about where the region's political loyalties are heading. The government has responded by sharply increasing Deputy President Kithure Kindiki's presence across Mt Kenya counties — over 30 visits in ten months, concentrated in Meru, Tharaka-Nithi and Embu — in what amounts to an open acknowledgement that the ground is shifting.

What makes the current exodus so politically consequential is who is leaving. These are not fringe figures or disgruntled backbenchers. Wamatangi, Kang'ata and Badilisha were among Ruto's most trusted allies and key architects of his 2022 presidential victory in the region. Their departures carry a weight that cannot be measured in defection statistics alone — they represent the unravelling of a political compact that was central to how Ruto built his path to State House.

Wamatangi himself has not been restrained in describing what he has delivered for Kiambu. "We have delivered on 512 ECDEs, 32 new hospitals, installed 12,000 solar lights, provided water, supported agriculture and many other areas," he said while inspecting road works in Riabai Ward. His pitch for re-election will be built on that record — but not under the banner of the party he helped put in power. He plans to let the residents of Kiambu tell him which party to wear. That, in itself, is a political statement.

For UDA, the message from Mt Kenya is blunt: the party that swept the region in 2022 is no longer the natural home of the leaders who made that sweep possible. With Gachagua consolidating his alternative bloc and 2027 approaching, the ruling party faces the prospect of contesting its political heartland against the very governors it once relied upon to deliver it.



Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi addresses wananchi in Ruiru Town during a development tour

ICJ Her path to the ICJ full term was not straightforward. Kenya finished its public campaign well aware that the hardest part lay ahead

Kenya's Okowa wins full ICJ term in historic diplomatic victory

Professor Phoebe Okowa's re-election to the International Court of Justice for the 2027–2036 term cements Kenya's standing in international law and signals growing African influence at the world's highest judicial forum.

BY David Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

Professor Phoebe Okowa has been re-elected judge of the International Court of Justice for a full nine-year term covering 2027 to 2036, securing the required absolute majority in both the United Nations General Assembly and the UN Security Council in New York on Tuesday.

The November 2026 elections, held during the 81st session of the UN General Assembly, were the culmination of a year-long diplomatic campaign by Kenya to secure Okowa a full mandate — one that began immediately after she first took her seat on the bench. That she has now won that mandate, in a competitive field, is both a personal and a national achievement of the highest order.

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Korir Sing'Oei confirmed that Okowa had garnered the highest number of co-nominations ever received by an African candidate in the history of ICJ elections — a measure of the breadth of international confidence her candidacy attracted across regions. Welcoming the result on Tuesday, Sing'Oei said the outcome reflected the trust the international community places in Kenya's contribution to global justice. "It is with immense pride that I welcome the election of Judge Phoebe Okowa to the International Court of Justice for the 2027–2036 term," he said. "Judge Okowa's election reflects the confidence of the international community in her capacity to serve the Court at this consequential time."



Professor Phoebe Okowa



The significance of the result extends well beyond diplomatic formality. Okowa, who joined the court in November 2025, became the first Kenyan and the first African woman to sit on the world's highest court, and is only the eighth woman in history to serve on the ICJ bench. Her re-election to a full term ensures that landmark representation is not a brief footnote in the court's history, but a durable presence through one of the most consequential periods the institution has faced.

Okowa is Professor of Public International Law and Director of Graduate Studies at Queen Mary University of London — an academic career that has run alongside decades of international legal practice, including her historic election in 2021 as the first African woman to serve on the United Nations International Law Commission. Her tenure on the Commission, which runs from 2023 to 2027, has seen her chair its Drafting Committee — a role that placed her at the technical centre of some of the world's most complex legal drafting processes.

Her path to the ICJ full term was not straightforward. Kenya finished its public campaign well aware that the hardest part lay ahead: translating diplomatic support into actual votes across two separate UN bodies, each voting concurrently but independently, with an absolute majority required in both — a threshold that has ended the ambitions of better-known candidates before her. Regional solidarity, shared legal networks and quiet bilateral understandings all shape such contests, and Kenya worked them methodically.

In July 2026, Sing'Oei announced that 26 countries had formally endorsed Okowa's candidacy ahead of the November vote — a cross-regional coalition spanning Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and the broadest co-nomination footprint ever assembled for an African ICJ candidate. The Law Society of Kenya publicly backed her candidacy, as did Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, who personally rallied African delegations behind her bid during a continental diplomatic push earlier in the year.

President William Ruto, who had celebrated Okowa's initial election to the court, framed her re-election in terms that reached beyond national pride. "Her re-election isn't just a win for Kenya; it is a commitment to a fair, diverse, and rules-based international order," Ruto said, in a message that acknowledged both the institutional weight of the ICJ and the moment's broader meaning for the continent.

The ICJ that Okowa returns to for a full nine-year term is under greater demand than at almost any point in its history. The court is the United Nations' main judicial body for disputes between states, and its caseload has grown sharply in recent years, with cases involving Gaza, Ukraine and Myanmar generating intense international debate and placing the institution at the intersection of law, geopolitics and global conscience. Chatham House has observed that approximately 20 per cent of all cases brought before the court since its founding in 1945 have been filed in the past decade alone — a statistic that speaks to both the court's growing relevance and the burden it now carries.

The ICJ's current composition spans 15 judges elected to staggered nine-year terms, drawn from across the world's legal traditions, with the bench required by its statute to represent the main forms of civilisation and principal legal systems. Africa currently holds three seats on the court, and Okowa's full term ensures the continent's voice remains present and credible through cases that will shape the architecture of international law for a generation.

She has earned this moment through scholarship, service and a career built on the conviction that international law is not merely an academic exercise but a living instrument through which justice can be sought and sometimes won. The Hague now has her for nine more years.

For Kenya, for Africa, and for the many states that placed their confidence in her candidacy, that is exactly as it should be.

Big problem don't need more force they need better strategy



Sometimes we try very hard to move
a large rock. We do not seem to get anywhere
and our hands are sore.

Have we ever thought that maybe
we should not be trying to push it? Perhaps
we should use a small stick of wood,
or a different approach.

Every day in life we are faced with problems like
this.
We try to solve the same approach and
when it does not work out we could take a break
and think of alternative options.
Just because we are struggling with a problem,

does not mean we need strong body
If we just take our time and make a wise choice
and healthy mind
it can change everything.

Success does not always come down to how
much effort we put in, but how wisely we chose
our strategy

V. Jayanthi
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
PUMS Konganancherry
Chengalpattu district

Tell me...



Who else loves intention?
I intend to smile...
Here see my last pair of premolars...
Who else loves intention?
I intend to cry...
See tears rolling down my teary eyes...

Who else loves intention?

But who else intentionally steps on a wounded leg
And smiles their smite on the leg they just
stepped on
If intention isn't their love language?
Tell me who else will love this intention?
An intention to cut through a weak spinal cord?
Whose intention is it?
I ask...
An intention to take your vitals
Read through it
And poison it with hurtful words?
Tell me, I ask...
Whose intention is it?

November 2026
Bettie Atemo

365 Day Clock



Oh, creative writers,
Are you human beings or machines?
Your 365-day clock
Sees no rest all through the year
In the making of
Poems and poems,
To everyone's admiration.

To compose poems,
One needs such a calm and serene condition.
In the present situation,
It is rare to find.

How is it available for our dear writers?
All the days are not the same, but the flow of
poems breaks up such barriers of the day.

Amazing commitment,
Amazing hard work,
And amazing collection. It is wonderful, really
wonderful, to see such a flow of poems like a
perennial river.

Whether writers are all-weather writers or
Their work is all-weather work, both are wonderful
and more than wonderful.

Members' commitment, hard work, honesty, and
consistency, excelled in the service of
Literature, is flawlessly matchless.

The poems say that we are born daily and
measure all walks of life, all sorts of emotions,
beautifully, in our poem way.

All these beauties come alive thanks to our
more beautiful than beautiful, flawless, beloved
facilitator and founder of Creative Writers,
literally the creator of writers.

By N. Sivakumar
BT Assistant
GHS Linganaickanahalli
Dharmapuri Dt.

Teacher – The Builder of Dreams



My teacher opens a world of knowledge,
She helps me learn inside and outside school.
She teaches me to try again,
And helps me learn from every mistake.
She gives me courage to speak my mind,

And teaches me to be gentle and kind.
She helps me build my dreams each day,
And guides me along the right way.
Her words stay with me everywhere,
I am thankful for her love and care.

V.Joshika
GRADE 8
John dewey matric higher secondary school, Link road, panruti.

My Pet Puppy



Puppy, puppy, my pet puppy.
I don't have a pet puppy right now,
But I hope to have one someday.

If I had a pet puppy,
What would I do?
What would I do?
I would give it a lovely name,
And play with it every day.

I would share my school stories,
And tell it about my friends.
I would share my snacks with it,
And take care of it with love and care.

I would never let it feel alone.
I don't have you now, my pet puppy,
But I will have you one day!

By DHANUSREE. G IX
School: GGHSS Big Kanchipuram

My little puppy is so soft and sweet



He runs to me with his small feet
He waggs his tail and jump with joy
He barks aloud to call me
He always wants me to play with him

He is friend to me
His eyes are so bright in night
He is a best companion for my grandma too
His name is Brownie

S.Hari Hara Sudhan
VI, B
BVB Public School
Erode

Big Problems Don't Need More Force.



They Need Better Strategy.

Problems are a part of everyone's life.
If you don't have any problems,
life is very boring.
When you face problems,
you don't need to worry about them.
You should think wisely and apply your ideas
boldly.

When the summer season comes, deciduous
forest trees don't feel helpless.
Instead, they use a strategy.
They shed their leaves because they save water
and block the evaporation cycle.

Likewise, you don't need to use your force fiercely.
Instead, just use your strategy.
It will lead you to success easily.

_ G.YasminSirajudheen
Secondary grade teacher Melmalayanur block
Villupuram dt

Arrest **"This arrest is nothing but political persecution," Njoroge said. "Obed Mwale is being targeted because he dares to speak truth to power."**

Vocal Trans Nzoia MCA arrested as Linda Mwananchi demands his release

The detention of Matisi Ward MCA Obed Mwale in Kapenguria has ignited a political storm, with the Linda Mwananchi movement calling his arrest a calculated attempt to silence dissent.

BY Yvonne Wambui
@themtkenyatimes

The arrest of Trans Nzoia County Assembly Deputy Speaker and Matisi Ward Member of County Assembly Obed Mwale has sent shockwaves through opposition circles, with the Linda Mwananchi movement demanding his immediate release and denouncing the detention as politically motivated.

Mwale was picked up by armed police officers in Kitale on Monday and transferred to Kapenguria Police Station in neighbouring West Pokot County. He faces allegations of financing criminal activities, organising gangs and involvement in a reported plot to obstruct President William Ruto's motorcade during his visit to Kitale on October 16. None of the allegations have been established in court.

The movement's Head of Communication, Pauline Njoroge, was swift and direct in her condemnation. In a statement issued yesterday, Njoroge dismissed the charges as a deliberate attempt to silence Mwale because of his political activities and his close association with Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya. She insisted the arrest was part of a broader and troubling pattern of intimidation targeting Linda Mwananchi leaders and supporters across Trans Nzoia County.

"This arrest is nothing but political persecution," Njoroge said. "Obed Mwale is being targeted because he dares to speak truth to power."

Natembeya himself confirmed that Mwale was being held at Kapenguria Police Station ahead of a court appearance, linking the accusations directly to the tensions surrounding the October 16 motorcade incident — an episode that had already inflamed political tempers in the region, with leaders from rival camps trading accusations.

Mwale appeared before the Kapenguria Law Courts yesterday morning, though details of the proceedings were not immediately available at the time of going to press. Linda Mwananchi announced that a team of volunteer lawyers had stepped forward to represent him, underscoring the movement's commitment to seeing him through the legal process.

The timing of the arrest is not lost on political observers. Mwale has been openly positioning himself for the Trans Nzoia Senate seat in the 2027 General Election, where he is widely expected to challenge incumbent Senator Allan Chesang. His arrest arrives at a moment when political activity across the country is intensifying sharply ahead of next year's polls.

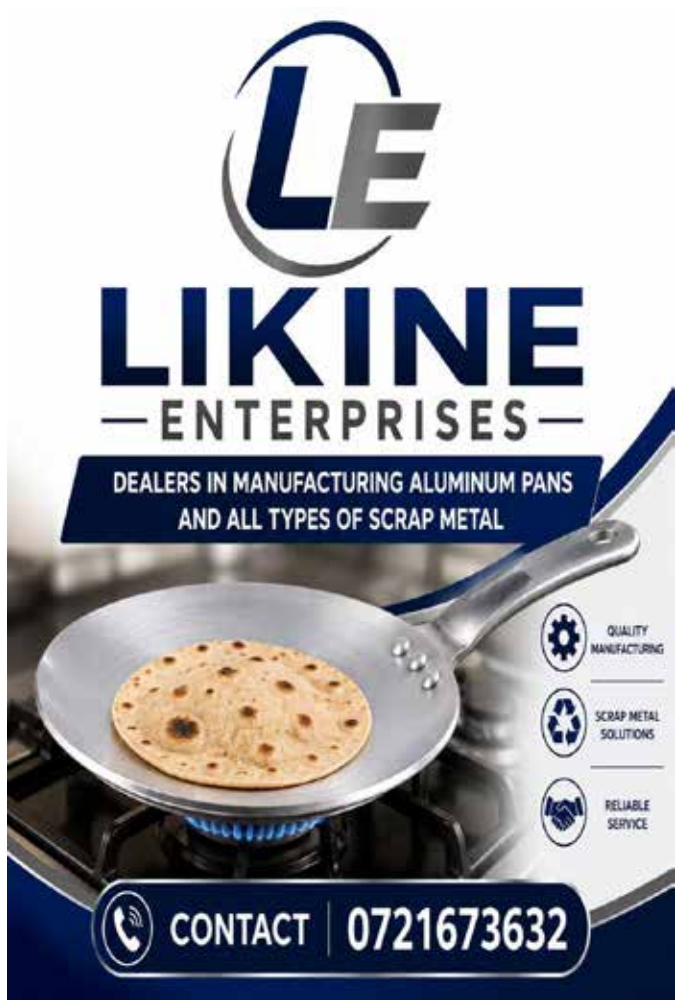
Linda Mwananchi has made clear it will not be deterred. The movement insists that political disagreements cannot be used to strip leaders of their constitutional rights, and has vowed to press on with its activities regardless of the pressure it says it is facing.

Whether the charges against Mwale hold up in court remains to be seen. But with 2027 drawing closer, the case has already become a flashpoint in a county — and a country — where the line between law enforcement and political rivalry grows harder to read with each passing week.



Trans Nzoia County Assembly Deputy Speaker and Matisi Ward Member of County Assembly Obed Mwale







Politics **Ndubai said Kenyans were looking for a united opposition capable of presenting a common presidential candidate to challenge President William Ruto through a democratic and constitutional process**

DP Party calls for united opposition ahead of 2027 elections

BY James Murimi
@themtkenyatimes

The Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) has called on leaders within the United Opposition to set aside personal ambitions and political differences and unite behind a common agenda to address the challenges facing Kenyans ahead of the 2027 General Election.

In a statement, DP National Chairman Peter Ndubai urged opposition leaders to prioritise meaningful dialogue on issues affecting ordinary citizens instead of engaging in unnecessary political exchanges and confrontations among themselves.

Ndubai said Kenyans were looking for a united opposition capable of presenting a common presidential candidate to challenge President William Ruto through a democratic and constitutional process in the 2027 elections.

He noted that the opposition had a responsibility to offer Kenyans a credible political alternative anchored on unity, accountability, transparent leadership and policies that respond to the needs of the people.


Peter Ndubai

The DP chairman cautioned political leaders against exploiting ethnic, religious and social differences for political gain, saying such divisions undermined national cohesion and the constitutional principles that hold the country together.

He emphasised that Kenya belonged to all its citizens and that every community was equal before the Constitution, adding that no Kenyan should face discrimination because of ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, social status or background.

The party said the country's political leadership should focus on addressing pressing socioeconomic challenges, including the rising cost of living, unemployment, economic hardship, access to quality healthcare and the need to create more opportunities for young people.

Ndubai observed that these were the issues that mattered most to ordinary Kenyans and should therefore form the foundation of opposition engagement and political mobilisation.

He challenged opposition leaders to recognise that citizens expected more than political rhetoric, urging them to demonstrate maturity, responsibility and a shared commitment to national transformation.

The DP maintained that the period ahead of the 2027 elections should be characterised by constructive engagement, national unity and the development of a people-centred political agenda rather than internal rivalries that could weaken the opposition.

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Business **The incident, detected on Monday, November 2, 2026, involved an unauthorised connection on the pipeline running between Pumping Station 14 and Pumping Station 15**

KPC foils attempt to steal fuel through illegal pipeline connection in Mombasa

BY James Murimi
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) has foiled an attempted petroleum products theft in Mombasa County after its security and maintenance teams discovered an illegal connection installed on a pipeline linking two pumping stations.

The incident, detected on Monday, November 2, 2026, involved an unauthorised connection on the pipeline running between Pumping Station 14 and Pumping Station 15.

KPC said its security and pipeline maintenance teams uncovered the illegal connection during routine surveillance, prompting an immediate response to secure the site and prevent the suspected siphoning of petroleum products.

The company subsequently reported the incident to Chaani Police Station, with specialist police teams launching investigations into the attempted theft.

KPC General Manager for Human Resource and Administration, Dinah Kirwa, commended the company's emergency and incident response teams for acting swiftly to prevent the criminal operation.

"Our gallant officers have successfully managed to foil a criminal act which is currently under investigation by the relevant authorities," Kirwa said.

She confirmed that no petroleum products were lost during the incident, crediting the company's monitoring systems and rapid response teams for promptly identifying and securing the illegal connection.

The incident highlights the security challenges facing critical petroleum transportation infrastructure, particularly the threat posed by organised attempts to illegally tap pipelines and siphon fuel.

KPC said it had strengthened surveillance across its 1,342-kilometre pipeline network through a combination of advanced security intelligence, leak detection technology and physical monitoring systems designed to identify suspicious activities and protect its installations.

The company added that its real-time monitoring capabilities and internationally benchmarked safety protocols were aimed at safeguarding petroleum infrastructure while reducing operational, environmental and reputational risks.

KPC is mandated to provide safe, reliable, efficient and cost-effective transportation, storage and distribution of petroleum products from the Port of Mombasa to inland markets in Kenya and the wider East African region.

The publicly listed company operates an extensive pipeline network supported by strategically located storage, pumping and loading facilities, with a combined annual capacity of approximately 14 billion litres of petroleum products.

Investigations into the illegal connection are ongoing.

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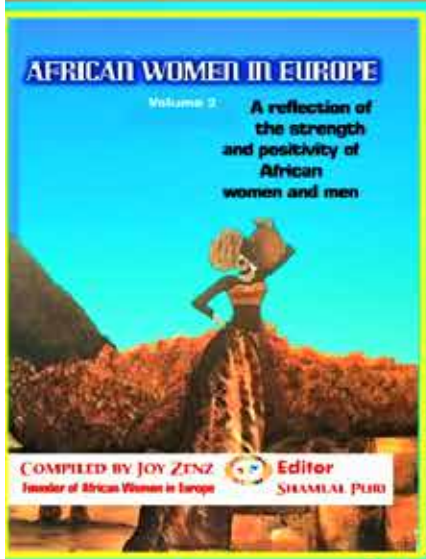
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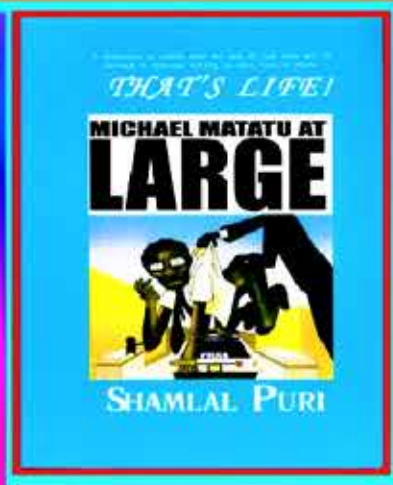
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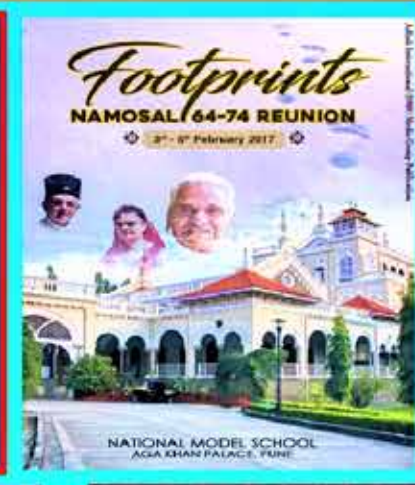
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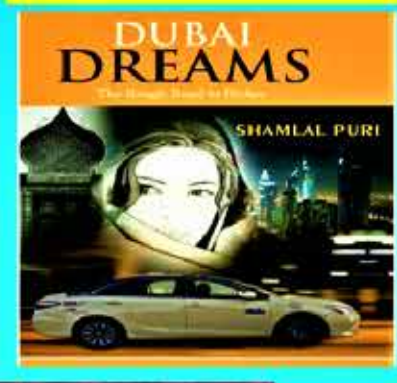


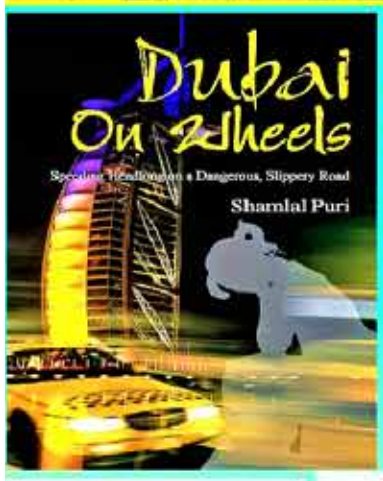


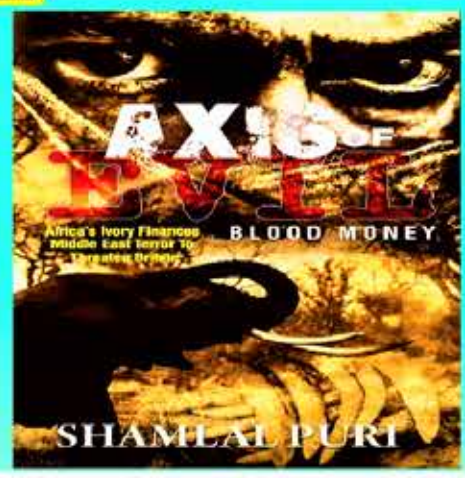


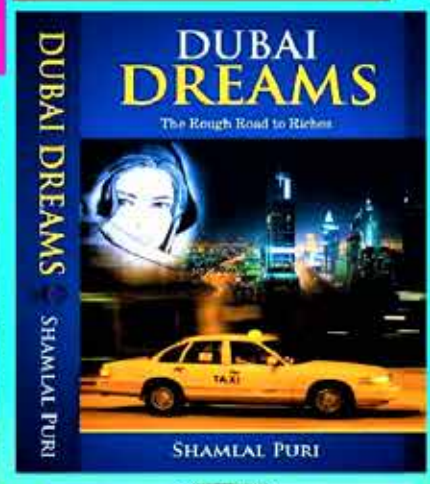


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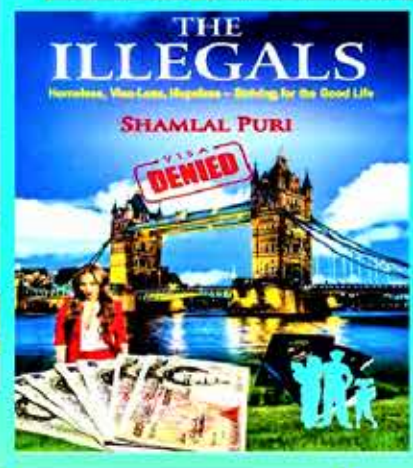


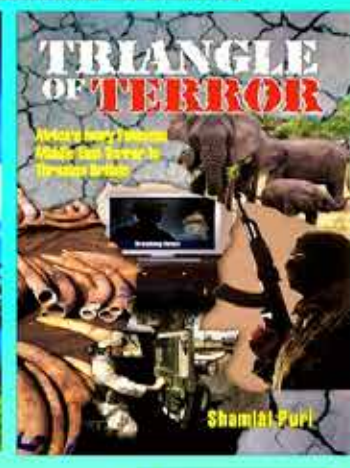


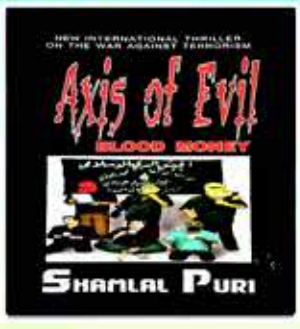




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Justice The disappearance of any individual — particularly under circumstances suggesting abduction, unlawful detention or possible State involvement — is a matter of grave national

When the Inspector-General is summoned: The constitutional line between judicial oversight and institutional overreach



BY Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
fkipchelimo@yahoo.com



Inspector-General of Police Douglas Kanja before the High Court. Photo | Courtesy

"The strength of a constitutional democracy lies not merely in the authority of its institutions to demand accountability, but in their wisdom to exercise that authority with restraint, fairness and a clear appreciation of institutional responsibility."

The appearance of Inspector-General of Police Douglas Kanja before the High Court yesterday, to answer questions surrounding the disappearance of Tanzanian activist Twaha Mwaipaya, has handed Kenya an important constitutional question that deserves more than the immediate controversy surrounding an alleged abduction. At its heart lies the delicate relationship between judicial authority, police independence and the obligation of public institutions to account for their conduct.

The disappearance of any individual — particularly under circumstances suggesting abduction, unlawful detention or possible State involvement — is a matter of grave national and constitutional concern. No person should have to establish nationality, political standing or social influence before the State takes responsibility for protecting their life, liberty and dignity. Equally, allegations involving State agencies demand prompt, credible and independently scrutinised investigations.

That said, defending constitutional rights should not obscure another equally important principle: judicial authority must be exercised with proportionality, institutional understanding and a demonstrable sense of necessity. The increasing frequency of personal summons directed at the Inspector-General raises legitimate questions about whether exceptional judicial intervention is quietly becoming an ordinary administrative mechanism for extracting information from the National Police Service. The office of the Inspector-General must remain accountable, but it should not become the default institutional representative summoned every time a police-related controversy reaches the courts.

Kenya's recent judicial history is instructive. In August 2024, three individuals — activist Bob Njagi and brothers Jamil and Aslam Longton — reportedly disappeared in Kitengela. The subsequent habeas corpus proceedings before Justice Lawrence Mugambi resulted in seven consecutive summons directed at then Acting Inspector-General Gilbert Masengeli. His repeated failure to appear eventually attracted a contempt finding and a six-month custodial sentence on 13 September 2024, suspended for seven days to allow compliance. Masengeli appeared on 20 September. That episode mattered because it concerned not merely a demand for information, but the apparent failure of a senior public officer to honour repeated judicial directions. It demonstrated, plainly, that constitutional independence cannot be wielded as a shield against lawful judicial authority.

The matter returned in January 2025, following the disappearance of Justus Mutumwa, Martin Mwau and Karani Muema in the Mlolongo area. On 8 January, Justice Bahati Mwamuye directed the personal attendance of Kanja and Directorate of Criminal Investigations Director Mohamed Amin. Justice Chacha Mwita issued further directions on 9 and 13 January, requiring police leadership to account for the missing men's whereabouts. When the officials challenged the summons, the court declined on 23 January to set aside the personal attendance requirement and directed them to appear on 30 January. They eventually attended and confirmed the individuals were not in police custody, with investigations ongoing.

The latest episode concerns Mwaipaya, reportedly abducted in Kamulu on 25 October 2026. On 30 October, Justice Alexander Muteti directed that the activist be produced before the court, alive or dead, while requiring the Inspector-General and DCI Director, or their representatives, to respond. Following concerns about the adequacy of the State's explanation, the court subsequently required Kanja to attend personally. Yesterday, he appeared and denied that Mwaipaya had ever been in police custody, confirming that a report had been lodged at Ruai Police Station and that investigations were continuing. These are important developments, though the full picture must emerge through credible investigation rather than institutional assurances alone.

It would be intellectually dishonest, however, to treat these three episodes as identical. The Masengeli proceedings involved repeated non-compliance with judicial orders, raising a direct question of contempt and respect for the rule of law. The Mlolongo and Mwaipaya matters involved unresolved disappearances and the need to determine whether State agencies had any connection to the missing individuals. Each set of circumstances called for its own judicial assessment. The central concern is not whether the Judiciary possesses the authority to summon the Inspector-General — unquestionably, it does. The more important question is when exercising that authority personally becomes necessary, proportionate and judicially justified.

The constitutional framework is clear. Articles 22 and 23 empower courts to protect and enforce fundamental rights, while Article 165 establishes the High Court's extensive jurisdiction. Article 25(d) protects the right to habeas corpus, reinforced by Article 51(2). Article 245, meanwhile, establishes the independent command of the Inspector-General, and Article 244 demands professionalism, transparency and accountability from the National Police Service. These provisions are complementary, not contradictory. Police independence does not mean immunity from judicial scrutiny; judicial authority does not mean that every institutional explanation must come from the physical presence of the institution's chief executive.

Section 8(2) of the National Police Service Act recognises that the Inspector-General may exercise the powers and functions of the office personally or delegate them in writing to subordinate officers. Such delegation does not extinguish the Inspector-General's ultimate responsibility, but it acknowledges an operational reality: a national institution cannot function effectively through the personal participation of one office holder in every judicial or administrative engagement.

A recent judicial approach offers a sensible standard. In Akiru & Another v Inspector-General of Police & 3 Others [2026] KEHC 14546, the High Court declined to compel the Inspector-General's personal attendance, reasoning that a sworn account from an officer with direct knowledge of the investigation would better assist the court, with personal attendance remaining an option if the explanation proved inadequate. This recognises that judicial intervention exists to establish truth and secure compliance — not necessarily to secure the physical presence of the most senior officer in an institution.

The appropriate standard should therefore be necessity rather than convenience. Where an investigating officer, regional commander, DCI director or another properly authorised senior officer possesses direct knowledge and can provide a credible, comprehensive and sworn account, the court should ordinarily consider that evidence before insisting on the Inspector-General's personal attendance. Personal summons become compelling where there is demonstrated institutional defiance, credible evidence of command-level involvement, deliberate concealment, persistent evasion or a need to explain decisions personally made by the Inspector-General himself.

There is a wider institutional danger in over-centralising accountability. Kenya has established police command structures to distribute operational responsibility. When every serious police controversy becomes a personal encounter between the Judiciary and the Inspector-General, the officers actually responsible for operational decisions may gradually escape the scrutiny that properly attaches to their positions. Accountability must follow responsibility, not merely the seniority of office.

Ultimately, the Judiciary must remain fearless in protecting constitutional freedoms, particularly where human life, liberty and the possibility of State abuse are at stake. The National Police Service must equally understand that independence is inseparable from accountability. Neither institution should mistake its constitutional mandate for an unrestricted licence to disregard the mandate of the other.

Kenya does not need weaker judicial oversight or a less accountable police service. It needs a more disciplined relationship between the two — one founded on constitutional fidelity, institutional competence and genuine respect for the rule of law. Judicial summons should be purposeful, evidence-driven and proportionate. Police responses must be timely, truthful and sufficiently comprehensive to command public confidence.

"A court does not demonstrate its authority by how often it summons the highest office in an institution, but by how effectively it secures the truth, enforces the law and protects the rights of every person. Equally, an institution does not demonstrate its independence by resisting scrutiny, but by remaining accountable without compromising its constitutional mandate."

"All opinions expressed herein are the author's own and do not represent, and should not be attributed to, the views of this publication, its editors, or its affiliates."

Court The police chief went further, flatly rejecting allegations of enforced disappearances. “Any abduction is to be treated as an act of criminality,” Kanja said. .

Kenya in the dock: The fight to find a missing Tanzanian activist tests the country’s reputation as a safe haven

BY Grace Wanja
@themtkenyatimes



Martha Karua in court | *Photo:* X

Kenya’s High Court yesterday compelled Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja to appear in person before Justice Alexander Muteti to account for the disappearance of Tanzanian opposition activist Twaha Salim Mwaipaya — missing since armed men seized him from a taxi in Kamulu, on the outskirts of Nairobi, on Sunday, October 25.

Kanja told the court that Mwaipaya had never been in police custody anywhere in the country. “My Lord, I’d wish to inform this court we don’t have the subject in our custody throughout the Republic of Kenya,” he said, adding that he was not aware of any arrest involving the activist by officers of the National Police Service. He confirmed, however, that a missing person report had been lodged at Ruai Police Station and that investigations were ongoing.

The police chief went further, flatly rejecting allegations of enforced disappearances. “Any abduction is to be treated as an act of criminality,” Kanja said. “We don’t abduct and make people disappear.” The court was not fully satisfied. The matter was not closed, and proceedings are expected to continue.

The case had been building for over a week. Mwaipaya was ambushed while travelling in a taxi in Machakos County alongside another CHADEMA member. A four-wheel-drive vehicle forced their taxi off the road. Three masked men emerged, armed. His companion escaped by pushing through the front passenger door. Mwaipaya, seated in the back, could not get out before being taken.

Mwaipaya serves as the national mobilisation coordinator for the youth wing of Tanzania’s main opposition party, Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo — CHADEMA — whose leader, Tundu Lissu, is currently on trial for treason in Dar es Salaam. Mwaipaya was jailed in Tanzania in 2022 for criticising the government. He fled into exile in Kenya last year. His disappearance, human rights groups warned from the outset, bore the hallmarks of a forced rendition to a country where his safety could not be guaranteed.

Amnesty International East Africa Researcher Sikula Oniala confirmed that five masked individuals wearing dark sunglasses had intercepted the taxi in a double-cab vehicle. The organisation verified the abduction and immediately reported it to police in the area where it occurred. “Authorities must urgently establish his whereabouts and ensure his safety,” Amnesty International Kenya said.

Tanzanian activist Maria Sarungi — herself abducted in Nairobi in January 2025 before being released — raised fears that Mwaipaya could be forcibly returned to Tanzania. John Heche, vice-chairman of CHADEMA, was blunter still. “Nairobi cannot remain an abduction hub for dictators,” he said, urging Kenyan authorities to find Mwaipaya and demanding accountability from the state. CHADEMA formally appealed to President William Ruto to intervene and ensure Mwaipaya was found safe.

It was Martha Karua, leader of the People’s Liberation Party and a veteran human rights lawyer, who took the matter to court. Representing Vocal Africa, she pushed the application that resulted in Kanja’s personal summons — a rare and significant step. Yesterday, she described what that process had achieved, and what remained unresolved. “While he denied that Twaha was in police custody, that cannot be the end of the matter,” Karua said. “We must establish Twaha’s whereabouts, ensure his safety and hold those responsible accountable. We will not relent in the pursuit of truth and justice. Aluta continua. The struggle continues.”

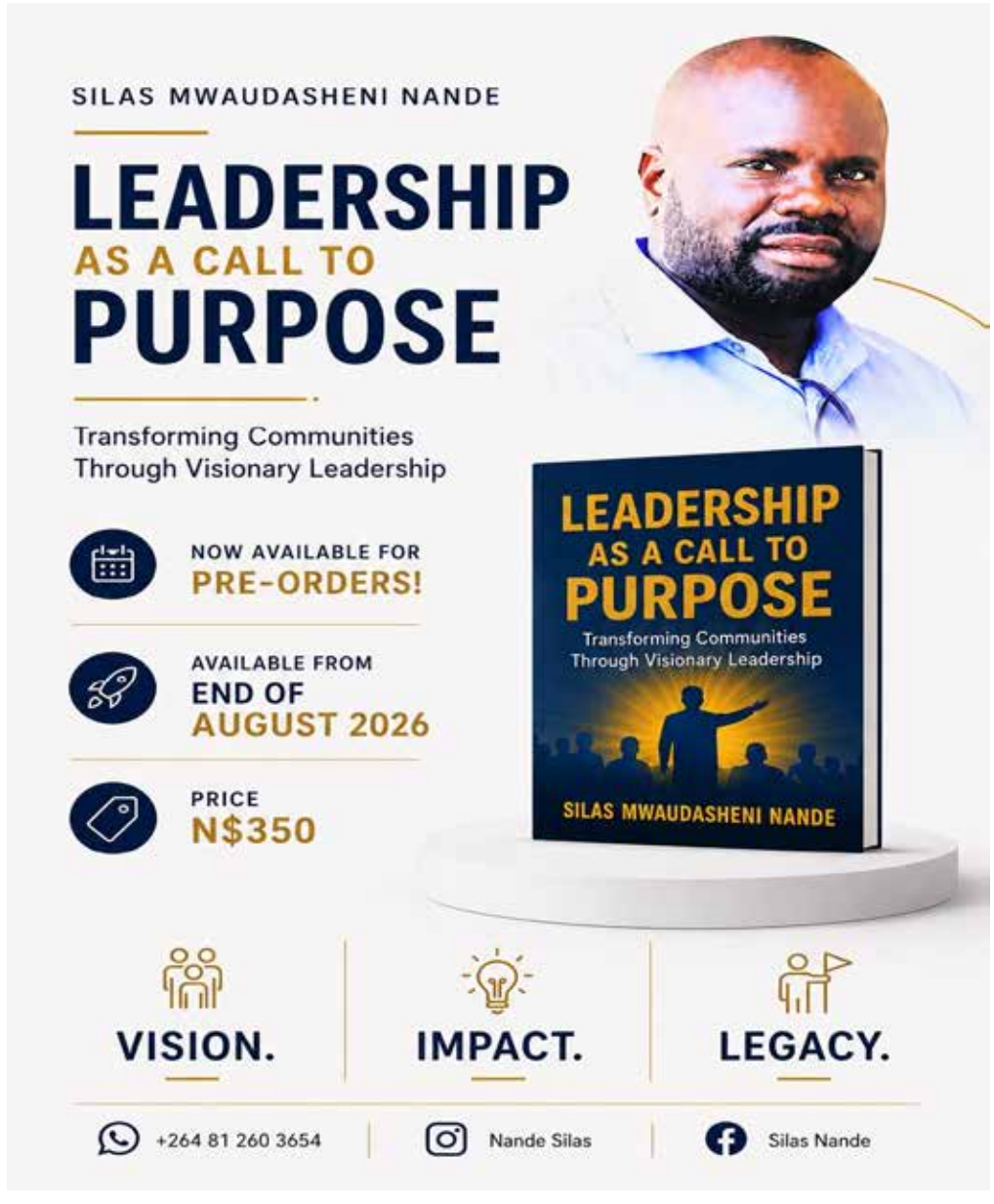
The summons had followed Karua’s dismissal of the State’s earlier compliance attempts, which had seen only junior police officers appear in court. She insisted their presence was wholly inadequate to address the concerns raised by Kenyans, Tanzanians and Ugandans following Mwaipaya’s disappearance, and argued that police had failed to comply with the earlier directive requiring Mwaipaya’s production — that neither the activist nor his body had been presented before the court.

Amnesty International’s Kenyan director, George Morara, warned that the organisation feared Kenya was “in cahoots with its regional neighbours to facilitate cross-border repression.” The charge is serious — and not without precedent. In February 2026, another Tanzanian activist, Mshabaha Mshabaha Hamza, was also captured in Kenya and later released. Amnesty International warned at the time that the incident was part of a “growing and worrying trend of transnational repression.” Kenya’s record on the issue has also been questioned in relation to the forced return of four Turkish nationals in 2024 and a South Sudanese critic in 2026.

What is at stake in the Mwaipaya case goes beyond one man’s fate. Kenya has long positioned itself as a refuge for dissidents from across the region — a country where activists can organise, speak and survive when their own governments will not allow it. That reputation now faces a direct test. If a Tanzanian CHADEMA organiser can be seized at gunpoint in broad daylight on Kenyan soil and vanish without accountability, the message sent to every other exile, refugee and opposition figure seeking sanctuary in Nairobi is unambiguous and chilling.

The High Court has not yet established what happened to Twaha Salim Mwaipaya, who took him, or where he is. The Inspector General of Police has denied all knowledge. The investigations, the authorities insist, are ongoing. For Mwaipaya’s family, for CHADEMA, for the human rights organisations tracking the case, and for the lawyers who refuse to let it go quiet, ongoing is not enough.

Kenya must find this man. And it must answer for how he disappeared.



GBV **The first layer is economic. When governments adopt austerity policies, cut public health funding or remove subsidies on fuel and flour, the cost does not simply disappear**

The invisible architecture of violence: Lessons from Kenya's classrooms and courts



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes



For years, Kenya has counted gender-based violence after the blow has landed. We count the bruise, the defilement, the murder that makes the evening news. We treat it as a private tragedy between two individuals, a cultural problem in a distant village. But feminist movements across the country have long argued that this framing is itself part of the problem — because it hides the architecture that makes the blow possible in the first place.

What if we started counting before the blow? What if we examined the laws, the labour arrangements, the institutions and the policies that determine who is exposed to violence and who is denied justice? When we look closely, we find that gender-based violence in Kenya is sustained by invisible structures embedded in our economy, in state control over women's bodies, and in the very institutions designed to protect them.

The first layer is economic. When governments adopt austerity policies, cut public health funding or remove subsidies on fuel and flour, the cost does not simply disappear. It is transferred — almost always to women — as unpaid care work. In Nyeri, Turkana and Nairobi's Mukuru Kwa Njenga, women become the clinic, the school and the water supply. In Turkana, women walk up to 15 kilometres for water because rivers have dried. In Othaya, when tea bonuses fail, it is mothers who skip meals so their children can eat. In Mukuru Kwa Njenga, young mothers queue from 4am to buy water at KSh20 a jerrican, then carry it home through alleys where harassment is routine.

That unpaid labour creates deep economic dependency — and dependency traps women in violent situations. A woman in Baricho who has farmed her husband's land for 20 years but holds no title deed cannot leave a violent marriage because she has nowhere to go and nothing to her name. Under customary law in many Nyeri communities, she cannot inherit land equally. The 2010 Constitution guarantees equal rights, but in Othaya and Tetu, elders still say land belongs to sons. When a widow in Karima is expelled from her farm by in-laws after her husband dies, that is not culture. That is economic violence, enforced by a system that refuses to implement its own laws. Her inability to leave is not a personal failure. It is a policy outcome.

In Nairobi, the same architecture wears a different face. A domestic worker in Mukuru Kwa Njenga, working 16-hour days, sleeping on a kitchen floor and earning KSh5,000 a month, cannot walk away from an abusive employer because her family depends on that wage. A girl working as a house help in Pipeline is told she must be available around the clock — no day off, no contract, no health insurance. Her labour is invisible. Her protection is zero. The economic system that permits unregulated domestic work in Nairobi's residential estates is itself an architecture of violence.

Beyond the economy, the state sustains violence through its control of women's bodies. Kenya's Penal Code effectively criminalises abortion except where a health professional deems it necessary — yet post-abortion care is routinely denied in public hospitals across Nyeri and Nairobi. Girls who have been sexually assaulted fear reporting because they know they will be questioned about their prior sexual history or subjected to humiliating medical examinations. In schools across the country, we still measure the length of a girl's skirt and expel her for falling pregnant, while the boy responsible remains in class. That is not discipline. That is state control over reproduction.

In spaces of displacement, this control intensifies. In Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, women report strip searches, denial of sanitary pads and sexual exploitation by those who control food distribution. In Eastleigh and Mukuru Kwa Njenga, Somali-Kenyan and Ethiopian migrant workers without documentation cannot report assault because they fear being arrested for being undocumented. In Mukuru, a survivor will not walk to the nearest police post at night because the path is unlit, there are no public toilets, and she needs boda boda fare she does not have. The slum's physical design is itself a risk factor.

The third layer — and perhaps the most demoralising — is institutional. This is where many survivors are beaten twice. A girl in Karima is defiled on her way to school. She goes to Othaya Police Station and is told to bring KSh1,000 for fuel to arrest the suspect and KSh500 for a P3 form photocopy. A girl in Mukuru faces the same wall: sent from the police post to a distant station, told to buy her own gloves before a medical examination, assigned a court date at Makadara that is three years away. During that time, village elders convene an informal sitting and ask the family to forgive. Each institutional step is a second assault.

In schools, the violence is daily and structural. Girls in Nyeri and around Mukuru Kwa Njenga miss an average of four school days per month because of inadequate sanitary pads, no running water and toilets without lockable doors. That is 48 days a year — not because girls are weak, but because the school was designed without their bodies in mind. When those girls fail their exams, we say they lack ability. The system failed them.

Understanding this fully requires what scholars call an intersectional and decolonial lens. A woman is never only a woman. A disabled girl in Nyeri cannot reach the toilet without help, and that dependency becomes a site of abuse. A queer woman in Nairobi does not fit the recognised definition of a victim, and when she reports in Mukuru, officers laugh. A pastoralist woman in Garissa cannot report because the nearest police station is 30 kilometres away and she has no transport. Each additional layer — disability, sexuality, ethnicity, class, location — multiplies exposure to violence and shrinks access to justice.

The decolonial perspective asks a harder question: who defines violence? For decades, definitions have focused on individual acts and offered workshops in response. But Kenyan feminist organisations — the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness, the Federation of Women Lawyers — have consistently argued that you cannot end violence against women while ignoring the violence of economic adjustment, land dispossession and slum demolitions.

Treating gender-based violence as a political question in Kenya therefore means shifting what we demand. It means demanding economic justice alongside rescue centres. Land titles for women in Othaya and Garissa — implemented, not merely legislated. Secure tenure and housing for women in Mukuru Kwa Njenga instead of demolitions. Sanitary pads, clean water and lockable toilets in every school as rights, not charity. A re-entry policy for pregnant girls backed by real funding, not a memo. Institutions that protect every person regardless of disability, ethnicity or whom they love.

The violence that never appears in a police OB report is the violence that makes the OB report necessary. It is the inheritance law in Nyeri. The clinic closure in Mukuru. The school rule that expelled a girl in Nairobi. If we insist on treating gender-based violence as a private matter, we will keep offering private solutions to political problems. If we treat it as the political question it is, we can begin to dismantle the invisible architecture holding it up.

Wanjohi P. Mugambi is a researcher, writer and gender justice advocate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How taxation kills jobs and chokes Kenya's economy

By **Bonnie Musembi**



Kenya's tax burden is quietly strangling the very economic activity the government needs to create jobs. When taxes inflate the cost of goods and services, consumer demand falls, businesses contract and the job opportunities that millions of unemployed Kenyans desperately need simply fail to materialise.

The consequences extend beyond Kenya's borders. Excessive taxation deters foreign investors who weigh the country's fiscal environment against more competitive regional alternatives. When those investors choose elsewhere, they take their capital — and the jobs it would have created — with them. A shrinking investor base means fewer businesses, fewer opportunities and a workforce left competing fiercely for an ever-narrowing pool of positions.

The cycle is self-defeating. A government that taxes aggressively in pursuit of revenue ends up undermining the productive base from which that revenue must come. Unemployment rises, poverty deepens, dependency on state support grows and the fiscal pressure on government intensifies — precisely the opposite of what heavy taxation is meant to achieve.

The solution demands political courage. Targeted tax relief on key sectors, abolition of levies that demonstrably suppress investment and a fundamental review of Kenya's taxation model are not radical proposals — they are economic necessities. A government serious about ending unemployment must first stop making it harder to create jobs.

Tax policy that kills enterprise is not revenue strategy. It is a social crisis with a political signature.

Bonnie Musembi is an entrepreneur.

Cracks in Linda Mwananchi: Can the opposition hold together for 2027?

By **Samuel Wekesa Milimoh**



The Linda Mwananchi Movement faces a credibility test it cannot afford to fail. Speculation that Embakasi East MP Babu Owino is being sidelined within the movement — amplified by bloggers urging him to abandon it and pursue the Nairobi governorship independently — has exposed fault lines that opposition principals have yet to address publicly. Whether those claims reflect Owino's actual position remains unconfirmed. He has said nothing. The silence, however, is doing damage.

Political movements are not destroyed by their opponents. They collapse from within — through unresolved grievances, competing ambitions and the corrosive drip of unchallenged rumour. The Linda Mwananchi leadership owes its supporters clarity, not silence.

The question of who carries the opposition's presidential flag in 2027 sharpens the stakes further. Edwin Sifuna, Kalonzo Musyoka and Fred Matiang'i are all in the conversation. But the selection cannot be a backroom transaction. Kenyans are watching, and they deserve a process that is transparent, principled and rooted in a genuine national vision rather than brokered personal ambition.

Opposition unity built on shared grievance alone will not survive contact with a general election campaign. It must be anchored in policy, accountability and democratic legitimacy.

Kenya's 2027 election will not be won in bloggers' threads or closed-door negotiations. It will be won — or lost — by whoever earns the public's trust first.

Samuel Wekesa Milimoh is a political commentator.

Kenya's unemployment crisis demands action, not excuses

By **Sharon Mumo**



Kenya's unemployment crisis is strangling opportunity for millions. Across the country, qualified graduates knock on doors that open for only a few, while poverty deepens, school dropout rates climb and urban crime rises — all direct consequences of a labour market that has consistently failed its people.

The instinct to blame government is understandable, but insufficient. Government does bear responsibility — it must lower punitive taxes that strangle small businesses, fund income-generating organisations, and establish industries that exploit Kenya's abundant raw materials to create sustainable employment. These are not optional interventions; they are the baseline obligations of any serious administration.

Yet the private citizen carries a burden too. Kenya cannot afford a graduate population conditioned solely to seek employment rather than create it. Universities and polytechnics must prioritise entrepreneurship training, teaching students to identify market gaps and build ventures that employ others. Every job creator reduces the pressure on a state that has, by any honest measure, struggled to keep pace with a young and rapidly growing workforce.

The economic case is equally compelling. A working population pays taxes. Those taxes build roads, schools and hospitals. More industries attract further investment. The cycle is virtuous — but it begins with political will and individual initiative operating in tandem, not in opposition.

Kenya's unemployment problem is solvable. The question is whether those with the power to act will finally choose to do so.

Sharon Mumo Student, Laikipia University

The media's role in saving Kenya's vanishing heritage

By **Job Mwavuwa**



Kenya's cultural heritage is disappearing in plain sight, and the media is watching. Television stations, radio broadcasters, newspapers and digital platforms collectively command the reach to reverse that decline — yet cultural programming, indigenous languages, traditional music and historical storytelling remain marginal against the relentless churn of political and economic news.

That must change. Journalism's mandate extends beyond parliament and the markets. A nation's history lives not only in government archives but in the memories, oral traditions and lived experiences of its communities. Documenting those stories — through interviews with traditional leaders, profiles of indigenous artists and features on community heritage — is not soft content. It is a public service.

Radio and television carry particular weight. Their accessibility makes them uniquely positioned to reach young Kenyans who are drifting from their cultural roots, not out of indifference, but because those roots are rarely reflected in the media they consume daily. Talk shows, youth-led cultural segments and community voices on air can reframe heritage not as a relic of the past but as a living, relevant force in modern Kenyan identity.

Cultural diversity is not a footnote to Kenya's national story. It is the story. A media industry that ignores it does not merely miss an opportunity — it accelerates a loss that no future broadcast can recover.

The camera is already rolling. The question is what Kenya chooses to point it at.

Job Mwavuwa is a media and culture commentator.



Sports >> ***Former manager refuses to rule out the unthinkable as the Red Devils' nightmare start to the season enters its ninth winless game**

Ten Hag's relegation warning shakes Manchester United as crisis deepens

By **Andalo Christine Ingutia**

Manchester United's proud reputation as one of English football's most storied clubs has rarely felt so fragile. Former manager Erik ten Hag has admitted that relegation from the Premier League is a genuine possibility for his old club, amid their alarming start to the 2026-27 season. It is the kind of warning that, not long ago, would have seemed almost comical. Today, it lands with a thud.

Speaking on ESPN Netherlands' Goedemorgen Eredivisie, ten Hag — now serving as technical director at FC Twente — said no one associated with Manchester United can afford complacency. Asked about the possibility of United being relegated for the first time in over half a century, he was characteristically direct: "In the Premier League it's certainly possible, because all the teams are simply strong." Simple words. Devastating implications.

With Manchester United enduring a disastrous start to the 2026-27 campaign under manager Michael Carrick, they currently sit 16th in the league table, hovering just a single point above the relegation zone. After nine matches, Carrick's side have recorded just one win and four draws, conceding 15 goals with a goal difference of minus five. For supporters who have spent decades watching United compete for titles, the bottom three has gone from an abstract concept to a very real destination.

The defeat that most starkly illustrated the scale of the problem came at Stamford Bridge, where United lost 2-0 to Chelsea, a result that extended their winless run to nine matches in all competitions — their longest such stretch since 1988. Goals from Morgan Rogers and Cole Palmer did the damage, with Cole Palmer netting his 50th Premier League goal in the process. It was a clinical dismantling, and United barely laid a glove on their hosts.



Erik ten Hag

The afternoon grew worse when Lisandro Martínez was shown a second yellow card, leaving United to play out the closing stages with ten men. Carrick said little in the aftermath. Asked directly about the red card, he offered just one word: "Huge." It is the kind of economy with language that suggests a man running out of explanations.

The misery has not been confined to the league. United suffered a 4-1 defeat to Italian outfit Como in the Champions League, a result described as a horrific night for the club, who had won only twice in their opening ten matches across all competitions. The Como defeat also prompted captain Bruno Fernandes to publicly criticise Carrick's tactics in a scathing interview — comments that added another layer of dysfunction to what is fast becoming a club in open crisis. Fernandes was subsequently reduced to tears on the Stamford Bridge touchline as the Chelsea defeat unfolded.

The problems run deep on both sides of the pitch. Defensive errors have been consistent, the attack lacks conviction and, perhaps most damagingly, the dressing room appears fractured. Martínez had earlier caused a stir by suggesting Carrick had been left with an under-equipped squad, comments that led to a club fine before the Argentine issued a formal apology. When a defender is publicly criticising his manager mid-season, the wounds go beyond tactics.

Ten Hag, to his credit, did not use the interview purely to settle scores. The Dutchman reflected on his own record at Old Trafford, reminding his audience of what he found when he arrived: "Before we arrived, six years without winning a trophy." He arrived in 2022 and guided the club to both the FA Cup and the League Cup — trophies that now feel like ancient history from the vantage point of a club fighting to stay in the top flight. Ten Hag himself was sacked in October 2024, with United sitting 14th, before the club's situation deteriorated even further under Rúben Amorim.

Carrick, who was appointed permanently in May 2026 following a remarkable rescue act last season, now faces the greatest test of his still-young managerial career. Ineos have confirmed he will stay in charge, at least for now, despite United winning only once from their first eight league fixtures and suffering that chastening 3-0 home defeat to Bournemouth. The board's patience, though, has a limit that is fast approaching.

United have not played outside the top flight since the 1973-74 season, making their current position particularly alarming for supporters who have watched decades of domestic and European success. Ten Hag's warning, delivered matter-of-factly from the Netherlands, strips away any remaining comfort blanket. Reputation, history and the name on the shirt mean nothing when the results are not there. Manchester United, one of the most recognisable clubs on the planet, are in a genuine fight for their Premier League lives — and the clock is ticking.

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Sports >> ***Tenerife striker dies in hospital aged 30, a day after suffering cardiac arrest during a second-division match against FC Andorra**

Spanish football mourns Jesús de Miguel after fatal on-pitch collision

By **Pascal Okoth**

Spanish football was in mourning yesterday after CD Tenerife striker Jesús de Miguel died in hospital aged 30, one day after suffering a catastrophic on-pitch collision during a LaLiga Hypermotion fixture against FC Andorra at the Estadio Heliodoro Rodríguez López in Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

CD Tenerife confirmed his death in a statement: "Heartbroken, with a lump in our throats and unable to believe this is true, CD Tenerife announces the tragic death, this Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 8:00 a.m., of Jesús de Miguel Alameda." The club asked supporters, the media and the wider football community to respect the privacy of his family during what it described as a devastating period.

The incident occurred during the closing stages of Monday's LaLiga Hypermotion encounter, when De Miguel chased a ball forward with the score level at 2-2 and FC Andorra goalkeeper Jesús Owono raced far out of his penalty area to clear the danger. Owono, an Equatorial Guinea international, collided heavily with De Miguel in the middle of the pitch. The Tenerife forward collapsed immediately and lay motionless on the turf, prompting frantic calls for medical assistance from players on both sides.

De Miguel suffered serious head and chest injuries in the collision. Medical staff rushed onto the field and worked urgently to stabilise him. He suffered a cardiorespiratory arrest and had to be resuscitated on the pitch before being transported by ambulance to hospital. The match was subsequently abandoned, and Owono was shown a straight red card, though the disciplinary outcome was of secondary concern to everyone present.



Jesús de Miguel

Late on Monday, Tenerife initially confirmed De Miguel had been hospitalised and was "stable despite the severity" of his condition. However, his neurological state deteriorated overnight. Despite the sustained efforts of medical teams at the Hospital Universitario Nuestra Señora de Candelaria, he could not be saved. He was pronounced dead at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Spanish police subsequently opened a formal investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

Jesús de Miguel Alameda, known in football circles as "Demi," was born in Madrid on 21 September 1996. His was a career built on persistence rather than spectacle. He began in youth football with CDE Lugo Fuenlabrada and CD Leganés before making his senior debut with Leganés B in 2015, then returning to Lugo Fuenlabrada the following season, where he scored 14 goals — a career best at the time.

The years that followed took him through the lower reaches of Spanish football. He represented Internacional de Madrid, CF Fuenlabrada, CDA Navalcarnero and Unionistas de Salamanca, accumulating experience and goals at every level. He made his professional debut at 27 against Eibar in 2024, scoring his first goals in the professional game with a brace against Almería. He finished his time at Castellón with 25 goals in 88 matches, a return that made him one of the more reliable strikers outside the top flight. He joined CD Tenerife in the summer of 2025, having helped Castellón earn promotion, and had scored 11 goals for the club before his death.

His story was not one of big clubs or major trophies, but of perseverance and love for the game. He was 30, still in the productive years of a striker's career, with every reason to believe the best was ahead of him.

Tributes arrived swiftly from across the sport. Gerard Piqué, the former Barcelona defender and Andorra's majority shareholder, wrote: "Rest in peace, Jesus." FC Andorra sent their most sincere condolences to De Miguel's family, teammates and everyone at Tenerife. FC Barcelona said they were "deeply saddened by the tragic news." Real Madrid, LaLiga and the Royal Spanish Football Federation also expressed their condolences. UEFA confirmed that a minute's silence would be observed before every match it organises this week — in the Champions League, Europa League and Conference League — in De Miguel's memory. The Spanish Football Federation postponed scheduled cup fixtures on Tuesday as a mark of respect.

For CD Tenerife, the grief runs deeper than any result. They have lost a teammate and a member of their sporting family. For Spanish football more broadly, the tragedy is a sharp reminder that player welfare must always take precedence over competition. Tenerife said: "No words can ease the pain, nothing can lessen this great feeling of sadness. Our thoughts are with the family, his close friends and Tenerife fans, who today are grieving over this terrible news."





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Linguocultural features of anthroponyms in translation (on the example of “Baburnama”)



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Worth Noting:

- **The full name in the Turkic-Islamic tradition differs from the English pattern “first name + surname”. It may include a personal name (ism), an honorific (laqab), the name of the father or ancestor and, for poets, a pen-name (taxallus). The author of the memoirs is known as Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur: Zahiriddin is an Arabic honorific, Muhammad is the religious name, and Bobur is usually connected with the word “tiger”. All English translators use the short form Babur (or the older Baber), but the full form remains in introductions and genealogical tables.**
- **Names in “Baburnama” are almost always accompanied by titles such as Mirzo, Xon, Sulton, Begim and Xonim, which show rank, gender and family relations. Translators usually keep them (Umar Shaikh Mirza, Qutlugh Nigar Khanim) and explain them once, because no English word has the same cultural volume.**

Abstract. The thesis deals with the linguocultural features of anthroponyms in the English translations of “Baburnama”. It describes the structure of the Turkic-Islamic name, the role of titles and “speaking” names, and the strategies and problems of transliteration.

Key words: anthroponym, linguoculturology, translation, transliteration, Baburnama, titles.

A student prepares a seminar on Central Asian history and puts three books on her desk: two English translations and the Uzbek text of “Baburnama”. On the first page she meets the author as Baber, Babur and Bobur, and his father as Omar Sheikh and Umarshayx. For a moment she is not sure that the books are about the same people. This small scene shows that a personal name is the first thing a reader meets in a historical text, and the way it is written decides whether the reader feels at home or lost.

The full name in the Turkic-Islamic tradition differs from the English pattern “first name + surname”. It may include a personal name (ism), an honorific (laqab), the name of the father or ancestor and, for poets, a pen-name (taxallus). The author of the memoirs is known as Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur: Zahiriddin is an Arabic honorific, Muhammad is the religious name, and Bobur is usually connected with the word “tiger”. All English translators use the short form Babur (or the older Baber), but the full form remains in introductions and genealogical tables.

Names in “Baburnama” are almost always accompanied by titles such as Mirzo, Xon, Sulton, Begim and Xonim, which show rank, gender and family relations. Translators usually keep them (Umar Shaikh Mirza, Qutlugh Nigar Khanim) and explain them once, because no English word has the same cultural volume. Many names are “speaking”: Qutlug‘ Nigor combines “blessed” and “beloved”, Humoyun means “august, fortunate”. The usual strategy is transliteration with an explanation in a note or glossary; a literal translation such as “Blessed Beauty” would make a historical person sound like a character of a fairy tale.

The greatest practical problem is variability: Husain, Husayn, Hussain; Shaibani, Shaybani; Qutlugh, Kutluk. It is caused by the sounds of Turkic and Arabic origin which English does not have, by the Arabic script without short vowels and by the change of alphabets in Uzbek. In real life this confuses students in seminars and visitors at historical sites, who ask why the same man is Bobur on one sign and Babur in a guidebook. A good solution is a single transliteration system used consistently, a short explanation of titles and an index of names with variants. Thus the translation of anthroponyms is not a mechanical copying but a way of keeping the cultural memory of the text understandable for a new reader

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