

# MT. KENYA TIMES

WEEKEND ePAPER

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## Devolution Is Kenya's Future – DP Prof Kindiki



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Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki addressing the delegates.



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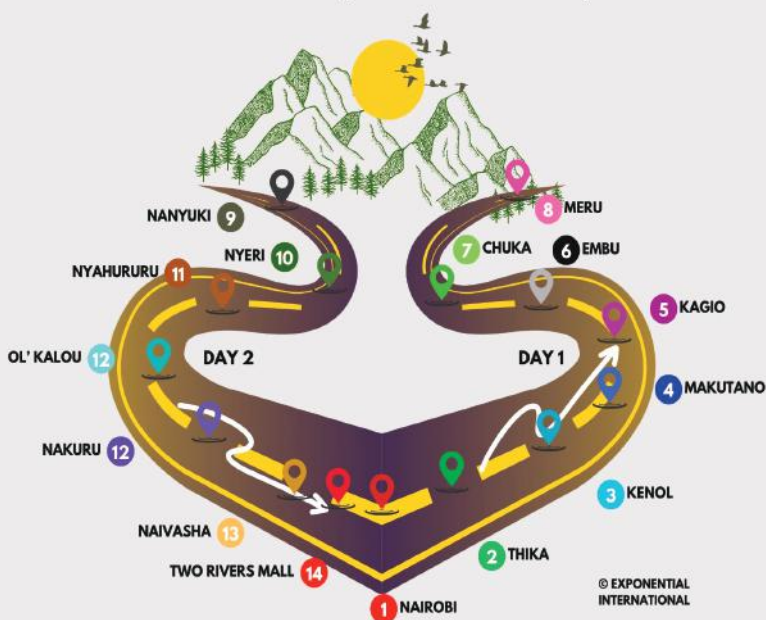


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### NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



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# Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki Graces Closing Of Devolution Conference

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures*

Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki on Friday presided over the official closing of this year's Devolution Conference at took place in Homa Bay County. The DP noted that the 9th Devolution Conference brought into sharp focus the importance and challenges facing devolution in the Country, 15 years since the promulgation of the Constitution.

"During the 4 days of the conference, it has become apparent that the future of devolution lies in institutional innovation. The National Government will in the coming days reach out to the county governments to initiate greater engagement with our young people. The youth have asked for transparency and accountability in running the affairs of our Country. Their call is valid and justified," he said.

He added, "The future of our Country is predicated on the role of the youth, the centrality of technology and the partnerships between the public and private sectors. The recent signing into law of the bill granting financial autonomy to our County Assemblies is pivotal in strengthening devolution and accountability in management of devolved resources."

The Second in Command said corruption must be tackled head on and guard the present and future generations from the dangers posed by misuse of public resources. Sectarianism, political intolerance and violent extremism are also detrimental to the prosperity of our nation and must be rejected by all citizens.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya has reduced adult tobacco use from 11.6% in 2014 to 8.5% in 2022 (TADSAS) through targeted strategies. However, over 650,000 adolescents have tried tobacco or nicotine products, with the rise of flavoured pouches signalling the need for urgent action. At the Devolution Conference, the State Department for Public Health & Professional Standards hosted a side event themed “Strengthening Devolved Responses to Drugs and Substance Abuse: A Call to Action for All Counties.” National and county leaders, experts, and partners discussed locally driven solutions — from stronger enforcement and cessation support to promoting sustainable livelihoods. The message was clear: collective action is essential to protect communities and safeguard future generations.



The Ministry of Health has launched the Kenya Nutrient Profile Model (KNPM), a new framework designed to tackle diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and transform the country’s food policies. The KNPM identifies foods high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats, guiding regulations on front-of-pack warning labels, marketing restrictions to children, public food procurement, and fiscal measures promoting healthier consumption. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nutrient profiling is a critical global best practice for reducing NCDs, which in Kenya account for more than half of all hospital admissions, largely driven by increased consumption of ultra-processed foods. “This is a transformative milestone for our national health agenda. The Kenya Nutrient Profile Model gives us the tools to protect consumers, especially children, from harmful marketing practices while empowering families to make informed food choices,” said Martha Oguto from the Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN). Developed in partnership with the International Institute for Legislative Affairs (IILA), the model supports Kenya’s goals under Vision 2030, Universal Health Coverage, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Implementation will include regulations and public education campaigns to create a healthier food environment, reduce NCD risks, and empower consumers to make informed dietary choices.

The Ministry of Labour has unveiled a comprehensive strategy to tackle Kenya’s graduate unemployment crisis, noting that only 250,000 of the one million graduates produced annually can be absorbed into the formal economy. Speaking at Taita Taveta University’s 8th graduation ceremony, Principal Secretary Shadrack Mwadime outlined four key initiatives: ‘Kazi Majuu’ (jobs abroad), ‘Kazi Mtandaoni’ (online jobs), ‘Kazi Baharini’ (blue economy jobs), and ‘Kazi Kwa Ground’ (local jobs), aimed at creating diverse employment pathways while leveraging diaspora remittances and international experience. The PS assured graduates that the current administration is committed to supporting both current and future academicians pursuing higher education levels.



The 15 Billion Trees Secretariat has concluded the third week of its sensitization mission aimed at accelerating awareness of the NLER Strategy 2023–2032. The outreach, which has engaged the National Treasury, State Department for Energy, State Department for Lands and Physical Planning, among other State Departments, seeks to strengthen coordination and accountability in Kenya’s landscape restoration efforts. The NLER Strategy 2023–2024 provides a clear roadmap for restoration, outlining 11 key intervention areas and county-specific targets to guide planning, resource mobilization, and implementation at both national and sub-national levels. As part of the activities, the Coordinator of the 15BillionTrees Secretariat, Ms. Susan Boit, hosted a delegation from the Anglican Church of Kenya led by Mr. Dennis Nthenge. The delegation shared the Church’s commitment to supporting the country’s goal of achieving 30% tree cover through the Green Anglican Movement of Kenya. Ms. Boit commended the Church’s initiative, noting that faith-based organizations are critical partners in mobilizing communities for climate action, tree planting, and environmental stewardship.



Acting High Commissioner to India Shri Sushil Prasad led the wreath-laying ceremony to honour the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers at the War Memorial cemetery in Nairobi. The 79th anniversary of India’s Independence Day was celebrated on Friday, in Nairobi with cultural performances, followed by the ceremony. During the event at India House, Prasad highlighted the deep-rooted India-Kenya relationship, noting historical ties and close cooperation in regional and multilateral forums. “Our developmental journey in Kenya has further seen the growth of India, and the transformation is not limited to economic progress but includes people’s empowerment,” he said, adding that events like today’s celebration strengthen the cordial relations between the two nations, with Indian and Kenyan cultures well integrated into society.



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# Devolution Is Kenya's Future, Youths Must Shape the Next Great Nation – DP Prof Kindiki

By: Alex Njeru

@themkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

The Deputy President said the bi-annual conference serves as an important platform for stock-taking, peer learning, and sharing innovative ideas that recommit leaders to empowering devolution.

He stressed that public participation and fidelity to the rule of law remain central to strengthening the devolved system of governance.

“The national government is fully committed to supporting and closely collaborating with counties. The partnership between our two levels of government will continue for the betterment of devolution,” Prof. Kindiki said.

Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki has called for greater youth involvement in shaping Kenya's future, saying their energy, creativity, and innovation are critical to building a united and prosperous nation.

Speaking as the Chief Guest during the closing ceremony of the 2025 Devolution Conference in Homa Bay County on Friday, Prof. Kindiki lauded the host county for seamlessly organising the three-day event, terming it “a clear demonstration of what devolution can achieve when implemented in its true spirit.”

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He stressed that public participation and fidelity to the rule of law remain central to strengthening the devolved system of governance.

“The national government is fully committed to supporting and closely collaborating with counties. The partnership between our two levels of government will continue for the betterment of devolution,” Prof. Kindiki said.

He emphasised that young people must be at the centre of decision-making in both national and county governments, noting that they hold the key to solving many of the challenges facing the country today. He also highlighted technology as a major driver of progress, both in Kenya and globally.

Prof. Kindiki hailed devolution as the most profound innovation in the 2010 Constitution, adding that its milestones over the past 12 years validate its importance.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki with Council of Governors delegates officials.

He welcomed the new law granting county assemblies greater autonomy to perform their representation and oversight roles effectively.

On national challenges, the Deputy President urged Kenyans to unite in the fight against corruption, which he described as “a dragon that must be slain by every citizen.”

He also warned against violent extremism, political intolerance, and resolving political disputes through violence, saying such actions threaten Kenya's unity and stability.

“Kenya has a good Constitution, and if upheld, it can give birth to an even greater nation,” he said.

Council of Governors Chairperson and Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdullahi said counties were leaving the 2025 conference with “renewed commitment, sharpened strategies, and fresh inspiration to strengthen devolution as the heartbeat of our nation's governance.”

He noted that over the past three days, delegates had reviewed devolution's progress over the last 12 years, confronted challenges with honesty, and shared innovative strategies to drive equitable, inclusive, and people-centred development.

The conference, attended by more than 12,000 delegates, was officially

opened by President Dr. William Ruto and graced by former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, alongside senior national and county leaders including Governors Muthomi Njuki (Tharaka-Nithi), Gladys Wanga (Homa Bay), and Mutahi Kahiga (Nyeri).

Governor Abdullahi also praised Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbandi for improving the timely disbursement of funds to counties, saying this was crucial for service delivery.

The 2025 Devolution Conference closed with a resounding message that Kenya's future lies in a stronger, more inclusive devolved system, with the youth and technology leading the way.

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# Mudavadi Raises Concern Over Status Of Waste Management In Counties

By: OPCS PS

@themtkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- In some instances, Mudavadi regretted that private collectors charge exorbitant fees but deliver sub-par services, often with kickbacks to officials.
- “This is not mere inefficiency; it is a betrayal of public trust, where the fruits of devolution are diverted from the people to private pockets,” he said, in his remarks during the devolution conference 2025 in Homa Bay County.
- Twelve years into devolution, Mudavadi noted that heaps of uncollected waste blight urban and rural landscapes, posing severe threats to public health, the environment and our national dignity.
- “The Auditor General’s findings echo this, revealing billions spent on waste management, yet numerous streets remain filthy, raising the burning question: Who is profiting from this garbage while our counties drown in filth?” Mudavadi questioned.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi (right) being escorted to the meeting venue by Homa Bay governor Gladys Wanga and her Nyeri counterpart Mutahi Kahiga.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has raised concerns over the status of garbage collection in counties, terming it a persistent crisis that requires urgent intervention.

Mudavadi said investigations have pointed to shadowy cartels and corruption networks that siphon public funds through inflated contracts, ghost workers and illegal dumping.

In some areas, criminal gangs are said to have turned public roads into unauthorized dump sites, converting waste into a lucrative illicit enterprise while exposing communities to toxins and insecurity.

In some instances, Mudavadi regretted that private collectors charge exorbitant fees but deliver sub-par services, often with kickbacks to officials.

“This is not mere inefficiency; it is a betrayal of public trust, where the fruits of devolution are diverted from the people to private pockets,” he said, in his remarks during the devolution conference 2025 in Homa Bay County.

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“The Auditor General’s findings echo this, revealing billions spent on waste

management, yet numerous streets remain filthy, raising the burning question: Who is profiting from this garbage while our counties drown in filth?” Mudavadi questioned.

“Let us look at this area carefully, garbage is big business, you all know it and your experts have told you about it, the question is who is benefiting from this big business. Are we all loosing, that also a pose to our leadership, as we review our twelve years of devolution.” Said Mudavadi.

He added: “Garbage collection remains a persistent crisis across the vast majority of our counties, a stark reminder that devolution’s promise of improved service delivery is yet to be fully realized in this critical area.”

The PCS said that amid this crisis, opportunities abound to turn trash into treasure, creating jobs for our vibrant youth and fostering sustainable development.

He said investors have proposed innovative solutions, such as converting organic waste into fertilizer or generating electricity via waste-to-energy plants, adding that he has made such proposals to certain counties.

Mudavadi, however, regretted that bureaucracy often prevails, red tape, delayed approvals and misplaced priorities stall these ventures, leaving garbage unmanaged and youth unemployed.

“Imagine the transformation: youth-led cooperatives sorting recyclables, powering homes with refuse-derived fuel and fertilizing farms with nutrient-rich compost, closing the socio-economic divide one innovative project at a time,” he noted.

The PCS said the looming danger of hazardous waste management, which exacerbates the crisis and threatens our health and ecosystems cannot be ignored.

Even worse, medical, electronic, and industrial wastes are often dumped indiscriminately and pose risks of toxic contamination.

To this end, he said counties must invest in dedicated treatment plants, enforce e-waste recycling and train communities on safe handling.

He was concerned that failure to act invites disasters, soil pollution, respiratory diseases, and biodiversity loss, which disproportionately burden the marginalized.

He stated that the challenges demand bold, innovative responses, even as he made proposals to introduce performance parameters in revenue-sharing framework, within the Equalization Fund, to reward counties that achieve clean, functional garbage systems.

“Why not expand the Fund’s parameters to environmental stewardship? Counties demonstrating high waste collection rates, recycling targets, and

reduced pollution, verified through independent audits, could receive bonus allocations of their equitable share, to fund further green initiatives?” he proposed.

On the other hand, Mudavadi said persistent underperformers could face disincentives, such as withheld funds redirected to national cleanup efforts or mandatory technical assistance.

“This carrot-and-stick approach, inspired by successful models in other countries where performance-based grants have revolutionized waste management, would spur competition for excellence,” he noted.

“Perhaps the one county that really steps out and is able to demonstrate that they are managing this particular challenge well should maybe be considered in the recognition process and through proper legislation benefit from an elevated allocation during the revenue sharing mechanism.” the Prime CS further proposed.

He proposed that recognition awards, like a “Green County of the Year,” could celebrate leaders who prioritize sustainability, inspiring others.

By rewarding innovation and sanctioning neglect, he said the country will align devolution with equity and justice, ensuring cleaner counties, healthier citizens, and empowered youth.

# Inside Multi-billion Water Projects To Quench Nairobi, Kiambu and Murang'a Residents

By: John Kamau

@themkenyaintimes

In efforts to improve water supply and end the perennial water problems in Murang'a, Kiambu and select areas of Nairobi, Athi Water Works Development Agency (AWWDA) has embarked on ambitious multi-billion dam projects.

These projects aim to ensure a steady and reliable water supply to the residents of these counties.

On its table, AWWDA is planning to implement 7 water projects in Kiambu and Murang'a County estimated to cost billions of shillings.

In Murang'a county the water agency is constructing phase II of the Northern Collector tunnel at a cost of KSh12 billion and Maragwa 4 dam estimated to cost KSh35 billion.

In Kiambu five dams are set to be constructed to meet the pressing water demand in the region. They include Ndarugu II, Kamiti, Thiririka, Ruiru II and Gatamaiyu dams with an estimated cost of KSh73 billion.

To finance the projects, the agency is planning to source the funds from mixed financing and through private partnership programmes.

For a long time residents in the two counties have cried foul that despite providing water to residents of Nairobi, they were left struggling to access clean and sufficient water for domestic use.

Among the projects, Maragwa 4 dam is set to be the biggest in the region from the current Thika dam popularly known as Ndakaini located in Gatanga Constituency.

The proposed Dam that is set to be constructed at the border of Kigumo and Kahuro Sub-county is designed to produce 180,000 cubic meters of water on a daily basis, that would be shared between Murang'a and Nairobi counties.

On February last year during his visit in Murang'a County President William Ruto said his government is working round the clock to implement the mega dam.

He said that Treasury will partner with various international donor organizations to get the funds required to implement the project.

Areas anticipated to benefit from the dam include, lower parts of Kigumo, Kahuro, Kiharu and Maragua Sub-counties.

Currently some parts of Murang'a and Maragua are served by the recently built Maragua II dam, constructed at a cost of KSh800 million.

Other parts of the county which are not served by the dams rely on community water projects like, Gatanga, Murang'a and Ithanga

"The Government has the responsibility to provide water to its citizens. Maragua Dam is among the earmarked mega dams to be implemented by the Kenya Kwanza Administration. When completed, many parts of Murang'a will get a steady supply of clean water," the President asserted.

He added that apart from the planned construction of 100 mega dams across the country, the government will also build social dams to provide ample water for Kenyans in various parts of the country.

In Kiambu County the water agency is facing hurdles to commence construction of Ndarugu II dam which is estimated to cost KSh15 billion. The dam is touted to be the second biggest dam in the county after the KSh24 billion Karimnu II dam.

The proposed dam is meant to provide water to the residents of Gatundu, Juja and Thika who were not included in by Karimnu II dam supply plan.

The mega dam was commissioned by former president Uhuru Kenyatta a few days to the 2022 general elections.

Ndarugu II dam is set to be constructed less than 10 kilometres from Karimnu II dam in Gatundu North and is among the 100 mega dams that President Ruto's administration is riding on to mitigate the raging drought occasioned by shortage of rain.

In a bid to quench thirsty residents of Thika and Githunguri, the government has announced plans to implement the KSh21 billion Water and Sanitation Project in Kiambu County.

The project involves construction of Thika 3A dam at the confluence of River Thika and Kiama which will hold 14.6 billion liters of water.

It will also involve the construction and, rehabilitation of water storage tanks and the laying of about 60-60-kilometre water transmission and distribution pipelines including consumer last-mile connections.

The project is financed by the Government of Kenya and Danida Sustainable Infrastructure Finance (DSIF).

The project is meant to help the overstretched municipality's water service provider, Thika Water and Sewerage Company (Thiwasco) which has been struggling to meet the growing demand for the precious



Athi Water CEO Eng Joseph Kamau.

commodity.

The current water demand in the industrial town is about 75,000 cubic meters while the company's daily production is 39,000 cubic meters.

Thika water treatment works were established in the 1950's and the last production expansion systems were carried out in 1991 when the town's population was relatively low.

AWWDA has already presented its strategic direction and investment opportunities as aligned with the Government's Development Agenda and other national, regional and international development priorities.

The financial resources required by AWWDA to implement the strategies and programmes between 2023-

2027 stand at KSh206 billion.

AWWDA CEO Eng Joseph Kamau told journalists that in the next five years, these resources will increase access to water from the current 76% to 85% through development of new water dams, new water sources, transmission pipelines, water distribution networks and water treatment plants.

"As we embark on this ambitious journey to address the water and sewage gap in our region, it's essential to emphasize our commitment to solid governance and risk management practices. These foundational elements provide the framework for our operations and ensure that we navigate challenges effectively," Eng

Kamau said.

The Chairman added, "With a strategic plan set forth, backed by a bold vision and practical viability, we stand poised to achieve remarkable outcomes. Together, with the support of our stakeholders and partners, we can turn this vision into reality and make significant strides towards enhancing the lives of all those that we serve."

AWWDA also plans to achieve 60% access to sewer sanitation coverage in its area of jurisdiction through expansion of wastewater treatment capacities by 138,000m<sup>3</sup>/day and expanding sewer networks by 680km.



The Northern Collector Tunnel (NCT) project pipeline in Gatundu South..

# Nakuru DCP Leaders Push For Stronger Youth Presence In Politics

By: Suleiman Mbatiah  
 @themkenyatimes

Youths have been challenged to step up and seek elective positions, starting with the forthcoming byelections. Former NHIF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Geoffrey Mwangi said young people bear the brunt of many challenges in the country and must seize the opportunity to influence decisions at leadership tables.

The former NHIF boss was speaking during a Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) youth forum at the party's Milimani offices in Nakuru City. "It is time the youth made the right decision by having their own in decision-making spaces. Pick IDs, register as voters and turn up to vote," Mwangi said.

He noted that the party was working on strategies to secure victory in the next General Election and that the involvement of young people was key to this goal.

Mwangi, who is vying for the Nakuru governorship, urged young aspirants not to shy away from contesting, say-

ing their voices and perspectives were vital in shaping the country's future.

The party's Secretary for Planning and Economic Affairs, Dr Peter Mbae, urged the youth to help build the party by registering as aspirants or volunteers.

"I want to make it clear, not everyone will win the election, but the party will nominate those who lose, along with committed volunteers, to take up party positions and other roles," he said.

As a senior party official from Nakuru County, Dr Mbae pledged to champion the region's agenda to ensure it gets its rightful share in cabinet, ambassadorial, and parastatal appointments.

Youth leader Janet Moraa said young people should be well represented in the party, citing their large voting bloc and energy during campaigns.

DCP Secretary General Hezron Obaga announced that the Nakuru office would set up a dedicated desk to handle youth affairs in the region.

Speaking by phone from the USA, DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua said he would hold a three-day meeting across Nakuru County once he returned to the country.



DCP leaders led by party's Nakuru governorship candidate Geoffrey Mwangi at the Gen Zs meeting. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah

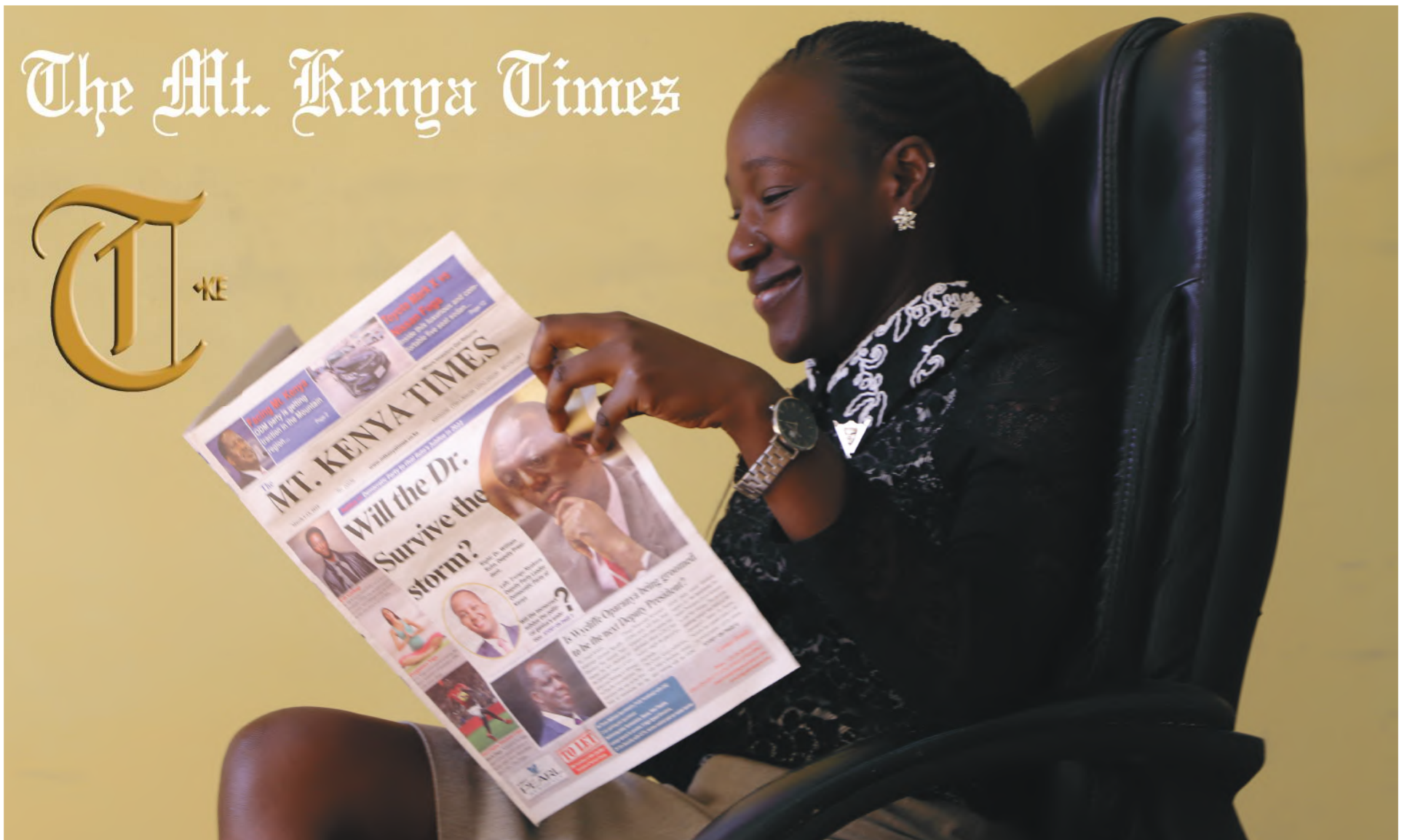
Gachagua said that he would return to Kenya on August 21 to join his party in preparation for the upcoming by-elections set for November.

"I regret being unable to visit the scheduled remaining states since

I need to get back home to join our party in preparation for the upcoming by-elections," Gachagua said in an earlier address.

Since its launch on May 15, the party has attracted more than 1.8 mil-

lion members and unveiled its first by-election candidates: Aden Mohamed for Banisa and Edgar Busiega for Malava.



# Mudavadi: Devolution Must Embrace The Aspirations Of The Youth

By: OPCS PS  
 @themtkenyatimes

The youth must be incorporated in the decision-making table of the devolved system of governance, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said.

Mudavadi said more often, young people find themselves on the sidelines and their voices muted in the very process that should shape their future.

He has challenged the leadership that governs devolution in the country to reflect and eliminate the barriers that limit youth participation in the progressive matters of devolution.

“Over 75% of Kenya’s population under the age of 35, their energy, innovation, and vision are indispensable to the success of devolution. Devolution’s promise of equity and inclusion remains hollow if it does not embrace the aspirations of our youth,” noted Mudavadi.

“Within the structures of devolved system of governance, we must create spaces where young Kenyans can lead, innovate, and hold power accountable, because a devolution that sidelines the majority is a devolution that fails,” he added.

The Prime CS has called for the country to engage in a conversation with the youth saying the efforts that are being witnessed at the national level in engaging the youth should be replicated at the county levels.

Mudavadi said the youth should be encouraged and led to embrace the journey ahead with courage, compassion, and a shared commitment.

“Limited access to decision-making platforms, inadequate representation in county structures, and a lack of tailored opportunities for youth engagement should be addressed with the urgency required. These challenges not only stifle potential but also deepen the socio-economic divide we seek to close,” Mudavadi noted.

Mudavadi one of the key architects and staunch crusader of devolution acknowledged that devolution offers a unique opportunity to transform the status quo among the youth, and by embedding youth councils in county governance, prioritizing youth-led initiatives in development plans, and ensuring that county budgets reflect the needs of young people, it is possible to turn rhetoric into reality.

“Let us not forget, when youth thrive, counties thrive and Kenya thrives,” said Mudavadi.

The Prime CS said this when he made his remarks at the 2025 Devolution Conference at the lake side county of Homa Bay.

He said such conferences offer a great opportunity for deeper reflection and interaction between leaders at various levels and the youth, and provides a platform for exchange of bigger ideas that can lead to a drastic change within the spectrum of the youth involvement in the governance of the country.

“This conference must be more than a conversation. It must be a commitment. To every governor, policymaker and stakeholder here; make youth



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi being welcomed by Homa Bay County governor Gladys Wanga.

participation non-negotiable. Invest in capacity-building programs that equip young leaders with the skills to govern, innovate, and serve. Create mentorship pipelines that connect experienced leaders with the next generation. And, above all, listen,” he emphasized.

“The ideas that will propel our counties forward are already here, in the minds of our youth. Let us give them the platform to lead, because devolution’s true power lies in its ability to uplift every Kenyan, starting with those who will inherit its legacy.” added Mudavadi.

Mudavadi has previously been quoted to have been at the forefront of changing the narrative on the current perception about the youth and he has consistently pointed out that the politicians, are the biggest culprits talking down to young people instead of engaging them in meaningful conversations.

He said the ongoing conference in Homa Bay should be a game changer and the conversation about the youth should be reflected in this years’ devolution conference theme “For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice”.

He said the theme perfectly captures the nations’ collective mission to strengthen county governments as engines of inclusive growth and social justice with the youth sitting at the decision-making round table.

“Let us reflect on the remarkable journey we have travelled and renew our commitment to the path ahead. Devolution is a dynamic and evolving process, a powerful testament to our faith in self-governance. But with power comes immense responsibility: to lead with unwavering integrity, to serve with humility and to empower the future of devolution by infusing our counties with innovative ideas and the vibrant energy of our youth.” said Mudavadi.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with ODM leader Raila Odinga in Homa Bay on Thursday. Photos/PCS.

He urged all Kenyans to rise to this call with dedication and courage, ensuring that the promise of devolution becomes a lasting legacy of prosperity and unity for generations to come.

**Worth Noting:**

- “Over 75% of Kenya’s population under the age of 35, their energy, innovation, and vision are indispensable to the success of devolution. Devolution’s promise of equity and inclusion remains hollow if it does not embrace the aspirations of our youth,” noted Mudavadi.
- “Within the structures of devolved system of governance, we must create spaces where young Kenyans can lead, innovate, and hold power accountable, because a devolution that sidelines the majority is a devolution that fails,” he added.
- The Prime CS has called for the country to engage in a conversation with the youth saying the efforts that are being witnessed at the national level in engaging the youth should be replicated at the county levels.

# All Is Set For Central Kenya National Show Next Month In Nyeri

By: Rodgers Wagura  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The annual show, a flagship event for the region's agribusiness calendar, is expected to attract more than 150 exhibitors from across Kenya's agricultural, manufacturing, housing, banking, hospitality, and education sectors, as well as public and private institutions.
- According to the organisers, the event will be a strategic platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and showcasing cutting-edge solutions that are shaping the country's future.
- Speaking during a preparedness inspection at the showground, Patrick Karinga Munuhe, the Chairman of the Central Kenya National ASK Show, said the 2025 edition will put special emphasis on climate-smart agricultural practices to address the growing impacts of climate change on food security.

The Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Central Kenya National Show is all set to host exhibitors and show-goers next month.

The four-day event will take place from September 10 to 13 at Kabiruini Showground, near Nyeri town.

This year's premier agricultural and trade exhibition will run under the theme "Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth", highlighting innovation, sustainability, and resilience as drivers of economic transformation.

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Speaking during a preparedness inspection at the showground, Patrick Karinga Munuhe, the Chairman of the Central Kenya National ASK Show, said the 2025 edition will put special emphasis on climate-smart agricultural practices to address the growing impacts of climate change on food security.

"Farmers today need practical, sustainable solutions that not only boost productivity but also safeguard the environment. This show will demonstrate the latest innovations in water management, renewable energy use in farming, and climate-resilient crops," Munuhe noted.

He disclosed that this year's show promises a vibrant mix of live demonstrations, expert-led workshops, and hands-on training sessions for farmers, students, and entrepreneurs.

Attendees will discover new technologies in mechanisation, irrigation, and value addition, as well as financing options for agribusiness growth.

From modern greenhouse setups and smart irrigation systems to agritech software and innovative post-harvest solutions, exhibitors will present products and services designed to transform agricultural productivity and market access.

The event will also provide an opportunity for strategic networking between industry players, policymakers, investors, and small-scale farmers, with the aim of building partnerships that can strengthen Central Kenya's economic landscape.

The organisers have encouraged early registration for exhibitors ahead of



Chairman Central Kenya National show Patrick Karinga Munuhe, accompanied by other officials address journalists at Kabiruini show ground in Nyeri town on Friday. Photos/Joseph King'ori.

the 9th September deadline.

Tickets can be purchased online via [www.ask.co.ke](http://www.ask.co.ke) or by contacting the Nyeri ASK branch through [nycrri@ask.co.ke](mailto:nycrri@ask.co.ke).

Gate charges are set at KSh300 for adults and KSh250 for children, with discounted rates for groups of 10 or more including schools and farmer organisations at KSh 250 for adults and KSh200 for children.

Membership badges and essential stickers are available at the Nyeri

branch offices.

ASK officials said the Central Kenya National Show is more than just an exhibition it is an economic catalyst.

By bringing together technology providers, agricultural experts, and traders under one roof, the event aims to accelerate the adoption of climate-smart practices, improve market linkages, and enhance competitiveness in the agricultural sector.

With just under a month to go, preparations at Kabiruini Showground are

in high gear, and the organisers promise a well-curated event that will offer both learning and business opportunities for all participants.

"This is the place where innovation meets opportunity," Munuhe said. "We invite farmers, entrepreneurs, students, and all stakeholders to come and be part of shaping the future of agriculture and trade in Kenya."



Central Kenya ASK chairman Patrick Karinga Munuhe inspecting a beans demonstration plot at Kabiruini Showground on Friday.

# Ndindi Nyoro Tells Government To Release Capitation Arrears To Schools Ahead Of Third Term Reopening

By: John Kamau  
@themkenyatimes

As schools are set to reopen for the third term, the government has been urged to release capitation funds to facilitate smooth learning and running of institutions across the country.

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro says that the government should avoid throwing schools into financial crisis by delaying release of the funds saying that the monies are critical as learning resumes in a week's time.

The former Parliamentary Budget Committee Chairman said that early release of capitation funding is imperative for quality of education in the country adding that the Ministry of Education should expedite the process.

"As schools reopen, we are demanding that all capitation arrears be sent to schools for smooth learning and running of institutions and for the purpose of quality education," Nyoro said.

Speaking during the 5th graduation ceremony of Gorgeous Technical Institute (GTI) in Thika town on Friday, Nyoro censured the Finance Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi for his recent remarks on lowering capitation funds per student annually from KSh22,000 to KSh16,000.

He maintained that the amount was based on empirical calculations and that Kenya should not be having a discussion of reducing the figure adding that the amount should even be increased to cater for other financial hurdles institutions face.

The lawmaker at the same time called on the National Treasury and the Education Ministry to ensure that free basic education is sustained noting that it is a right for all Kenyan children and not a privilege.

Meanwhile, Nyoro challenged the Government through the Ministry of Higher Education as well as the Technical and Vocational Education Training Authority (TVETA) to mull a plan to sponsor students in private TVETs across the country.

He argued that upon graduation, students from private institutions become part of the country's Labour force and contribute effectively towards nation building and hence should be considered by the government.

"It is high time for the ministry of higher education to start giving sponsorship to private students in tvets because they become part of the

country's Labour force after graduation. Therefore the sponsorship that's given to public colleges, even private colleges should be accorded the same support," he said.

His sentiments were echoed by Jackline Waithera, GTI Founder and Director, who said that most students who miss out on public institutions' slots end up joining private TVETs adding that they have a right to be granted sponsorships by the state.

Waithera at the same time underscored the importance of technical skills in the wake of joblessness which has largely affected youths in the country. She noted that acquiring the world and technical skills gives the youths a competitive edge in the job market as well as equipping them to initiate their own income-generating ventures.

Waithera called on youth across the country to go for highly marketable world skills including fashion and design, electrical installation, welding, plumbing, hospitality, hairdressing and beauty and entrepreneurship among others to enable them meet the high demand of specialists in the country.

She noted with concern that the country is facing a shortage of skilled manpower to power the economy adding that this creates a noble opportunity for unemployed youths in the country to acquire vital skills and secure jobs.

"The goal is to achieve better socio-economic conditions for today's youth as a means of addressing the challenges of unemployment and under employment. Technical skills and/or courses are highly marketable as one can immediately secure a job upon completion and or start their own income generating enterprises," the Director said.

She hailed the government for creating opportunities for skilled youths in the country through various programmes including the affordable housing programme as well as creating Funds where youths can access seed capital to start their enterprises.

"It's imperative for youths to be equipped with hands-on skills that will go a long way in enabling them secure jobs or start their own ventures. White-collar jobs are drastically shrinking and are being taken up by technological advancements. To beat joblessness we must equip our youths with technical skills," she said.

Graduates led by Monica Mwangi and Rachel Mungai reiterated that, armed with vital skills and knowledge, they are ready to join the la-



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro speaking at the 5th graduation ceremony of Gorgeous Technical Institute in Thika Town..

bour market and earn a decent living.

They rallied their peers to consider undertaking vocational courses including short courses so as to be

more employable.

More than 200 graduated with certificates and diplomas in various fields including Fashion and Design,

Hospitality, Masonry, Plumbing, Tailoring, Hair Dressing, Baking Technology among others.



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro presenting a certificate to a grandaunt at the 5th graduation ceremony of Gorgeous Technical Institute in Thika Town.

## Independence



Free From your mobile phone  
Fight for what's right and wrong  
Stand on your own feet  
Struggle for independence

Don't follow the crowd  
Find your own way  
Be strong and brave  
Your Freedom is priceless

Don't let others decide  
Make your own choice  
Be the change you want  
Be an independent and be happy.

T.Vasugi,  
B.T Assistant,  
Kamaraj Matriculation  
Higher Secondary School,  
Kovilpatti.

## You Are The Light



When you are the light, darkness will be  
there in the near by  
for contrast will be there  
No need to feel sad, because this is your role,  
To lead others on the right path, with your  
light

You have a greater part to play, a special  
role,  
Compared to others, your light makes you  
whole,  
It's time to understand, your purpose

To light up others' lives, with your inner light

Guide others forward, with your shining light,  
Don't let their darkness, dim your light  
Let it glow and spark, many lives  
Others will follow, the path that you lead

Hold your head high, be smart, and move  
ahead,

Be the guiding star, like the pole star  
Make a difference, in others' lives with your  
light,  
And illuminate the world, with your bright  
light

Brinda. D  
CREATIVE WRITERS  
GRADUATE TEACHER,  
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,  
MELPATTAMPAKKAM  
CUDDALORE,  
Tamilnadu India

## The Beauty Of Unplanned



Don't plan each step or pave the way,  
Let life unfold in its own play.

Not all must go as you believe,  
Some things are meant just to relieve.

Don't twist what's far beyond your hand,  
Let moments bloom, not all be planned.

A flower blooms where no eyes see,  
Its beauty thrives in mystery.

The river breaks through stone and sand,  
Without a map, it shapes the land.

A seed may fall on unknown ground,  
Yet rise as trees, strong and profound.

A painter starts with no clear line,  
Yet ends with something near divine.

The stars don't follow human charts,  
Still guide the lost and heal their hearts.

A missed train leads to fateful eyes,  
Strangers become life's greatest prize.

Uncharted roads bring thrill and grace,  
With lessons time cannot erase.

So let the winds decide the flight,  
For life moves best in its own light

V Durgadevi  
BT Assistant  
GHS Nesal  
Tiruvannamalai District

## My Best Friend



My best friend's name is Ajith,  
He is a lovely friend  
He is full of charm, and a heart full of love  
He's very free with a sharp mind  
He scores high marks,  
He helps others weak students succeed

Reading and writing are his hobbies  
One day he'll shine, as a great businessman

He's a supportive friend, always lend a helping  
hand,  
He is a true companion, in every way

I'm lucky to have him, as my friend  
Together we'll continue the journey,  
through laughter and tears,  
Wishing him all the best,  
for his future so bright,  
Ajith, my best friend, shining with delight.

Varshith.  
7 B  
GOVT High school Melpattampakkam  
Cuddalore district  
Tamil Nadu, India

## My Mother



My mother, the best mom,  
a treasure for me  
My favorite person, with full of love  
I can't compare her with anyone  
She loves all children,  
her heart is so kind,  
She prepares delicious dishes

Her speech is melodious, like a sweet  
song,

She's cool and gentle,  
She never gets angry or tensed  
She loves pet animals, and takes care  
well

She is a hard worker,  
Very sincere, dedicated

She's a wonderful mom,  
She a guiding light,  
A role model, in every way,  
I'm lucky to have her,  
in my life's journey  
A mother like her, is a precious star.

Aswitha . 7 A  
Govt High school Melpattampakkam  
Cuddalore district  
Tamil Nadu, India

## My Best Friend Gokulesh



Gokulesh is my best friend,  
He is true and gentle  
We sit together, sharing all moments  
We sit in the same bench,  
We laugh laughter,  
We make great memories together  
Sharing lunch and secrets,  
our bond won't break at all

In school and playground, we meet happily

Sharing food and stories,  
He explains tough topics, with patience  
to me

He is A loyal friend to me  
always he is there to make me happy

He stands next to my parents,  
He is a trusted friend so close  
Like family, he is close to me,  
He is always near in my life's journey,  
he's a shining light, my best friend,

Arivazhagan  
7A  
Govt High school  
MELPATTAMPAKKAM  
Cuddalore district  
Tamil Nadu, India

# UDA Aspirants In Malava To Be Subjected To Party Primaries

By: OPCS PS  
 @themtkenyatimes

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party has settled for party primaries in picking its candidate for the upcoming Malava Constituency parliamentary by-election.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said the party aims at ensuring the voice of the UDA members in Malava is respected.

Mudavadi was speaking at Malava Boys in Kabras West where he presided over a widows' empowerment forum and later addressed more than 2,000 boda boda operators.

He said the exercise will be transparent, free and fair.

"I am not here to endorse any aspirant as the UDA candidate. I will not announce any name. An opportunity will come for the people of Malava to decide, and UDA will respect the decision of the people of Malava," said Mudavadi.

"We are preparing to have the party nominations on 20th September 2025. As a party we will put in place all that is needed to ensure the people's choice becomes the flagbearer for UDA," added UDA Vice Chairperson Kelvin Lunani.

Mudavadi said after the nominations, the UDA team will officially camp in Malava and campaign rigorously for the candidate who will have won in the primaries.

However, he challenged the aspirants present, seeking the UDA party ticket among them Simon Kangwana Chimuche, Ryan Injendi Malulu, David Ndakwa and Leonard Lipala Shimaka to remain loyal to the party post the primaries.

"I have paraded all the UDA aspirants present before the people of Malava and Kenya. I have asked them if they will remain in the party and support the party irrespective of the outcome of the nominations and all the four have confessed, they will stick with the party. Anyone who will ditch the party after the primaries will not only have betrayed the people of Malava, but he will have also betrayed the Kabras community," Mudavadi posed.

The aspirants pledged to conduct peaceful and orderly campaigns ahead of the primaries with the Prime CS urging them to carry the party's discipline and respect one another while reaching the people.

"I have interacted with many groups from Malava and I am still interacting with more groups, but most importantly I engaged the religious leaders on how we want the by-election campaigns to be peaceful. The people of Malava will decide and we want them to decide in a peaceful and democratic manner through the ballot," said Mudavadi.

The Prime CS who is UDA's patron in the Malava by-election campaigns told the electorate to consider electing a UDA candidate in the 27th November 2025 Mini-Polls reminding them of the legacy of their late MP Malulu Injendi who supported President William Ruto's government.

"You need to look at the bigger picture. It is important for you the people of Malava to remain in government. Even



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with President William Ruto's aide Farouk Kibet at Kabras



### Worth Noting:

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- Mudavadi said after the nominations, the UDA team will officially camp in Malava and campaign rigorously for the candidate who will have won in the primaries.

ODM leader Raila Odinga has said we need to embrace the broad-based government and look beyond 2027, then Malava as you have walked with me before, I seek your support again to walk with me so that we deliver the Malava seat to UDA," he explained.

Mudavadi assured the aspirants that whoever will lose in the nominations and faithfully remain in the party will not be left behind.

"President Ruto is the leader of UDA and the President of the Republic of

Kenya. This means the UDA house is big and will accommodate everybody, as long as you remain loyal and support our course," Mudavadi said.

"Don't let the President down, don't also let me down and above all don't let the people of Malava and Western region down," Mudavadi urged the people of Malava.

Mudavadi told the two groups the women and Boda Boda operators that when Malava wins then Kakamega wins, Western Kenya wins and Kenya

will have made significant strides.

"Don't allow people who have no foot soldier, a party that doesn't have even a single MP in parliament to try and experiment using Malava. You must rise above all odds and show them that Malava is in government," Mudavadi said.

The Prime CS has affirmed to continue with similar engagements moving into the UDA primaries and the November by-election.



Some of the boda boda operators

## BUSINESS

# Coca-Cola Launches Exciting Nationwide Promotion Offering Kenyans KShs 1,000,000 Weekly Prizes



By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The promotion aims not only to reward consumers but also to enhance their day-to-day lives by providing practical and instant rewards, including airtime, data bundles, and significant cash prizes that could cover essentials or festive treats. CCBA Kenya continues to emphasize consumer accessibility, ensuring winners receive their prizes swiftly via digital means.

Alfred Mabu, Revenue Growth and Trade Marketing Director for Coca-Cola Beverages Africa in Kenya, also highlighted the broader vision behind the campaign. “Our diverse portfolio reflects our dedication to providing beverages that meet the preferences of Kenyans. This promotion is another way we’re refreshing Africa daily and creating shared value.”



L-R: Revenue Growth and Trade Marketing Director, Coca-Cola Bottlers Kenya Alfred Mabu, Senior Director, Frontline Marketing Coca-Cola East and Central Africa Warau Kahoro, Sales Director Coca-Cola East and Central Africa Winfred Mwaniki, Senior Director Franchise Operations Coca-Cola East and Central Africa Simon Mwangi, and Coca-Cola East and Central Africa Director Frontline Marketing, Juliana Kituma present the cash prize to Manuela Elizabeth (center) during the Coca-Cola Funua Flava Pata Mita official launch at Kenyatta Market.

In an exciting move set to delight consumers across the country, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) in Kenya has announced the launch of its nationwide promotional campaign, Funua Flava Under the Crown. Running from 15 August to 15 November 2025, the campaign offers Kenyans the chance to win daily and weekly prizes, including a grand weekly cash reward of KES 1,000,000.

The promotion covers popular Coca-Cola products including 300ml glass bottles of Coca-Cola, Sprite, Fanta, Stoney, Krest, and Schweppes, giving a wide range of consumers a chance to participate. To enter, customers need to purchase any of these products, check under the yellow bottle caps for a unique code, and send the code via SMS to 40111. Successful participants stand to win various prizes instantly.

Juliana Kituma, Director of Frontline Marketing for Coca-Cola East and Central Africa Franchise, explained the motivation behind the initiative: “At Coca-Cola, we believe in creating simple yet magical expe-

riences for our consumers. With this promotion, we’re making it easy for people to win real prizes in real-time. Airtime prizes will be delivered directly to winners’ phones, while cash prizes will be securely transferred to their mobile wallets — making the entire process fast, seamless, and accessible.”

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Africa daily and creating shared value.”

He further noted, “This campaign is our way of thanking Kenyans for their loyalty, while also giving back in a meaningful way. We’re proud to roll out a consumer promotion that brings joy to everyday moments.”

This initiative is set to impact tens of thousands of Kenyans positively over its three-month duration, incentivizing purchases and bringing a spirit of excitement and anticipation to consumers nationwide. By combining Coca-Cola’s beloved products with rewarding prizes, the Funua Flava Under the Crown campaign will encourage everyday moments of joy and opportunity.

Whether it’s topping up mobile airtime to stay connected, covering household essentials, or simply indulging in something special, the promotion invites Kenyans to engage with the brand in a rewarding way. It also reflects Coca-Cola’s broader commitment to community involvement and consumer happiness.

The campaign offers a compelling

call to action for Kenyans: Buy a bottle, send the code, and stand a chance to be a winner every single day or even take home the grand weekly prize of one million shillings. As the campaign rolls out nationwide, excitement is expected to build, with the potential to transform everyday Coca-Cola purchases into life-changing moments.

The Funua Flava Under the Crown promotion is a timely and innovative marketing drive that positions Coca-Cola as a brand deeply connected to its consumers, celebrating their loyalty while boosting their daily lives.



# WEB SOLUTIONS



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# Law Society Of Kenya Annual Conference: Call To Defend Constitutionalism

By: Cynthia Masibo

@themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Musyoka depicted a troubling scenario where young Kenyans, especially those under 30, face abduction and persecution for expressing dissent and exercising rights enshrined in the 2010 Constitution. Many have been charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, he noted, and treated as criminals for their activism. He recounted the harrowing experiences of victims of state violence, emphasizing their enduring faith in the Constitution's power to shield citizens from further abuse.
- The former Vice President commended the Law Society for offering relentless legal support to affected citizens, positioning lawyers as a collective conscience during perilous times. "The country is deeply grateful to all of you," Musyoka said, lauding their leadership, moral courage, and response to distress calls.



Wiper leader Kalonzo musyoka at the Law society of Kenya annual conference in Coastal region

Passionate calls for the protection of constitutionalism and the rule of law echoed through the annual conference of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), as former Vice President Dr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, a seasoned advocate with 46 years of legal practice, addressed judges, lawyers, and dignitaries on the pressing state of national affairs.

Dr. Musyoka, a distinguished member of the Kenyan Bar since 1979, painted a somber picture of the country's current climate. Reflecting on his own continuous service "There has been no break!" he commended the event's theme, insisting that defending constitutional governance is the most consequential debate of the era.

Referencing speeches by Chief Justice Martha Koome, LSK President Faith Odhiambo, and Prof. Migai Akech from the previous day, Musyoka highlighted the vital constitutional role of the Opposition, even as he acknowledged its functions are not explicitly outlined in the nation's founding documents. He described the past

year as "a case study of State repression unlike anything experienced in the country's 62 years of independence," citing alarming incidents including abductions, protest-related assaults, and the emergence of militia groups allegedly operating under police protection.

Musyoka depicted a troubling scenario where young Kenyans, especially those under 30, face abduction and persecution for expressing dissent and exercising rights enshrined in the 2010 Constitution. Many have been charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, he noted, and treated as criminals for their activism. He recounted the harrowing experiences of victims of state violence, emphasizing their enduring faith in the Constitution's power to shield citizens from further abuse.

The former Vice President commended the Law Society for offering relentless legal support to affected citizens, positioning lawyers as a collective conscience during perilous times. "The country is deeply grateful to all of you," Musyoka said, lauding

their leadership, moral courage, and response to distress calls.

He condemned government crackdowns on opposition and civil society, denouncing "state overreach and suppression" as unconstitutional. Musyoka announced the creation of the People's Restorative Justice Commission (PRJC) on June 25, 2025 a grassroots body led by Speaker Emeritus JB Muturi and other noted figures. The commission, he reported, is working to restore dignity, rebuild lives, and hold perpetrators of abuses accountable.

Musyoka drew a sharp contrast with the government's recently formed task force, questioning whether those responsible for violence could fairly investigate their own actions. "By compensating, the regime has already admitted its guilt and complicity," he asserted.

He demanded immediate and unconditional release of all protesters detained during Maandamano and Saba Saba Day, including those charged before anti-terror courts. He also called for compensation for persons

injured and families of all those killed during demonstrations, stressing that justice must transcend regional and ethnic divisions.

Musyoka ended with a quotation from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," urging legal professionals and principled politicians to join forces in defending Kenya's constitutional order. "If we lose the law, we lose the nation. This is the challenge of the most consequential discussion of our time," he warned.

The conference closed with a renewed commitment from Kenya's legal fraternity to uphold the rule of law and defend democratic freedoms, amid mounting concerns over repression and constitutional erosion.

# AMREF Flying Doctors Returns To The Skies With “Wings Of Courage” Maiden Flight, Honouring Fallen Colleagues And Renewing Commitment To Saving Lives



By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

“This flight is more than a mission it is a message,” said Steve Gitau, CEO of AMREF Flying Doctors. “A message that courage endures, that service continues, and that the legacy of our fallen heroes lives on in every life we save. We fly not just with wings, but with purpose.” The words resonated with staff, families, and patients alike, encapsulating the organisation’s resolve to turn tragedy into renewed service.

AMREF Flying Doctors has undertaken a comprehensive support campaign for the bereaved families, providing ongoing counselling, establishing dedicated liaisons, and maintaining regular communication to ensure compassion and dignity. It isn’t only the families; the Mwhoko community, shaken by the loss, is receiving direct psychosocial support, relief assistance, and a sustained organisational presence to help heal trauma and restore normalcy.

AMREF Flying Doctors marked a poignant chapter in its storied history on Friday with the maiden “Wings of Courage” mission, the first to take to the skies since the tragic aircraft accident on 7 August 2025 in Mwhoko, Kiambu County. The organisation and the wider Amref Health Africa family continue to mourn the loss of four beloved crew members Captain Muthuka Munuve, Captain Brian Kimani Miaro, Dr Charles Mugo Njoroge, and Nurse Jane Rispah Aluoch Omusula alongside two Mwhoko residents who perished in the crash.

Yet amid deep sorrow, AMREF Flying Doctors has chosen resilience, launching a symbolic flight from Nairobi to Belgium. The “Wings of Courage” mission carried a critically injured patient who suffered extensive injuries in a severe road accident in Zanzibar. Driven by urgency and hope, the patient’s family entrusted AMREF Flying Doctors to transport their loved one for urgently needed treatment abroad.

“This flight is more than a mission it is a message,” said Steve Gitau, CEO of AMREF Flying Doctors. “A message that courage endures, that service continues, and that the legacy of our fallen heroes lives on in every life we save. We fly not just with wings, but with purpose.” The words resonated with staff, families, and patients alike, encapsulating the organisation’s resolve to turn tragedy into renewed service.

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In partnership with government agencies and forensic experts, the organisation is ensuring accurate and respectful identification of all victims. This meticulous process is designed to bring closure to families and to uphold the dignity of those who have passed. Concurrently, AMREF Flying Doctors is collaborating closely with the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) and other investigative bodies in a transparent review of the circumstances surrounding the



CEO of Amref flying doctors Stephen Gitau issuing his address to the press alongside Amref staff

7th August crash. The goal: to learn, improve, and uphold the highest aviation safety standards in future missions.

With the resumption of operations, AMREF Flying Doctors has doubled down on its commitment to aviation safety and aeromedical excellence. The organisation assures the public and its stakeholders that each flight is governed by rigorous protocols protecting crew, patients, and the communities it serves.

Today’s “Wings of Courage” maiden flight stands both as a tribute to the

cherished memories of the fallen and a staunch declaration of continuity. AMREF Flying Doctors reassures its supporters and the Kenyan community that the mission of saving lives born of service and sacrifice will endure. As the aircraft soared toward Belgium, it carried more than a patient it bore the hopes, memories, and unwavering commitment of a team that refuses to let tragedy define its future.

As AMREF Flying Doctors returns to the skies, it reaffirms that courage is not the absence of fear, but the tri-

umph over it and that the wings of its mission, fuelled by purpose and compassion, will continue to fly for those in need.



By: Urazalieva Sarvinoz Saidahmadovna

@themtkenyatimes



### Worth Noting:

• It was summertime — warm and pleasant, just like the people around, a summer of my childhood that knew nothing of abnormal heatwaves. At midday, my mother would try to make us take a nap. My sister and brother would quickly fall asleep, but I would lie there pretending to sleep. Thinking I had also dozed off, my mother would leave to go about her work.

• In childhood, no one is really good friends with sleep — I never felt sleepy at all. Now, when I can't get enough rest and doze off in the metro or on the bus, I wonder why on earth I didn't sleep when I was little. Lying there with my eyes shut became boring. I got up and started playing on my own.

Yesterday, I went on a trip to the museum with my little daughter, Bibisora. My eyes fell on the display case where old money was kept. There, a fifty-som banknote, glowing like embers, carried me back to the sweet memories of my childhood.

Our house could almost be called an archive museum. In a large room, boxes were filled with old books, things inherited from my grandfather on my father's side, antique items, and newspapers and magazines my older sister had subscribed to while she was in school (these are still kept in my childhood home). My mother never threw away a book or newspaper she came across — she would simply put it in that room. Sometimes, she would come in with us and sit down to read.

Most of the books were in the old Cyrillic alphabet, so as I grew older, I learned to read Cyrillic faster and more easily than my friends. In our time, education had already fully switched to the Latin alphabet. My love for reading began in that very room.

Along with the books, there were also old banknotes that had long gone out of circulation. My siblings and I used to play with them a lot.

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In childhood, no one is really good friends with sleep — I never felt sleepy at all. Now, when I can't get enough rest and doze off in the metro or on the bus, I wonder why on earth I didn't sleep when I was little. Lying there with my eyes shut became boring. I got up and started playing on my own.

I took out those old banknotes from among the books and, pretending I was rich, walked around here and there. That's when I saw my friend Yodgor through the window. He saw me too and gestured for me to come outside.

Saying "just a moment," I made sure my mother wasn't in the yard and dashed out the gate. Yodgor's eyes lit up when he saw the money in my hand.

— "Wow, is that all yours?!" he exclaimed, snatching the bills from me.

Perhaps because he had lost his fa-

## Old Money



ther before birth, Yodgor had been raised with great care and affection. I, however, hated having my things snatched from my hands. If it had been anyone else at that moment, I surely would have fought back. But my mother had drilled it into our ears: "Don't upset Yodgor." So I kept quiet.

— "They're old banknotes, you can't spend them," I said, trying to take them back. But Yodgor, being mischievous, raised the money high in the air and ran off.

— "Stop! Give it back!" I shouted, chasing after him.

Yodgor had a nickname among our friends — one he himself didn't even know about — "Shum" ("The Mischievous One"). It was given to him by our neighbor's slightly older son, Rajab. And indeed, Yodgor often took advantage of the affection and pity shown to him, behaved cunningly in many situations, and sometimes embarrassed us in front of our parents.

At home, we were constantly reminded: "Be kind to Yodgor."

I caught up to him, intending to take the banknotes from his hand and go back home.

— "Doston, wait a minute," he said, his eyes sparkling with slyness.

— "What?" I replied in an annoyed tone.

— "Come on, let's go to the shop," he said, pointing toward Toji opa's house.

At that time, there were no fancy supermarkets. In our neighborhood, small home shops operated inside people's houses.

— "But we don't have any money," I objected, but Yodgor dragged me inside anyway.

— "Samad aka! Samad aka!" he began calling out for the shop owners. His voice echoed inside the house, and because he called in a rush, it sounded less like "Samad aka" and more like "taka-taka," which made me want to laugh.

Instead, Toji khola herself appeared, still half-asleep.

— "Come in, what do you need?" she said, unlocking the small shop door.

We stepped inside. Looking back, I realize there weren't that many items in the shop, but in a child's eyes it seemed like a world of treasures. I can't remember exactly what drink or what chocolate we bought that day.

After Yodgor picked the items, he nudged me. I looked at him, puzzled.

— "Give it," he said, gesturing to my hand. When I just stared in confusion, he took the banknotes himself and handed them to the shopkeeper.

Khola looked at the money and suddenly laughed.

— "Who gave this to you boys?"

— "Doston's dad," Yodgor answered before I could speak.

— "Alright, I'll just write it down for your father," she said.

Then Yodgor grabbed my hand again and pulled me outside. We went to a hidden spot and devoured both the chocolate and the drink in no time.

— "Let's go get more," Yodgor said.

— "How?!" I asked in disbelief.

— "Look, she took your money — that means we can use it."

Back then, I didn't understand what "I'll write it down" meant. In reali-

ty, they kept a debt ledger and had simply written my father's name in it. But I thought that if she "took the money," it meant the payment was real.

Yodgor and I started calling out again. This time, temptation got the better of me, and I joined in. The two of us kept shouting, enjoying the sound of our own voices.

This time, Samad aka himself came out. Once again, we handed over that same banknote. Just like before, they laughed and asked who had given it to us.

— "Doston's dad told us to buy something from the shop," Yodgor answered promptly.

Samad aka looked at me.

— "Is that right?" he asked.

— "Uh-huh," I nodded.

Again, we went to our hiding place and happily filled our stomachs. Feeling as if we had conquered the world, we headed home. Just before entering, Yodgor pulled me aside:

— "Hide your money and don't tell anyone about what we did today, okay?" he said.

I walked in, a mixture of embarrassment and joy in my heart.

That evening, I was sitting on the veranda playing with my younger brother. It was almost time for my father to return from work.

— "Sojida!" my father called loudly as he entered the yard.

— "Coming," my mother replied, adjusting her headscarf as she stepped out from the kitchen.

# KCDF Honors Young Innovators Driving Sustainable Environmental Solutions In Kenya At YEIC 2025 Awards Evening

By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) hosted a vibrant evening on Thursday, at a hotel in Nairobi, where changemakers driving positive transformation in Kenya's environment sector were honored. The highlight of the night was the Young Environmentalist Innovation Challenge (YEIC) 2025, an initiative designed to recognize and empower outstanding innovators tackling pressing environmental issues across the country.

Launched under the theme "Scaling Innovations for Environmental Impact," this year's challenge focused on solutions that have proven successful at the community level and are primed for expansion. The initiative targets youth aged 15 to 35, rallying them around ideas for climate resilience, circular economy, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem restoration. The buoyant ceremony drew a diverse gathering, including policymakers, environmental advocates, funders, and enthusiastic youth leaders, all united by their commitment to a greener Kenya.

During the awards, KCDF announced an impressive KSh53 mil-

lion in grants to support the work of 10 community organizations and two individuals. These trailblazers were selected from over 400 applications after a rigorous vetting process by judges. The winning innovations exemplified a dynamic blend of passion, technological advancement, and community engagement hallmarks of the YEIC's vision. Solutions ranged from clean energy alternatives such as bioethanol and plastic-to-gas, to smart farming technologies employing artificial intelligence and IoT, biodegradable leather products, recycled construction materials, innovative biogas storage, and democratized carbon credit platforms.

Among this year's recognized teams and initiatives were MOMA Renewable Energy (Kisii), Vermi-Farm Initiative Limited (Meru), M-taka Waste Solutions Limited (Kisumu), Eco Nasi Limited (Machakos), Timao Group (Nairobi), Megagas Alternative Energy Enterprise Ltd (Nairobi), Pollen Patrollers Limited (Kiambu), Zalika Greentech Limited (Nairobi), Adumu Limited (Nairobi), CropScan Smart Farming Technologies (Nairobi), as well as individual changemakers Erick Sankale Olkiado and Nthuku Mumo Osoro. Each project demonstrated exceptional potential for positive environmental impact and scalability, alongside the ability to create jobs and energize local com-



Different panelists at the Young Environmentalist Innovation Challenge 2025

munities.

A keynote address by Dr. Tonny K. Omwansa, CEO of the Kenya National Innovation Agency, lauded the young participants for their pivotal role in shaping Kenya's sustainability future. He highlighted the critical importance of youth leadership in climate action and encouraged continued collaboration between innovators, funders, and government agencies. KCDF's leadership echoed this sentiment, reaffirming their com-

mitment to community-led solutions and the power of youthful ingenuity to drive transformative change.

Applications for the 2025 edition of the Young Environmentalist Innovation Challenge remain open, with KCDF encouraging even more young visionaries to step forward. The foundation continues to spearhead grant-making and mentorship, aiming to propel Kenya's green and digital revolution. As the evening drew to a close, a palpable sense of hope rip-

pled through the venue, underscoring the belief that the solutions to the nation's environmental challenges are emerging from the creativity, resilience, and collaboration of its young innovators.

This year's celebration was not just a recognition of achievement but a rallying call: the future of Kenya's environment lies in the hands of its youth, whose innovation and commitment stand as catalysts for lasting change.

Contd from page 20

My heart sank when I saw what my father was holding — the very banknotes that had been "spent" at the shop that morning. I trembled, trying to slip away quietly, but my father's eyes caught mine.

— "Doston, come here," he said. Like all mothers, mine tried to protect me.

— "Oh dear, what happened?" she asked, stepping in front of me.

My father was usually calm in front of my mother, so this time he spoke in a slightly lowered, gentler tone:

— "Look what your son has been up to," he said, handing her the money. "He went to the shop and told

them, 'My dad gave me this to buy something.' I ran into Samad on my way back from work."

I stayed silent, my head bowed. My mother gave me a questioning look. Both of them were waiting to hear what I would say, but I didn't know what to say.

— "I told him we shouldn't... but Yodgor insisted," I stammered.

My father interrupted:

— "It's not good to blame others. Were you Yodgor's accomplice?" he asked firmly.

Tears welled up in my eyes.

— "Don't cry. A boy doesn't cry. If you've done wrong, you admit it and apologize," my father said in a stricter tone.

— "He's still young — go on, apologize," my mother prompted softly, giving my shoulder a little push.

I lowered my head again.

— "Sorry," I murmured.

My father didn't say much more and didn't press the matter.

— "Go on, do your thing," he said, walking into the house. My mother followed. I don't know what else my father said to her that evening, but I never saw those banknotes again — not in the chest in the reading room, nor anywhere else. Perhaps Samad aka had said something to him.

The next morning, my father told me:

— "Don't hang around with Yodgor anymore."

— "Oh..." my mother began, but my father gave her a look, and she immediately fell silent.

After that, whenever the topic of old money came up at home, my ears would burn. The others would just laugh, while I sat quietly, feeling a strange mix of emotions inside.

## Old Money



I didn't grow very close to Yodgor again. He also stopped coming to our house. Later, we heard that his mother had remarried and taken Yodgor with her.

Seeing that old banknote in the museum brought back the warmth of those childhood summer days — the

taste of chocolate and fizzy drink, the sting of guilt, and the pure simplicity of being a child. Embarrassing, perhaps... but sweet memories for me nonetheless.

**Sports >>** \*Football Kenya Federation, in partnership with Royal Media's Citizen TV and Radio Citizen brands, has Friday engaged football fans in Nairobi on the required conduct during the ongoing African Nations Championship

# SPORTS NEWS

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## Fans Embrace FKF's "Protect The Game" Call Ahead Of Harambee Stars, Zambia Clash



FKF president Hussein Mohammed addressing the public at one of the stops during the "protect the game" roadshow in partnership with Royal Media Services' Citizen TV and Radio Citizen, on August 15, 2025. Photo by Joy Omondi/FKF.

Football Kenya Federation, in partnership with Royal Media's Citizen TV and Radio Citizen brands, has Friday engaged football fans in Nairobi on the required conduct during the ongoing African Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024 tournament.

The move follows security breaches during the last three Group A matches involving Kenya, attracting hefty fines from the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

Ahead of Harambee Stars final group match against Zambia on Sunday, FKF president Hussein Mohammed has passionately appealed to the fans to stick to CFA protocols.

Speaking during a tour on the various fan hotspots in Nairobi's West, where he made stops at Githurai 44 before concluding in Baba Dogo, Hussein urged fans to use designated viewing areas or watch from home.

"Let's not destroy the good work that we have been putting in to host this competition. Let us not cause fracas on Sunday when Harambee Stars will be playing against Zambia in their last group stage match."

"Please don't make us get banned by CAF. If you don't have a ticket, watch from the various fan zones or from home. Don't force your way to the stadium if you don't have a ticket," Hussein appealed.

The FKF boss also reminded Kenyans that CHAN 2024 is being used as test tournament by CAF, of the capabilities of the East African nations - Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania - ahead of the African Cup of Nations 2027.

He thus underlined that each country is being assessed, and decisions concerning the 2027 fiesta will be based on the current

proceedings.

"Do you want Harambee Stars to go all the way? Would you want us to host the final right here in Nairobi? If yes, please let's follow the rules. Harambee Stars is doing well, and we don't want to soil that good performance with more sanctions," added Hussein.

Responding to the call, one of the fans in Lucky Summer causing trouble at match venues contradicts the spirit of patriotism.

"Some of those players hail from here - Lucky Summer. It would be not only disrespect to them but spoiling their fortune if Kenya was to be banned because of our own conduct. The message is clear, and I appeal to fellow football fans to observe the protocols as spelt out," he said.

Hussein Mohammed comments

come as CAF slashed the stadium capacity for the match to 27,000 which is just 60 percent of Kasarani's capacity following a series of safety and security breaches in earlier CHAN 2024 fixtures.

Kenya has already been fined Sh12.8 million for such lapses in matches involving Harambee Stars.

To ease crowd pressure and offer a safe, vibrant atmosphere, the government has designated six official fan zones for Sunday's match: Uhuru Park (CBD), Lucky Summer-Ngomongo area (behind Kasarani Stadium), Dandora Stadium, Utalii (Stima Club), Jacaranda Grounds, and Kibera DC Grounds.

Earlier on, Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya said the zones are strategically placed within city neighbourhoods to give supporters an exciting match-day experience, without overwhelming the stadium.

Harambee Stars have already punched their way through to the quarter-finals. A win against Avram Grant's Chipolopolo will ensure they finish top of group A.

*Citizen Sport*

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Liverpool honoured Diogo Jota on Friday with a series of tributes as the Premier League season got off to an emotional start at Anfield.

# Liverpool Honour Jota In Emotional Premier League Curtain-Raiser



Liverpool's fans hold up a banner to pay tribute to Liverpool's late Portuguese forward Diogo Jota who passed away in a car crash ahead of the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Bournemouth at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on August 15, 2025. (Photo by Paul ELLIS / AFP)

Liverpool honoured Diogo Jota on Friday with a series of tributes as the Premier League season got off to an emotional start at Anfield. Jota died last month at the age of 28 alongside his brother Andre Silva when their Lamborghini went off the road in the accident in northern Spain. Just 11 days prior to the accident, the Portuguese international had married Rute Cardoso, the mother of his three children. A large banner at the front of The Kop stand read: "Rute, Dinis, Duarte, Mafalda - Anfield will always be your home. You'll Never Walk Alone."

During a minute's silence prior to the match against Bournemouth, fans held up a giant mosaic with the initials of Jota and Silva, who was also a footballer, and their shirt numbers in the Portuguese flag. Jota's number 20 has been retired by Liverpool and will be remembered with a permanent sculpture outside Anfield. "Forever 20" will be printed on the shirts and matchday jackets of the Liverpool squad for the remainder of the season. "The tributes that have been paid throughout the football world, and especially within the LFC com-

munity, have been truly special, and I know that tonight we will come together to honour them once more," Liverpool manager Arne Slot said in his programme notes. "I believe that Diogo's wife, his children and his family will be in attendance and it is important that, as a club, we show that they will always have our love and support as they deal with this most tragic of situations. We are there for them always." Jota spent five years at Liverpool after joining from Wolves in 2020. He won the Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup during his

time at Anfield.

AFP

# SPORTS NEWS



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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



## Thembelani Majingo Foundation Hosts Sports Against Crime

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

Thembelani Majingo Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Madibogo Village within Ratlou Municipality in North West Province. The Foundation is an outreach designed to build life and career through football services, we work towards touching the lives of disadvantaged in cohesion with Sports and Education throughout our community by doing so we vouch to work with all the stakeholders by bringing smiles and hope in their faces.

The tournament ensured that every participant gets playing kit and the winners get balls, bibs and makers to appreciate their hardwork remember the tournament does not promote gambling.

To: Team Managers/Coaches

A huge thank you to each and every one of you for making our soccer tournament (TMT) a success! Your teamwork, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm were truly inspiring. We appreciate the time and effort you put into the games, and we're grateful for the energy and excitement you brought to the field.

Thanks again for being part of this event. We hope you had a great time, and we look forward to seeing you at future tournaments!

We are so open to any constructive/building criticism to ensure our own baby (TMF) grows.

Don't forget that It takes a village to raise a child ..... Trust the process

Best regards,

TMT Committee

Last weekend the Foundation was hosting Thembelani Majingo Under 21 Preliminary Knockouts Soccer Tournament in Green Central Ground.

On the Woman's Day we had ten teams fighting to go through to the last five the following day. We had only local football teams to participate and grace the stage as it is for the boys to show case their talent.

Tournament ran for two successful days in support by SAPS and Ratlou Sub District Health to fight crime against sports. We invited all our stakeholders including the Tribal Office.

Three teams from possible ten proceeds to Main tournament that is to take place on the 16th of December 2025 on the day of reconciliation.



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