



We Should Harness Youth Dynamism To Propel The Realization Of Sustainable Development
Every year on August 12th, we celebrate the International Youth Day, a momentous event established in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly. It aims to create awareness about global youth issues, appreciate youth-led efforts and promote youth empowerment initiatives worldwide.

Page 18

NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL
CONFERENCE,
10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW



Gala Dinner
WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI
WHEN: 17-21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 722 104 639 / +254 714 974 754
+254 712 642 274 / +254 713 318 438 / +254 721 461 431
conference@exponentialinternational.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

exponentialinternational.com

BOOK NOW

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Creative Rewards
Daily ePAPER

Monday, August 18, 2025

No. 01368 www.mountkenyentimes.co.ke

f i t themtkenyentimes



News >> Mount Kenya University Winning Streak Continued At National Music Festivals 97th Edition

P. 8. Mount Kenya University (MKU)'s winning streak in the national music festivals was evident this year as the fete closed on Saturday with top performers showcasing their prowess to President William Ruto

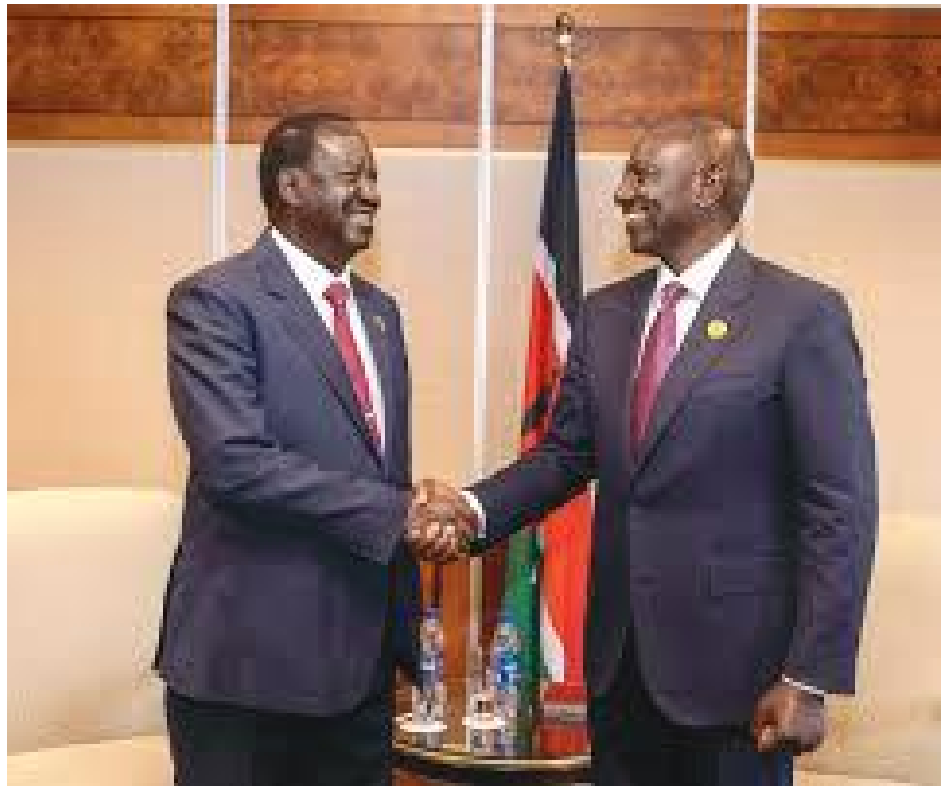


News >> Kenyan Family Appeals For Justice As Son Marks Fifth Year In UAE Detention Over Fraud Allegations

P. 12. For five years, James Kariuki's family has been trapped in a nightmare, watching their son languish in a United Arab Emirates (UAE) jail. Kariuki, a Kenyan national, insists he is a victim of identity theft

UDA, ODM Lawmakers Set For Joint Meeting

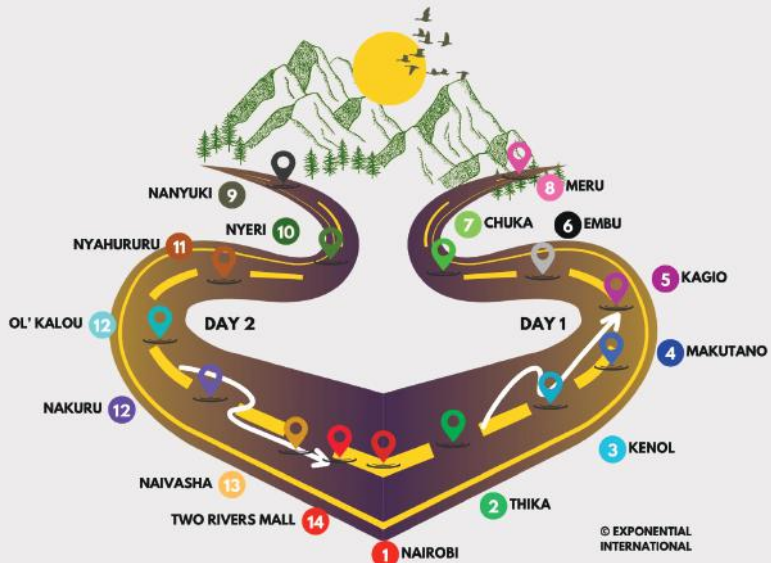
Preparations have been finalized for today's joint Parliamentary Group meeting bringing together the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), in a rare show of political cooperation that will be jointly presided over by President William Ruto and ODM leader Raila Odinga. The high-profile meeting, set to take place at the KCB Leadership Centre in Nairobi, will bring together all MPs from the two parties under the framework of the broad-based government arrangement.



President William Ruto and ODM Leader Raila Odinga

STORY ON PAGE 9

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



SCAN TO REGISTER



NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL
CONFERENCE,
10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW

Gala Dinner

WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI
WHEN: 17-21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 712 642 274
+254 713 318 438 / +254 721 461 431
conference@exponentialinternational.com

exponentialinternational.com

President Ruto Hosts The 97th Kenya Music Festival Winners For A State Concert

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto on Saturday hosted dozens of winners for the just concluded Kenya National Music Festivals. The festivals took place in Meru County with the winners in various categories travelling to Nyeri's Sagana State Lodge where the Head of State hosted them. The President said his administration is committed to making the creative industry a major source of jobs and income. "Our creators are now monetising content online and government agencies have been directed to advertise online to boost their earnings. We are enforcing the 70 per cent royalty rule, modernising our laws to unlock grants, attract film productions, and protect intellectual property," he said, adding, "through the Blank Tape Levy, over KSh100 million has already been collected to directly benefit artistes. We have also launched a digital platform on e-Citizen for school drama and music festival performances, giving students and parents instant access for less than KSh250. Previously, they accessed on CDs at KSh1,000. Top government officials led by Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki also attended the event.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/themtkenyatimes](https://www.facebook.com/themtkenyatimes), **Instagram:** [instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/](https://www.instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/), **Twitter:** twitter.com/themtkenyatimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>

MT KENYA BUSINESS CONFERENCE CIRCUIT



NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW

Gala Dinner

Nairobi Edition

Exhibit | Dine | Engage | Directory

Roadshow

17-18 SEPTEMBER 2025

8.00 AM - 5.00 PM

Nairobi
Mt. Kenya
Central Rift

Exhibition

19-21 SEPTEMBER 2025

8.00 AM - 5.00 PM

Two Rivers
Mall
Nairobi

Gala Diner

21 SEPTEMBER 2025

7.00 PM - 10.00 PM

Muthaiga
Golf Club

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 722 104 639
+254 714 974 754 / +254 712 642 274
+254 713 318 438 / +254 721 461 431

exponentialinternational.com

conference@exponentialinternational.com

Register Now

<https://t.ly/U30xm>

Scan Here
to Register



Exhibition



Dinner



Roadshow



Directory



Close Deals

Don't miss this opportunity; 'Where Great Business Minds Connect and Grow'

Sponsorship package:

Platinum: KES 2M	Gold: KES 1M	Silver: KES 500K	Bronze: KES 250K	Brass: KES 100K
----------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------



Gala Dinner Charges:

KES 10,000/- Per Person	VIP: KES 20,000/- Per Person	VVIP: KES 30,000/- Per Person
-----------------------------------	--	---

NEWS IN BRIEF



Learning activities in Laikipia County have resumed and schools infrastructure that had been vandalised by armed criminals rehabilitated by the Kenya Defence Forces, working together with other security agencies tasked with restoring peace and security in the North Rift Valley Counties that were for years ravaged by banditry and livestock rustling. Like all other parts of the Country, construction of laboratories, additional classrooms and administration blocks in public primary and secondary schools is underway in Laikipia County, in preparation for the January 2026 roll-out of the Competency Based Education for learners pursuing the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) pathway. In Laikipia County, the Government is constructing 12 modern and fresh produce markets including one in Kinamba to dignify nano, small and micro enterprises, especially Mama Mboga. More than 780 million shillings has been disbursed to connect an additional 4,000 homes to electricity through the Last Mile Connectivity Program, including 200 million shillings for Laikipia West Constituency. On Saturday, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki joined national and local leaders for an economic empowerment engagement for micro and small enterprises established by Women and Youth through their SACCOs in Laikipia County. He was accompanied by among others; Kimani Ichung'wah (Majority Leader, National Assembly), Patrick Mariru (Principal Secretary, Defence), MPs Wachira Karani (Laikipia West), Jane Kagiri (Laikipia County Woman Representative), John Bwire (Taveta), Mangale Chiforomodo (LungaLunga), MCAs and other grassroots leaders.



More than 1,400 students graduated in various education disciplines at University of Eastern Africa, Baraton near Kapsabet town in Nandi county. The colour event that was attended by top university officials as well as area county leadership led by Governor Sang was presided by Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning John Mbadi. In the picture are some of the graduands.



The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has called on couples married through customary traditions to formally register their unions and obtain marriage certificates. Attorney General Dorcas Oduor emphasized that the Registrar of Marriages has offices in every county and is ready to serve couples seeking to legalise their unions. Speaking in Kisumu County during a government outreach program held over the weekend at Kibigori Secondary School in Muhoroni Sub-County, Oduor stressed that it was important to register marriages in order to make them formal. During the occasion, a significant milestone unfolded in recognizing customary unions when the OAG officials officiated the registration of a traditional customary marriage for a polygamous man, where both of his wives were issued with marriage certificates.



The government has affirmed full ownership and control of the e-Citizen online platform, assuring Kenyans that all data is securely managed by the state. Principal Secretary for Immigration and Citizen Services Dr. Belio Kipsang confirmed that the government formally took over the e-Citizen engine from its developer, Webmaster, while retaining the company for system maintenance. He reported that over 13.67 million Kenyans are registered on e-Citizen, with an average of 500,000 daily visits. The platform has collected more than Sh500 billion in revenue since its launch, with daily transactions ranging from Sh700 million to Sh1 billion. The number of services on e-Citizen has grown from 397 in 2022 to over 21,000 today, allowing citizens to access government services around the clock and supporting a 24-hour economy. State House Kenya Ministry of Interior and National Administration



The government is considering converting around 3,000 secondary schools with fewer than 150 learners into junior secondary schools to support the transition to Grade 7 under the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). Principal Secretary for Basic Education, Dr. Julius Bitok, said the move, if approved, would ensure a smooth progression from Grade 6, optimise the use of classrooms and laboratories, bridge access gaps, and reduce costs associated with expanding school infrastructure. He emphasized that the plan does not involve closing schools and noted that the government is consulting stakeholders, including the church and local communities, to determine the best approach to address under-enrolment. Dr. Bitok also reaffirmed the government's commitment to fully implementing free primary and free day secondary education.

CENTRAL KENYA NATIONAL SHOW

Kabiruini Showground

10th-13th
SEPT
2025



THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF KENYA
"Your Agricultural and Trade Partner of Choice"

SHOW RUNDOWN

- 9th - Pre-Show / Judging Day
- 10th - 1st Day (Business Day)
- 11th - 2nd Day (Farmers Day)
- 12th - 3rd Day (Official Opening)
- 13th - 4th Day (Family Day)

- Pre-Show sticker - KES 500
- Pre- Show Ticket - KES 200
- Essential Sticker - KES 4,000
- Trade Attendant Ticket - KES 1,100

PERIMETER:
Adult - KES 300
Child - KES 250

SPECIAL PARTY
Adult - KES 250
Child - KES 200

nyeri@ask.co.ke 
@agrisocietyofke 
Agricultural Society of Kenya 
www.ask.co.ke 

020 352 3018, 0722 212 642

THEME: "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for sustainable Economic Growth"

Kirinyaga County Shines At The Conference As Thousands Benchmark On Best Practices On Devolution

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Thousands of delegates and members of public thronged the pavilion that was manned by the county's technical teams as well as well as beneficiaries of the county's robust development program.
- The well-organized stands that also attracted the eye of President William Ruto provided a vibrant forum for peer learning, exploring partnerships and exchanging best practices in development.



Kirinyaga County pavilion at the just concluded Devolution Conference in Homabay has been hailed as one of the best in terms of display of impact of devolution as well as opportunity for peer learning.

Thousands of delegates and members of public thronged the pavilion that was manned by the county's technical teams as well as well as beneficiaries of the county's robust development program.

The well-organized stands that also attracted the eye of President William Ruto provided a vibrant forum for peer learning, exploring partnerships and exchanging best practices in development.

The pavilion showcased Kirinyaga's impressive development scorecard, with agriculture in which Governor Waiguru's administration has heavily invested in, took the center stage. Visitors were taken through the entire

agricultural value chain from production to value addition to processing and marketing with a display of a wide range of home-grown and processed products including rice, coffee, milk, tea, honey, macadamia, tomatoes, avocados.

Governor Anne Waiguru said the county's progress was a clear demonstration of the power of devolution. "Kirinyaga has made tremendous achievements in all development sectors. Our success is proof that when resources are brought closer to the people, lives are transformed," she said.

Delegates who visited the pavilion praised the county's strides and the show of excellence at the forum. Kirinyaga County Assembly Leader of Majority, Benson Ngahu, described the exhibition as a reflection of progressive development and urged Kenyans to support the county by consum-



ing its home-grown products. "The best way to promote Kirinyaga is by buying Kirinyaga produce-our coffee, our milk, our rice are some of the best in the entire country. This will not only boost our farmers but also strengthen the economy," he noted.

Redempta Mary, a Kitui County employee and farmer, said she was impressed by the innovations showcased at the Kirinyaga pavilion. "I came here to learn and even purchase some of the unique agricultural products such as the purple Napier grass and sukuma wiki seedlings, which I intend to integrate into my farm back home. From the exhibition, I learnt that the purple Napier grass has very high nutritional value which I hope will boost my livestock production. I have also ordered rabbit varieties for crossbreeding." She said.

Other visitors were impressed by the county's strong commitment to indus-

trial development and manufacturing where they county has invested in local animal feeds production, apparel factory, and large-scale agro-industrial manufacturing through the upcoming Sagana Industrial Park.

"I am impressed to see how the Department of Gender has been able to organize itself to produce textiles such as school and hospital uniforms, hospital beddings and curtains, and theater clothing as a way of creating employment for the tailors who stitch them at the local factory." Added another delegate.

The pavilion not only highlighted the county's achievements but also served as a platform for networking and forging new partnerships, cementing Kirinyaga position as a leader in innovation and sustainable development under devolution

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Mount Kenya University Winning Streak Continued At National Music Festivals 97th Edition

“We will be back in 2026” – MKU Management vows after Kenyatta University ran away with the top prize in the institutions of higher learning category

By: James Wakahiu
@themkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU)'s winning streak in the national music festivals was evident this year as the fete closed on Saturday with top performers showcasing their prowess to President William Ruto, First Lady Rachel Ruto and top government officials at Sagana State Lodge.

The 2025 Kenya Music Festival were held in Meru County, with the main venues being Meru School, Kaaga Girls High School, and Meru Teachers Training College. The festival ran from August 3rd to 16th under the theme “Enhancing the Creative Economy through Artistic Expression for Sustainable Development”.

MKU Head of Sports, Film and Creative arts activities Mr. William Luta could not hide his joy at the outstanding performance exhibited by its students. The MKU team had 17 wins, were ranked runners-up on 10 categories and took position three number in eight competitions.

“I am proud of these young souls. What makes me happier is that as a university, we maximize and limit our performance only to current and active students, we train and groom the students to be performers and when we see them perform well, the satisfaction is fulfilling,” Luta said.

But the results the university fell short of the overall win, finishing second to Kenyatta University. Other institutions of higher learning that made a big impact on the national stage included the University of Nairobi, with Daystar University making serious inroads at the fete.

“However, we have learnt on areas that need improvement and we will be working towards that as we prepare for the 98th edition come 2026,” Luta vowed.

MKU's University Students Welfare Principal, Mr Peter Waweru, praised the group's performance, acknowledging that the good results were due to the support the institution gives its students and staff members. He assured the team that this support can only be improved and increased to ensure the team is comfortable and have all instruments needed at their disposal,” he said.

The MKU team had much prominence in instrumentation classes both African and western instrumentation

assemble winning – African wind instrument, African solo drum, African and western instrumental assemble, African string fiddle and brass solo. In the verse category the verses group were the giants in their own category scoping eight wins, and more than 10 podium finishes in other classes.

Other winning items emanated from university choir's winning arrangement for boys and a sponsored song ODPC on safe use of data on online platforms. The institution's winning cultural dances were the Meru folk song and Meru cultural dances.

MKU's choral verse at the event stirred public debate after confronting what it described as a “moral crisis” in schools and universities. The performance blended poetry, rhythm and drama to warn of rising immorality, lesbianism and homosexuality among students, urging urgent action. “It is time to expose the ills maovu tuyakemee, ishindwe, hayo ni mapepo. We should come out and say what is bedeviling our institutions so that we can get ourselves from this danger,” the group recited.

Kenyatta University took home more than 30 wins at the just-concluded 97th edition of the Kenya Music Festival. With over 56 entries, the institution, a bedrock of creativity for years, established itself as the team to beat at the fete that attracted 26 universities, up from eight last years. For the last five years, KU has maintained its consistency of starring at the music despite the stiff and growing competition.

The 12-day festival, which showcased the best in music, dance and elocution, attracted nearly 150,000



MKU students embracing and lifting trophies won at the 97th edition of the Kenya National Music Festivals..

participants, with female learners dominating the event. National chairperson Prof Frederick Ngala raised concern over the gender disparity, noting that female participants far outnumbered their male counterparts. “We must make concerted effort to help the boy child participate at the festival after we had over 95,000 females against 45,000 male participants recorded this year,” he said during the winners' Gala at Meru School on Friday.

Higher Education Principal Sec-

retary Beatrice Inyangala said the festival offers a platform for shaping national discourse. “Art is more than entertainment it is persuasion, expression and healing. Music and performance can tell the story of climate change in a way data alone cannot. They can speak against gender-based violence more powerfully than policy documents, and they can call us to unity when the nation is under strain,” noted Inyangala.

She encouraged young people to see creativity as a career path, noting that

the government is committed to supporting learners “from the classroom to the stage and into the market.”

After the event at State Lodge Sagana, the winners will head to Kampala, Uganda for the East Africa Music, Dance and Drama Festival, alongside winners from the Drama and Theatre Festival. The East African festival will run from August 17 to August 25.



MKU verses team staging their performance at the 97th edition of Kenya National Music Festivals.



MKU instrumentation team staging their performance at the 97th edition of Kenya National Music Festival

UDA, ODM Lawmakers Set For Joint Parliamentary Group Meeting

By: Stephen Letoo
 @themtkenyatimes

Preparations have been finalized for today's joint Parliamentary Group meeting bringing together the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), in a rare show of political cooperation that will be jointly presided over by President William Ruto and ODM leader Raila Odinga.

The high-profile meeting, set to take place at the KCB Leadership Centre in Nairobi, will bring together all MPs from the two parties under the framework of the broad-based government arrangement.

Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah and his Minority counterpart Junet Mohamed confirmed to media that the session will provide direction on implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two leaders in October last year.

President Ruto said the meeting would focus on strategies to strength-

en national unity and accelerate development.

"Today, we are going to have a broad-based government meeting between lawmakers from ODM and Kenya Kwanza to agree on strong mechanisms to unite the country and push it forward," the Head of State noted.

ODM's Junet Mohamed echoed the sentiment, saying lawmakers will also deliberate on compensation for victims of recent protests.

"We are going to discuss agendas that will take the country forward, including helping communities affected by recent protests," he stated.

Last week, President Ruto and Odinga appointed a five-member committee chaired by former ODM Secretary-General Agnes Zani to oversee the rollout of the 10-point agenda and recommendations of the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) report.

The agenda for Monday's session is also expected to touch on upcoming by-elections in which both ODM and UDA-affiliated parties have stakes, signaling an important test for the new political partnership.



President William Ruto and ODM Leader Raila Odinga

Moses Kuria Warns Kenya Kwanza Leaders Against Stoking Ethnic Tensions

By: Ayub Abdikadir
 @themtkenyatimes

Former Cabinet Secretary and presidential advisor Moses Kuria has cautioned Kenya Kwanza leaders against fueling negative ethnicity, warning that such rhetoric threatens national stability.

In a strongly worded social media post, the former Gatundu South MP criticized what he termed the "broad-brush condemnation" of the Kikuyu community in the wake of the impeachment of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua. Kuria urged leaders to focus on nation-building rather than ethnic scapegoating.

"Yesterday in Mbalambala, Aden Duale declared in broad light that 2027 will be like 2007 — the good, the bad, and the ugly, I presume," Kuria wrote, referencing remarks by Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale during a rally in Garissa County.

Kuria, once a staunch ally of President William Ruto and a vocal figure in the 2022 campaigns, advised politicians to reflect on their public pronouncements.

"I call upon all leaders to play back their speeches every evening and do some soul searching, not because of ourselves but because of our children," he added.

The former Trade CS, who has since exited government after a stint as a State House advisor, singled out lawmakers William Kamket, Jackson Mandago, and Aden Duale, accusing them of perpetuating divisive politics.

"From Kamket to Mandago to Aden Duale, some of us have unapologetically said no to returning this country to the politics of negative ethnicity. We equally reject the wholesale condemnation and collective punishment of an entire community. Do not drive our backs against the wall — a point of no return may lead to unintended consequences," Kuria cautioned.

His remarks follow weeks of height-



Former Cabinet Secretary and presidential advisor Moses Kuria

ened political rhetoric. In July, Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago made remarks critics deemed ethnically charged, while over the week-

end, CS Duale accused former Deputy President Gachagua of sowing tribal divisions.

"The days of entitlement — that one

community is more important than the others — are gone. That ended with the new Constitution," Duale said during the Garissa rally.

Gakuu Githinji Pledges Jobs, Security And Healthcare For Nyeri's Kiganjo Mathari Ward

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

A fish farming politician, Gakuu Githinji has once again thrown his hat in the ring for the Kiganjo Mathari Ward seat in Nyeri Town Constituency, promising to transform the lives of residents through a people-centered development agenda.

Githinji, who first contested as a councillor in 2007 and later as an MCA candidate in 2022, says his vision for the ward remains unfulfilled but insists he is more determined than ever to deliver.

"I know all 32 villages in our ward are not equal. We have farmers, businessmen, women, widows, and youth. My promise is simple: I will be there for all of you, and no one will be left behind," he told supporters.

Among his key pledges is support for widows, a group he says is often forgotten in development planning. Githinji claims to have already

reached out to more than 700 widows in the ward, offering them assistance and pledging more structured programs for empowerment.

Youth employment is also at the heart of his agenda. Through block-making projects and a proposed Cabro machine investment, he says hundreds of jobs can be created while at the same time improving local infrastructure.

"It is time to revive our ward economy. By investing in road improvement and skills for our youth, we will make sure every young person has an opportunity to work and contribute," he said.

On security, Githinji has promised to allocate a quarter-acre of land for a police station, saying safety is a right for every resident and business owner.

Healthcare and Social Services also feature prominently in his manifesto. He has pledged to push for a fully equipped health centre and establish a rehabilitation program for those struggling with addiction and social challenges.

"Health must be the first priority.

We cannot build a strong community if our people are unwell or neglected. Rehabilitation will also give our brothers and sisters battling addiction a second chance in life," he added.

The aspirant concluded by emphasizing inclusivity, noting that both the elderly and the youth must be engaged in community development.

"I will make sure all old and young are busy, no matter how much it will cost. Everyone deserves dignity and opportunity," Githinji said.

As Nyeri politics heats up ahead of the next General Election, Githinji's persistence and community-focused agenda are expected to resonate with many, particularly widows and the youth, who form a large voting bloc in the ward.



Gakuu Githinji addressing some residents of Kiganjo/Mathari Ward. Photo/Courtesy.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Mudavadi Launches The Phantom, A Platform To Tell The Untold Stories About The Mululu Son

By: OPCS PS

@themtkenyatimes

The Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary's Press Service has launched a news magazine and unveiled a new website titled "THE PHANTOM."

The Phantom is a platform that will unveil and project Musalia Mudavadi's vision for Kenya, tracing his steps since when he first joined government at the age of 29.

In a time when true leadership stories are often drowned out by political rhetoric, The Phantom will rise above the clutter to deliver clear, authentic, and inspiring narratives that will both shape opinion and give direction.

"I commend the dedicated team behind 'The PHANTOM' for their excellent work in bringing together the Phantom Quarterly Magazine and the Phantom Website. Anchored on the values of 'The gentleman of Kenyan politics, a liberal democrat, and a safe pair of hands,'" said Mudavadi.

"It represents a space for ideas, dialogue, and exchange; an interactive hub that seeks to amplify Kenya's voice in economic diplomacy, safeguard our national interests on the global stage, and foster partnerships that drive trade, investment, and sustainable development," he added.

Mudavadi who graced the launch last evening said the phantom will reflect to his early days when he experienced some extremely agile moments, when he was "swift and swavvy" encompassing his experience in the sporting field when he played soccer, hockey and rugby and participated too in sprinting and swimming.

Mudavadi said this will be a space where he will speak directly to the people, sharing not just his achievements, but the dreams and ideals that drive him to serve.

In every edition of the phantom, a window into his journey will be revealed anchoring the man behind the title.

"When my press team approached me and we had a conversation on how to improve communication from the government circles, I gave them my blessings since at times government is good at its business of governing, but it may not be very good at its business of communication," noted Mudavadi.

"I was equally pleasantly surprised that the team quietly worked on this project and I am impressed that they have blended in on technology so that we can communicate faster, quicker and with less pressure," he applauded.

With a strong focus on transformation, The Phantom dives deep into the initiatives that are changing lives across the country. From economic reforms that promise sustainable growth, to grassroots projects that uplift communities, to policies designed for the youth and future generations – each story connects Kenyans to the progress they can see and feel.

It's a platform that speaks to the heart, reminding every reader that real lead-



ership is about putting people first, and that together, a better Kenya is possible. "Mudavadi's political career, now spanning over three decades, mirrors the very qualities that once defined his prowess on the rugby field as the "phantom". He continues to navigate the complex terrain of Kenyan politics with calm and calculated presence. In the often-chaotic world of public leadership, Mudavadi has carved out a reputation as a tactful and trusted team player, never loud and never brash, but always there," said Jacob Ngetich, the Director for Press Service.

"We have taken a little bit of time to go into the history but it will be forward-looking on what really informs certain decisions," said Mudavadi.

A seasoned land economist, a liberal democrat of the free market bent, a peacemaker par excellence, a firm human rights defender and an experienced statesman, the phantom will delve into Mudavadi's transitions as a Minister in the Moi, Kibaki and now Ruto administration and in between as a vice president, a deputy prime minister, and a Presidential candidate.

The phantom will tell the continuous story of a man not only instrumental in liberalising the Kenyan economy as Minister for Finance in the 1990s, but also a co-architect of the epoch-making

devolution under the Constitution 2010.

A man who was in the inner circles of the 2007/2008 mediation process that brought back peace in Kenya, and a man behind the Earth Quake that gave birth the Kenya Kwanza government.

"What we have before us is an opportunity for us to convey government policies, decisions and actions more effectively, in a timely manner and in a manner that can widely spread across board. I am happy the platform on the website is interactive, user friendly and easy to get information," said Mudavadi.

"Government does quite a bit, in fact it does a lot. But sometimes it is how you package the information, and continuously we will need help on how to package that information from the experts in communication. We will largely call on the media also to help us in packaging this information for the public. And we in government are not adversaries with the members of the media. We can work and develop this country together," noted the Prime CS.

Mudavadi noted that through the phantom he will be seeking the collaboration with the media to help the society understand issues better and feedback will be highly regarded.

"You will be seeing a lot of communication on a number of topical issues

that are critical, like for now we have the tracking of various pieces of legislation over 700 under the Kenya Kwanza regime, we want to track bills in parliament and be able to convey the communication to the public, we want to bring coordination together, we want to revive the national economic and social council so that we can have better engagement with investors, the public and make Kenya better," he explained.

"In terms of foreign policy, we are demystifying foreign policy, tunataka foreign policy iende mashinani so that people understand more, the kind of decisions that we make, and why they are important," added Mudavadi.

Mudavadi said there is need for the country to pull efforts together and every citizen should be involved in making Kenya a better place for tomorrow.

Present at the launch were Principal Secretaries Korir Sing'oei (State Department for Foreign Affairs), Aurelia Rono (State Department for Parliamentary Affairs), and Ahmed Ibrahim (State Department for National Government Coordination); the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Joseph Busiega; Principal Administrative Secretary Juliana Yipapan, the Chancellor of Co-operatives University, Benard Chitunga and Dagoretti South MP, John Kiarie.



Worth Noting:

- In a time when true leadership stories are often drowned out by political rhetoric, The Phantom will rise above the clutter to deliver clear, authentic, and inspiring narratives that will both shape opinion and give direction.

- "I commend the dedicated team behind 'The PHANTOM' for their excellent work in bringing together the Phantom Quarterly Magazine and the Phantom Website. Anchored on the values of "The gentleman of Kenyan politics, a liberal democrat, and a safe pair of hands," The Phantom is envisioned as more than a publication or a digital platform," said Mudavadi

- "It represents a space for ideas, dialogue, and exchange; an interactive hub that seeks to amplify Kenya's voice in economic diplomacy, safeguard our national interests on the global stage, and foster partnerships that drive trade, investment, and sustainable development," he added.

Kenyan Family Appeals For Justice As Son Marks Fifth Year In UAE Detention Over Fraud Allegations

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Thiong'o added that his appeals to the Kenyan government have gone unanswered, despite the case being raised in Parliament.
- Kariuki's mother, Esther Wambui, echoed his frustration, questioning why UAE authorities have failed to verify facts she believes would prove her son's innocence. "If he really stole that money, let them investigate us as a family our bank accounts, our property. Do we look like people who could hide such millions? How could he have stolen money while in detention?" she asked.
- Kariuki's ordeal began in May 2020 when he traveled to the UAE seeking work. While there, he met a Nigerian national who promised him a job but allegedly stole his identification documents, which were then used to commit fraud.

For five years, James Kariuki's family has been trapped in a nightmare, watching their son languish in a United Arab Emirates (UAE) jail. Kariuki, a Kenyan national, insists he is a victim of identity theft, wrongfully convicted in a complex fraud case that his family and lawyer argue was orchestrated by criminals using his stolen documents.

In their Kangoya village home in Kiambu, Kariuki's family held a church service to pray for his release. His father, John Thiong'o, spoke of his profound sense of helplessness. "How can I raise over Sh80 million to bail out my son?" he asked. "Even if I sold everything I own or held a harambee, it would not be enough. I feel helpless as a parent."

Thiong'o added that his appeals to the Kenyan government have gone unanswered, despite the case being raised in Parliament.

Kariuki's mother, Esther Wambui, echoed his frustration, questioning why UAE authorities have failed to verify facts she believes would prove her son's innocence. "If he really stole that money, let them investigate us as a family our bank accounts, our property. Do we look like people who could hide such millions? How could he have stolen money while in detention?" she asked.

Kariuki's ordeal began in May 2020 when he traveled to the UAE seeking work. While there, he met a Nigerian national who promised him a job but allegedly stole his identification documents, which were then used to commit fraud.

On August 13, 2020, Kariuki was arrested alongside a Ugandan nation-

al and accused of electronic fraud involving AED1.18 million (Sh41.6 million). Despite his claims of innocence and misuse of his documents, he was convicted a month later and sentenced to one year in prison, followed by deportation.

While Kariuki was serving his sentence, a second fraud incident involving AED2 million (Sh70 million) emerged in 2021. Prosecutors once again linked him to the scheme, even though he was already behind bars. His lawyer, Jumaa Maleh, argues that it was "physically impossible" for Kariuki to have committed the crime while incarcerated.

Court documents show that the fraud involved creating a fake email that tricked a company into transferring funds to fraudulent accounts. Transactions continued through these accounts even after Kariuki's detention, which raises serious doubts about his involvement.

Despite these inconsistencies, Kariuki was convicted in the second case, fined AED2 million (Sh81 million), and ordered to pay nine percent annual interest. Unable to raise the amount, he remains in jail.

Maleh maintains that Kariuki's trial was "marred by inconsistencies, poor legal representation, and disregard of evidence" proving he was in prison when the second fraud occurred. The lawyer also points out that the Ugandan national arrested alongside Kariuki was acquitted, despite allegedly receiving a large sum of money from the scheme.

The case has captured the attention of Kenyan lawmakers, including Nairobi Woman Representative Esther



James Kariuki

Passaris and Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba, who have demanded answers from the government regarding Kariuki's prolonged detention.

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Affairs CS Musalia Mudavadi confirmed that the matter had been raised with UAE authorities through diplomatic channels. He assured lawmakers that the government was

"pursuing the case at the highest level," while urging patience as discussions continued.

For Kariuki's parents, however, every day without their son is a day of pain. "All we want is justice for our son," said Esther Wambui. "We will not stop pleading until he is free."

Kenya Hosts Photo Exhibit To Mark Victory Of World Anti-Fascist War

To mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, a photo exhibition was launched on Friday in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

By: Xinhua, Editor: huaxia
 @themtkenyatimes

NAIROBI, Aug. (Xinhua) -- To mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, a photo exhibition was launched on Friday in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

Organized by the Chinese Embassy in Kenya and Xinhua News Agency Africa Regional Bureau, the exhibition was held at the National Museums of Kenya. Senior government officials, diplomats, scholars, curators, and historians graced the event.

The exhibition displayed China's significant role in defeating imperialist aggression and fascism, as well as ushering in a post-World War II international order, characterized by peace, multilateralism, and development.

Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Guo Haiyan said the great victory was commemorated to remember history, honor the martyrs, cherish peace, and create the future.

"The victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was China's first full victory against foreign aggression in modern times since 1840," Guo said.

By smashing Japanese militarists' attempts to colonize and enslave China, the victory re-established China's status as a major country in the world and charted the bright prospect of national rejuvenation, Guo added.

The Chinese ambassador also noted that despite the painful lessons of history, unilateralism, hegemony, and

bullying are creeping back.

She stressed the urgency of upholding the international order based on international law as well as the basic norms governing international relations in line with the purposes and principles outlined in the United Nations Charter.

Anne Wang'ombe, principal secretary for the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action in the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services, observed that China's victory against Japanese aggression and all forms of fascism was pivotal in reshaping world history and inspiring the Global South to stand up against colonialism.

Wang'ombe said the heroic acts of Chinese people that led to the downfall of Japan's imperialist machinations alongside fascism in some Western nations played a huge part in motivating African states to fight foreign occupation and exploitation.

Erastus Mwencha, former deputy chairperson of the African Union Commission, said China's bold resistance against Japanese aggression and global fascism encouraged other developing countries in their quest to defend territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The exhibition will remain open to the public until Aug. 31.



Children look at photos at the photo exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Nairobi, Kenya, on Aug. 15, 2025. (Xinhua/Yang Guang)



Guests visit the photo exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Nairobi, Kenya, on Aug. 15, 2025. (Xinhua/Yang Guang)



This photo, taken on Aug. 15, 2025, shows the scene of the opening ceremony of the photo exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Nairobi, Kenya. (Xinhua/Yang Guang)

14 POEMS

What Brings You Real Joy



Joy differs from person to person.
Happiness comes to me from my positivity.
Helping the needy is Happiness.
Doing good for the society is my way.
Hospitality when friends and relatives come give joy.
Traveling, hearing music brings

pleasure.
Togetherness with the family is a wonderful experience.
Getting what we wish gives joy.
Reaching out our ultimate goal brings happiness.
In short joy differs from person to person.
My real happiness is, when I see others smiling faces.

Susi Jean R
Help Desk Executive
Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala.

Comparison Is The Thief Of Joy



Different people have different talents,
Some are visible, some are invisible,
They will succeed according to their passion,
Which makes them to take right decision.

Skills may be varied to person to person,
With their abilities to achieve their goals,
Working hard may grant them a boon,
To spotlight themselves unique in the crowd.

There will be someone behind our victory,

Who encourages us to reach our goal
We shouldn't be asked to worship them,
But we must not forget their help which is our backbone.

This success gives us over joy,
We shouldn't turn to be other's toy,
Some coveted people try to steal our happiness,
Let's give them warm welcome by our acceptance as godliness.

They will never turn their ears to us,
The joy of stealing emotions by comparison,
May grant them a wishful guiltiness forever,
I wish you should avoid of comparing yourself to anyone
Because you are the only one 'YOU'

N. DEFPALAKSHMI

When Dreams Delay, Trust the Way



Great things in life will take their time,
Not every climb is quick to climb.

A house may rise within a year,
But palaces take longer, dear.

A poem flows in just one day,
An epic needs a longer way.

A song is sung in moments few,
But symphonies take decades too.

So when your plans begin to stall,
Don't think your dreams are meant to fall.

It may seem late, or just unclear,
But God's big plans are drawing near.

You ask for blooms, a little bud,
But He prepares a garden's flood.

If doubt says, "Stop, it's far too late,"
Just tell your heart, "Have faith, not hate."

Say, "God is working, though unseen,
He knows my hopes, my every dream."

V Durgadevi
BT Assistant
GHS Nesar
Tiruvannamalai District

Visit Places



Visit places of near and dear,
May be parents or siblings
Friends of colleagues
Meet people with a cheer,
Pass a warm smile and prove that you care,
Listen deeply, and show you're there.

Don't hesitate to ask, don't be shy,
Let others share their grief
Their heart may lighten, their soul may cheer,
When we visit with love,
Their burden will reduce

It may be family, friend, or even enemy
We can connect, and let our hearts brighten
In thoughts, words, and actions
We can visit them once in a while

In sadness or joy, sit in god's lap,
Lay on His gentle chest, and let love wrap,
He who created us, wishes us near by,
In His love, no evil can come near

Visit the divine, daily in our mind,
Let love and kindness, forever shine,
In every thought, in every deed,
May our hearts be filled, with only love

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

Independence Day



Today we celebrate Independence Day with joy
Our independence is hard-won,
We didn't get so easily
We have the Freedom, to live our lives,
To speak, to walk, to follow our dreams

We have the right, to express
To go anywhere freely
But it wasn't always easy and simple
Martyrs fought and gave their all for our country

There was a time, when we were bound,
Hand-tied, tongue-tied, legs tied with no
Freedom
But the brave Freedom fighters, changed our

Fate,
They sacrificed everything, for our nation's sake

Their life, home, family, all their wishes
They gave it up, without any fear,
They didn't seek joy, or personal gain,
Their only goal, was India's Freedom

Their struggle was fierce, their courage so bright,
They shed their blood, and laid down their life,
For us, for our future, they fought with might,
Let's salute the martyrs, and honor

We remember them, on this special day,
We remember their sacrifice,
Their action live in our mind for ever

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

Everything Comes To You At The Right Time



When we rush for things or beautiful moments,
They make us wait, and even disappoint us.
We look for some dreams and work for progress;
They may be diverse and travel in a different path.

It's true that our time is of utmost importance –
At the right juncture, our dreams come true.

At times, with a hundred percent perseverance and effort,
Our work still turns futile.
At the right time, even our smart work ripens,
And everything comes to us without any delay.

Let us be patient and never expect too much in life;
Let us travel on this journey of life
With no expectations, yet with complete hope –
For everything comes to us at the right time.

KUMARESWARI S
GRADUATE TEACHER -ENGLISH
VKGHSS AYYANKALIPALAYAM TIRUPPUR
TAMILNADU

State Officers Launch Initiative To Strengthen Grassroots Development In Mt. Kenya Region

By: KNA

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Speaking during the launch at Kiru Boys Secondary School in Mathioya, Murang'a County, Principal Secretaries and Directors drawn from various parastatal organisations assured residents that all ongoing government projects in the region will be completed within stipulated time to benefit the public.

Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said the forums will provide a platform for dialogue between the government officers and the people, ensuring that obstacles to project completion are addressed and priorities properly identified.

“The government is doing a lot in terms of development and that’s why we have launched this initiative, to make our people aware of what is being done for their welfare and also identify what is hindering implementation of various programmes,” said Mwaura.

Senior government officers from Mount Kenya region have launched a new initiative to sensitize and engage local residents on ongoing and planned projects by the state.

The caucus, dubbed Jamii Imarisha Mashinani, brings together officials from the executive and state-owned agencies to directly engage residents on development priorities, governance coordination, and collaborative strategies aimed at accelerating regional and national growth.

Speaking during the launch at Kiru Boys Secondary School in Mathioya, Murang'a County, Principal Secretaries and Directors drawn from various parastatal organisations assured residents that all ongoing government projects in the region will be completed within stipulated time to benefit the public.

Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said the forums will provide a platform for dialogue between the government officers and the people, ensuring that obstacles to project completion are addressed and priorities properly identified.

“The government is doing a lot in terms of development and that’s why we have launched this initiative, to make our people aware of what is being done for their welfare and also identify what is hindering implementation of various programmes,” said Mwaura.

He added that the initiative would also counter misinformation, noting that some individuals have been spreading falsehoods about government projects.

“We want wananchi to get first-hand information from us, not through propaganda or politics. This is the only way to build trust and transparency,” he emphasized.

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni defended the Social Health Authority (SHA), which has faced criticism from some quarters, insisting that the programme is functional and already transforming lives.

“SHA is working and has helped a lot of people despite the criticism that it is not. I urge Kenyans not to politicise government initiatives that are meant to help them,” Muthoni said.

She added that under the Primary Health Program, patients are not supposed to pay for outpatient services at level 3 facilities and below, in line with government directives.

The PS added that under the primary health care scheme, Sh21 billion has been allocated to settle bills for outpatient services in level 3 and below health facilities in the current fiscal



year.

She also noted that under the Community Health Promoters (CHP) programme, the government is establishing a digital register through the Electronic Community Health Information System (e-CHIS), which enables CHPs to capture household data in real time, link families to nearby health facilities, and improve accountability in service delivery.

On his part, Principal Secretary for Sports Elijah Mwangi appealed to the youth to focus on personal development and avoid being distracted by unnecessary political noises.

“The government has invested heavily in initiatives like Nyota and the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), which are designed to nurture talent, equip young people with skills, and open up opportunities for self-reliance. I call on our youth to embrace these programmes and use them to transform their lives,” Mwangi urged.

Mwangi further emphasized that the youth are central to the government’s long-term development agenda, urging them to take advantage of the skills and sports empowerment initiatives being rolled out across the country.

Anthony Mwaura, Chairman of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) assured residents of the government’s commitment to completing major infrastructure projects in the region.

He cited the Mau Mau Road, which connects Kiambu to Nyeri, saying the project is already 60 percent complete and will be finalized by June next year.

“The road is a vital lifeline for this region. We are changing the contractor to speed up work, and by December this year, Mau Mau Road will be completed. This will improve connectivity and boost economic activities for our people,” Mwaura stated.

He added that the Mau Mau Road, once completed, will significantly open up the agricultural highlands of Mount Kenya, enabling farmers to transport produce more easily to markets.

According to the convener of the event Wangoro Mwangi, the Jamii Imarisha Mashinani initiative will be rolled out across other counties in the Mount Kenya region, creating forums where citizens can directly engage with government officers, ask questions, and give feedback on priority areas such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, agriculture, and youth empowerment.

Wangoro said the exercise will not only improve accountability but also ensure government projects are demand-driven and responsive to the real needs of the people.



BUSINESS

Ruto: Online Advertising To Unlock Jobs, Boost Artistes' Royalties

By: James Kabotia
 @themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has directed all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to prioritize advertising on digital platforms as part of a strategy to expand Kenya's digital economy and create jobs for young creatives.

Speaking during the 97th Kenya Music Festival State Concert at Sagana State Lodge in Nyeri County, the President said that shifting government advertising to online platforms will increase visibility for local content while boosting earnings for Kenyan creatives.

"We have no excuse not to advertise online. The more we advertise digitally, the more our content makes a global mark, and the more our creatives benefit," Dr Ruto said.

The Head of State, who was accompanied by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki and Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba, noted that Kenya is among the few countries whose content creators now earn from Facebook through social media monetisation.

"We fought hard and we won. And we are not stopping," he added.

To further support the sector, President Ruto revealed that the government is engaging Meta to integrate M-PESA into Facebook's payment system, making payouts to content creators faster and more accessible.

He said he will also lobby Google during next month's United Nations General Assembly in New York to enable Kenyans to purchase YouTube adverts via M-PESA.

"This will benefit both our creatives and MSMEs, while YouTube enjoys increased transactions," said the Head of State.

The President further directed the Ministry of Youth and Creative Economy to fast-track plans to establish world-class studios in Kenya and prepare the ground for Nairobi to host an African edition of the Grammy Awards.

He disclosed that the Grammy team has already shown interest in setting up operations at the new Talanta Stadium currently under construction.

Dr Ruto reaffirmed the government's commitment to embedding arts in the Competency-Based Curriculum, noting that music, drama and visual arts are now recognised as career pathways.

He said Sh950 million has been allocated this year to train teachers to identify and nurture talent from an



President William Ruto

Worth Noting:

- The Head of State, who was accompanied by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki and Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba, noted that Kenya is among the few countries whose content creators now earn from Facebook through social media monetisation.
- "We fought hard and we won. And we are not stopping," he added.
- To further support the sector, President Ruto revealed that the government is engaging Meta to integrate M-PESA into Facebook's payment system, making payouts to content creators faster and more accessible.
- He said he will also lobby Google during next month's United Nations General Assembly in New York to enable Kenyans to purchase YouTube adverts via M-PESA.

early age

He also ordered the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO) to enforce the rule requiring 70 per cent of royalties to go directly to artistes, warning that non-compliance will result in loss of licences.

KECOBO has further been instructed to roll out a digital royalties system on the e-Citizen platform before the end of the year.

The President revealed that the Blank Tape Levy has already raised more than Sh100 million to support the creative industry, with the bulk of the proceeds going directly to artistes.

The Head of State announced that the government is rehabilitating cultural centres, including the Kenya National Theatre, Bomas of Kenya and regional hubs, to provide affordable perfor-

mance and training venues.

He added that funds from the Housing Levy could also be channelled into building additional centres, while counties are being encouraged to set up creative industry hubs.

He highlighted the launch of an e-Citizen platform that now allows students, parents and fans to download school drama and music festival performances for less than Sh250, replacing the outdated DVD system.

"This is a bold leap forward and the first step towards building Kenya's own 'Netflix' for local productions," he said.

Dr Ruto also challenged network providers to offer fairer revenue splits to artistes and urged Parliament to expedite the Creative Economy Support Bill and the Culture Bill, which he

said will unlock grants, attract major film productions and strengthen intellectual property protections.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki praised the role of creative arts in nation-building, saying music helps fight negative values such as corruption, laziness and crime.

"Music helps us fight negative things that we want to discourage from our society. The vices include corruption, laziness, violence and crime," he said.

Among the standout performances at the winners' concert were by Senende Boys High School, Alliance High School, Kenyatta University, and violinist John Momanyi of Nkoroi Secondary School, whose solo presentation drew special praise from the President.

Egerton To Host Research Festival On Food Security And Climate Change

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatimes

The National Research Fund (NRF) will this week host the second edition of the Kenya National Research Festival at Egerton University, Njoro, with food security and climate change topping the agenda.

The five-day event, running from today to Friday, is expected to bring together researchers, farmers, policymakers, industry leaders and students to showcase innovations and shape policies that address Kenya's pressing development challenges.

NRF Chief Executive Officer Prof. Dickson Andala said the festival seeks to move Kenya away from anecdotal decision-making and ground public policy on evidence and research.

"The conversations here will help shape responsive, evidence-informed policies that drive sustainable development and social equity," he said.

Prof. Andala noted that the forum

would highlight practical solutions to food insecurity, such as drought-resistant seed varieties, bio-fortification, indigenous knowledge systems, digitised markets, and youth- and women-led agribusiness ventures.

The festival will feature live demonstrations, field visits, case studies and exhibitions showcasing how research can be applied in vulnerable regions, especially arid and semi-arid lands.

Egerton University Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaac Kibwage said the institution was well positioned to host the event, given its strong record in agricultural research.

"This partnership strengthens Egerton's role as a hub for research excellence, particularly in agriculture and food security," added Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Research and Extension Prof. Bernard Aduda.

Prof. Aduda said the festival would give space to researchers from all levels—including TVET institutions, undergraduates, graduates, and postdocs—to present projects and engage with policymakers and

industry players.

Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika welcomed the festival, saying it would encourage inter-county partnerships and promote long-term food and nutrition security strategies.

"Research is a disciplined journey that transforms curiosity into knowledge and knowledge into power," she said, adding that her administration was prioritising innovation and partnerships in driving agricultural growth across all 55 wards.

Kihika said the festival would allow farmers and county officials to directly engage with new technologies and research findings.

Themed "Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security: Empowering Communities through Research, Science, Technology and Innovation", the event will also cover climate change, nutrition, grassroots technology adoption and economic resilience.

Last year's inaugural edition was held in Nairobi. Prof. Andala said moving this year's festival to Nakuru was part of efforts to decentralise knowledge-sharing and bring research closer to communities.



Professor Paul Kimurto explains to guests a drought resistant bean variety at Egerton University demo farm. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah

The NRF was established under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013, with the mandate to mobilise and manage financial resources for research that advances science, technology and innovation.

Organisers said this year's festival would attract thousands of participants and provide a national plat-

form to connect research with practice, inform policy, and strengthen collaborations among academia, government, industry and communities.

Lee Appoints Ex-Running Mate Joyce Cheruiyot To SEZA Board

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry, Lee Kinyanjui, has appointed his 2022 running mate, Joyce Kiprop Cheruiyot, as a member of the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA).

The appointment, gazetted on August 15, 2025, will see Cheruiyot serve for a period of three years. The announcement, published through Gazette Notice No. 11215, cites the powers conferred by the Special Economic Zones Act (No. 16 of 2015).

Joyce, who teamed with Kinyanjui in the 2022 Nakuru gubernatorial race, is now set to play a key role in overseeing Kenya's special economic zones, which are critical for attracting investment and driving industrialization.

Political analysts have described the appointment as a continuation of Kinyanjui's reliance on close allies in key positions, a move that has stirred political undertones as alignments begin to take shape, two years to the elections.

Yesterday, CS Kinyanjui delivered the keynote address at the County Investment Roundtable in Nakuru, themed "Boresha Biashara Kenya – Unlocking Nakuru's Potential as a Preferred Investment Destination."

The forum, organized by KenInvest at Sarova Woodlands Hotel, underscored the Lee-led ministry's commitment to improving the ease of doing business, fostering strong public-private partnerships, and positioning Nakuru as a premier hub for investment and economic growth.

When pressed by journalists on whether he would contest the Nakuru gubernatorial seat in 2027, Kinyanjui said he would only make such

a declaration at the appropriate time, noting that it was still too early.

"I think right now I have a job, and I am very committed to delivering. We normally say you're judged for your next appointment by how you performed in the one you have. My dream is to do what I can within my space, together with my team," he stated.

Susan Kihika, then Nakuru Senator and a UDA candidate, won the August 2022 gubernatorial race with 440,707 votes, defeating Jubilee's Lee, who managed 225,623, marking a decisive victory that ended his incumbency.

Joyce is a seasoned banker and financial consultant with a solid academic background. She earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Banking and Finance from Kenyatta University, equipping her with expertise in financial management and advisory services.

While the appointment aligns with



Lee and Joyce display an IEBC nomination certificate in June 2022. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah

legal provisions, it has drawn mixed reactions, with some praising Joyce's qualifications and others questioning the optics of appointing a former running mate to a state agency under Kinyanjui's docket.

Joyce's tenure takes effect immediately. She is expected to advance

SEZA's mandate by promoting investment, fostering industrial growth, and supporting targeted special economic zones to boost Kenya's overall economic development.

We Should Harness Youth Dynamism To Propel The Realization Of Sustainable Development



By: John Wangai

@themtkenyatimes

international
YOUTH
Day



Worth Noting:

When the United Nations established the Millenium Development Goals in 2000, they had envisioned that they will be able to actualize several key priorities among them zero hunger, poverty eradication, tackling illiteracy, fighting disease and promoting equality by 2015. Unfortunately, when the timespan lapsed, nothing much had been done forcing them to adopt a new blueprint the UN 2030 Agenda commonly known as Sustainable Development Goals.

In Kenya, we've a substantial youth bulge that, when leveraged positively can tremendously benefit our country by providing a wide pool of labour and market for goods and services. On the contrary, it can be disastrous if not effectively managed.

Every year on August 12th, we celebrate the International Youth Day, a momentous event established in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly. It aims to create awareness about global youth issues, appreciate youth-led efforts and promote youth empowerment initiatives worldwide.

This year's International Youth Day theme, Local Youth Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals and Beyond is opportune. It calls on governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, religious institutions and all key sector players and stakeholders to earnestly engage the young people and capitalize on their untapped potentials and capabilities to expedite the attainment of global sustainable development.

When the United Nations established the Millenium Development Goals in 2000, they had envisioned that they will be able to actualize several key priorities among them zero hunger, poverty eradication, tackling illiteracy, fighting disease and promoting equality by 2015. Unfortunately, when the timespan lapsed, nothing much had been done forcing them to adopt a new blueprint the UN 2030 Agenda commonly known as Sustainable Development Goals.

In Kenya, we've a substantial youth bulge that, when leveraged positively can tremendously benefit our country by providing a wide pool of labour

and market for goods and services. On the contrary, it can be disastrous if not effectively managed.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics report of 2022, over 80% of Kenya's population is aged 35 years and below. The youth which comprises of all those aged between 18 to 35 as per Article 260 of the Constitution of Kenya, make up around 36% of the total Kenya's population.

Since time immemorial, each generation had it's own distinct measure of challenges, opportunities and responsibilities. Frantz Fanon in his book, *The Wretched of the Earth*, opines that every generation must rise out of its obscurities, discover it's mission and either fulfil it or betray it. The preceding generations thus, contributed in a superb way to the development and transformation that we're currently building upon.

Remarkably, as civilization has been gradually evolving, generations have been adapting to tremendous societal changes. For instance, the Old Stone Age which encompasses the Paleolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic periods, was characterized by the use of stone tools for hunting and gathering. It was followed by the Agrarian Revolution where people adopted farming and agriculture. Thereafter, came the Industrial Revolution which was initially marked

by the invention of machinery, the discovery of electricity, the development of computers and then automation and digitization.

We are currently in the Artificial Intelligence era which is characterized by machines being able to perfectly perform tasks that were once reserved for humans. Notwithstanding the fact that AI will lead to job losses as machines replace humans in various sectors of the economy, this technological advancement has made work more efficient and effective.

Globally, young people have taken the lead in various landmark innovations and inventions that have been instrumental in making a difference. This underscores the immense potential they possess in terms of skills and talents, which can only be realized if they are given opportunities and safe spaces to unleash their latent prowess.

Inspired by Napoleon Hill's wise saying that the little things you do can make a huge difference, young people have been leading initiatives both from the local level to the national level aimed at creating a positive impact on the society. From peace keeping efforts, to climate action, agribusiness, fintech and many other areas, their contributions have been essential in advancing sustainable development.

The government's efforts to intro-

duce affirmative action programs like the Youth Enterprise Fund, the Financial Inclusion Fund (Hustler Fund), youth empowerment programs and the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement project (NYO-TA Project) is commendable.

However, much more needs to be done, such as fully digitizing and automating government services to reduce bureaucracies when accessing this services, establishing ICT hubs at the village level to boost digital literacy levels which currently stands at 29% of the total population and expediting the Digital Superhighway Project which aims to lay over 100,000Kms of fiber optic cables across the country, create over 25,000 public WIFI hotspots and establish Digital Village Smart Hubs in all the 1450 wards in Kenya.

Consequently, concerted efforts from all stakeholders to create an enabling environment for the youth to unleash their full potential, exhibit their skills and talents and put their best foot forward is vital to be able to accelerate the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda, the Africa 2063 Agenda, the EAC Vision 2050, the Kenya Vision 2030 and the BETA Agenda.

JOHN WANGAI
PUBLIC INTEREST
LITIGATION ADVOCATE

The Unspoken Barrier: Why Affection Between African Men Is Still A Taboo



By: Athumani Said Mwamlisho
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The roots of this phenomenon are complex and deeply entrenched in a mix of cultural, historical, and social factors. Historically, African masculinity has been defined by strength, stoicism, and the role of the protector and provider.
- A man was not meant to be soft or emotional. Crying was a sign of weakness, and physical closeness, outside of a familial or romantic context, was considered unmanly.
- These traditional beliefs were often reinforced by a patriarchal social structure that emphasized a clear distinction between gender roles and behaviors. Men were taught to be tough, and this toughness extended to their emotional and physical interactions with other men.

In many African societies, the bond between men is celebrated through shared experiences, mutual respect, and unwavering loyalty. From childhood friendships forged on dusty football pitches to lifelong alliances built in bustling city offices, male camaraderie is a cornerstone of social life. Yet, for all its strength and depth, this bond is often restricted by an unwritten rule: the public expression of physical affection.

Walk into a social gathering, and it's common to see women embracing, holding hands, or walking arm-in-arm without a second glance. Their shows of affection are seen as a natural, healthy part of their relationships. But observe a similar scenario with men, and the reaction is often different. A hug between male friends, a hand on the shoulder that lingers a little too long, or any gesture beyond a firm handshake can be met with awkwardness, strange looks, or even suspicion. This unspoken barrier is a disservice to the richness of male friendships and raises a critical question: why are African men taught to suppress their emotions and their capacity for platonic affection?

The roots of this phenomenon are complex and deeply entrenched in a mix of cultural, historical, and social factors. Historically, African masculinity has been defined by strength, stoicism, and the role of the protector and provider. A man was not meant to be soft or emotional. Crying was a sign of weakness, and physical closeness, outside of a familial or romantic context, was considered unmanly. These traditional beliefs were often reinforced by a patriarchal social structure that emphasized a clear distinction between gender roles and behaviors. Men were taught to be tough, and this toughness extended to their emotional and physical interactions with other men.

The advent of colonialism and the introduction of Western Victorian-era morality further complicated this issue. European missionaries and colonial administrators often brought with them conservative social norms that viewed public affection between men with suspicion. These ideas, combined with existing traditional beliefs, created a powerful cultural force that discouraged platonic male intimacy. The fear of being perceived as weak or, more damagingly, as homosexual, became a powerful deterrent. This fear, unfortunately, persists to this day, leading to a profound emotional discon-



nect in many male friendships.

Psychologists and sociologists argue that this lack of emotional and physical expression has significant psychological consequences. Dr. Uchechukwu Okoro, a sociologist specializing in gender studies, notes that “when men are constantly told to repress their feelings and avoid physical contact with their peers, it can lead to a state of emotional isolation. This isolation is a major contributing factor to mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and even substance abuse. Men need emotional support just as much as women do, and a large part of that support comes from feeling safe and comfortable enough to be vulnerable with your friends.”

The suppression of affection doesn't just affect mental health; it also stunts the development of healthy, holistic friendships. Friendships built on a foundation of shared vulnerability and emotional support are often more resilient and fulfilling. When a friend is going through a tough time grieving the loss of a loved one, facing a career setback, or dealing with a personal crisis—a simple, comforting hug can sometimes communicate more than a thousand words. Yet, for many African men, this natural and compas-

sionate gesture is off-limits. They are left to offer support through strained conversations or by simply “being there” physically, without the warmth and comfort that physical touch can provide.

The good news is that times are changing. The younger generation, exposed to global cultures through social media and international travel, is beginning to challenge these outdated norms. In urban centers across the continent, it's becoming more common to see young men greeting each other with warm embraces. Conversations about mental health and emotional well-being are also slowly entering the mainstream, chipping away at the stigma surrounding male vulnerability.

However, the change is slow and often met with resistance. Parents, influenced by their own upbringing, still find it difficult to teach their sons that platonic affection is normal. Many parents, out of a misguided sense of duty to “toughen up” their boys, continue to perpetuate these harmful stereotypes. This creates a cycle where each new generation of boys learns the same old lessons: men don't cry, and men don't hug other men.

To break this cycle, a collective effort is needed. Parents must be at

the forefront of this change, teaching their sons from a young age that it is not only okay but also healthy to express love and affection for their friends. Schools and community leaders also have a role to play in fostering environments where emotional intelligence and platonic intimacy are valued. Media, too, can contribute by portraying male friendships in a more realistic and emotionally diverse light, showing that strength and sensitivity are not mutually exclusive.

Ultimately, embracing affection between men is not about challenging masculinity; it's about enriching it. It's about recognizing that a man's strength isn't in his ability to suppress emotion but in his capacity to express it. It's about building friendships that are not just strong, but also deeply supportive, emotionally fulfilling, and genuinely human. It's time we allowed our sons, brothers, and fathers to hug their friends and show their love without fear of judgment. It's time we let affection be a normal and celebrated part of every relationship, regardless of gender.

By: Athumani Said Mwamlisho, A Kenyan Journalist Who Tells African Stories

Weapons, Wealth, And War: A Geopolitical Analysis Of Resource-Driven Conflicts And Superpower Interests



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

Abstract

This article explores the disturbing global phenomenon where resource-rich countries - particularly in Africa and the Middle East - are embroiled in endless wars, often fueled by external weapon supplies from superpowers. It investigates the intersection of geopolitics, resource exploitation, arms trade, and the economic incentives behind prolonged conflict. Drawing on recent scholarly insights and geopolitical data, the article argues that war has become a business model for global powers, with peace often subordinated to profit.

1. The Paradox of Peace and Profit

In a world that claims to value peace, the persistence of war - especially in resource-rich regions - raises troubling questions. Why are countries with abundant minerals, oil, and gas more prone to conflict than those without? Why do superpowers supply weapons to these nations instead of brokering peace? The answer lies in a complex web of geopolitical interests, economic incentives, and strategic dominance. This article seeks to unpack these dynamics and offer a critical lens on the global architecture of war profiteering.

2. Mapping the Geography of Conflict

2.1 Resource-Rich and War-Torn

A clear pattern emerges when examining global conflict zones: Africa: The Democratic Republic of Congo (cobalt), Sudan (oil), Mali (gold), Lybya (hydrocarbons) and Nigeria (oil) are all embroiled in internal or external conflicts.

Middle East: Iraq, Syria, and Yemen - each rich in hydrocarbons - have faced decades of war.

Contrast: Countries with minimal strategic resources, such as Bhutan or Lesotho, rarely experience external military intervention or prolonged civil war.

This correlation is not coincidental. It reflects what scholars call the "resource curse" - a paradox where natural wealth leads to instability rather than prosperity.

2.2 The Resource Curse and Institutional Fragility

The resource curse is exacerbated by weak institutions, corruption, and external manipulation. In many cases, governments lack the capacity to manage resource wealth equitably, leading to elite capture, civil unrest, and vulnerability to foreign influence.

3. Superpowers and the Arms Economy



3.1 Who Supplies the Weapons?

The top arms exporters globally include: United States, Russia, China, France and United Kingdom.

These nations dominate the global arms trade, often supplying weapons to both sides of a conflict. For example, during the Syrian civil war, the U.S. supported rebel factions while Russia backed the Assad regime.

3.2 Economic Incentives Behind Arms Transfers

Arms sales are not just strategic - they are immensely profitable:

- The U.S. arms industry generated over \$205 billion in exports in 2023.

- Russia's defense exports remain a key pillar of its economy despite sanctions.

- China's arms sales to Africa and Asia are growing rapidly, often tied to infrastructure or mining deals.

These transactions are rarely neutral. They are embedded in foreign policy, alliance-building, and economic leverage.

3.3 Legal and Ethical Dilemmas

International law prohibits arms transfers that may facilitate war crimes or human rights abuses. Yet enforcement is weak. The International Committee of the Red Cross warns that supplying arms to conflict zones poses a "concrete and present danger" of violating humanitarian law.

4. Strategic Resources and Global Power

4.1 Oil and Gas: The Lifeblood of Geopolitics

Oil and gas have long been central to global power:

- Control over oil routes (e.g., Strait of Hormuz, Suez Canal) is a strategic priority.

- Wars in Iraq and Libya were closely tied to oil interests.

- Private-sector oil companies often outperform state-owned firms, indirectly boosting the geopolitical power of their host nations.

4.2 Critical Minerals: The New Battleground

The 21st century has shifted focus to minerals essential for green and digital technologies:

- Cobalt: 70% of global reserves are in the DRC.

- Rare Earths: China controls 60% of production.

- Lithium: Found in Bolivia, Chile, and parts of Africa.

These minerals are vital for electric vehicles, AI, and defense systems. Superpowers engage in "resource diplomacy" or coercive tactics to secure supply chains.

4.3 Water Wars and Climate Stress

Water scarcity is emerging as a new frontier of conflict:

- Middle East: Turkey and Iraq dispute control over the Tigris and Euphrates.

- Africa: The Sahel faces climate-induced migration and terrorism.

- Asia: India and Pakistan compete over the Indus River.

By 2025, global water demand is expected to exceed supply by 56%, affecting 3.5 billion people.

5. Geopolitical Strategies and Neocolonialism

5.1 Neocolonial Practices in the Global South

Superpowers use aid, military bases, and infrastructure projects to gain influence:

- China: Belt and Road Initiative, mining investments in Africa.

- U.S.: Military presence in

the Middle East, strategic alliances.

- Russia: Wagner Group operations in mineral-rich African states.

These practices often undermine sovereignty and perpetuate dependency.

5.2 Fragmentation of Multilateralism

Traditional alliances like the UN and NATO are weakened by transactional diplomacy. Ad hoc coalitions dominate resource negotiations, sidelining global norms.

5.3 Proxy Wars as Strategic Tools

Conflicts in Yemen, Syria, and Sudan are often proxy wars between superpowers. These wars serve as testing grounds for new weapons and strategies, with devastating consequences for local populations.

6. Socioeconomic and Environmental Fallout

6.1 Humanitarian Crises

Wars over resources displace millions:

- Refugee flows from Syria, Sudan, and the Sahel.

- Famine and disease in conflict zones.

- Infrastructure destruction sets back development by decades.

6.2 Environmental Degradation

Illegal mining, oil spills, and deforestation are rampant:

- Biodiversity loss and pollution worsen climate change.

- The Aral Sea in Central Asia is a stark example of resource mismanagement.

6.3 Political Instability and Migration



Worth Noting:

- Africa: The Democratic Republic of Congo (cobalt), Sudan (oil), Mali (gold), Lybya (hydrocarbons) and Nigeria (oil) are all embroiled in internal or external conflicts.**
- Middle East: Iraq, Syria, and Yemen - each rich in hydrocarbons - have faced decades of war.**
- Contrast: Countries with minimal strategic resources, such as Bhutan or Lesotho, rarely experience external military intervention or prolonged civil war.**
- This correlation is not coincidental. It reflects what scholars call the "resource curse" - a paradox where natural wealth leads to instability rather than prosperity.**
- The resource curse is exacerbated by weak institutions, corruption, and external manipulation. In many cases, governments lack the capacity to manage resource wealth equitably, leading to elite capture, civil unrest, and vulnerability to foreign influence.**

The Bloody Roads

By: David Nyaga
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenya's roads have turned into silent killers, merciless and unrelenting. Hardly a week passes without news of a fatal crash somewhere in the country. Matatus overturned, trucks colliding head-on, private vehicles mangled beyond recognition, lives lost in seconds, and families plunged into lifelong grief. These tragedies have become a norm, yet they remain deeply preventable.

At the heart of this crisis is a broken system, one where corruption, negligence, and indifference thrive. From acquiring fake licenses to bribing traffic officers, many drivers find their way onto the roads not through competence, but through shortcuts. Enforcement of road safety rules is weak and often compromised by corruption. Unroadworthy vehicles, some visibly falling apart, still operate freely, endangering every soul on board.

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is another ticking time bomb. Especially during weekends

and holidays, roads become playgrounds for reckless drivers, many under the influence or too fatigued to think clearly. Some are glued to their phones, chatting or scrolling while cruising at high speeds. With minimal checks and rare consequences, such carelessness continues unchecked.

The condition of many roads in Kenya adds salt to injury. Potholes, poor signage, sharp blind bends, and insufficient lighting are common on major highways. Rural areas are worse. For pedestrians and boda boda riders, every journey is a gamble. Infrastructure that should offer safety instead contributes to the chaos.

Even more tragic is the culture of impunity. Many who cause fatal accidents face no justice. Cases are buried, drivers walk free, and insurance settlements reduce lives to figures. The families left behind suffer in silence, forgotten by a system that failed to protect them.

The cost is not just in numbers, it's in broken homes, lost breadwinners, orphans, and endless trauma. Roads are meant to connect us, not kill us. Yet in Kenya, every trip can become a final journey.



This crisis demands urgent action. The enforcement of traffic laws must be firm and free from corruption. Rogue drivers should be stripped of licenses. The NTSA must be empowered, depoliticized, and allowed to act independently. Public awareness campaigns should be revived

nationwide not as one-off PR stunts, but as consistent education. Infrastructure must be upgraded with safety, not just profit, in mind.

Most importantly, Kenyans must shift their mindset. Road safety begins with individual responsibility, from the driver, the officer, to the

pedestrian. Every life lost is one too many.

Our roads are bleeding. The silence must end. It's time to stop the slaughter, not tomorrow, but now.

Weapons, Wealth, And War: A Geopolitical Analysis Of Resource-Driven Conflicts And Superpower Interests

Contd from page 20

Resource wealth fuels corruption and empowers warlords. Democratic institutions are undermined, leading to cycles of violence and forced migration.

7. Peace or Profit? The Role of Weapon Suppliers

7.1 The Peace Broker Paradox

Superpowers often claim to mediate peace while supplying arms. Peace deals are sometimes designed to protect resource interests rather than resolve root causes.

7.2 Are Wars Good for Business?

- Wars stimulate:
- Defense R&D and technological innovation.
 - Economic growth through military-industrial demand.
 - Strategic realignment of global power structures.

For example, U.S. manufacturing sectors benefited from World War

II through military production and postwar civilian applications.

8. Toward a New Paradigm: Solutions and Alternatives

8.1 International Regulation

Strengthen enforcement of arms trade treaties and resource governance frameworks. The UN Panel on Critical Materials (2024) is a step in the right direction.

8.2 Transparency and Accountability

Public disclosure of arms deals and resource contracts can reduce corruption and foreign manipulation.

8.3 Local Empowerment and Sustainability

Involving indigenous communities and women in resource management reduces internal conflict. Investments in desalination, mineral recycling, and efficient agriculture can mitigate tensions.

9. Conclusion: Rethinking Global Priorities

The evidence is overwhelming: wars in resource-rich regions are rarely accidental. They are shaped by strategic interests, economic in-



centives, and geopolitical rivalries. Superpowers benefit from instability, while local populations suffer. The question remains - will the global community continue to tolerate this exploitation, or will it demand a new paradigm where peace is not just a slogan, but a structural

priority?

References

1. "When Elephants Fight": Africa Transforms - Policy Center for the New South
2. An Analysis of Wars over Mineral Resources and Water - El-extra News

3. The Role of Superpowers in Conflict Development - SpringerLink

4. Arms Transfers and International Law - ICRC

5. Geopolitics of Oil and Gas - KPMG

Sports >> * Kenya confirmed their dominance in Group A of the TotalEnergies African Nations Championship (CHAN) PAMOJA 2024 after a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Zambia at a packed Moi International Sports Centre

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Kenya Edge Zambia To Seal Top Spot In Group A At CHAN 2025

Kenya confirmed their dominance in Group A of the TotalEnergies African Nations Championship (CHAN) PAMOJA 2024 after a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Zambia at a packed Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani yesterday.

Ryan Ogam's decisive strike midway through the second half ensured the Harambee Stars finished unbeaten at the summit of the group, while Zambia exited the competition without a single point.

With Morocco beating DR Congo 3-1 in the simultaneous fixture, both Kenya and Morocco progressed to the quarter-finals, leaving the Leopards stranded in third place.

Kenya will stay in Nairobi to play Madagascar in the quarter-final on Friday while Morocco travel to face Tanzania in the other last eight match.



Ogam delivers when it matters

The match was finely balanced until the 75th minute, when substitute Boniface Muchiri found space on the right and delivered a clever ball into the area.

Ogam controlled well before calmly slotting past Charles Kalumba in the Zambian goal to send the 27,000-strong Nairobi crowd into raptures.

The goal was a reward for Kenya's persistence after dominating possession and creating several openings that were either blocked or denied by Kalumba, who had an outstanding evening despite his side's defeat.

Kenya's authority under McCarthy

For Benni McCarthy's side, the result was about more than qualification. Already assured of a quarter-final place, Kenya entered the tie determined to underline their credentials as serious

title contenders.

"When everybody said Group of Death, we would probably have had zero points after four games, but we found ourselves sitting on top of the mountain, and now we really want to enjoy that view on top of that mountain," McCarthy said before kick-off.

Kenya had already beaten Morocco and DR Congo earlier in the group, results that established them as the surprise package of the tournament.

Against Zambia, they showcased tactical maturity and resilience to secure a third victory in four matches, finishing with 10 points and just one goal conceded in the group stage.

Zambia's struggles continue

For Zambia, the campaign ended in disappointment. The Chipolopolo, once a feared force in African football, bowed out after four straight defeats. Yet coach Avram Grant insisted there

were positives to take from the experience.

"Our aim is to win," Grant had said on the eve of the game. "Yes, this is our last game, unfortunately. But this tournament was very important for me and for all the staff. It's a new team, and we wanted to see who is available for the national team."

Despite showing flashes of quality, Zambia were unable to convert chances, with Kampamba himself and Prince Mumba both going close. Kenyan goalkeeper Faruk Shikhalo stood firm, making key saves at crucial moments.

Fans push Stars over the line

Kenya's players were quick to salute the support that carried them to victory. Defender Daniel Sakari stressed the importance of the fans' backing ahead of the game.

That support was evident in the closing stages, as Zambia

pressed for an equaliser.

Shikhalo saved brilliantly from Kampamba late on, before Muchiri almost doubled the lead at the other end with a long-range strike that was tipped over.

Group A outcome

With Kenya's win and Morocco edging DR Congo, the Harambee Stars topped Group A with 10 points, Morocco followed closely with nine, while DR Congo's six were not enough to progress. Angola finished fourth on four points, and Zambia exited bottom with none.

Kenya will now remain in Nairobi for their quarter-final to face Madagascar, giving them both momentum and home advantage.

CAF

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Maurine Chebor delivered a commanding performance during the opening leg of BingwaFest Season Two with double victories, in the women's 10,000m and 5,000m, at the Afraha Stadium, Nakuru County, on Saturday.

Double Victory For Maurine Chebor As Bingwafest Season Two Guns Off In Nakuru



Maurine Chebor celebrates at Afraha Stadium on Saturday.

Maurine Chebor delivered a commanding performance during the opening leg of BingwaFest Season Two with double victories, in the women's 10,000m and 5,000m, at the Afraha Stadium, Nakuru County, on Saturday.

Fresh from winning the opening leg of the Athletics Kenya/Betika Cross Country Series in Machakos last weekend, Chebor led Sandafelis Chebet (32:22.1) to a 1-2 finish, just like they did last weekend in Machakos as Brenda Chepchirchir (32:26.3) settled for the third place to seal the podium positions in the women's race in the morning.

In the afternoon, she then put

up a strong finish in the 5,000m to clock 15:40.8 and finish ahead of Caroline Kariba (15:46.4) and Rebecca Mwangi (15:46.8) who were second and third respectively.

In the men's 10,000m race, Tokyo-based Richard Etir clocked 28:19.5 to win ahead of Kevin Chesang who timed 28:25.2 as Ronald Kipkoech sealed the podium in 28:27.7.

Chebor and Etir took home Ksh 300,000 as Chebet and Chesang won Ksh 250,000, with Chepchirchir and Kipkoech pocketing Ksh 200,000.

Fourth and fifth place finishers rounded off the prize bracket and

received Ksh 100,000 and Ksh 75,000 in that order.

Daniel Kimaiyo won the men's 5,000m with a commanding time of 13:23.6 followed by Vincent Lagat (13:40.6) as Gideon Rono (13:41.2) finished third.

Kenya's 4x400m team for the World Championship in Tokyo next month comprising of Brian Tinega, Kevin Kipkorir, Bonface Mweresa, and Zablon Ekwam stormed to victory in the men's 4x400m, with coach Stephen Mwaniki noting that they used the event to gauge their preparedness for the global showpiece.

"It was a good build up to for us towards the World Championship

in Tokyo. BingwaFest was a very good event for us. As a technical bench, we were able to look at their performance and be able to single out things to rectify ahead of the championship as we continue with our training," Mwaniki said.

In the 5,000m category, winners were awarded Ksh 250,000, second place finishers Ksh 150,000, third place Ksh 100,000, fourth place KES 50,000, and fifth place Ksh 30,000.

Action now shifts to the second leg of the second season in Nyanza in September.

Capital Sport

SPORTS NEWS



- PHOTOS
- SCORES
- OPINIONS
- STATISTICS
- SCHEDULES
- BREAKING NEWS





Poetry Lifts The Weight Of My Weariness In Science



By: Jakhongir NOMOZOV

@themkenyatimes

Our Guest Today – Resmiya Sabir
Renowned Azerbaijani poet, writer,
translator, PhD in Economics and
Professor,
Member of the Union of Azerbaijani
Writers, and laureate of numerous
international awards.

— Living between the worlds of
science and poetry, what new
dimensions has this dual path added
to your spirit? How do you balance
creative and scientific work in your
daily life?

— I often say: I was born a poet,
but I became an economist.

People frequently ask me about the
difficulties of carrying both.

The truth is—living with science
and poetry together is both hard and
easy.

Science demands sleepless nights,
relentless effort. Yet it becomes
easier because poetry heals that
exhaustion, lifting the weight off my
soul.

And still—it is difficult too, be-
cause writing a poem is not the end.
One must publish, have books print-
ed, represent the country abroad.
These too are responsibilities.

But I strive to do both worthily, for
both are my way of life, my essence.
They enrich the soul equally. When
one tires me, the other comes to my
aid.

— Your poems often carry a wom-
an's gaze and tender feelings. What
inner rhythms help you preserve
such delicacy?

— Poetry is the mirror of our inner
world.

A writer does not merely write her
own fate, but transforms what hap-
pens around her—society itself—
into verse.

To be a woman is to be sensitive; to
be a poet is to be doubly so.

That is why we burn for the pain of
words on the page, and for the glow
of coals in the fire.

As I once wrote:

On paper I weep for the pain of

words,

By the fire I burn for the pain of
embers.

No one knows the poet's sorrow—
I was not born for happiness.

I try to ensure the world's bitterness
does not scar my heart.

In another poem, My Life, I said:

The seasons changed...

The world changed...

Time changed...

People changed...

Yet my gaze upon the world, upon
time, upon mankind—
never changed.

Thus have I lived this life, my
friend.

I believe life must be spent on
beauty, not on envy, not on hatred.
The soul is guarded by the beauty it
carries within.

— How does your sense of social
responsibility inspire both your po-
etry and your scientific research?

— The act of creating words is it-
self a responsibility.

Before being a poet or a scholar, I
am a citizen.

This citizenship is at the heart of
my poetry. Each book of mine car-
ries poems devoted to my home-
land.

During the occupation of Karabakh
I wrote of longing; during the war, I
wrote verses to inspire our soldiers,
to breathe victory. On the very day
Shusha was liberated, my poem
Homeland, Rejoice was published.

I have written of the Syrian child
who drowned while fleeing, of the
Turkish earthquake victims, of the
starving children south of the Sa-
hara.

A poet must be the mirror of her
age.

My scientific work is guided by the
same responsibility: I research in-
come growth, social justice, reduc-
ing inequality, strengthening social
protection. Whatever I do, I do with
love.

— What colors have your travels
and encounters with different cul-
tures brought into your work?

— Every journey enriches the hu-
man soul.

I have attended many festivals, met
countless writers, immersed myself
in their cultures. Naturally, such en-
counters leave traces in my poetry.
Yet my work remains deeply nation-
al in spirit—its fragrance is that of

Turkic identity, which is my philos-
ophy of life.

— What spiritual and practical ad-
vice would you give to young wom-
en pursuing science and poetry?

— To young women scholars: nev-
er tire of the path. Make science
your way of life—only if you love
it. For science is a demanding yet
noble road.

To young women poets: read tire-
lessly, publish both at home and
abroad, and represent our nation
with dignity.

— What principles guide your ef-
forts in preserving and sharing na-
tional and spiritual values through
writing and translation?

— Preserving our values is the duty
of every citizen.

I live them not only in my poetry
but in my daily life. I even compiled
the book Our National-Spiritual
Values at Risk of Being Forgotten.

In translation, I hold to one princi-
ple—quality. Whether introducing
Azerbaijani literature abroad or
translating from world (especially
Turkic) literature, I choose only true
works of art.

— What is your philosophy of
happiness and balance in life?

— For me, eternal happiness exists
only in art.

In life, true lasting happiness is im-
possible, for we all lose loved ones
along the way. Today, as I speak to
you, marks twenty years since I lost
my mother—how then can one be
forever happy?

But fleeting happiness—yes. A
kind word, a gentle compliment,
may make a poet happy for an en-
tire day.

At a certain age, peace of mind be-
comes more valuable than anything.
And within me, the love of humani-
ty itself gives me rest.

— How do human psychology and
emotions shape your work?

— Critics say my poetry carries
deep psychology.

Indeed, poetry must reach the deep-
est layers of human feeling.

It is the hidden driver of creation—
emotions guide both subject and
style.

Our works arise from observing
glances, silences, gestures, from
feeling others' joys and sorrows as
our own.



True writing is not mere descrip-
tion but the voice and color of our
inner world. Above all—sincerity.
Only sincerity can let a reader find
themselves within your words.

— How do you balance critical
view with love and respect in sci-
ence and poetry?

— When one is honest, balance
comes naturally.

To criticize is also to love. As Mir-
za Jalil and Mirza Alakbar Sabir
showed—those who loved their na-
tion most, criticized it most, for they
wished to see no flaws in it.

I too am of that belief: I love my
nation deeply, and wish to see it im-
prove. Thus criticism runs through
my science and my art alike.

— What daily ritual gives you
strength for creativity and research?

— My strength comes from my
daughter.

Each morning, I look into her eyes.
In her gaze I forget all hardship. She
is my reason to live.

As I wrote in my poem Sometimes
Life:

Sometimes life
walks upon me,
burns and wears me down,
tests the patience of my soul.

But from every corner of the world
my daughter's eyes look back at
me...

That ending speaks for itself. May
God protect every child.

— How should Azerbaijani liter-
ature find and preserve its voice in
global cultural dialogue?

— Through cultural self-awareness
and professional presentation.

This is not only the duty of writers,
but of translators, publishers, cul-
tural institutions, the diaspora.

We must keep national memory,
folklore, history alive in our themes,
and let translations carry the poetic
spirit of our language.

Our works must be at internation-
al festivals, on digital platforms, in
universities worldwide.

We need projects, reading nights,
lectures, performances—even
animated poems and podcasts—to
reach the new generation.

— How have your creative and
scholarly paths shaped your person-
al and family life?

— Creativity and science give
much, but they also take.

Science especially demands dai-
ly devotion. At times, I have given
my research the hours meant for my
daughter. That pains me. Yet I ex-
plain to her: all that I have achieved
has been by my own effort. She now
understands.

Throughout life, I have chosen
honesty and integrity above all. I
have tried to pass this to my stu-
dents as well.

And so, I believe, I have lived an
honorable life.

Jakhongir NOMOZOV, is a young
poet and journalist from Uzbeki-
stan.

He is also a Member of the Union
of Journalists of Azerbaijan and the
World Young Turkic Writers Union.