

Ruto vows brand-new airport in 18 months as JKIA scrutiny intensifies

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The blue tsunami and the hollow throne: When voters write the epitaph of impunity

On the night of 3 November 2026, American voters delivered a verdict so emphatic it echoed across oceans. Democrats seized both chambers

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Countdown 2027 **Two Kenyan-born politicians won elected office in the United States**

Kenyans sweep US midterms

Two Kenyan-born politicians won elected office in the United States yesterday as results from the 2026 midterm elections confirmed victories for Samuel Mwangi in Champlin, Minnesota, and State Representative Huldah Momanyi-Hiltsley in the Minnesota House of Representatives, marking a significant milestone for the Kenyan diaspora community in American politics.

Their wins, separated by geography but united by a shared heritage, capture something broader than individual achievement. They are evidence of a Kenyan diaspora that has moved beyond settlement and assimilation into active civic leadership — earning mandates, winning arguments, and shaping policy in the world's most powerful democracy.

Mwangi's victory was the more personal of the two. Standing for the Champlin City Council's Ward 4 seat for the second time — having lost the same contest in 2024 by a margin of just 47 votes — he secured 1,178 votes, representing 41.30 per cent of the total cast, to defeat three rivals.

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Kenyan-American politician Samuel "Sam" Mwangi. PHOTO/Facebook and Huldah Momanyi Hiltsley. PHOTO/@Diaspora_KE/X



Kimemia quits Jubilee for Gachagua's DCP as Mount Kenya realignment deepens

BY MKT REPORTER
@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

Former Nyandarua Governor Francis Kimemia yesterday abandoned Jubilee to join the Democracy for the Citizens Party, dealing a fresh blow to the ruling coalition's foothold in the Mount Kenya region and signalling a deepening political realignment with less than ten months to the August 2027 General Election.

Kimemia, a founding member of Jubilee and one of its most recognisable faces in the region, was received by DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua, who announced the defection on social media. The former Deputy President said he was "happy to welcome" Kimemia, framing the move as evidence of DCP's growing momentum across Kenya's most electorally decisive voting bloc.

"Despite his longstanding relationship with the Jubilee Party as a founding member, he had heeded the wishes of his people, who advised him to align with their aspirations," Gachagua said, commending Kimemia for "listening to and respecting the wishes of his people."

The defection is significant for several reasons. Kimemia served two terms as Nyandarua's second governor and retains a substantial political following in a county that sits squarely within the Mount Kenya bloc — the region Gachagua has staked his entire political project

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Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-mwangi-1b47446b/

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web**: www.mtkenyatimes.co.ke

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary Justin Ruku yesterday entered the race for the Nairobi governorship, becoming the latest high-profile figure to join a field that is growing increasingly competitive ahead of the August 2027 General Election. Ruku, who currently serves in President William Ruto's Cabinet, wasted no time drawing contrasts with incumbent Governor Johnson Sakaja, questioning his administration's record on service delivery, urban planning, and revenue management in a city of more than five million residents. His entry adds fresh momentum to a contest that already features several declared and prospective candidates. Nairobi's governorship remains one of Kenya's most coveted elected positions, carrying enormous political symbolism and control over one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest municipal budgets.



Popular Kenyan disc jockey DJ Mo was yesterday fined KSh5,000 after appearing before a Nairobi court and admitting to driving an uninsured motor vehicle and failing to comply with police directives. The entertainer, whose legal name is Samuel Muraya, entered guilty pleas to both charges, sparing the court a full hearing. The case drew attention given his public profile as one of Kenya's most recognisable media personalities. Driving without valid insurance contravenes the Traffic Act and exposes other road users to significant financial risk in the event of an accident. The fine was imposed immediately upon conviction. DJ Mo left court without making a public statement on the matter.



The Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers yesterday accused the Kenya National Union of Teachers of violating the rights of 10,250 teachers, escalating a long-running territorial dispute between the country's two largest teachers' unions. Kuppet alleged that Knut had unlawfully claimed jurisdiction over secondary school teachers who fall under Kuppet's membership, depriving them of proper union representation and the benefits that accompany it. The accusation sharpens tensions between the two organisations at a particularly sensitive moment, with teacher welfare, promotions, and salary disputes already straining the education sector. Kuppet demanded immediate corrective action, warning that the matter would be pursued through all available legal and institutional channels if Knut failed to comply.



Kiharu Member of Parliament Ndindi Nyoro yesterday pushed back against claims that his People's Power Kenya party risks splitting opposition votes ahead of the August 2027 General Election, dismissing the criticism as politically motivated and insisting his outfit was a legitimate electoral vehicle in its own right. Nyoro argued that PPK represented a distinct constituency with genuine grassroots support and was not simply drawing votes away from established opposition formations. On his own presidential ambitions, he struck a measured tone — confirming he was prepared to run if a coalition agreement identified him as its preferred candidate, but stopping short of a unilateral declaration. His remarks signal continued positioning within Kenya's rapidly shifting pre-election political landscape.



The Director of Public Prosecutions yesterday announced a strategic shift in Kenya's fight against wildlife trafficking, moving beyond arresting low-level poachers to pursue the financiers, brokers, and international networks that coordinate the illegal trade. The DPP said prosecutorial resources would be directed at dismantling the organised criminal structures behind the trafficking of ivory, rhino horn, and other protected species, rather than focusing exclusively on those caught in the act. The announcement signals growing recognition that Kenya's wildlife crime problem is inseparable from transnational organised crime, with trafficking networks spanning multiple continents and generating hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Convictions targeting masterminds carry significantly heavier sentences and are considered far more effective in disrupting criminal supply chains.



A Nairobi court yesterday froze bank accounts and cryptocurrency assets linked to suspects accused of orchestrating a KSh1.5B heist targeting Equity Bank, in one of the most significant financial crime orders issued by a Kenyan court in recent years. The freezing orders, obtained by investigators, are intended to prevent the movement or concealment of funds as the case proceeds. The inclusion of cryptocurrency assets signals Kenya's growing awareness that sophisticated financial criminals are increasingly routing stolen funds through digital currencies to evade detection and complicate recovery efforts. Equity Bank, Kenya's largest lender by customer base, confirmed it was cooperating fully with investigators. Authorities say the heist involved an elaborate scheme exploiting internal systems, and arrests have already been made.

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Blame "The goons are our children and they are being sustained by financiers," Koome said

Koome and DCI Amin trade blame over rising political goonism ahead of 2027 polls

The Judiciary and police clashed publicly yesterday over how to tackle organised criminal gangs, exposing deep institutional fault lines as Kenya's election cycle heats up.

BY Yvonne Wambui
@themtkenyatimes



Chief Justice Martha Koome and the Director of Criminal Investigations, Mohammed Amin /FILE

Chief Justice Martha Koome and the Director of Criminal Investigations, Mohammed Amin, traded sharp disagreements yesterday over how to confront the growing threat of political goonism ahead of the 2027 General Election — with each pointing squarely at the other's institution as part of the problem.

Speaking at a National Council on the Administration of Justice event in Nairobi, Koome challenged security agencies to look beyond arresting the young men carrying out attacks and pursue the financiers, recruiters, and organisers behind them. Rounding up foot soldiers while leaving their sponsors untouched, she argued, would never be enough.

"The goons are our children and they are being sustained by financiers," Koome said, urging investigators to dismantle the networks funding violence rather than merely processing those caught in the act.

Amin, who represented Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja at the meeting, turned the spotlight back on the courts. He accused the Judiciary of undermining enforcement efforts by releasing gang suspects on minimal bond terms, allowing them to return to the streets and resume criminal activity. Faster prosecution of gang-related offences, he argued, was essential — and courts needed to play their part in holding suspects accountable once arrested.

The public disagreement between two pillars of Kenya's criminal justice system arrives at a particularly uncomfortable moment. A report presented at the same meeting revealed that identified criminal gangs across the country had risen from 89 to 109, with Western Kenya and the Rift Valley recording the sharpest increases. NCAJ Director General Moses Maranga reported a 157 per cent rise in crime figures presented during the session.

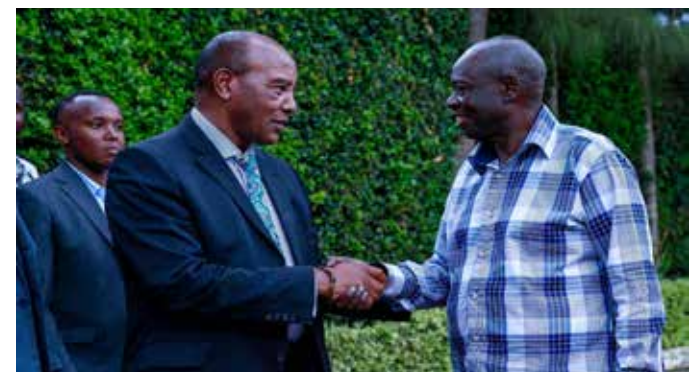
With the 2027 polls now firmly on the horizon, fears are growing that vulnerable young people will be recruited and weaponised by political actors seeking to disrupt rallies, intimidate opponents, and manipulate the electoral environment. The pattern is not new in Kenya's election history, but the scale of gang proliferation is raising fresh alarm.

The exchange between Koome and Amin lays bare a coordination problem that goes beyond any individual institution. Effective action against political goonism requires investigators who follow the money, prosecutors who build robust cases, and courts that weigh public safety seriously in bail decisions. When those functions operate in mutual suspicion rather than common purpose, criminal networks are the ones who benefit.

As Kenya moves deeper into its election cycle, the pressure on security agencies, the Judiciary, and political leaders to demonstrate unity of purpose will only intensify. Kenyans have a constitutional right to participate freely in the electoral process, and protecting that right from criminal intimidation is not optional. The 2027 polls will test whether the country's institutions have learned that lesson.

Kimemia quits Jubilee for Gachagua's DCP as Mount Kenya realignment deepens

Former Nyandarua Governor Francis Kimemia's defection to the Democracy for the Citizens Party marks the most significant yet in a rapidly accelerating exodus from Jubilee ahead of the 2027 General Election.



Former Nyandarua Governor Francis Kimemia with DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua

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struggles to retain relevance in a landscape it once dominated. President William Ruto's fallout with Gachagua, culminating in the former Deputy President's impeachment in October 2024, effectively fractured the original Kenya Kwanza coalition and set in motion a series of defections that have yet to run their course.

For Kimemia, the move reflects a calculation shared by a growing number of Mount Kenya politicians: that in 2027, proximity to Gachagua is more valuable than loyalty to a party whose national standing has sharply declined. The future, as Gachagua put it, is green.

on consolidating. His arrival at DCP is not merely a symbolic gesture; it represents the transfer of an organised grassroots network at precisely the moment the party is positioning itself to become a parliamentary majority force.

Gachagua used the occasion to outline DCP's immediate electoral ambitions, pledging free and fair party nominations in March next year and expressing determination to secure majority representation in both Houses of Parliament and the Council of Governors. The defection lands as Jubilee

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Airport The announcement represents the most specific public timeline Ruto has attached to the airport expansion since the Adani controversy derailed the government's original financing model

Ruto vows brand-new airport in 18 months as JKIA scrutiny intensifies

President William Ruto has set an 18-month deadline for the completion of a new airport in Nairobi, declaring construction is under way and staking his government's infrastructure credibility on a project that has already survived one major controversy.

BY James Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes



President William Ruto addresing during KEPSA Presidential Roundtable, KICC Nairobi. | *Photo:* @WilliamsRuto/X

President William Ruto yesterday told Kenya's business community that the country would have a brand-new airport within 18 months, insisting that construction was already under way following a government reorganisation of the project after the collapse of its proposed partnership with India's Adani Group.

Speaking at the Kenya Private Sector Alliance Presidential Roundtable at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Ruto made the declaration with characteristic directness. "In the next 18 months, we will have a brand-new airport," he told assembled business leaders, adding that the project had moved decisively beyond the planning stage.

The announcement represents the most specific public timeline Ruto has attached to the airport expansion since the Adani controversy derailed the government's original financing model in late 2024. The Indian conglomerate's proposed involvement in the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport concession triggered a sustained wave of public opposition, culminating in the government stepping back from the arrangement and seeking an alternative path forward. Yesterday's remarks were Ruto's clearest signal yet that an alternative has been found and implemented.

"Remember, there was a small challenge with noise around Adani and others, but we've since reorganised, and now the airport is under construction," he said, characterising one of the most politically turbulent infrastructure episodes of his administration as a manageable bump in the road.

He was equally direct in defending the need for the project. JKIA, Africa's fourth-busiest airport by passenger volume and Kenya's principal international gateway, has long struggled under the weight of its own importance. Its terminals, designed for a fraction of their current traffic, leave many international visitors with a first impression that sits uncomfortably alongside Kenya's ambitions as a regional business, tourism, and aviation hub.

"We will finish the airport because we don't have an airport. You all agree. Those of you who travel, when you arrive at Jomo Kenyatta, you arrive to a tarmac, and the place isn't very good," Ruto told the gathering. It was a candid admission from a sitting president about the inadequacy of his country's flagship aviation facility — and a measure of how seriously his administration views the project's strategic importance.

Ruto also addressed criticism over his government's handling of the timeline, pushing back against what he described as a shifting cycle of scepticism. Critics, he said, had first argued the project was impossible, then accused him of overpromising, then claimed nothing was happening. "Now the debate has changed, saying, 'Oh, it's happening,' but it was supposed to be last month, but it has delayed by a month or two months," he said, dismissing the concern as routine for a project of this scale. "It's not that it has not happened. It's just that it is one month late. That we can deal with."

The framing is politically calculated. With the August 2027 General Election now firmly within sight, every major infrastructure commitment carries a dual weight — developmental and electoral. The airport has become one of the most visible tests of Ruto's ability to deliver on the transformational promises that defined his 2022 campaign. A gleaming new terminal opened before polling day would be a powerful symbol. A stalled construction site would hand his opponents a ready-made argument.

The commercial stakes are equally significant. JKIA sits at the heart of Kenya's bid to consolidate Nairobi's position as East Africa's premier business and connectivity hub, competing directly with Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport and Kigali's rapidly expanding Bugesera facility for regional dominance. Kenya Airways, Nairobi's flag carrier, depends on JKIA's capacity and reputation to attract codeshare partners and international routes. A modernised airport would strengthen that case considerably.

What Ruto did not provide yesterday were the technical details that would allow independent verification of his timeline: the precise scope of construction currently under way, the financing arrangements that replaced the Adani concession model, the phased delivery milestones, and which specific facilities would be operational within the 18-month window. Those gaps will need to be filled if the government is to convert business community goodwill into durable public confidence.

The Kenya Airports Authority and the Ministry of Transport have yet to publish a comprehensive public update on the revised project structure since the Adani withdrawal. Investors, airlines, and ordinary Kenyans travelling through an increasingly strained JKIA will be watching for that detail.

For now, Ruto has done what political leaders facing scepticism typically do: he has planted a flag, named a date, and dared his critics to wait and see. In 18 months, Kenya will know whether the flag was worth planting.

Politics Two Kenyan-born politicians won elected office in the United States yesterday as results from the 2026 midterm elections confirmed victories

Kenyans sweep US midterms: Sam Mwangi and Huldah Momanyi-Hiltsley lead diaspora surge

At least two Kenyan-born politicians won seats in the 2026 US midterm elections in Minnesota, extending a remarkable run of diaspora political representation that is reshaping how Kenya's global community sees its place in American public life.

BY David Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

Two Kenyan-born politicians won elected office in the United States yesterday as results from the 2026 midterm elections confirmed victories for Samuel Mwangi in Champlin, Minnesota, and State Representative Huldah Momanyi-Hiltsley in the Minnesota House of Representatives, marking a significant milestone for the Kenyan diaspora community in American politics.

Their wins, separated by geography but united by a shared heritage, capture something broader than individual achievement. They are evidence of a Kenyan diaspora that has moved beyond settlement and assimilation into active civic leadership — earning mandates, winning arguments, and shaping policy in the world's most powerful democracy.

Mwangi's victory was the more personal of the two. Standing for the Champlin City Council's Ward 4 seat for the second time — having lost the same contest in 2024 by a margin of just 47 votes — he secured 1,178 votes, representing 41.30 per cent of the total cast, to defeat three rivals. Lorraine Coan finished second with 990 votes, while Ryan Reider and Charles A. Boakai trailed considerably. With all two precincts reporting, Mwangi's winning margin stood at 188 votes — a comfortable distance for a man who knows exactly how narrow the gap between victory and defeat can be.

"Thanks — it's official. New Champlin City Council Ward 4 Member. It rained. Thanks for your support, my community. God is good," Mwangi wrote on Facebook as the results came through, his message carrying the unfiltered relief of someone who had been here before and knew what losing felt like.

The victory is the product of years of quiet, persistent community work. Mwangi has served on Champlin's Environmental Resources Commission since 2021 and previously led the Global Fatherhood Foundation. His campaign was built around issues that resonate in any municipality — public safety, infrastructure, responsible use of taxpayers' money, support for local businesses, and meaningful youth opportunity. He did not win on the strength of his biography alone. He won because he had earned the trust of a community over time.

That biography, however, is worth understanding. Mwangi arrived in the United States carrying values forged in Kenya — a fact he has spoken about openly and without apology. "Growing up in Kenya taught me the importance of family, respect, and community responsibility," he said in a previous interview with K24 Television. "I was raised to believe that I could achieve anything I set my mind to if I worked hard. I have also learned the importance of patience and adapting to a new culture." It is a story familiar to hundreds of thousands of Kenyan immigrants across the United States, and in Mwangi's telling it carries a quiet universality that transcends its specific details.

He will serve the remaining two years of the Ward 4 term, taking office in January 2027 and serving until 31 December 2028. The seat was vacant following a by-election organised by the City of Champlin. It is a modest platform by the standards of national politics, but municipal government is where roads are repaired, parks are funded, and planning decisions are made — the unglamorous but essential machinery of daily civic life.

Momanyi-Hiltsley's re-election, by contrast, is a story of consolidation. The state representative for District 38A — covering parts of Brooklyn Park and Osseo — was returned to the Minnesota House of Representatives with a commanding 72 per cent of the vote against Republican challenger Charlie Kistler's 28 per cent. The scale of her victory margin, in a political environment that has rarely felt more polarised, is a measure of the personal credibility she has built since making history in 2024.

That history is worth revisiting. When Momanyi-Hiltsley won her District 38A seat in November 2024 with 10,005 votes — 64.78 per cent of the total — she became the first Kenyan-born person ever elected to a state legislature in the United States. Born in Nyamira County in Kenya's western highlands, she moved to America as a child, built a career in business management, and eventually made the transition into electoral politics. The 2024 victory was groundbreaking. Yesterday's re-election confirmed it was no accident.

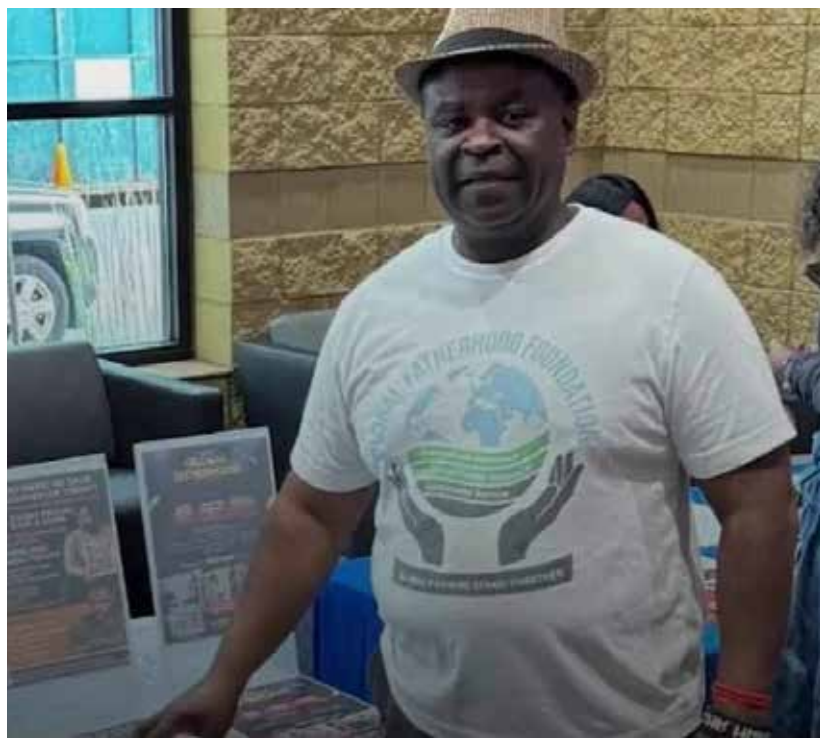
Her platform centres on issues that cut across partisan lines in ways that explain her ability to attract broad support: housing affordability, human services, and policies that address the lived realities of working families in a rapidly changing suburban landscape. She has used her legislative seat not merely to represent her district but to open doors for a diaspora community that has watched her progress with considerable pride and no small amount of identification.

A third Kenyan-American candidate, Victor Jumah, contested the Ramsey City Council Ward 3 seat against incumbent Dan Specht but was not successful. Jumah had been among three Kenyan-American candidates highlighted ahead of the elections by Momanyi-Hiltsley during a K24 Television interview, and his participation — regardless of the outcome — reflects the growing willingness of Kenyan-Americans to put their names on ballots and compete for public office at every level of American government.

That willingness is itself the story. Two decades ago, the Kenyan diaspora in the United States was largely defined by its economic contribution — remittances flowing home, professionals advancing in medicine, engineering, academia, and business. Today, that community is writing a different chapter. It is contesting elections, winning seats, and demonstrating that the values and work ethic that Kenya instilled can be translated into democratic leadership in an entirely different society.

Mwangi and Momanyi-Hiltsley did not win yesterday because they are Kenyan. They won because they are good candidates who did the work, built the relationships, and made the arguments. That is precisely what makes their victories meaningful — not as a celebration of origin, but as proof of what sustained effort and genuine community engagement can achieve anywhere in the world.

For Kenya, watching from thousands of miles away, it is a reminder that its greatest export has never been coffee or tea. It has always been people.



Kenyan-American politician Samuel "Sam" Mwangi. PHOTO/Facebook



Huldah Momanyi Hiltsley. PHOTO/@Diaspora@KE/X

Public accountability **A group of six citizens has moved to Milimani High Court seeking orders to prevent the government from committing public funds to the event**

Talanta Stadium under scrutiny as Kenyans question cost of Bayern-Ajax clash

A court petition demanding financial transparency over Kenya's planned international football friendly has turned the Talanta Stadium's grand opening into a test of public accountability.

BY Yvonne Wambui
@themtkenyatimes



Raila Odinga International Stadium

The newly constructed Talanta Stadium — now officially named the Raila Odinga International Stadium — has become the centre of a widening public debate following plans to host an international football friendly between German giants Bayern Munich and Dutch side AFC Ajax on 5 January 2027.

President William Ruto announced the fixture yesterday, describing it as an opportunity to showcase Kenya's sporting ambitions and attract global attention to the country's football industry. For many Kenyans, the prospect of two of Europe's most storied clubs arriving on home soil is genuinely exciting. But alongside the excitement, a sharper question has emerged: who is paying for it, and how much?

A group of six citizens has moved to Milimani High Court seeking orders to prevent the government from committing public funds to the event unless the expenditure can be shown to comply with the Constitution and applicable financial laws. The petitioners are demanding that all sponsorship agreements, contracts, and financial commitments involving the two clubs or their representatives be made public. They want to know the identities of corporate sponsors, what each is contributing, and precisely what financial obligations, if any, fall to the state.

Their concerns extend well beyond any appearance fee. Hosting two of Europe's biggest clubs involves substantial logistical costs — player travel, accommodation, security, insurance, hospitality, and transport among them. Of particular concern is a reported appearance fee of five million euros, equivalent to approximately KSh724.6 million, allegedly associated with the fixture. The petitioners have been careful to note the figure has not been independently verified and are seeking official clarification.

Ruto had indicated the event would be delivered through corporate partnerships and a self-sustaining commercial model. The petitioners do not dispute that framing outright, but argue that describing something as privately sponsored does not automatically shield taxpayers from direct or indirect financial exposure. State resources — security personnel, transport services, government guarantees — can represent real public cost even when no cheque is written from the Treasury. They want that confirmed or ruled out clearly and on the record.

The applicants have anchored their case in Articles 35 and 201 of the Constitution, which enshrine the right of access to information held by the state and the principles of openness, accountability, and prudent management of public resources. They have also asked the court to preserve all financial records, procurement documents, and correspondence relating to the match pending the case's determination.

The High Court, however, declined yesterday to certify the application as urgent. Justice Roselyne Aburili observed that the remedies sought in the application were substantially similar to those already contained in the main petition, and directed the petitioners to serve all respondents and interested parties, who were given ten days to file responses. The matter is scheduled for mention on 25 November 2026 for further directions. That ruling is not a determination on the merits of the petition, nor a verdict on whether public money should or should not be spent on the match.

Named as respondents are the Attorney-General, the Sports Cabinet Secretary, the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary, and Sports Kenya. The Law Society of Kenya and Katiba Institute have been listed as interested parties — a signal that the legal and constitutional dimensions of the case are being watched beyond the immediate circle of petitioners.

The controversy has opened a broader conversation about Kenya's priorities in sports development and what large-scale infrastructure investment should deliver. The Talanta Stadium represents a significant national commitment to improving Kenya's capacity to host international competition. It is also central to the country's preparations for co-hosting the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations alongside Uganda and Tanzania.

The potential benefits of the Bayern-Ajax fixture are not trivial. Local players, coaches, and administrators would gain rare exposure to world-class football standards. International visitors would generate revenue for hotels, restaurants, and transport operators. Kenya's global sporting profile would receive a meaningful boost. These are legitimate gains and should be part of the conversation.

But so should the questions being asked by the petitioners. Kenya faces acute competing demands in education, healthcare, employment, and infrastructure. In that context, any commitment of public resources to a single sporting event — however prestigious — requires clear and credible justification. The government's silence on the precise financial arrangements has not helped its position.

As the 5 January fixture approaches, the pressure on the government and event organisers to provide straightforward answers will only intensify. Transparency about who is bearing which costs, and what lasting benefits the event will deliver to Kenyan football at the grassroots level, is not an unreasonable expectation. It is, in fact, the minimum that public accountability demands.

The debate surrounding Talanta Stadium has therefore moved well beyond football. It has become a question about the relationship between national ambition and responsible spending — and whether a government confident enough to announce a fixture of this scale is equally confident in explaining, openly and in detail, exactly how it intends to pay for it.

With the court due to give further directions on 25 November, Kenyans will be watching. The success of this international friendly will ultimately be measured not only by the quality of football on display, but by the transparency of its organisation and the tangible, lasting benefits it delivers to the sport and the wider economy.



Business **Eng. Jane Wangari, said Bamburi had developed innovative cement products designed to reduce carbon emissions**

Bamburi Cement pushes low-carbon products to drive green industrialisation

BY James Murimi
@themtkenyatimes

Bamburi Cement Plc has called on public and private sector players to embrace low-carbon cement products in construction projects, saying wider adoption of environmentally friendly building materials will accelerate Kenya's green industrialisation and sustainable manufacturing agenda.

Speaking during a Green Industrialisation and Manufacturing Panel session at the ongoing Kenya Industrialisation Summit 2026, officially opened by President William Ruto yesterday, the company's Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Director, Eng. Jane Wangari, said Bamburi had developed innovative cement products designed to reduce carbon emissions while meeting the demands of major infrastructure projects.

Eng. Wangari said government procurement policies could play a significant role in accelerating the transition by awarding higher scores to construction bids that incorporate cement products with lower carbon emissions.

She also proposed the inclusion of low-carbon cement in the Central Bank of Kenya Green Finance Taxonomy to encourage financial institutions, investors and construction industry players to support environmentally sustainable building practices.

She disclosed that Bamburi Cement had formulated and introduced Bamburi DuraCem Cement, an eco-friendly, sulphate- and chloride-resistant 42.5-grade cement manufactured locally for large-scale and marine construction projects.

According to Eng. Wangari, DuraCem's manufacturing process incorporates alternative fuels, including rice husks and waste tyres, helping deliver a product with 64 per cent lower carbon dioxide emissions compared to ordinary Portland cement.



Bamburi Cement Plc Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Director Eng Jane Wangari stresses a point (right), flanked by Kenya Green Building Society CEO Ms Nasra Nanda (centre) and the Industrialisation Secretary, at the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, Prof Erastus Gatebe (left) at the Green Industrialisation and Manufacturing Panel session at the ongoing Kenya Industrialisation Summit 2026. | *Photo:* Courtesy

"As cement manufacturers, we are actively playing our net-zero part to facilitate green manufacturing, affirming that it is no longer a pipe dream to deliver products with lower carbon dioxide emissions," she said.

She noted that a 50-kilogramme bag of DuraCem carries approximately 64 per cent less carbon dioxide than ordinary Portland cement, translating into savings of about 25 kilogrammes of carbon dioxide per bag.

She likened the environmental benefit to avoiding the emissions generated by burning approximately 10 litres of petrol.

Eng. Wangari said widespread adoption of low-carbon cement in both public and private construction projects would generate significant cumulative environmental benefits while transforming the country's industrial and manufacturing landscape.

Citing the Makupa Bridge project in Mombasa as an example, she said the use of DuraCem had helped save more than 10 million kilogrammes of carbon dioxide in the construction of the bridge, which was also designed to withstand exposure to seawater.

She disclosed that Bamburi Cement had formulated and introduced Bamburi DuraCem Cement, an eco-friendly, sulphate- and chloride-resistant 42.5-grade cement manufactured locally for large-scale and marine construction projects. According to Eng. Wangari, DuraCem's manufacturing process incorporates alternative fuels, including rice husks and waste tyres, helping deliver a product with 64 per cent lower carbon dioxide emissions compared to ordinary Portland cement.

Bamburi Cement is also advocating for the adoption of appropriate cement standards and independently verified Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) to ensure that manufacturers' claims about reduced carbon emissions are measurable and transparent.

Eng. Wangari said such declarations would enable consumers, contractors and policymakers to establish the actual environmental footprint of construction materials, making low-carbon performance verifiable rather than merely a marketing claim.

Bamburi eyes major Lamu refinery supply contract

The company's sustainability drive comes as it positions itself to supply substantial quantities of cement and concrete products for the proposed Dangote East Africa Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemical Special Economic Zone in Lamu County.

Last month, Bamburi Cement confirmed that it was well positioned to deliver more than one million tonnes of cement for the major industrial project.

The company is pursuing a commercial opportunity to supply quality cement and concrete products throughout the project's development cycle, including its low-carbon DuraCem brand.

With assurances that the project will prioritise locally manufactured products, Bamburi intends to explore supplying its locally produced, sulphate- and chloride-resistant 42.5-grade cement, particularly for large-scale and marine construction works.

The cement manufacturer has previously supplied products and construction solutions to several major national infrastructure projects, including Talanta Sports Stadium, the Rironi-Mau Summit Road, the Standard Gauge Railway, Dongo Kundu Highway, Mwache Dam, Thwake Dam and Makupa Bridge.

Sh2 billion? Bamburi invests in expanded clinker production

As a member of the Amsons Group, Bamburi Cement is pursuing long-term clinker self-sufficiency, increased manufacturing capacity and improved ability to meet Kenya's growing infrastructure and construction demands.

Late last year, the company signed a US$250 million (approximately Sh32 billion) Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract with Sinoma CBMI Construction Co. Ltd for the development of a turnkey clinkerisation factory in Matuga, Kwale County.

The proposed state-of-the-art facility will have an annual clinker production capacity of 1.6 million tonnes and incorporate advanced technologies designed to minimise environmental impact and support carbon-neutral manufacturing ambitions.

The investment forms part of Bamburi's strategy to more than double its production capacity for clinker, a key raw material in cement manufacturing, and ultimately expand its supply of quality cement and concrete products.

Upon completion, the company's clinker production capacity is expected to increase from the current one million tonnes to 2.6 million tonnes annually, while cement production capacity will rise from 1.8 million tonnes to four million tonnes.

The expansion is expected to strengthen Bamburi's capacity to serve major infrastructure developments, support local manufacturing and contribute to Kenya's broader industrialisation and economic transformation agenda.

Opinion The World Bank is unambiguous in its answer. Corruption, the institution warns, is now one of the principal obstacles preventing Kenya from growing faster and more equitably

Corruption and Kenya's economy: Can the country grow while billions disappear?

A fresh World Bank warning puts a figure on what Kenya loses to corruption every year — and the number should trouble every Kenyan.



BY Collins Kibet
@themtkenyatimes

A fresh World Bank warning puts a figure on what Kenya loses to corruption every year — and the number should trouble every Kenyan.

By Collins Kibet

Kenya loses approximately 2 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product to corruption and collusion every year. That is the World Bank's estimate, published in its latest Kenya Economic Update on 4 November 2026, and it arrives at a moment when millions of Kenyans are wrestling with unemployment, expensive basic commodities, and shrinking economic opportunity. The question the figure raises is not merely financial. It is existential: can a country achieve meaningful, inclusive growth while public resources haemorrhage through corrupt systems year after year?

The World Bank is unambiguous in its answer. Corruption, the institution warns, is now one of the principal obstacles preventing Kenya from growing faster and more equitably. The losses are not abstract. Every percentage point of GDP consumed by corruption represents hospitals left under-equipped, roads left incomplete, classrooms left unbuilt, and young people left without opportunity. Rather than generating economic returns, corruption inflates government expenditure, widens fiscal deficits, and drives additional borrowing — borrowing that ordinary Kenyans ultimately repay through taxation.

The borrowing dimension is particularly damaging. Kenya has invested heavily in infrastructure over the past decade, financing roads, energy projects, and development programmes through significant external and domestic debt. The World Bank warns that governance weaknesses impose what it calls a governance premium on sovereign borrowing — meaning that lenders perceive poorly governed countries as greater financial risks and charge accordingly. The result is higher interest costs, greater debt burdens, and less money available for the services citizens need most.

The effects reach well beyond government balance sheets. Businesses require predictable, transparent operating environments to invest, expand, and create jobs. Bribery, opaque procurement, and administrative barriers raise the cost of doing business and punish companies that compete on merit rather than connections. Small enterprises, operating on thin margins with limited capital, are particularly vulnerable. When unofficial payments become a routine operating expense, competition distorts and innovation suffers.

Young Kenyans bear the sharpest end of this burden. Kenya's working-age population is growing rapidly, and the country's youth are, by most measures, among the most educated and ambitious in the region. Yet unemployment and underemployment remain acute. When recruitment processes, government contracts, and economic opportunities are distributed through patronage rather than competence, that human capital goes to waste. Tackling corruption is therefore not merely a matter of fiscal responsibility — it is a generational obligation.

The World Bank's report does acknowledge positive momentum. Kenya's 2026 growth forecast has been revised upward from 4.3 per cent to 4.6 per cent, reflecting stronger-than-expected first-half performance. Treasury Principal Secretary Chris Kiptoo has argued the government expects growth of at least 5 per cent, suggesting the World Bank's projection is conservative. Both figures, however, mean little if growth does not translate into better living standards, accessible public services, and decent employment for ordinary citizens.

The government has identified reforms intended to improve transparency — digitisation of public procurement, improved contractor payment timelines, and conflict-of-interest legislation. These are sensible steps. But policy announcements are not outcomes. Their value depends entirely on implementation, independent oversight, and the willingness to hold individuals accountable regardless of political standing. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the Auditor-General, and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations all require genuine institutional support — and genuine independence — to fulfil their mandates effectively.

As Kenya moves into the pre-election period ahead of the August 2027 General Election, accountability must become a central issue in national political discourse. Kenyans deserve leaders who can explain clearly how public money is collected, allocated, and spent — and who understand that anti-corruption commitments mean nothing if they are applied selectively to political opponents while protecting the politically connected.

Citizens, too, have a role. Reporting corruption, demanding transparency, and refusing to normalise bribery as an unavoidable feature of everyday life are not passive acts — they are foundational to changing the culture that allows corruption to persist.

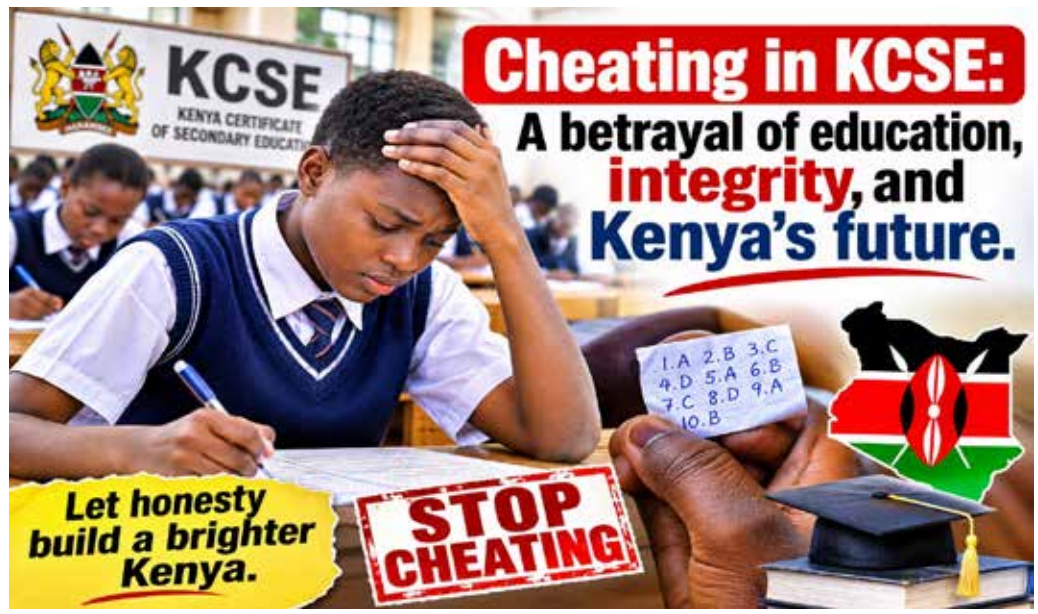
Kenya has the human capital, entrepreneurial energy, and natural resources necessary to build a genuinely stronger economy. But those assets cannot be fully realised while public institutions are weakened by financial misconduct and public confidence is steadily eroded. Economic growth that appears only in government statistics and World Bank tables, while ordinary Kenyans struggle to afford food, healthcare, and education, is not growth worth celebrating.

The fundamental test Kenya faces is straightforward: a country cannot honestly promise prosperity to its citizens while corruption continues to consume the resources meant to deliver it. Until accountability becomes a true national priority — not a campaign theme — Kenya risks building an economy that grows on paper while millions of its people are left behind in reality.

KCSE Technology entrepreneur Elon Musk has argued that employers should seek demonstrated ability rather than rely exclusively on academic qualifications.

Cheating in KCSE: A betrayal of education, integrity, and Kenya's future

Examination malpractice is not merely an administrative failure — it is a moral crisis that strikes at the heart of what education is for.



BY Polycap Ateto
@themtkenyatimes

As Kenya administers the ongoing Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations, reports of cheating should concern every citizen who believes in the value of education. Examination malpractice is not simply a management problem. It is a moral crisis that corrodes the very purpose of schooling.

It is particularly troubling when those entrusted with nurturing young minds become complicit in irregularities. Teachers and school administrators should be the strongest defenders of examination integrity — not architects of its destruction. When an educator facilitates cheating, they betray their profession, undermine the credibility of national examinations, and send a dangerous message to learners: that success matters more than honesty.

Education should be about discovering, developing, and deploying one's potential. Every learner has unique abilities and talents that genuine learning is meant to nurture. When we help learners cheat, we deny them the opportunity to find out what they can achieve independently. We construct a false picture of competence that collapses the moment real life demands critical thinking, creativity, and personal responsibility.

Perhaps it is time to reconsider our obsession with examination grades as the ultimate measure of intelligence and future success. The world is shifting. What increasingly matters is not what someone scored in an examination but what they can actually do with the knowledge they possess.

Technology entrepreneur Elon Musk has argued that employers should seek demonstrated ability rather than rely exclusively on academic qualifications. It is a point worth considering. A certificate may reflect academic achievement, but it does not automatically establish practical competence.

Consider a learner who scores an excellent Mathematics grade yet cannot prepare a household budget, interpret a loan repayment schedule, or calculate the cost of a simple construction project. What has the grade achieved? Now consider a learner who may not obtain the highest mark but can design a functional software application, develop a small agricultural enterprise, or engineer a practical community solution. That learner demonstrates competencies with real and tangible value.

A student who understands Chemistry should appreciate its application in water purification and medicine. One who studies Biology should grasp how science contributes to health and food security. A Business Studies learner should be capable of drafting a basic business plan and understanding entrepreneurship. These are not arguments against academic excellence. They are arguments for an education system that gives knowledge practical meaning.

Aristotle's virtue ethics offers a useful philosophical anchor here. Virtue ethics emphasises the development of good character over mere rule-following or the pursuit of desirable outcomes. In education, the question should not simply be how many learners attained particular grades, but whether schooling is producing honest, responsible, and principled citizens.

Teachers are not merely content deliverers or examination coaches. They are role models whose conduct shapes the moral character of the next generation. A teacher who preaches honesty while facilitating cheating contradicts everything they claim to stand for. School leaders must demonstrate the courage to resist pressure from parents and proprietors to produce impressive results at any cost.

Kenya's gradual transition from the 8-4-4 system to the Competency-Based Education framework presents a genuine opportunity to confront these deeply rooted vices. CBE is founded on the understanding that education should develop every learner's potential rather than train students to reproduce memorised content in national examinations. The framework emphasises values — integrity, responsibility, respect, and social justice — alongside competencies such as critical thinking, creativity, digital literacy, and problem-solving.

None of these competencies can be developed through dishonesty. A learner who cheats may obtain a certificate, but forfeits the confidence, independence, and practical capability required to navigate real-world challenges. Under CBE, learners should demonstrate what they know through projects, experiments, community service, innovation, and authentic assessment. Schools should celebrate the student who develops a working innovation just as readily as they celebrate top examination results.

Yet changing the curriculum alone will not eliminate malpractice. CBE will achieve its purpose only if those implementing it genuinely embrace its values. Teachers must model integrity. Parents must encourage honest achievement. School leaders must build ethical institutional cultures. Examination bodies must continue strengthening accountability mechanisms.

As Kenya moves forward and progressively leaves behind an examination-obsessed culture, it must also leave behind the vices that have damaged the credibility of its education system. We must stop celebrating grades obtained through dishonest means and begin recognising genuine effort, personal growth, creativity, and character.

The purpose of education is not to produce learners who pass examinations. It is to prepare individuals who contribute meaningfully to society. A certificate obtained through cheating may open a temporary door, but it cannot substitute for knowledge, competence, or integrity.

Let teachers teach. Let learners learn. Let examinations assess genuine ability.

The future will not ask only what grades our learners attained. It will ask what problems they solved, what innovations they created, and what positive difference they made. That is the spirit of education worth defending — and it begins with honesty in every examination room across Kenya.



A single dark moment



Doesn't define your journey
Keep moving forward whatever be the event
Life has its own irony
Life gives most awaited treasures
After testing the confidence and perseverance
Then onwards the heart knew no measures

Starting to see the difference
Hardships faced earlier with struggles
Always remembered till the end
Motivating Friendship has the concern, doubles
Always be ready with listening ears to lend
Today's dark moments can change
Gain the experience to be aware
Life, the strictest officer never gives exchange
Be simple and empathetic to share

N. SIVASANKARI
CREATIVE WRITER
TEACHER IN ENGLISH GMGBHSS PERAIYUR
MADURAI DISTRICT TAMILNADU

Weather and human life



Human life and weather are alike; both are unpredictable.

The future of human life, like the weather, is not entirely unfathomable. Signs of what lies ahead can be observed in our everyday actions.

Everyone knows that the future could be dangerous, yet people often fail to pay heed to the warning signs, believing that it is not they but future generations who will suffer the consequences.

It should be the duty of the present generation to safeguard the Earth for those who come after us.

Anjali Tiwari
PGT English
Rewa, Madhya Pradesh
India

A single dark moment does not define your journey



We are living in this earth under one roof,
We are all unique we no need to proof
Yet we worry about our failures,
Forgetting that our life has its own measures.

Live your life, even if someone leaves you,
Even if someone fools you, don't worry

A single dark moment does not define your journey,
Your life is yours, choose where you want to be.

So think wisely about how to change the moment
Don't let your worries become a permanent one
Keep moving forward on your way,
Trust God,He will bless you every day.

V. JAYANTHI
Graduate teacher
Creative Writer
PUMS Konganancherry
Chengalpattu district

Never Quit



When I was a kid…
I tried to ride a bicycle on my own,
I lost my balance and fell to the ground.
I got up, tried again and again,
Until I could ride without anyone's support.

When I was in school….
I tried to learn the dance steps repeatedly,
One, two, three, four, five, and then I fumbled.
I practised again and again, but never gave up,
Knowing I could master the steps.

When I became a mom,
I tried a new recipe for my son the first time,
The taste was not perfect, and I wondered why.
I tried it again, correcting my mistakes,
Until I finally got the taste I wanted to make.

Don't quit just because you cannot do it today,
Tomorrow may bring a different way.
For if you stop trying before you succeed,
You may lose the very thing you deserve indeed.

M.Raddhika
Freelance content writer
Sivakasi Tamil Nadu India

Late apology



I don't know if it's already late to ask for forgiveness,
maybe it is.
I was a fool not to believe you'd come back.
I never expected withered flowers to bloom again.

I drained them of water, all in the name of fear,
then tried to plant new flowers somewhere else,
leaving the wet ground beside me.

Let the rain come, maybe I'll drown forever,
for you were my boat, and I tossed you away.
Let the drought kill me, for I threw dirt into you, my water.
Let disease take me, for I broke you, the bottle of my medicine.
Let despair finish me, for I extinguished you, my flame of hope.

In everything, in every day — love, hope, pleasure
—
I knew none, but you gave me one.
The truth does not shine, nor is it attractive.
The fake reflects and refracts, but never makes its own light.
So before you, my Queen, I bow.

Take it, leave it. Here I am — sorry.
For I know sorrow, and before sorrow there was happiness.
And happiness was with sorrow, for what is happiness without sorrow if not oblivion?
I was oblivious. I loved thousands and was hated by tens of thousands.
I broke hundreds of thousands, but was broken by millions.

Will you pick up my shards? Will you knit my pieces to make me whole?
Will you, my glorious angel, glue my heart? It is in bits.
Will you stay even when my breath is fading?
For what is love without lust, when lust and love are all but one?
I give you both, my enchantress.

By Oduor Victor

The wrong wait!



He stood by the road
His flat tummy porched out like a dry stunt
The only thing he had grasped all these years
Was lost in his ribcage
One, two, three, four and five
He counted as he felt his heartbeat race slowly...
His weight took a long turn
Was he sad?
Was he happy?
This was the wrong wait!

Bettie Atemo
November 2026

All I want is "Peace"



The chaos rises higher
Mothers, sisters, wives and daughters burst into tears
No hopes can be seen.
The war between the two countries has ended,
But the war for their living, has started
All I want is the almighty's blessings
and some "peace".

As far as I go,
I can see the ground red.
I can't find anyone alive too.
Green extincted , mixed in red,
And my heart is filled with blue.
All I want is a little yellow and some "peace".

No, the war has not ended
The children are still crying
And fear hearted.
The air is still filled with doubts and screams.
All I want is a white pigeon assuring love and some "peace".

Debadrita Sarkar
Grade XI
Tarakeshwar Mahavidyalaya (H.S Unit)
West Bengal, India

Law Senior Counsel Charles Kanjama, President of the Law Society of Kenya, confirmed the Society had joined the proceedings as an interested party

Missing lawyer: High Court orders Abshir Abdi produced as LSK threatens street

Kenya's legal profession is mobilising for nationwide demonstrations after the High Court issued urgent orders compelling authorities to produce missing advocate Abshir Ahmedsadak Abdi, as the Law Society warns the government its constitutional obligations are neither optional nor conditional.

BY Grace Wanja
@themtkenyatimes

The High Court in Nairobi yesterday ordered designated respondents to produce missing advocate Abshir Ahmedsadak Abdi before it, as the Law Society of Kenya threatened street protests if authorities fail to account for his whereabouts and secure his safe return.

Justice Alexander Muasya Mutetithe, sitting at Milimani, certified the habeas corpus application as urgent and directed respondents to appear personally or through appointed counsel, produce any warrants authorising Abdi's arrest and detention, and show cause why he should not be immediately released.

The case, registered as HCCRMISCAPPL/E268/2026, represents one of the most dramatic legal confrontations between Kenya's bar and state authorities in recent memory.

Senior Counsel Charles Kanjama, President of the Law Society of Kenya, confirmed the Society had joined the proceedings as an interested party, deploying what he described as all available legal and constitutional mechanisms to secure Abdi's return.

The LSK's formal participation transformed what began as a family matter into a full institutional confrontation between the organised legal profession and the state.

The Society's warning to authorities was unambiguous. "Our resolve is to demand the immediate release of Advocate Abshir," the LSK stated, adding that failure to secure his return would trigger a wider mobilisation of lawyers for public demonstrations. "The Society shall escalate, including mobilising members of the legal profession for public demonstrations to demand Advocate Abdi's immediate and safe return and hold those responsible to account."

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations has also entered the picture. The LSK confirmed that the DCI has constituted a committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding Abdi's alleged abduction, identify those involved, and examine the chain of events leading to his disappearance. The Society demanded the investigation be thorough, independent, impartial, and expeditious.

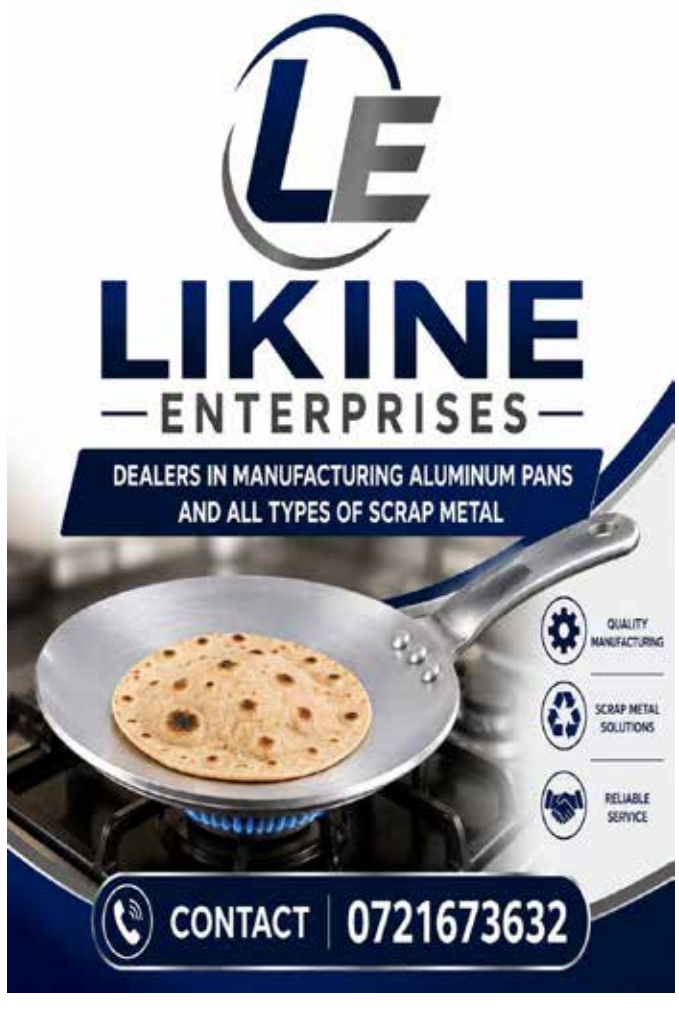
Kanjama raised broader concerns that go well beyond the fate of one advocate. "No advocate should face intimidation, threats or violence on account of discharging their professional duties or participating in the judicial process," the LSK stated, reminding the government of its obligations under Articles 21, 29, 49, and 51(2) of the Constitution of Kenya.

Abdi's disappearance has exposed raw anxieties within a profession that considers the rule of law its foundational purpose. When lawyers begin disappearing, the entire architecture of constitutional order is called into question — and Kenya's legal fraternity has made clear it will not stand quietly by.



Senior Counsel Charles Kanjama, President of the Law Society of Kenya







Relationship **"I simply wanted to feel special — to discuss our future and understand what I meant to him. After seven years, I wanted to feel seen without having to beg for it."**

The years she lost trying to be enough

For seven years, she believed love would lead to marriage. Instead, she found herself confronting how much of herself she had given away trying to make it work.

BY Oduor Rosequillet Nabwire
@themtkenyatimes



The years she lost trying to be enough

For seven years, she believed love would lead to marriage. Instead, she found herself confronting how much of herself she had given away trying to make it work.

By Oduor Rosequillet Nabwire

Seven years into their relationship, Nia was still waiting to be chosen. When she finally asked Ethan to decide — propose or let her go — he reached into a wardrobe and produced a KSh50 ring.

It was nothing like the proposal she had imagined: flowers, soft music, an honest conversation about their future. Instead, the gesture felt driven by pressure rather than love.

"It felt completely coerced," she says. "He didn't truly want to commit to me, yet he didn't want to lose me as an option. It felt more like an obligation than an expression of love."

Her disappointment was never about the ring's price.

"I simply wanted to feel special — to discuss our future and understand what I meant to him. After seven years, I wanted to feel seen without having to beg for it."

Valentine's Day offered its own measure of the imbalance. One year, Ethan gave her a Predator energy drink worth roughly KSh80. The following year, grapes worth KSh60 from a street vendor, handed over in a polythene bag. She remembers noticing his shoes, worth around KSh5,000. Still, she made excuses.

"I told myself that maybe he had grown up without seeing romance, so he didn't know how to express it. I kept making excuses because I wanted to believe that, in his own way, he loved me."

Her birthday brought another disappointment. Ethan made no effort to mark it, dismissing birthdays as unimportant. Weeks later, he posted another woman's photograph on his WhatsApp status with the caption: "A queen was born today." He explained she was a friend who had asked him to acknowledge her birthday. Nia was left wondering why he could publicly celebrate another woman but could not do the same for her.

The relationship continued despite everything. When Nia discovered she was pregnant — roughly two months along — Ethan's response was immediate. Continuing the pregnancy, he argued, would jeopardise their studies at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and they could not afford a child. "I'm just a comrade. I can't be a father. Terminating this pregnancy is our best option," he told her.

Nia was reluctant, but Ethan made clear that keeping the baby meant raising the child alone. She agreed. Her isolation shaped the decision as much as his pressure did. She had gradually drifted from friends because Ethan considered them bad company, and she found it difficult to confide in her family. Without a support network, she faced it alone.

"I felt like I had no one to turn to. I was facing one of the most difficult decisions of my life without the support I needed," she recalls.

Unable to afford a reputable clinic, they first tried abortion pills Ethan obtained from a pharmacy. When these failed, Nia experienced severe abdominal pain and continued pregnancy symptoms. They eventually sought a suction procedure at a backstreet clinic in Nairobi's central business district. An ultrasound revealed she was approximately four months pregnant — further along than either had realised.

"When I saw the tiny hands and legs on the screen and heard the heartbeat, it wasn't just a pregnancy anymore. It was my baby. That image stayed locked in my mind, making the weight of the decision almost impossible to carry," she recalls.

Ethan paid half the procedure's cost. Nia borrowed the remainder from friends. He declined to accompany her, saying the decision weighed on his conscience — then left for his hometown in Bomet. On the journey back to Juja, her pain intensified. By the time she arrived, Ethan had gone and his phone was switched off. Overwhelmed by pain and his absence, she suffered a panic attack and lost consciousness. She woke the following morning on the floor, feverish, in severe pain, and soaked in blood.

Her neighbour helped her reach Juja Modern Hospital in Kalimoni. Doctors diagnosed uterine atony — a condition in which the uterus fails to contract adequately to control bleeding. She required a repeat suction procedure, intravenous fluids, and a blood transfusion. A week passed before Ethan made contact. He did not ask about her recovery. When she raised the subject, he dismissed it. "It's all in the past. Dwelling on it is only hurting you," he said.

The months that followed brought fresh humiliations. After a contraceptive implant caused weight gain, fatigue, hormonal acne, and unpredictable periods, Ethan criticised her appearance — including, during an intimate moment, telling her she was "too bulky." At dinner on another occasion, he remarked in Swahili that she had an ugly face. She was already struggling with acne and the scarring it had left behind.

"Body shaming hurts, especially when it comes from someone you love and whose opinion you value," she says.

As the relationship deteriorated, Ethan grew increasingly distant. Evening walks ended. Affection disappeared. Around his friends, he referred to Nia as "yule dame" rather than introducing her as his partner. On one occasion, he stepped off a matatu late at night and left her behind without paying her fare, alone on a route known for assault and robbery.

"The hardest part was watching the person who claimed to love me act as though he was embarrassed to be seen with me," she says.

The repeated rejection, humiliation, and isolation steadily eroded her sense of self. The confident woman she had once been became withdrawn, struggling with depression and finding basic self-care difficult. The guilt of a decision made under duress compounded her distress. Eventually, she reached a crisis point and attempted suicide.

Her parents intervened and helped her access psychiatric care. She was admitted to Chiromo Hospital, where she received treatment over several months. During this period, Ethan attributed her difficulties to being "too sensitive" and "overthinking." While she was still in hospital, he ended the relationship by text message: "We are nothing. I don't love you anymore. I don't want to ever see you. You ain't worthy of my love."

The message ended the future she had imagined. After years of hoping, she was left processing an abrupt ending while still fighting to recover.

Rebuilding has been slow. Her family — particularly her mother — became a lifeline. Therapy through Akili, a Kenyan online counselling platform, helped her work through the relationship's emotional toll. Faith provided another source of strength. Gradually, she established routines, reconnected with friends, explored new interests, and redirected her attention towards her career.

Recovery, she is clear, has not been straightforward.

"I'm giving myself grace because healing doesn't happen overnight. Some days, I feel like I'm making progress; other days, the pain comes rushing back in waves. I understand that having difficult days doesn't mean I'm failing. I'm allowed to heal at my own pace," she says.

What the relationship ultimately cost her is something she has had to face directly.

"It was a love I had to earn every day just to keep it, and a person I had to persuade to choose me and commit to me," she reflects.

Nia's message to women in similar situations is straightforward: when you realise you are on a train heading in the wrong direction, alight at the nearest stop rather than risk a longer, costlier journey back. For years, she tried to become enough for someone else. Now, she is reclaiming the parts of herself she lost along the way.

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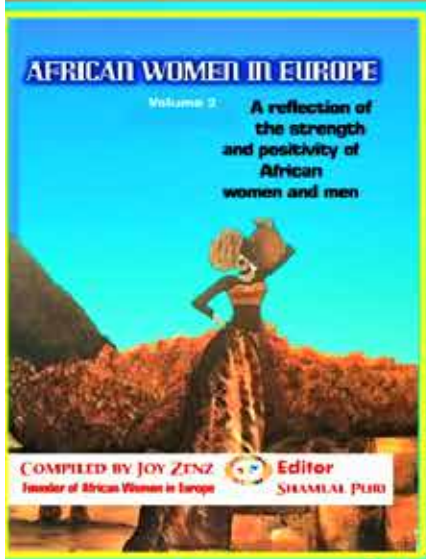
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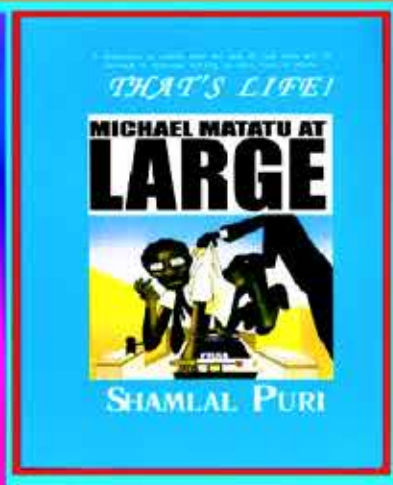
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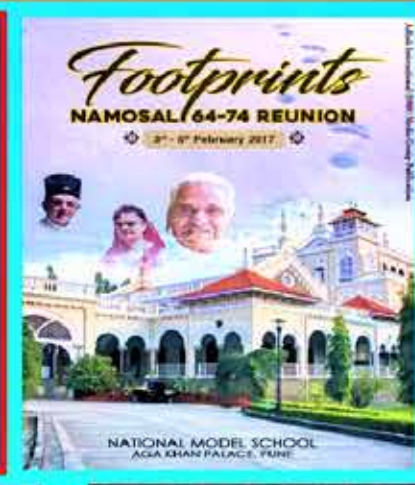
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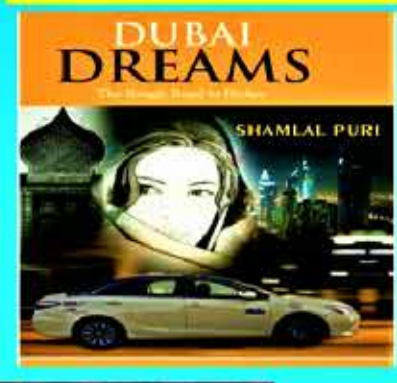


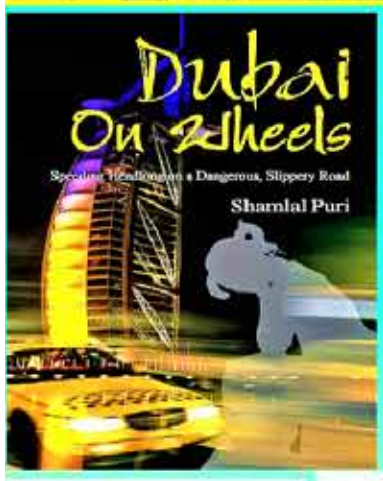


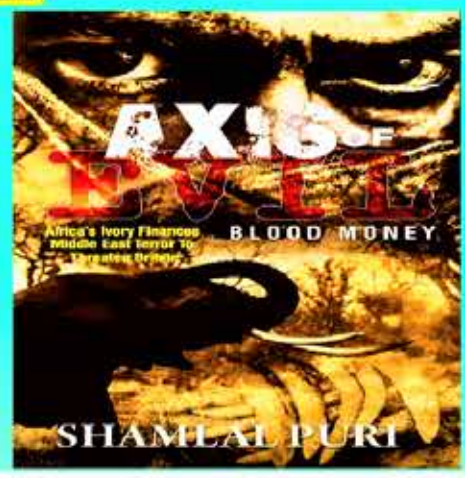


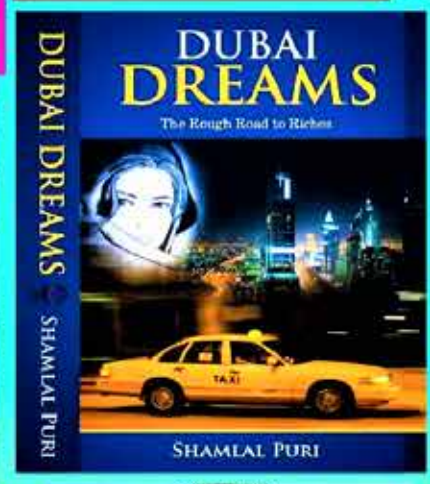


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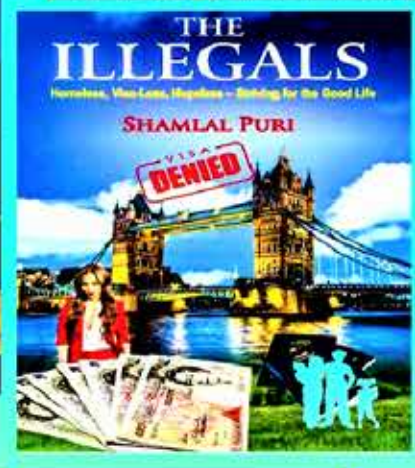




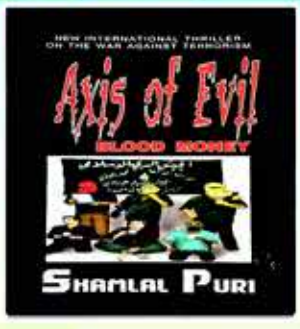




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Politics .....

The blue tsunami and the hollow throne: When voters write the epitaph of impunity



By: Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo
@themtkenyatimes



President Donald Trump

On the night of 3 November 2026, American voters delivered a verdict so emphatic it echoed across oceans. Democrats seized both chambers of Congress in a sweeping repudiation of President Donald Trump's second-term agenda. Senate seats long considered impregnable Texas, Kansas, South Carolina, Ohio turned blue. The House followed. The message was not subtle: leaders who treat public patience as an infinite resource eventually discover its limits.

That same message now travels toward Nairobi, Lagos, and every capital where elections approach within a year. When citizens decide they have endured enough of arrogance dressed as governance, they do not send polite memos. They send eviction notices.

Here in Kenya the parallel is neither distant nor abstract. President William Ruto's administration continues to operate under the comforting fiction of a "broad-based" government, a political marriage of convenience that papered over deep public anger after the 2024 Finance Bill uprising. The arrangement has delivered neither broad legitimacy nor lasting calm. Instead it has coincided with a grim ledger of bodies, disappearances, and institutional decay that no amount of development rhetoric can erase.

Consider the human cost first. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and independent monitors documented roughly sixty deaths linked to the 2024 Gen Z protests, with further killings in the 2025 commemorations and subsequent crackdowns pushing the cumulative toll near one hundred. Rights groups recorded dozens of enforced disappearances and abductions attributed to police and the National Intelligence Service. Young Kenyans who marched against tax burdens, corruption, and the high cost of living found themselves hunted in the night. Families still search for sons and daughters who walked out of their homes and never returned. Blood does not wash away because a cabinet was reshuffled or a former rival invited into the tent.

Corruption remains the quiet engine of public despair. Public Service Commission figures recorded losses exceeding two billion shillings in a single recent cycle the highest in years. Inflated contracts, opaque procurement, and the steady siphoning of funds from critical sectors continue while ordinary citizens confront underfunded hospitals, classrooms without teachers, and roads that vanish into mud after every rain. The same administration that lectures the country on fiscal discipline finds resources for State House renovations and executive extravagance even as health and education budgets strain. Development without human rights is not development; it is theatre performed on a stage built of other people's suffering.

The constitutional order itself has been treated as optional. Selective enforcement of the rule of law, the casual rewriting of norms whenever they inconvenience those in power, and the "utado" swagger that once defined political campaigning have hardened into governing style. Police fire live rounds into crowds of young protesters and face almost no consequence. Courts issue orders that security agencies treat as suggestions. The Constitution becomes a document to be praised on national holidays and ignored when the streets fill with dissent.

History offers its own unforgiving mirror. Kenya has walked this road before. The late 1980s and early 1990s saw a generation rise against one-party rule and the culture of silence. Lives were lost, activists were detained, and the eventual multiparty opening came only after sustained pressure from below. The same pattern repeated in waves of protest against electoral theft and economic exclusion. Each time the powerful believed their grip permanent; each time the people proved otherwise. The current moment carries the same electricity. A generation that organises without traditional political patrons, that communicates in real time across platforms the state cannot fully control, and that refuses the old ethnic bargaining tables has already forced the withdrawal of a major tax bill and the dissolution of an entire cabinet. That energy has not dissipated. It waits.

The American midterm result supplies the clearest recent illustration of what happens when that waiting ends. Voters who felt ignored on cost of living, accountability, and the character of leadership simply withdrew their consent. No amount of rallies, no volume of messaging, no coalition of convenience could reverse the arithmetic once the public decided the regime had exhausted its moral credit. The same arithmetic operates in every democracy that still counts votes. Nigeria approaches its own electoral test. Kenya's 2027 general election already casts its long shadow. Leaders who imagine that broad-based arrangements or development announcements can substitute for justice, transparency, and basic respect for life are gambling with history.

What, then, must follow? Citizens must refuse the narcotic of resignation. Register. Organise. Document every excess. Demand independent investigations into every killing and disappearance with real prosecutions, not panels that issue reports and dissolve. Civil society must protect the space for peaceful assembly and resist the criminalisation of dissent. The judiciary must reclaim its independence with visible courage. Members of Parliament who still claim to represent the people rather than the executive must find their voices before those voices become irrelevant. Regional and international partners who speak of democratic values must match words with consequences when security forces treat young protesters as enemy combatants.

President Ruto and those who surround him face a choice that history rarely softens. They can continue to prioritise the optics of power renovated residences, carefully managed coalitions, the language of bottom-up economics spoken from the top while the ledger of the dead lengthens and public trust evaporates. Or they can confront the evidence of their own record: the bodies, the missing, the stolen public funds, the selective fidelity to the Constitution. Power that rests on fear and patronage is brittle. Power that rests on consent is durable. The American electorate has just demonstrated how quickly the former can crumble.

Kenya's young people have already written their chapter in blood and courage. The next chapter belongs to every citizen who still believes that leadership is a trust rather than a conquest. When the ballot arrives, the verdict will not be delivered in polite language. It will be delivered in numbers that no amount of propaganda can reinterpret. The blue wave across the Atlantic is not a foreign curiosity. It is a warning written in the universal language of exhausted patience. Those who refuse to hear it will discover, as others have before them, that the people keep the final pen.

KCSE One is left wondering: have we reached a point where teaching has been reduced to gambling?

KCSE is not a weather forecast: Teachers must stop chasing shortcuts

As KCSE 2026 examinations approach, Kenya's teachers are wasting time on WhatsApp prediction groups instead of preparing students — and candidates will pay the price.

BY Ashford Kimani
@themtkenyatimes

There is something increasingly troubling about the behaviour of some teachers as the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations draw near. Across WhatsApp groups and social media platforms, teachers are busily trading predictions — asking which questions the Kenya National Examinations Council is likely to set, which topics will feature in specific papers, and which areas candidates should prioritise at the expense of others.

One is left wondering: have we reached a point where teaching has been reduced to gambling?

KCSE is not a weather forecast. It is not a football match whose outcome can be speculated upon. It is a national examination designed to assess learners' understanding, knowledge, competencies and ability to apply what they have learned over several years of secondary education. It should not be approached through guesswork, rumour, recycled predictions or supposed insider information circulating in WhatsApp groups.

Let us be honest. If you have adequately covered the syllabus, prepared your learners, assessed their progress and addressed their weaknesses, why are you desperately seeking someone to tell you what KNEC is likely to examine?

A competent teacher prepares learners for the examination. A careless teacher prepares them for predictions.

The greatest danger of examination predictions is that they create a false sense of security. A teacher who convinces learners that certain topics are unlikely to appear may unwittingly encourage them to neglect important areas of the syllabus. When the examination eventually tests those



supposedly safe-to-ignore areas, the consequences fall squarely on the candidates.

Imagine a student who has spent months revising only the topics highlighted in a WhatsApp prediction, only to encounter a paper that demands knowledge of areas they were advised to skip. Who takes responsibility? Will the person who circulated the prediction step forward to explain why hundreds of candidates were encouraged to gamble with their academic futures? Will the group administrator apologise? Almost certainly not. The candidate will be left to face the consequences alone.

Teachers must understand that examination preparation is a professional responsibility, not a guessing competition. The work of a teacher is to interpret the curriculum, identify learning gaps, provide adequate instructional support, expose learners to varied question formats and build their confidence in handling unfamiliar material.

There is nothing wrong with analysing previous KCSE papers. Past papers are valuable instructional resources. They help teachers understand examination formats, identify recurring assessment approaches and familiarise learners with the demands of national examinations. However, there is a fundamental difference between examining trends and predicting questions.

Trend analysis informs teaching. Prediction replaces it.

A serious teacher uses previous examinations to strengthen learners' understanding of the full syllabus. A misguided teacher uses those same papers to persuade students that certain topics are safe to ignore because they have been examined too frequently in recent years. KNEC is not obligated to follow anyone's predictions. Assessment approaches can change, questions can be framed differently, and familiar concepts can be tested in entirely unfamiliar contexts. That is precisely why learners must be prepared broadly and deeply.

We must also question the professional culture that sees teachers spending valuable time searching for examination leaks, speculative tips and alleged insiders instead of evaluating their own instructional effectiveness. How many teachers have reviewed their schemes of work to confirm full syllabus coverage? How many have analysed learners' performance in topical tests to identify persistent weaknesses? How many have organised meaningful remedial lessons or taken time to explain difficult concepts rather than simply dictating notes and rushing through the syllabus?

These are the questions that deserve urgent attention.

A teacher who has not completed syllabus coverage has no business misleading learners with confident predictions about what will appear in the KCSE papers. A teacher who has neglected continuous assessment cannot compensate for that failure by forwarding a document boldly titled KCSE 2026 Sure Predictions. And let us address the uncomfortable truth: some teachers rely on shortcuts precisely because they have not done enough professional work. They want to appear knowledgeable by circulating predictions, yet they have not invested sufficient time in understanding the curriculum or preparing their learners comprehensively. That is not examination expertise. It is professional negligence.

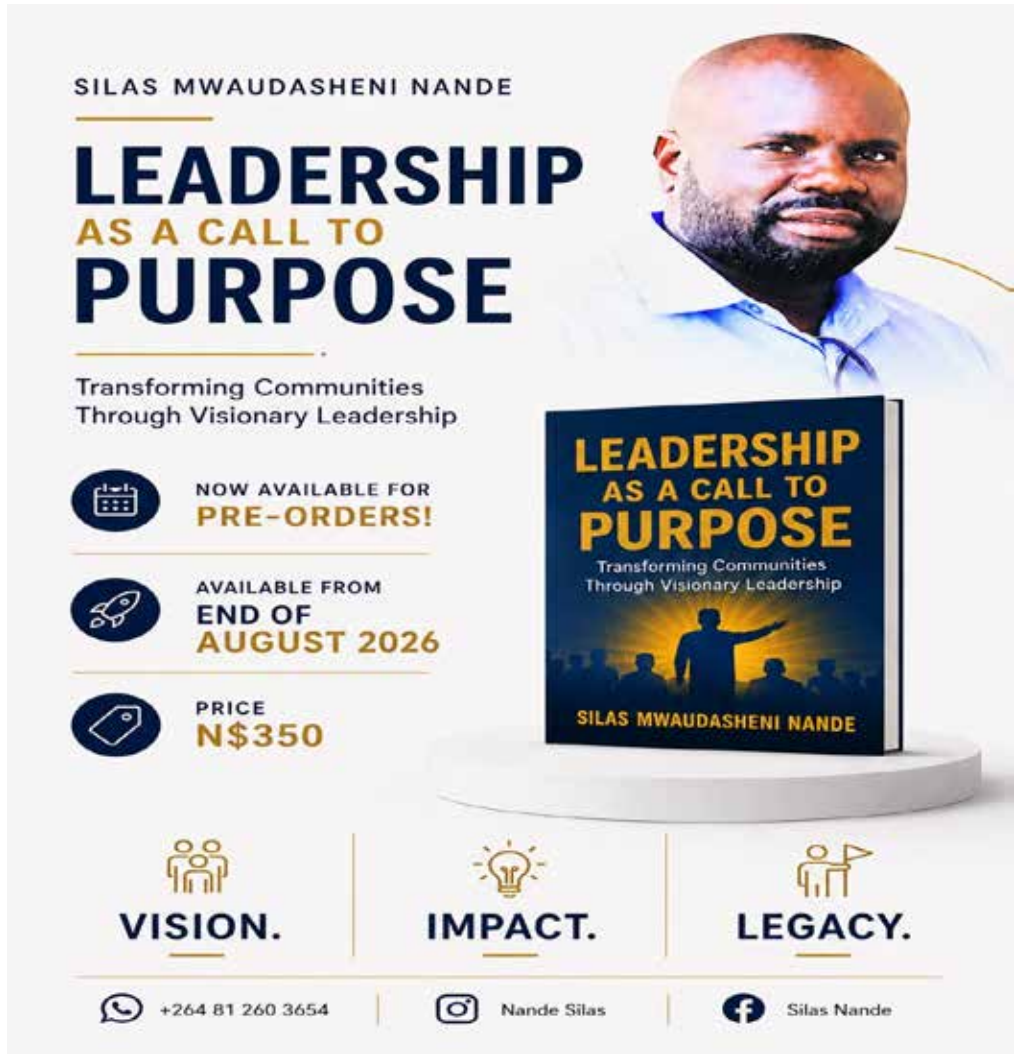
Kenya's KCSE candidates deserve better. They have invested years in their education. Their parents and guardians have made enormous sacrifices. Schools have committed resources to teaching and learning. It would be a grave disservice if those collective efforts were undermined by teachers choosing speculation over preparation.

School administrators and heads of departments must also take responsibility. They should monitor syllabus coverage, demand accountability from subject teachers, encourage collaborative lesson preparation and ensure that learners receive adequate revision support. The focus must be on instructional quality, not the volume of prediction documents circulating in departmental chats.

Teachers would add far greater value by sharing well-prepared revision materials, challenging questions, marking schemes, practical exercises and effective study strategies. And there is a moral and professional obligation to protect the integrity of national examinations. Any individual claiming to possess confidential KNEC information should be treated with extreme caution. Teachers must not expose learners to examination malpractice or encourage dependence on material whose authenticity cannot be verified.

Ultimately, examination success must be built on competence, discipline and thorough preparation. Teach the syllabus. Assess understanding. Correct mistakes. Address learning gaps. Encourage independent thinking. Prepare candidates to tackle questions they have never encountered before.

KCSE is not a lottery, and KNEC is not a weather station. The examination should find Kenya's candidates prepared — not merely lucky. If you have taught effectively and covered the syllabus, you do not need a WhatsApp tip to tell you which question is coming. You have already done your job. And if you have not, no prediction will save you.



Artificial Intelligence **The changes under way are only the beginning. Artificial intelligence is being explored to help clinicians detect diseases earlier**

Kenya's tech dream: From traditional tools to artificial intelligence

Kenya's technological journey — from ancestral innovation to Silicon Savannah — is reshaping lives, with the next generation poised to take it further.

BY Debora Bosibori
@themtkenyatimes

XLong before computers and mobile phones arrived, Kenyan technology was already alive. Kenya's ancestors crafted tools for farming, shaped pottery to store water and food, and devised systems to sustain their communities. They were innovators long before the word became fashionable.

Colonial administrators brought electricity, railways, the telegraph, and industrial machinery. Rather than remaining passive recipients, Kenyans absorbed these introductions and built on them — expanding schools, growing electricity networks, improving transport, and introducing computers into offices and classrooms. Piece by piece, Kenya constructed a technological foundation capable of supporting national development, education, and economic growth.



Nairobi skyline — the heart of Kenya's Silicon Savannah

That foundation has since evolved into something remarkable. Today, Kenya stands among Africa's most significant technology hubs, its ecosystem so widely recognised it has earned a name: the Silicon Savannah. Technology has transformed how Kenyans communicate, bank, learn, and access healthcare — felt daily in the hands of a farmer checking commodity prices on a mobile phone or a student accessing lessons from a rural village.

The changes under way are only the beginning. Artificial intelligence is being explored to help clinicians detect diseases earlier. Smart traffic systems promise to ease congestion in Kenya's growing cities. Digital learning platforms could soon place technology skills within reach of young people across the country, regardless of location.

At the centre of all this is Kenya's youth — not merely consumers of technology but its builders, creating businesses, developing cybersecurity systems, and designing solutions tailored to local challenges in agriculture, healthcare, and education.

Kenya has the talent, the entrepreneurial culture, and — through M-Pesa — a proven record of homegrown innovation the world has sought to replicate. The Silicon Savannah's future will be written not by machines alone, but by the people behind them.



Traditional stone tools from Kariandusi, Kenya — evidence of early innovation

Entrepreneurship **Yet we continue — because running a business teaches what no lecture can: negotiation, resilience, and the discipline to show up exhausted and still deliver.**

Student by day, hustler by night: The reality of campus entrepreneurship

At Laikipia University, a generation of student entrepreneurs is running businesses to survive — and learning lessons no lecture can teach.

BY Kennedy Candice
@themtkenyatimes

I missed my CAT because of smokies.

At 8:30 a.m., my supplier was waiting at Nyahururu terminus with my stock. He threatened to sell it to someone else if I did not arrive within 20 minutes. My continuous assessment test was at 9 a.m. I chose the smokies.

Before you judge me, I am not alone. At Laikipia University, students are running small businesses alongside their studies every single day — selling second-hand clothes, operating food stalls in Chexika and Kanyuga, and marketing products through WhatsApp late into the night. On social media, it looks like "Student CEO" culture. In reality, it is survival.



A young Kenyan student balancing the hustle of street vending with campus life

The challenges are not rooted in laziness. They are rooted in time, money, and sheer exhaustion. Most student entrepreneurs start with little more than pocket money from their parents, and their customers are fellow students who are equally broke. Profits are thin. We close up at 10 p.m., respond to customer messages on WhatsApp, then rise at 5:30 a.m. for a 7 a.m. lecture. Grades suffer. Health suffers. Sleep becomes a luxury.

Yet we continue — because running a business teaches what no lecture can: negotiation, resilience, and the discipline to show up exhausted and still deliver.

That is why I am writing to Laikipia's county leaders. We are not asking for handouts. We are asking for recognition and modest support — a small business hub on campus, access to mentorship, or affordable credit. These are not big requests. But they could turn today's small hustles into tomorrow's real jobs.

Laikipia's students are not simply studying for degrees. We are already building the economy.



The familiar smokie trolley — fuel for students and a lifeline for student hustlers across Kenya

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From trans-nighting to tarmacking: The mental health crisis no one is talking about

By **Synthia Achieng**



Behind the trending outfits and TikTok transitions in Kenya's lecture halls lies a quiet crisis. Anxiety, depression, and financial desperation are spreading across university campuses — and most institutions are not equipped to respond.

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights has warned that mental health remains among the most neglected areas of the country's healthcare system, with young people bearing the heaviest burden. For Kenyan students today, the pressure extends far beyond passing exams. It is about surviving a punishing combination of academic, digital, and economic stress simultaneously.

Four pressures are driving this crisis. Academic terror pushes students into sleepless trans-night study sessions not out of passion but fear, producing chronic burnout. Lifestyle envy, fuelled by TikTok feeds of peers flaunting luxury gadgets and expensive staycations, distorts reality and breeds social withdrawal. Gambling addiction is perhaps the most dangerous: with delayed HELB disbursements and rising tuition fees, many students turn to mobile betting as a survival strategy. When bets fail, debt spirals. Central Bank of Kenya data confirms that youth are the most active users of digital credit, frequently borrowing to cover losses. Finally, pre-graduation depression grips final-year students watching thousands of graduates tarmacking in unrelated fields, quietly questioning whether four years of sacrifice was worth it.

What connects all four is silence. Students mask pain behind memes and curated WhatsApp statuses while suffering alone.

Universities must act — fund counselling properly, embed financial literacy in the curriculum, and support peer networks to reach students before they reach breaking point.

Kenya cannot afford to lose a generation to a crisis it can see coming.

Our culture, our heritage: A legacy worth protecting

By **Job Mwavuwa**



Culture is not a slogan. It is the thread that connects a people to their history, their values, and to one another. For Kenya — a nation of extraordinary diversity — that thread runs deep.

From the Maasai's vibrant ceremonial traditions to the Mijikenda's storied coastal heritage, every community carries something irreplaceable. Our indigenous languages, traditional foods, music, ceremonies, and storytelling are not mere customs. They are living records of who we are and where we come from, passed down through generations as both lesson and legacy.

Preserving culture does not mean resisting progress. It means choosing not to arrive at the future empty-handed. We can teach children indigenous languages without limiting their horizons. We can document traditional knowledge without freezing it in amber. We can support cultural festivals, promote traditional arts, and give young Kenyans the tools to appreciate their heritage while engaging fully with the modern world. These are not opposing ambitions — they are complementary ones.

Kenya's diversity has sometimes been framed as a source of division. The opposite is true. Different languages, customs, and traditions do not weaken national identity; they enrich it. What unites Kenyans is not uniformity but a shared inheritance — one built from many distinct and equally valuable parts.

That inheritance carries a responsibility. Every song allowed to fade, every language left untaught, every tradition abandoned without record is a door closed permanently to those who come after us.

A people who forget their roots risk losing themselves. Our culture is our pride, our heritage is our legacy, and protecting both is a duty we owe not to the past, but to the future.

Kenya's economy in 2026: Growing faster, but under pressure

By **Viola Otieno**



Kenya's economy is performing better on paper than it has in some time. Real GDP grew by 5.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, up from 4.9 per cent in the same period last year, with manufacturing, construction, mining, and hospitality all recording positive growth. The Central Bank of Kenya now forecasts full-year growth of around 5 per cent — an upward revision from earlier estimates. The shilling has held steady and borrowing costs are lower than they were twelve months ago.

These are real achievements. They are also insufficient.

Inflation reached 6.5 per cent in September 2026, its highest level since January 2024, driven by rising processed food prices and global fuel disruptions linked to Middle East conflicts. The government has responded with fuel subsidies and a temporary VAT cut, measures the CBK says are containing the pressure — but households feel it daily at the market and on supermarket shelves.

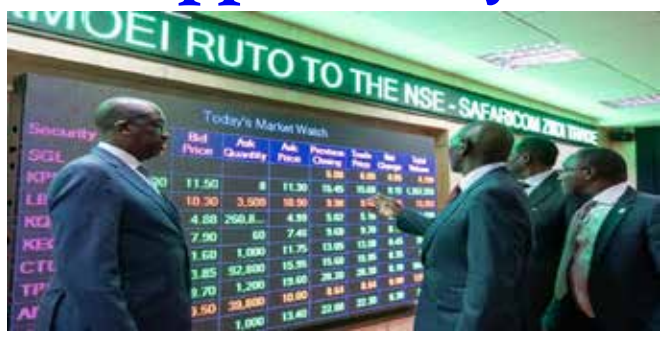
The debt picture is starker. Total public debt is approaching KSh13 trillion, with the debt-to-GDP ratio at roughly 67.6 per cent. Debt servicing has consumed nearly 80 per cent of tax revenue this fiscal year, squeezing spending on hospitals, schools, and social programmes ordinary Kenyans depend upon.

Most troubling is the jobs gap. The World Bank notes that Kenya's growth is not generating sufficient formal employment and that real incomes have fallen in recent years. Youth unemployment remains acute while the working-age population expands rapidly — a combination raising the risk of social unrest as the 2027 election cycle approaches.

Kenya's economy in late 2026 is undeniably stronger than before. But growth that never reaches people's pockets will eventually exhaust its political welcome.

From jackpot dreams to KSh100 deposits: Kenya's mobile wealth opportunity

By **Oduor Victor**



Kenyans can now start investing with the price of a chapati. Since Safaricom launched the Ziidi Money Market Fund in January 2025, small savers have been able to invest directly from M-Pesa with as little as KSh100. The numbers suggest it is catching on. Ziidi's assets under management more than doubled to KSh18.7B in the year to March 2026, while active customers jumped from 600,000 to 2.2 million.

Safaricom has kept building. Ziidi Trader, developed with the Nairobi Securities Exchange and Kestrel Capital, allows M-Pesa users to buy and sell listed shares from their phones. Ziidi Shari'ah, launched in October with Gulfcap Investment Bank, accepts deposits from KSh10. Chief Executive Peter Ndegwa has described the ambition plainly: making investing simple, affordable, and accessible. Standard Chartered's Orero Ouma adds that younger investors are now the fastest-growing segment in wealth management.

Yet the same generation is still betting heavily. GeoPoll's Betting in Africa 2026 survey found Kenya had the deepest football-betting base among six countries surveyed, at 64 per cent. A separate Old Mutual report found that 23 per cent of working youth bet regularly, with 55 per cent doing so to earn extra income and 40 per cent reporting financial difficulty as a result. The two surveys are not directly comparable, but together they sketch a generation pulled in opposite directions.

Mobile investing is expanding. Betting remains widespread. The products to redirect that money now sit on the same phone — but redirecting behaviour requires more than convenience. It requires financial education and discipline.

Ziidi's daily yield currently sits at approximately 5.8 per cent annually, subject to 15 per cent withholding tax. Verify the current rate in M-Pesa before committing funds.

The future is built, not bet.



Sports >> ***Manchester United came back from two goals down to beat AS Roma 3-2 in a dramatic Champions League comeback, ending a nine-game winless run and handing Michael Carrick a victory his tenure badly needed.**

Under Old Trafford lights, dreams refuse to die

By **Andalo Christine Ingutia**



Manchester United produced one of the most stirring comebacks seen at Old Trafford in recent memory yesterday, overturning a two-goal deficit to defeat AS Roma 3-2 and hand under-pressure manager Michael Carrick a result that may yet prove a turning point in the club's troubled season.

Roma looked to have killed the contest inside 17 minutes. Matías Soulé opened the scoring in the 11th minute, exploiting slack United defending to put the visitors ahead. Six minutes later, the deficit doubled when referee pointed to the spot after Ayden Heaven was penalised for handball. Donyell Malen stepped up and converted calmly, leaving Old Trafford stunned into a heavy, anxious silence.

What followed was ugly. Furious supporters hurled tennis balls onto the pitch in protest against the club's ownership, and the players trudged off at half-time to a chorus of boos. For a manager already fighting to save his job, it was a deeply uncomfortable evening — until it suddenly, spectacularly wasn't.

Carrick's side returned from the break transformed. The turnaround began in the 58th minute when captain Bruno Fernandes stepped up to convert a penalty. His initial effort was saved, but the referee ordered a retake for encroachment and the Portuguese midfielder made no mistake second time around, sending the ball into the net and shifting the energy inside the stadium in an instant.

The momentum continued to build. Carrick's decision to introduce 19-year-old Shea Lacey proved inspired. The teenager brought urgency, creativity, and a fearlessness that the home side had been sorely missing, and Old Trafford began to believe again.

The equaliser came in the 83rd minute. Matheus Cunha pounced on a poor Roma clearance and finished calmly to make it 2-2. Three minutes later, Lacey slid a precise through ball into Cunha's path and the Brazilian finished superbly at the near post to complete a remarkable turnaround, sending the ground into scenes of genuine, unrestrained joy.

The drama was not quite finished. Cunha received a second yellow card in the 90th minute for a reckless challenge, reducing United to ten men for the closing stages. Roma pressed desperately for an equaliser but found Carrick's side disciplined and resolute, with Lacey dropping deeper to help protect the lead. The final whistle brought enormous relief — and something the club has not felt for a while: a reason to celebrate.

The result lifts United to 17th place in the UEFA Champions League league phase standings with six points from four matches, keeping their knockout-stage hopes very much alive. For Carrick, whose position had come under fierce scrutiny during the winless run, it was more than three points. It was breathing room.

Attention now turns to Sunday's Premier League encounter against Aston Villa — another test of whether this result marks a genuine shift or merely a single extraordinary night under the Old Trafford lights.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> ***Liverpool threw away two separate leads against Fenerbahçe in Turkey on Wednesday night, extending a painful run of form that is beginning to raise serious questions about the side's defensive resolve.**

Liverpool suffer Istanbul heartbreak in 3-2 collapse



By **Andalo Christine Ingutia**

Liverpool arrived in Istanbul hoping to put a 1-0 Premier League defeat to Arsenal behind them. They left with something worse — a 3-2 loss to Fenerbahçe in the UEFA Champions League that will sting far longer than the scoreline suggests, because the Reds had the game in their hands. Twice.

Playing in front of a ferocious home crowd at the Şükrü Saracoğlu Stadium, Liverpool made a bright start. Teenage midfielder Trey Nyoni, handed a starting place by head coach Andoni Iraola, marked the occasion with a composed finish in the 25th minute — his first senior goal for the club and a moment of real promise from a 19-year-old with everything ahead of him.

The lead lasted four minutes. Fenerbahçe's Greenwood levelled almost immediately, restoring belief to the home side and unsettling a Liverpool team that had looked briefly in control. The Turkish outfit grew with every passing minute, pressing Liverpool into errors and making it increasingly difficult for the visitors to settle into their usual rhythm. The first half ended level at 1-1, with neither side having convincingly asserted themselves.

Liverpool returned from the break with greater purpose. Iraola turned to his bench, introducing Swedish striker Alexander Isak, and the move paid immediate dividends. Isak found the net in the 69th minute to restore the lead at 2-1, and for a moment it looked as though Liverpool had done enough to see the game out and claim a vital away victory.

They had not. Fenerbahçe's Brown drew the hosts level again in the 73rd minute, exploiting defensive uncertainty that Liverpool simply could not afford to show. The equaliser galvanised the home crowd and gave Fenerbahçe fresh momentum. Within six minutes, Vedat Muriqi had completed the comeback, finishing to put the Turkish side 3-2 ahead and silence whatever remained of Liverpool's travelling support.

The final stages were desperate. Liverpool pressed for an equaliser but created little of real danger, struggling to carve through a Fenerbahçe side that had scented victory and were not about to let it slip. The full-time whistle confirmed a result that extends Liverpool's losing streak to two consecutive defeats — their worst run of form in some time.

The manner of the loss is what will concern Iraola most. Liverpool did not lack for quality in attack. They scored twice and created chances. The problem was concentration, structure, and the inability to manage a lead when it mattered most. Conceding almost immediately after each goal exposed a fragility that more demanding opponents will be ready to exploit.

Attention now turns to Sunday's Premier League trip to Crystal Palace, where a response is not simply desirable — it is necessary. A third consecutive defeat would put Liverpool in a difficult position both in the league and in the broader context of their season's ambitions.

The biggest lesson from Istanbul is straightforward: goals win matches, but only if you can keep the ones you have.





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The importance of innovative pedagogical technologies in modern education



By: Ziyoda Sayfiddinova
@themtkenyatimes



In today's era of globalization and digitalization, improving the education system, increasing students' interest in learning, and nurturing independent, creative, and competitive individuals have become some of the most important educational priorities. The rapid development of society, science, and technology necessitates the introduction of new approaches to the teaching and learning process. Alongside traditional teaching methods, the use of innovative pedagogical technologies has become an essential requirement of modern education.

Innovative pedagogical technologies are a set of modern methods, tools, and approaches designed to improve the effectiveness of the educational process, develop students' knowledge and skills, and encourage independent inquiry and creative thinking. These technologies transform the relationship between teachers and students, making it possible to organize learning through collaboration, active participation, and exploration.

The purpose of this article is to examine the role of innovative pedagogical technologies in modern education and analyze their importance in improving students' knowledge, developing their creative abilities, and enhancing the overall quality of education.

Main Body

The Nature and Essence of Innovative Pedagogical Technologies

Innovative pedagogical technologies represent a systematic approach to organizing the educational process effectively, taking individual student differences into account, and achieving intended learning outcomes. Rather than treating students merely as recipients of ready-made information, these technologies encourage them to become active participants who independently seek knowledge, analyze information, and apply what they learn in practical situations.

In traditional education, the teacher often serves as the primary source of information. In innovative learning environments, however, the teacher acts as a facilitator who guides students' exploration, provides support, and encourages creative activity. This approach helps develop students' independence, responsibility, and active participation in the learning process.

The main characteristics of innovative pedagogical technologies include:

- Organizing student-centered learning.
- Developing independent and critical thinking.
- Connecting theoretical knowledge with practical activities.
- Using information and communication technologies effectively.
- Creating an environment that encourages collaboration and the exchange of ideas.
- Regularly assessing and analyzing educational outcomes.

These characteristics enrich the learning process and create favorable conditions for students to acquire knowledge more deeply and meaningfully.

The Importance of Interactive Methods in the Educational Process

Interactive methods are an important component of innovative pedagogical technologies. They actively engage students in classroom activities, encourage them to express their opinions freely, listen to others' perspectives, and approach problems from different points of view.

Methods such as clustering, brainstorming, KWL charts, Venn diagrams, fishbone diagrams, the INSERT strategy, and classroom discussions can make lessons more meaningful and engaging. For example, during brainstorming activities, students freely share their ideas about a particular problem. Initially, the emphasis is placed on generating a wide variety of ideas. These ideas are then analyzed, and the most appropriate solutions are identified.

Group work and discussions also help students develop communication skills, teamwork, the ability to justify their opinions, and respect for the viewpoints of others. However, the effectiveness of interactive methods depends on selecting approaches that correspond to lesson objectives, subject content, and students' age-related characteristics.

Digital Technologies and Educational Innovations

It is difficult to imagine modern education without digital technologies. Electronic learning platforms, multimedia materials, virtual laboratories, online assessments, and distance-learning tools enable students to acquire knowledge through different formats.

Digital tools make it possible to explain complex concepts through animations, videos, graphics, and interactive exercises. This is particularly useful when teaching abstract concepts or demonstrating practical experiments. Furthermore, electronic assessment tools help teachers identify students' knowledge levels, analyze their mistakes, and provide individualized recommendations.

Artificial intelligence technologies are also creating new opportunities in education. They can be used to personalize learning materials, generate additional exercises, analyze texts, and reduce teachers' administrative workload. At the same time, it is essential to verify the accuracy of AI-generated information, maintain academic integrity, and protect personal data.

The use of digital technologies does not automatically improve educational quality. Their effectiveness depends on their pedagogical relevance, teachers' digital competence, available technical resources, and students' active participation.

Improving Educational Effectiveness Through Gamification and Problem-Based Learning

Gamification, or the use of game elements in education, is an approach that can help increase students' motivation. Points, levels, challenges, team competitions, and reward systems may encourage students to develop a more positive attitude toward learning.

For example, in native language lessons, teachers can organize question-and-answer competitions, word games, card-based exercises, and team challenges to reinforce grammatical rules. Such activities can increase student engagement while helping learners review and apply their knowledge. However, game elements should support educational objectives rather than distract students from them.

Problem-based learning encourages students to move beyond memorizing ready-made answers and instead formulate questions, search for evidence, test hypotheses, and draw independent conclusions. The teacher presents a problem-based situation, and students use their existing knowledge to explore possible solutions. This process creates valuable opportunities to develop critical thinking, logical reasoning, and creativity.

Individualized Learning and the Teacher's Innovative Role

Every student differs in abilities, interests, existing knowledge, and learning pace. Therefore, individualized and differentiated instruction plays a particularly important role in innovative education. Providing tasks of varying difficulty, offering supplementary materials, and giving support according to individual needs can improve learning effectiveness.

For example, students who master a topic quickly may be assigned creative projects or more complex analytical tasks, while students who require additional support may benefit from exercises organized into manageable steps. Such an approach helps every learner demonstrate their abilities and make progress according to their individual potential.

Teachers' professional competence is essential for implementing innovative education effectively. Educators need to understand modern teaching methods, use digital tools appropriately, plan lessons carefully, and take students' needs into account. At the same time, expanding opportunities for professional development, experience-sharing, and the practical application of new teaching methods is important.

Several challenges may arise when implementing innovative technologies. These include insufficient technical resources, unequal access to the internet, differences in teachers' digital literacy, and the ineffective application of certain methods. Addressing these challenges requires strengthening educational infrastructure, supporting teachers, and regularly evaluating learning outcomes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, innovative pedagogical technologies play an important role in improving the quality of modern education, strengthening students' interest in learning, and developing independent, creative, and proactive individuals. Interactive methods, digital learning tools, gamification, problem-based learning, and individualized instruction enrich the educational process and help connect theoretical knowledge with practical activities.

At the same time, the effective application of innovative technologies requires selecting methods that correspond to lesson objectives and content, developing teachers' professional competencies, and considering students' individual characteristics. Ensuring information security, maintaining academic integrity, and providing equal learning opportunities must also remain important priorities when using digital tools.

The success of future education will be determined not merely by the introduction of new technologies but by their integration with effective pedagogical approaches. Creating an innovative learning environment is therefore an essential condition for educating a knowledgeable, independent-minded, creative, and future-ready generation.

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