



Police Officers Sensitised On Illegal Donkey Slaughter And Transportation
 The battle to protect the donkeys from illegal slaughter has gone a notch higher after 13 riders rode for 500 kilometres to sensitise police officers manning roadblocks on the illegal transportation of slaughtered donkeys and their products. The riders in the company of Farming System Kenya (FSK) and Brooke East Africa officials

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NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW
Gala Dinner
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 WHEN: 17-21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

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News >> Teachers Oppose Raila's Push To Devolve Education To Counties

P. 8. Teachers' unions have opposed the proposal by Orange Democratic Movement party leader Raila Odinga to devolve primary and secondary education to county governments, warning that the move would cripple the country's education system.



News >> Scholars Convene At Equity Group Foundation's 16th Education Congress To Ignite Innovation

P. 12. Equity Group Foundation (EGF) is hosting its 16th Annual Education and Leadership Congress, bringing together 4,404 Wings to Fly and Elimu scholars from across the country, including 3,402 refugee scholars from Dadaab and Kakuma camps.

MPs Plot To Summon Ruto

Senators are demanding that President William Ruto be summoned to Parliament to substantiate claims that lawmakers have been soliciting multimillion-shilling bribes. The Senate's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by Moses Kajwang' (Homa Bay), insisted that the President cannot continue making sweeping allegations without submitting to due process. He cited Article 125 of the Constitution, which grants Parliament the same powers as the High Court to summon any person to appear before it.



President William Ruto

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

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President Ruto Arrives In Japan As Mudavadi Chairs TICAD 9 Technical Meeting Ahead Today's Forum

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures During The Two Occasions

President William Ruto arrived in Yokohama City, Japan yesterday for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9). At the meeting beginning today, President Ruto will advance the prime position of Kenya as the gateway to our region and the entire continent. The country has many opportunities for investment in infrastructure development, special economic zones, agriculture, energy resources, ICT and digitisation, among others.

Moments after the President arrived in the Asian country, Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Musalia Mudavadi chaired a technical meeting at the Kenya's Embassy in Tokyo in preparation for participation in the Ninth TICAD 9 forum.

The meeting focused on how Kenya can actively shape the TICAD agenda, ensuring its voice strengthens Africa's collective priorities while also unlocking opportunities for deeper bilateral cooperation that translate into real benefits for our people.

Among those in the meeting were; Kenya's Ambassador to Japan, Moi Lemoshira; Roads PS, Joseph Mbugua; Kenya's Ambassador to Addis Ababa, George Orina; Deputy Director General for Asia and the Pacific, Amb. Jane Makori; Health Director General, Dr. Patrick Amoth; KPA MD, Captain William Ruto; and Anne Olubendi (OPCS).

The mapped out strategies to maximize Kenya's impact at TICAD 9 and to deepen partnerships that will drive growth, innovation, and sustainable development.



The Mt. Kenya Times

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr. Ouma Oluga yesterday presided over the official leadership handover at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). The ceremony marked the transition from outgoing CEO Dr. Evanson Kamuri, to incoming Acting CEO Dr. Richard Lesiyampe, and the formal introduction of Dr. Abbas Gullet as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors. These leadership changes are part of ongoing health sector reforms aimed at strengthening governance, streamlining clinical operations, and enhancing administrative efficiency at Kenya's largest referral hospital.



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday hosted Wael Nasreldin Attiya, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for a courtesy call that reaffirmed the warm and longstanding ties between Kenya and Egypt. With KTDA Holdings Limited CEO Wilson Muthaura and Tea Board of Kenya CEO Willy Mutai in attendance, the meeting built on the outcomes of the 7th Kenya-Egypt Joint Commission for Cooperation and focused on strengthening agricultural partnerships. Discussions explored joint initiatives such as the upcoming Egypt-Kenya Business Council and Expo, collaboration in climate-smart agriculture and ASAL development, Egyptian investment in key value chains under the Land Consolidation Initiative, and technology driven capacity building for youth through training and scholarships. Kenya and Egypt remain committed to leveraging these partnerships to expand trade, transform agriculture, and drive sustainable development.



The Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) in collaboration with KTDA MS, tea buyers and brokers are currently conducting a 3-day Tea Quality Validation exercise in Mombasa, focusing on teas from KTDA-managed factories. This initiative is part of the Strategic Tea Quality Improvement Programs (STQIP), aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of Kenyan tea in global markets. Through blind tasting and sensory evaluations, experts are objectively assessing teas without bias to establish how improved farming, green leaf handling, and factory processing standards are translating into cup quality. Early findings show significant improvements in the quality of teas from the West of Rift, with several factories producing teas that rival or even surpass long-established benchmarks. However, the exercise also highlights a key challenge: despite better quality, some teas continue to fetch low auction prices; below KSh258 per kilogramme. This disconnect suggests that market dynamics, branding, and buyer perceptions may influence pricing just as much as quality. TBK will use the findings to engage stakeholders on how to ensure that farmers and factories are fairly rewarded for their investments in quality.

Kenya has made significant gains in the fight against infectious diseases, with over 1.36 million people living with HIV now on lifesaving treatment—representing 98% of those diagnosed. Mother-to-child transmission has been nearly halved, dropping from 14% to 7.2% in the last five years. Since 2018, malaria prevalence has reduced by 30%, while related deaths fell by 40% between 2022 and 2023, supported by the distribution of



over 45 million insecticide-treated nets. Tuberculosis incidence has also declined by more than a third since 2015, with treatment success reaching 89%. These achievements were highlighted at a Pre-TICAD9 Round Table with Japanese Parliamentarians, where the Ministry of Health was represented by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni. The PS credited Kenya's progress to strong domestic leadership and enduring global partnerships, particularly with Japan through TICAD, JICA, the Global Fund, and other bilateral collaborations. She emphasized the importance of safeguarding these hard-won gains. The meeting was also attended by the Director General for Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth.



KALRO has partnered with CIP to test a new type of late blight-resistant potato, which does not need any fungicides. These new potatoes, made by using biotechnology, have already been tested successfully in Kenya for five seasons in three locations without using any fungicides. The trials have shown in all cases that the new late blight resistant biotech potatoes can be grown in the presence of late blight without fungicide while late blight disease killed all other conventional varieties. This late blight resistant biotech potato will protect farmers from losing their crops to late blight—and without requiring expensive and potentially hazardous fungicides.



The Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation, Julius Korir yesterday joined stakeholders at the 4th Annual Association of Consultant Engineers of Kenya (ACEK) Conference in Mombasa, where he delivered keynote remarks on the role of engineering in shaping Kenya's Water and Sanitation landscape. The PS emphasized that engineers remain at the centre of innovation, urging them to embrace emerging technologies and adopt modern, fit-for-purpose approaches that can withstand the test of time and climate realities. He noted that the sector must move beyond conventional sanitation models and instead explore comprehensive and inclusive solutions that respond to the unique needs of both rural and urban communities. He applauded the long-standing collaboration between the Ministry and ACEK, which has been instrumental in the successful design, supervision, and delivery of key national programmes. Among the notable ones highlighted were the Kenya Towns Water and Sanitation Sustainable Program and the Water and Sanitation Development Program, which continue to positively impact millions of lives. The PS further assured the engineering fraternity of the Ministry's commitment to strengthening partnerships that not only leverage local expertise but also create opportunities for innovation, capacity building, and sustainable infrastructure delivery.

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Maua Artists Get KSh1 Million To Set Up Studio From SportsPesa

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Maua studio is in Nyambene region and is known for producing a lot of talented musicians, comedians and actors.
- The artists who will benefit from the studio include Mayuda, Muchina, MC Laingo, Karimi Bruno among others.
- Founded in 2017, Maua Talanta began as a vision to give local creatives access to quality production services without the burden of traveling over 60km to Meru Town or Nairobi.

Musician actors and comedians from Maua, Meru county will now record their songs with ease after a new studio has been equipped in Maua town, Igembe South constituency.

Maua Studio was Crowned Eastern Region Tujiamini Gold winners bagging a KSh1 million from SportPesa.

Maua studio is in Nyambene region and is known for producing a lot of talented musicians, comedians and actors.

The artists who will benefit from the studio include Mayuda, Muchina, MC Laingo, Karimi Bruno among others.

Founded in 2017, Maua Talanta began as a vision to give local creatives access to quality production services without the burden of traveling over 60km to Meru Town or Nairobi.

Registered as a Self-Help Group in 2018, the team faced challenges such as lack of equipment, studio space, and funding.

In June 2025, the group learned about the SportPesa's Tujiamini initiative, a program that supports grassroots talent with funding and visibility and took a chance by sharing their story. Their dream resonated, earning them the Gold Award and the resources to transform their studio.

Flanklin Mutunga said he learnt of Tujiamini initiative through facebook and decided to try after realising it sponsor local talents including sports and arts and decided to try.

"I applied after seeing a local football team benefit. We have been having challenges in our studio. We did not have quality cameras, instruments and quality machines for production," he said.

We were lucky I was called and told that the application was successful.

He sat they have been having chal-



Maua artists with a dummy cheque from SportPesa after they won KSh1 Million for their studio.

lenges pushing their content to be played, especially on the national platform because of their low quality.

"Nowadays people want to see videos that are 4K or 6K quality and we our music was not going far because Media houses demanded that quality but now we will enhance the Meru Music a lot of people have been saying Meru cannot produce quality songs let them now watch this space," Mutunga said.

With the Sh.1 million funding, Maua Talanta Studio acquired modern band equipment, a professional video camera, drone, streaming tools, DJ academy gear, and a complete sound system. This upgrade has turned the studio into a thriving creative hub, at-

tracting artists from as far as Samburu, Marsabit, and beyond, as well as CBC schools seeking hands-on learning for students.

"At SportPesa, we believe in empowering communities through Tujiamini. Maua Talanta's story is a powerful example of how opportunity can unlock potential and create lasting impact," said Debrah Maina, Tujiamini representative.

Tujiamini is SportPesa's KSh30 million annual initiative that supports talents, sports, and community projects across Kenya.

Having already covered four regions and currently running its campaign in Nairobi, Tujiamini invites all Kenyans

to apply.

Categories include the Gold Award KSh1,000,000 for community-based projects, Silver Award KSh300,000 for sports and non-sports talents Bronze Award KSh500,000 for small businesses and young talents, and Cheza Dimba Sponsorship KSh250,000 annually for three years for male category, KSh50,000 one-off for female category to support grassroots football teams participating in Regional and below leagues registered with Football Kenya Federation.

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Teachers Oppose Raila's Push To Devolve Education To Counties

By: Sitna Omar
@themtkenyatimes

Teachers' unions have opposed the proposal by Orange Democratic Movement party leader Raila Odinga to devolve primary and secondary education to county governments, warning that the move would cripple the country's education system.

This comes days after Odinga urged the Executive and Parliament arms of government to begin preparations to devolve the entire basic education sector from Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) to secondary schools to county governments, a proposal that the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) and the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) have strongly rejected.

Speaking at Miyuga Mixed Secondary School in Karachuonyo, KUPPET Secretary General Akelo Misori emphasised that teachers across the

country would resist attempts to hand over education management to county governments.

"The teachers of this country will not accept any attempt to devolve education because most essential services devolved to counties have collapsed," he noted.

He emphasised that one key area where the county governments have failed totally is the administration of the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), which he noted was supposed to give children a proper foundation but has not been realised for more than a decade now since devolution started.

"The ECDE was devolved to counties to give children a strong foundation, but more than a decade later, the objective has not been realised due to poor management," Misori asserted.

He further argued that when Odinga's proposal is actualised, it will deepen inequalities in the education sector.

Misori added that counties lack the capacity to effectively manage edu-



cation, citing the collapse of other devolved services, including the health sector which has been struggling and is riddled with strikes under county management.

KNUT Secretary General Collins Oyuu echoed Misori's sentiments, arguing that counties' poor manage-

ment of ECDE was proof that they cannot handle primary and secondary education.

He argued that many centres lack proper quality assurance, making them incapable of delivering meaningful education, describing the state of ECDE as "horrible".

"If county governments have failed with ECDEs, what will happen if basic education is devolved?" Oyuu questioned.

He insisted that education must remain a national government function.

JLAC To Prioritise KNCHR Nominee Claris Onganga's Vetting Despite Parliamentary Recess

By: Laban Wanambisi
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto has forwarded the nomination of Claris Awuor Onganga to the National Assembly for approval as Chairperson of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), following the withdrawal of city lawyer Duncan Oburu Ojwang.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Moses Wetang'ula, noted that by submitting a fresh nomination, President Ruto had formally accepted Ojwang's withdrawal.

Ojwang wrote to the Clerk of the National Assembly last week, citing personal reasons and a perceived conflict of interest as the key reasons for not taking up the role.

As a result, the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) was forced to halt the approval hearing process, which was scheduled to begin on August 14, 2025.

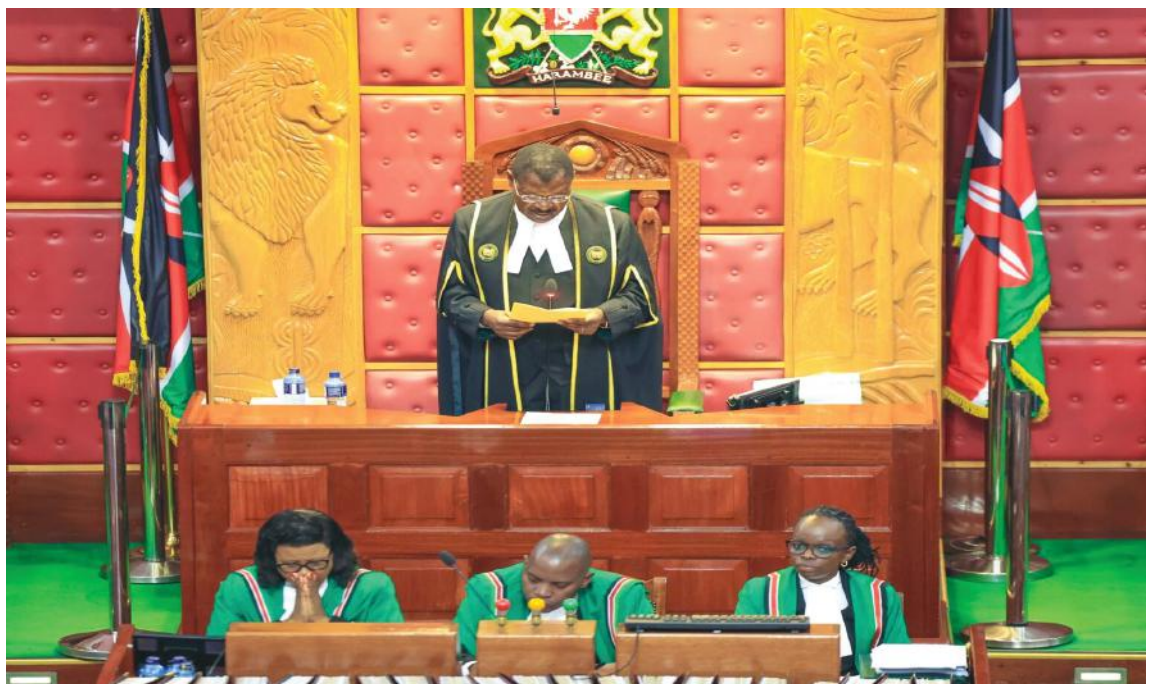
The KNCHR Chairperson's position became vacant following the death of Roseline Odhiambo Odede in January, after a short illness.

In his communication to the House, Speaker Wetang'ula directed JLAC to prioritise the consideration of Onganga's nomination, despite Members of Parliament beginning their month-long recess from August 20 to September 23, 2025.

Section 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap 7F, requires the House to make a decision on such a nomination within twenty-eight (28) days.

"In this regard, Honourable Members, the Committee is expected to undertake the approval hearings and submit a report within the timelines provided under the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Act, Cap 7I," Speaker Wetang'ula directed.

Section 11(7), which outlines the procedure for the appointment of the Chairperson and members, states that the National Assembly shall, within twenty-one days of the day it next



National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula/FILE

sits after receiving the names of nominees, consider all nominations and may approve or reject any of them. "To this end, the Committee should

notify the nominee and the general public of the time and place for holding the approval hearing, and thereafter table its report as soon as

possible to enable the House to consider the matter within the statutory timelines," the Speaker added.

Senators Plot Ruto Summons Amid Bribery Allegations

By: Irene Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Senators are demanding that President William Ruto be summoned to Parliament to substantiate claims that lawmakers have been soliciting multimillion-shilling bribes.

The Senate's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), chaired by Moses Kajwang' (Homa Bay), insisted that the President cannot continue making sweeping allegations without submitting to due process.

He cited Article 125 of the Constitution, which grants Parliament the same powers as the High Court to summon any person to appear before it.

"You cannot try Parliament in a kangaroo court. If the President has evidence of Senators or MPs receiving Sh150 million from Isiolo, or Sh10 million to block the anti-money laundering bill, let him bring that evidence here so that the law can take its course," Kajwang' said.

The uproar followed the President's remarks on Monday alleging that

some legislators demanded Sh150 million from an unnamed county official and Sh10 million from the National Treasury to approve the anti-money laundering bill.

Lawmakers reminded Ruto that his words carried weight and could not be dismissed as mere political banter. By alleging corruption within the Legislature, they argued, he had a duty to present proof and allow investigations to proceed.

"We also want to challenge the President: if you know these people, don't just bemoan and cry like any other common person. As a consumer of raw intelligence and a person who can direct the DCI to investigate, Kenyans expect action," Kajwang' stated.

Setting the record straight

Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna accused the parliamentary leadership of failing to protect the institution, leaving lawmakers exposed to serious allegations.

"By now, I expected Honorable Chair to have a statement from Honorable Madzayo and Honorable Cheruyoit defending the institution



Senator Moses Kajwang'

and putting the record straight. Our Speaker is nowhere to be seen," Sifuna said.

"And even you, Chair, I want to challenge you—when the Senator for Kitui said, Chair, if you don't defend this committee, because this committee was specifically singled out,

they say we are the rent seekers in the Senate."

Kitui Senator Enock Wambua also faulted Parliament's leadership for failing to defend its dignity, hinting at possible drastic measures if the Speakers and committee chairs do not act.

"It cannot be that everybody who wants to invade Parliament just has a free day to do what they want. The Speaker must be able to draw the line. If you have something to say about Parliament, we must be procedurally safe," Wambua said.

HELB Disburses Sh9.5bn In Financial Aid To 309,178 University Students

By: Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) has released Sh9.46 billion in financial aid to 309,178 university students, providing critical support for both tuition and living expenses in the new academic year.

According to the Ministry of Education, the disbursement includes Sh5.76 billion for tuition fees and Sh3.7 billion for student upkeep.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba said the funding underscores the government's commitment to making higher education accessible and affordable for all, regardless of financial background.

"The Government will continue to provide the requisite funding to ensure that higher education remains accessible and affordable, and that no student is left behind on account of

financial limitations," Ogamba stated in a press release on Tuesday.

The CS advised students to check their HELB portals to confirm the disbursements and access details regarding their individual loan accounts.

The announcement comes as thousands of students prepare for the start of the new semester amid rising concerns over the cost of higher education and living expenses.



Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba/FILE

Stakeholders Target Youth-Led Agriculture

By: Mutai Kipngetich
@themkenyatimes

Agricultural stakeholders from Kirinyaga County are targeting to increase the number of youths engaging in farming in a bid to bolster employment and boost the county's economy. The sector leaders noted that agricultural production is endangered due to the insignificant number of youth involved in farming activities yet agriculture is a major source of employment and backbone to Kenya's economy.

The Director of Mazao Afya, Peter Karanja, highlights that the current age of most farmers is about 60 years posing a serious negative impact on agricultural output once they step down from farming activities without a younger, well-prepared generation to take over.

Speaking at Agitech farm in Mutithi area, Mwea during training of farmers ahead of October Agri Expo, Karanja suggested that the government should

come up with initiatives that will motivate young Kenyans to engage in farming leveraging technology to reap returns from their labour.

"What we are trying to say here is that farming is actually endangered in the current status because the people who are actually doing farming currently are people aged over 60. This is not a very good scenario because once this particular group leaves or exits the farming space, we might have a big problem. And that is why we are very keen and deliberate to bring in the youth so that they can acknowledge agriculture is a business enterprise nowadays." Karanja noted.

The theme of this year's expo is "Guarding the Future of Agribusiness through Youth Inclusion, Financial Empowerment, Technology and Sustainability."

The main aim of the expo is to teach farmers and especially youths the need to adopt technology in farming and take it as a serious business in order to increase their agricultural production.

Agri Tech Expo 2025, Chairperson Muriithi Mwai said they are targeting



to bring on board youth who form a large segment of the society, because they are more energetic as well as tech-savvy and have the latest information at their fingertips which the current world is embracing.

"We are embracing our youths because they have learnt and have technology at their fingertips to support

our farmers. The impact of embracing technology includes minimising the cost of production, wastage of chemicals and the misuse of other inputs," said Mwai.

He cited the use of technology in irrigation as key in minimising water wastage as well as expenditure in human resource. In addition, applica-

tion of fertiliser will ensure the precise quantity is used.

Eliud Mwangi, a young farmer, encouraged youths not to look for white-collar jobs but to engage in agribusiness, which is equally rewarding and profitable.



Arts, Music And Sports Emerge As Beacons Of Unity Amid Kenya's Political Rifts

By: James Wakahiu
 @themtkenyatimes

As Kenya continues to navigate political tensions between government and opposition leaders, the power of the arts is emerging as a unifying force, bringing communities together across tribal and ideological divides.

The recent national drama, music, and sports events have proven that creativity knows no boundaries and that it can be a tool for healing and cohesion.

The just concluded National Music and Drama Festivals, held in Meru, showcased the immense talent and diversity among Kenya's youth.

More importantly, it highlighted how music, drama, and performance can be platforms for unity in a country often strained by political discord. "Art is not tribal, and it doesn't glorify tribalism. That's what makes it such a powerful tool in promoting togetherness," said William Luta, Head of the Department of Sports, Music, and Arts at Mount Kenya University (MKU).

He emphasized the importance of nurturing young talent from an early

age, urging parents to identify and support their children's abilities.

"The arts have become among the most rewarding careers today. Unlike many other professions, those with talent are not searching for jobs they are creating their own paths," Luta added.

Mount Kenya University made an impressive showing at the national competitions, securing 17 wins, finishing second in 10 categories, and placing third in eight.

The institution excelled particularly in instrumental performances both African and Western as well as in the verse speaking categories.

For the fifth consecutive year, Kenyatta University dominated the overall rankings, reaffirming its status as a powerhouse in the performing arts.

Other universities such as the University of Nairobi and Daystar University also left strong impressions, showcasing Kenya's deep bench of talent across its higher education institutions.

The national festivals, which brought together thousands of students and stakeholders, were more than just a showcase of artistic excellence but also a reminder of the shared values and dreams that bind



William Luta, Head of the Department of Sports, Music, and Arts at Mount Kenya University (MKU) addresses journalists..

Kenyans together.

In a season marked by political squabbles, the collective harmony of choirs, the shared laughter in dramatic performances, and the pride in cultural displays offered a refreshing contrast.

Looking ahead, the spirit of unity fostered in Meru will extend to the regional stage.

Winners from the Kenyan competitions will represent the country at the East Africa Music, Dance, and Drama Festival, set to take place in Kampala, Uganda, from August 17 to 25.

The regional platform will not only give Kenyan talent a chance to shine, but will also deepen cultural ties across East Africa.

As the applause fades and perform-

ers prepare for the next stage, Luta maintains that arts, music, and sports will continue to be Kenya's most powerful instruments of unity, offering a hopeful counterpoint to the divisive rhetoric in politics.

UDA Paid ODM 'Dowry', Kuria Claims, As He Warns NADCO Will End Like BBI

By: Bruhan Makong
 @themtkenyatimes

Former Presidential Economic Advisor Moses Kuria has likened the joint meeting between the legislators from the ruling UDA and the ODM to a "dowry payment," accusing President William Ruto's party of buying political peace with Raila Odinga's camp.

Kuria said he had hoped the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) would pave the way for far-reaching reforms, possibly culminating in a referendum alongside the 2027 General Election.

Instead, he argued, the process has been reduced to a transactional pact between Kenya's two biggest parties. "I was clinging to the hope that the NADCO process will culminate in a referendum, most likely as the seventh ballot during the 2027 General Elections," Kuria said likening the

country's state of politics to "a malignant tumour which we keep trying to heal through anesthesia such as Handshake, broad based etc ad infinitum, ad nauseam."

"Sadly, what I saw yesterday [Monday] was an otherwise promising national moment being reduced to a dowry paid by UDA to ODM."

The former Cabinet Secretary argued that neither Azimio's constituent parties nor Kenya Kwanza affiliates were adequately consulted, suggesting that the engagement risks being perceived as a bilateral deal between the country's two dominant parties.

BBI replay

He dismissed the arrangement as a replay of the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI), the 2018 Uhuru Kenyatta-Raila handshake project, which collapsed after being declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

"The last chapter of NADCO will be a replica of BBI," he warned.

The NADCO process co-chaired by



Former Presidential Economic Advisor Moses Kuria

Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka and Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wah, was launched in 2023 to resolve political tensions after months of opposition-led protests.

It was tasked with reviewing the cost of living, electoral reforms, inclusivity in governance, and the

reconstitution of the electoral commission.

Speaking during the meeting President Ruto hailed the engagement as a step in the right direction.

"There is no room for retrogressive politics that has held us hostage and slowed our journey of transforma-

tion," Ruto said.

"The time has come to lead with clarity, conviction, and courage; to show up, to step up, and to drive Kenya's renaissance with vigour, vision, and purpose."

Scholars Convene At Equity Group Foundation’s 16th Education Congress To Ignite Innovation

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes

Equity Group Foundation (EGF) is hosting its 16th Annual Education and Leadership Congress, bringing together 4,404 Wings to Fly and Elimu scholars from across the country, including 3,402 refugee scholars from Dadaab and Kakuma camps.

The two-day regional event, held during the August school holidays, aims to equip the students with the skills and mindset needed to become future leaders and innovators.

Under the theme “The Innovation Generation: Igniting Ideas, Creating Impact,” the congress is designed to empower scholars with a focus on five key pillars: academic excellence, value-centered living, transformative leadership, giving back to society, and gender sensitization.

During interactive sessions, participants will hear from top corporate and business leaders, government officials, and academics. The goal is to challenge the students to be creative and innovative catalysts for change in their homes, schools, and communities.

Speaking at the Nairobi Congress, Dr. Ruth Kagia, a Board Director at Equity Group Foundation, highlighted the program’s holistic approach. “We are cultivating more than scholars; we are developing a movement of purpose-driven leaders who will redefine Kenya’s future,” she said. “This congress shows the power of our approach, where scholarships meet leadership development, and where today’s students become tomorrow’s innovators.”

Dr. Kagia, who represented EGF Executive Chairman Dr. James Mwangi, noted that the work directly contributes to both Kenya’s Vision 2030 ambitions and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

The Wings to Fly and Elimu scholarship programs provide comprehensive support for bright, economically disadvantaged students. To date, these programs have helped 60,009 scholars. Waweru Mathenge, Equity Bank Kenya’s Director of Legal Affairs, pointed out during the Kakuma Congress that 82% of scholarship recipients, on average, have attained university entry grades.

“Let today mark the beginning of a journey where you embrace innovation, challenge the status quo, and use your knowledge to make a lasting impact,” Mathenge told the scholars. “You have the potential to be the changemakers of tomorrow.”

Mr. Peter Gachanji from the Ministry of Education also spoke at the Dadaab Congress, encouraging scholars to value the opportunity they’ve been given. “You are special, so value this



Equity Group Foundation Board Member, Dr. Ruth Kagia plants a tree seedling during the 16th Annual Education and Leadership Congress held at Alliance Girls High School.

Worth Noting:

- The two-day regional event, held during the August school holidays, aims to equip the students with the skills and mindset needed to become future leaders and innovators.
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opportunity. Many others would have wished for the same chance, but did not get it,” he said, urging them to set realistic goals and cultivate strong study habits.

The EGF’s focus on innovation extends beyond the congress. The Tech Apprenticeship Program has provided hands-on experience to 415 Wings

to Fly and Equity Leaders Program (ELP) alumni in cutting-edge fields like HealthTech and AgTech, with mentorship from global tech leaders such as Microsoft and Cisco.

The Equity Leaders Program continues to have a significant impact, with 128 scholars from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC receiving ad-

missions to global universities in the 2024/2025 application cycle. To date, 1,098 ELP scholars have received admissions and scholarships to global universities. The program has facilitated 9,700 paid internships and supported 3,979 TVET scholars.



Equity Group Foundation (EGF) leadership led by Board Members, Dr. Ruth Kagia (2nd Left) and Amb. Macharia Kamau (3rd Left), Director EGF Operations, Dr. Joanne Korir (Left), Equity Group Leadership led by Group Chief Operating Officer, Samwel Kirubi (Centre) and other key guests during the 16th Annual Education and Leadership Congress held Alliance Girls High School..

Governor Njuki Pledges KSh60 Million For Cancer Screening Equipment In Tharaka Nithi

By: Dickson Mwiti and Christine Ngitori

@themkenyaintimes

Tharaka Nithi County Governor Muthomi Njuki has reiterated his administration's commitment to prioritizing healthcare, with a particular emphasis on the fight against cancer.

Speaking in Mungoni on Monday during the burial of the mother-in-law of Karingani Ward MCA Murithi Gaturo, Njuki said many lives were being lost due to lack of awareness of healthy living and limited access to timely medical interventions.

The governor emphasized the need for residents to embrace health insurance schemes such as the Social Health Authority (SHA), saying the government is keen on cushioning families against heavy medical expenses.

"People are losing their lives because of lack of knowledge and failure to seek medical services early enough.

We want to encourage every household to take up health insurance and invest in their health," he said.

However, Njuki expressed concern over the rising cancer cases in the county, noting that most patients seek treatment when it is already too late.

He urged the residents to go for early screening even when they are not feeling sick.

"Cancer is killing many of our people, yet when detected early; it can be treated or managed. I want to encourage everyone to embrace regular screening," he added.

The Tharaka Nithi county government plans to allocate over Sh60 million in the 2026/2027 budget for modern cancer screening equipment to improve access to screening services.

Njuki said the machines will be installed at dispensaries to enable residents to undergo tests without necessarily needing to travel to the nearby referral hospitals.

"These new machines are advanced, less painful and user-friendly. We



want to move with the rest of the world by bringing technology closer to the people. Good health is the foundation of development," the governor said.

The governor also announced plans

to invest in health care infrastructure to enhance quality of life in the region.

Also present were Tharaka-Nithi Deputy Governor, Nyaga Muisrael, the Speaker of Tharaka-Nithi County

Assembly John Mbabu, and several MCAs, among other leaders and community members.

Islamic Centre In Garissa Shut Down Following Leadership Wrangles

By: Erick Kyallo

@themkenyaintimes

Garissa County Security and Intelligence Committee has indefinitely closed down Quba Islamic Centre following leadership wrangles that have since escalated to clan conflicts leaving several people injured.

Quba Islamic Centre, which sits on approximately 250 acres of land in the outskirts of Garissa town near Modika, has been facing leadership disagreements since April this year, with reconciliation efforts by the local leaders and security officials turning futile.

The conflicting teams, one consisting of the elder generation, who were mainly the founders and the other consisting of middle-aged members have been holding unwavering opinions, stalling any reconciliation efforts so far.

While announcing the closure after leading his security team to the centre, Garissa County Commissioner Mohamed Mwabudzo said that the decision had been reached in con-

sultation with his security team, local political leaders and the leadership of the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) Garissa branch.

"We have closed down this place until we get a solution to the issues arising. We will take whatever time to find solutions, but the two groups must vacate this place today," Mwabudzo declared.

"We did not make this decision lightly since this is a place of worship. It is a place to find comfort before God and find peace but we must shut it down because of the fear that this conflict has caused the whole county of Garissa," he added.

Garissa branch SUPKEM chairperson, Sheikh Abdullahi Salat, said that it was shameful that the religious people who were supposed to bring people together were now dividing them.

Sheikh Abdullahi Salat reiterated that SUPKEM was fully supporting the government's move to shut the place down and called for the arrest of all those fuelling the conflicts.

"When you leaders start fighting, the government must step in. I have



spoken to both teams and I have told them this is a place of worship and peace must be found. As SUPKEM, we have been in the forefront of defending Islamic institutions against government interference but now you are the ones inviting the government in," Hassan said.

"We will not allow Muslims to fight each other here. Some people have already been injured and we cannot

watch you fight because it is our responsibility to make sure that there is peace here and allow the people who want to pray to have modest time," he added.

Salat further noted that the Quba Islamic Centre was not personal property but a place for all Muslims from all parts of the country.

"If you want to fight, you will vacate this place and fight in other

places. The government will take over here and ensure there is peace but if you want to reconcile, we will ask the government to stay away so that you solve your issues," he said.

A few of the members we spoke to distanced themselves from the leadership conflict, noting that they supported the government's move to shut down the place.

14 POEMS

Petals Of The Present



So breathe its scent and feel its grace,
Before the wind its petals chase.

The laugh you share, the friend you meet,
The morning sun, the evening street –
These simple things bring heart and cheer,
But slip away when we aren't near.

So live each moment, calm or wild,
With open heart and soul unstyled.
Each day you smile, you plant a seed,
That blooms in memory, joy and deed.

V Durgadevi
BT Assistant
GHS Nesar
Tiruvannamalai District

Live in the now, don't look behind,
The past is gone, no peace you'll find.
Regret won't mend what's said or done,
So chase the light, not what's begun.

Don't fear the future, dark or bright,
Its shape is hidden out of sight.
No one can script tomorrow's page,
So why live trapped inside that cage?

The blooming flower lasts today,
Tomorrow, it may fade away.

It Doesn't Matter Where We Live



Surrounded by lovable hearts
Comforts with secured feel
To live in with great zeal.

So as life is only once
Adapt positive prudence
Proving how we should LIVE And not
it's reverse as EVIL.

G. Sarala
Creative writers
Chennai
Tamil Nadu
India

It doesn't matter where we live
How we live matters...!

A lavishing residence
With authorised paper in abundance
Is not the correct evidence
Satisfying life's existence.

A cosy hut

Pushpender Kaushik Receives Bharat Gaurav Award 2025 for Transformative Contributions to Education, Literature & Research



Pushpender Kaushik, a distinguished Lecturer in English at Government Senior Secondary School, Ghanagughat, H.P has been honoured with the prestigious Bharat Gaurav Award 2025 by Artist Press Publication House for his outstanding services in the fields of education, literature, and research. With over 22 years of dedicated service, Kaushik has excelled as an educator, innovator, and literary contributor. His academic contributions include acting as chief editor of several anthologies, publishing student-written books with ISBNs, registering multiple patents, and guiding students towards national-level achievements. Under his mentorship, his student Jagriti Thakur secured the

first prize in the National Green Slogan Writing Carnival Contest, while Nikhil Sharma achieved the top position in the Mere Pita Mere Rakshak poetry contest. Another student, Manisha, brought laurels to the school with her remarkable performance by securing second position in National Level creative mind challenge. Many of his students have achieved at academic and cultural forums.

Kaushik has also spearheaded numerous educational and community initiatives, such as establishing a herbal garden in the school, promoting environmental awareness, leading anti drug campaigns and integrating creative writing into the curriculum. His role extends beyond the classroom, having served in various academic and leadership capacities, including contributing to national and international educational programmes and fostering a culture of holistic and value-based learning.

This honour not only celebrates his personal achievements but also reflects his tireless commitment to shaping young minds and enriching the educational landscape of Himachal Pradesh.

Science Or Arts, Both Are Equal



leaves
Kitchen garnished with the help of rag,
It helps in multiple ways in kitchen
And maintain the kitchen neat and tidy.

It is recyclable and washed many times
Even if it is in small size, in its absence,
Can't complete any task and also
keeps the place dry and neat.

Our dress will become a rag one day.

I am Rajesh Kanna B N
B T Asst,
From Government Model High School,
Tirur. Tiruvallur District.
Tamil Nadu. India.

As a linch pin having a major role of
moving forward of a bullock cart
Like that a kitchen rag helps to
complete every process successfully in
the kitchen.

As the food garnishing with coriander



But when encouraged, motivated, and Free,
The inner talent blooms, wild

Whether it's color, music, dance, or rhyme,
Give space for imagination to climb,
Don't give boundaries, let them explore,
Let their creativity soar.

The power lies within, let it shine,
Encourage, motivate, and make it grow
Let children express themselves happily
In the field they love, they'll be a role model

Science may be the path for some,
But for others, arts is where they've begun,
To master their craft, to create and
express,
To bring their imagination to happiness.

Forcing a path can lead to disappointment
A spark within may fade away,

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

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BUSINESS

Kenyan Media Roundtable Calls For Culture Change To End Sexual Harassment In Newsrooms

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Research by the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) reveals alarming statistics – with an estimated 60 percent of Kenyan journalists having experienced some form of sexual harassment during their careers, including unwanted advances, coercion, and verbal abuse. Despite the presence of laws and media house policies against such misconduct, enforcement remains weak, and many victims remain silent for fear of retaliation or damage to their careers.

Panelists agreed that workplace harassment is sustained by both systemic gaps and deep-seated cultural attitudes within the media industry. Addressing the problem requires a multi-pronged approach: clear and enforced anti-harassment policies, accessible and safe reporting mechanisms, support services for victims, and most importantly, a transformation of attitudes within newsrooms.



Senior Lecturer, Technical University of Kenya Julius Bosire issuing his address on ethics training for all media staff, emphasizing professional kinship.

Sexual harassment remains a pervasive and deeply troubling issue in newsrooms across Kenya, with experts and media professionals coming together in a recent roundtable discussion to deliberate solutions for change. The consensus was clear: addressing sexual harassment requires not just policies but a fundamental shift in newsroom culture.

Participants at the media roundtable emphasized that sexual harassment thrives when colleagues are viewed as targets rather than members of a professional family. They called for mandatory ethics training for all media staff, rooted in the concept of “newsroom family” an approach that fosters a sense of kinship, respect, and shared responsibility among journalists and support staff.

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The call for mandatory “newsroom family” ethics training emerged as a central recommendation. Such training would emphasize professional ethics while encouraging journalists to see each other as sisters, brothers, and colleagues deserving of dignity and respect. This kinship mindset aims to break down the harmful power dynamics and isolation that allow harassment to flourish.

While some media houses have sexual harassment policies in place, there is a stark recognition that many policies exist only on paper. Effective implementation is needed, along with ongoing awareness and capacity building for newsroom leaders and employees. Media regulatory bodies like the Media Council of Kenya are also working to promote gender-sensitive reporting and urge journalists to actively use gender desks at police stations for harassment complaints.

Female journalists, interns, and early-career media workers were identified as the most vulnerable groups. Harassment by supervisors, colleagues, and even high-ranking management has a chilling effect on victims, limiting their career progression and wellbeing. Without real commitment to change, the media loses valuable talent and credibility.

The Kenya Editors Guild (KEG), representing senior editors across the country, plays a pivotal role in advancing this agenda. Through workshops, conventions, and advocacy,

KEG is pushing for zero tolerance of sexual harassment and building a united media front to uphold professional standards and safe work environments.

The roundtable concluded that eradicating sexual harassment is not solely a legal or policy matter but requires a cultural revolution in Kenyan newsrooms. By embedding respect, dignity, and care into the very fabric of the newsroom through family ethics training and leadership accountability, the media industry can build workplaces free of harassment, where all journalists can thrive.

Such transformation will not only protect individuals but also strengthen the integrity and quality of journalism essential for Kenya’s democracy and social progress.



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Police Officers Sensitised On Illegal Donkey Slaughter And Transportation

By: Ann Salaton
 @themkenyatimes



13 riders rode for 500 kilometres to sensitise police officers manning roadblocks on the illegal transportation of slaughtered donkeys and their products.

Worth Noting:

- The riders in the company of Farming System Kenya (FSK) and Brooke East Africa officials rode from Ndeiya in Kiambu County, through Narok County, to Bomet County.
- Speaking when they stopped at the Narok County Commissioner's office, the FSK Executive Director, Kenneth Wamuga, underscored the importance of sensitising police officers on the laws protecting donkeys from illegal slaughter and transportation.
- "Many police officers don't understand what to do when they seize donkeys being transported illegally. Today we were sensitising them on the existing laws that protect donkeys and what to do with stolen donkeys," said the executive director.
- At the same time, the locals were sensitised to protecting donkeys by giving any information that would protect the animals from illegal slaughter and transportation.

The battle to protect the donkeys from illegal slaughter has gone a notch higher after 13 riders rode for 500 kilometres to sensitise police officers manning roadblocks on the illegal transportation of slaughtered donkeys and their products.

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"Many police officers don't understand what to do when they seize donkeys being transported illegally. Today we were sensitising them on the existing laws that protect donkeys and what to do with stolen donkeys," said the executive director.

At the same time, the locals were sensitised to protecting donkeys by giving any information that would protect the animals from illegal slaughter and transportation.

Narok County Commissioner, Kipkech Lotiatia, lauded the riders for the noble course and called on all stakeholders to join hands to ensure illegal donkey slaughter becomes a thing of the past.

"It is a taboo to eat donkey meat among the Maa community. We should all join hands to ensure that illegal donkey trade and slaughter are

finished," he said.

Dr Yegon Kibet of Brooke East Africa said the donkey cartels have resorted to slaughtering the donkeys in the bushes and selling the meat as beef to unsuspecting buyers, mostly in Nairobi and Kiambu counties.

Dr Kibet warned that the donkey population has been dwindling and if the illegal trade is not contained, there could be no donkeys in the future.

"In the 2009 census, the donkey population in the country was 1.8 million,

but the number decreased to 1.1 million in 2019. This is a clear indication that the numbers will continue decreasing if nothing is done now," he continued.

Dr Kibet reiterated that bush slaughter is dangerous, as it exposes the residents to zoonotic diseases like anthrax and rabies.

On his part, Dr Brian Mwaura, an adventurous veterinary surgeon who led the group of 13 riders, reiterated that they were riding for a cause to sen-

sitise police officers on donkey theft and illegal transportation.

Mwaura reported that they had reached out to police officers in seven roadblocks, where they sensitised two police officers in each roadblock. "We are riding to sensitise police officers on illegal donkey slaughter. We rode from the Ndeiya area and we intend to stop in Bomet town," said the rider.



Donkeys

What Happens When the Storytellers Are Silenced? Media Leaders Seek Answers

By: Aoma Keziah
 @themkenyatimes

The Editors' Guild of Kenya (KEG), together with partners from the wider media community, hosted a half-day dialogue at Aga Khan University on the issue of sexual harassment in the media industry.

The forum drew journalists, newsroom managers, gender specialists and human rights advocates to the same table, with the goal of finding practical solutions to a problem that has long undermined both professionalism and safety in newsrooms.

In her opening remarks, KEG President Zubeidah Kananu noted that To every survivor, their story and career matters.

"You deserve justice not just policy. Newsrooms must be safe before the story breaks. Leaders, audit your policies, staff must demand accountability," she stated.

Speakers highlighted the need for clear reporting channels, stronger



Sexual Harassment in the Media Industry dialogue at the Aga Khan University in Nairobi.

institutional policies, and a culture of accountability within media houses. They stressed that harassment, in whatever form, not only harms individuals but also weakens the integrity of journalism.

"The media doesn't just report the news it shapes the conscience of society. But what happens when the storytellers themselves are silenced by fear?," asked Aga Khan University

Dean GSMC Nancy Booker.

Senior Lecturer, TUK Julius Bosire, highlighted that we are not brought up to understand these are your sisters and brothers, Sexual harassment thrives when we see colleagues as targets rather than family.

"I recommend mandatory newsroom family ethics training for all media staff, and professional kinship. Create a unified National Me-



In picture, Kenya Editors Guild President Zubeidah Kananu, giving her remarks, during the Sexual Harassment in Media dialogue at the Aga Khan University in Nairobi.

dia Code against harassment, requiring adoption for licensing," he remarked.

Participants also shared personal experiences and recommendations on how to support colleagues who come forward with complaints. Gender experts called for regular training sessions and awareness campaigns, noting that many victims remain si-

lent due to fear of retaliation or lack of trust in existing systems.

By the end of the dialogue, stakeholders agreed on the importance of sustained action. They committed to working together to ensure safer and more inclusive workplaces, where journalists can focus on their craft without fear of intimidation or abuse.

Science And Innovation Key To Kenya's Future, Says PS Abdulrazak

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themkenyatimes

Kenya must urgently embrace science, technology, and innovation to achieve food security and sustainable economic growth, Principal Secretary for Science, Research, and Innovation, Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, declared at the Kenya National Research Fund (KNRF) 2025 Summit held recently during the ISAAA media café.

Addressing participants and media representatives, Prof. Abdulrazak underscored the need for Kenya to transform from a passive consumer of technology to an active producer. Highlighting the country's overdependence on imported goods, he posed a stark question: "What would happen if all imported items suddenly disappeared?" He listed everyday commodities such as watches, ties, suits, and shoes all of which are predominantly imported illustrating Kenya's vulnerability. "It is unacceptable that six decades after independence, Kenya is still unable to

adequately feed itself," he remarked with concern.

He expressed dismay over the persistent shortages of basic staples such as maize and rice, calling the situation "a national shame." Prof. Abdulrazak emphasized that Kenya can no longer afford to rely heavily on external sources for food and technology if it hopes to secure its future. Instead, he proposed the rapid adoption of scientific and technological advancements as the key to leapfrogging traditional development hurdles.

One area he highlighted was biotechnology, which he described as a promising frontier for enhancing Kenya's agricultural productivity. Prof. Abdulrazak cited the potential of biotech to produce livestock that are disease-resistant, have improved feed conversion efficiency, and can provide both meat and milk. Additionally, such livestock could generate manure useful as organic fertilizer, thus supporting sustainable farming practices.

Addressing concerns about food safety, the PS also defended the use of irradiation technology for food preservation, a process that reduces post-harvest losses that currently ac-

count for up to 40 percent of Kenya's produce. He pointed out that countries like China have safely used irradiation on spices consumed globally, including in Kenya. He urged citizens to discard unfounded fears and embrace science-based methods that enhance food security.

Central to Prof. Abdulrazak's message was the urgent need for increased investment in research and development (R&D). Currently, Kenya allocates only 0.8 percent of its GDP to science and innovation, far below the recommended 2 percent target established in 2013. He warned that this underfunding leaves Kenya trailing behind countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, and South Korea, all of which were at similar development stages six decades ago but surged ahead by prioritizing science.

To strengthen the research ecosystem, the PS called for breaking down barriers between universities and research institutions. He cautioned against the "silo mentality" and advocated for a model of "brain circulation," promoting the exchange of knowledge and curbing the persistent brain drain. Prof. Abdulrazak also emphasized the important role



Principal Secretary for Science, Research, and Innovation, Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, issuing his address at the Kenya National Research Fund

of county governments in this agenda, urging them to establish science offices and innovation hubs aimed at utilizing Kenya's rich biodiversity for local development.

The PS concluded by appealing to journalists to work closely with the Ministry of Science, Research, and Innovation in effectively communicating scientific advancements to the public. He emphasized the need to shift national conversations away

from divisive politics toward a focus on science and innovation to ensure that every Kenyan can one day enjoy simple yet essential comforts such as "a glass of milk on the table or a kilo of meat."

Prof. Abdulrazak's remarks underscore a critical juncture for Kenya's future, where science and innovation are not just optional but necessary pillars for achieving economic progress.

Fear, Fury Grip Eastern DR Congo Civilians After Deadly ADF Attacks

By: Xinhua

Fear and anger haunt local communities in eastern North Kivu Province as they mourn loved ones lost to a surge of assaults by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

The latest bloodshed has once again exposed the porous security in this conflict-torn region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). According to local and military authorities, more than 50 civilians were killed between Thursday and Sunday in a series of attacks blamed on the ADF rebels in the Lubero and Beni territories of North Kivu. One of the deadliest strikes hit the town of Oicha, where nine people were burned alive after rebels trapped them inside a house during an overnight raid. Grief quickly turned into anger. "They were peacefully watching a football match when the rebels attacked. The rebels locked them inside a house and set it on fire.

My brother died in his shop, burned together with his goods," said resident Jospin Kasayi. "We are sad to see this situation repeating itself and even moving closer to our communities today. For decades, these rebels have been killing with impunity, without any concrete action to end this suffering," said Joel Kabunga Lugware, a resident of Oicha, recalling the massacres that once devastated Beni.

The ADF, founded in the 1990s by Ugandan opposition groups and now affiliated with the Islamic State, has escalated attacks in North Kivu and neighboring Ituri Province since last month, deliberately targeting civilians.

Despite joint DRC-Uganda military operations launched in late 2021, the group continues to kill at will. Civil society leaders sounded an alarm of escalating violence. "We alerted the authorities after the Lubero massacres, but no appropriate measures were taken. Now the worst has happened, and we fear what will come next," said Isaac Kabalami, president of Oicha's civil society. "The ADF is operating without fear inside our towns, and it is deplorable."

Past massacres have yet to fade away from local residents' memories, including the July attack in Komanda, Ituri, where more than 40 Catholic worshippers were killed during a prayer vigil. Many fear that similar tragedies could come back. The DRC army issued a statement on Sunday in response to mounting outrage.

Marc Elongo-Kyondwa, a military spokesperson, said the ADF's renewed attacks aim to "disrupt the



This photo taken on Aug. 17, 2025 shows the debris at the town of Oicha in Beni territory of North Kivu Province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). According to local and military authorities, more than 50 civilians were killed between Thursday and Sunday in a series of attacks blamed on the ADF rebels in the Lubero and Beni territories of North Kivu. (Str/Xinhua).

Worth Noting:

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- Marc Elongo-Kyondwa, a military spokesperson, said the ADF's renewed attacks aim to "disrupt the operations of loyalist forces, which are yielding results on the ground." He reaffirmed the army's determination "to annihilate these terrorists" and urged civilians to support national defense efforts. North Kivu has been under a state of siege since May 2021, with civilian authorities replaced by military and police administrators.

operations of loyalist forces, which are yielding results on the ground." He reaffirmed the army's determination "to annihilate these terrorists" and urged civilians to support national defense efforts. North Kivu has been under a state of siege since May 2021, with civilian authorities replaced by military and police administrators.

Yet large swathes of the province remain unstable, with Goma, the

capital, under the control of March 23 Movement (M23) rebels since January. Despite more than three years of joint military operations with Ugandan forces, the ADF continues to launch strikes with ease. Although provincial military and administrative authorities temporarily relocated to Beni after Goma's fall to the M23 in January, the move has failed to stem the bloodshed. "If, despite the presence of all the

military and administrative authorities in Beni, the ADF continues to kill civilians every week just a few km away, we fear the situation may soon spiral out of control," warned Kabalami.

GOMA, DR Congo, Aug. 18, 2025



A soldier stands guard at the town of Oicha in Beni territory of North Kivu Province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on Aug. 17, 2025. According to local and military authorities, more than 50 civilians were killed between Thursday and Sunday in a series of attacks blamed on the ADF rebels in the Lubero and Beni territories of North Kivu. (Str/Xinhua).

World Humanitarian Day Underscores Urgency Of Ending Conflicts In Middle East

By: Xinhua
 @themkenyatimes

World Humanitarian Day began as a tribute, but today it is a solemn reminder of the human capacity for cruelty and atrocity still widely evident in the Middle East.

From Gaza to Sudan, Syria to Yemen, relentless conflicts have triggered waves of humanitarian catastrophes, revealing a stark reality: even in an era of AI breakthroughs and interplanetary ambition, humanity's deadliest enemies remain hunger, deprivation, and the absence of safety. In Gaza, where roughly 2 million people are packed into a strip of land of just 45 square km, the toll of conflicts is staggering. Local health authorities report more than 62,000 deaths since this round of conflicts broke out, including an estimated 18,000 children. The healthcare system has collapsed, and famine-related malnutrition has claimed over 260 lives. In Sudan, relentless fighting has uprooted 12 million people -- nearly a quarter of the population -- leaving two-thirds dependent on a crippling underfunded aid system. In Yemen

and Syria, more than a decade of war, siege and economic collapse has condemned millions to abject poverty, with hunger and disease lurking at every turn.

These are not natural disasters -- they are deliberate acts of human destruction. Modern warfare does more than kill. It systematically erases the foundations of survival. Hospitals, schools, water sources and power grids are not collateral damage -- they are targets, ensuring that violence begets famine, disease and generational ruin. Blockades turn siege into slow death. In Gaza, Sudan and Yemen, restrictions on food, fuel and medicine have pushed civilians toward starvation. The United Nations calls these acts illegal. Even humanitarian aid, the last thread of hope, has been weaponized. In Gaza, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, backed by Israel and the United States, has sidelined UN agencies as primary aid distributors. Meanwhile, the UN human rights office reported that since late May, around 1,800 people have been killed while seeking aid. Israel has disputed the figures, and the foundation has denied culpability. However, the truth is plain: humanitarian work is now a battleground.



Displaced Palestinians wait to receive free food at a distribution center in Gaza City, on Aug. 18, 2025. (Photo by Rizek Abdeljawad/Xinhua)

Humanitarian workers have not been spared from danger. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reports that nearly 360 of its team members have been killed in Gaza since the current conflicts began -- a stark reminder that even those dedicated to saving lives are

not safe. At this critical juncture, the international community must forge a shared framework of responsibility to press all sides involved in the conflicts toward a ceasefire. Without silencing the guns, there can be no space for relief, let alone for rebuilding shattered lives. Ceasefire, however, cannot stand alone. It must

be paired with unimpeded humanitarian access -- through internationally monitored safe corridors that guarantee aid workers and supplies can reach those in need without obstruction or intimidation. Anything less would amount to abandoning civilians to despair.

Ghanaian President Pardons 998 Prisoners

ACCRA, Aug. 19 (Xinhua)

Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama has granted amnesty to 998 prisoners, most of them first-time offenders, the presidency has said.

According to a release issued Monday by the presidency, the amnesty was granted in consultation with the Council of State, the country's highest constitutional advisory body. Among the beneficiaries are 787 first-time offenders, 33 seriously ill inmates, and 36 inmates older than 70. Two nursing mothers will be released on humanitarian grounds. Two other inmates



will be released based on their petitions, according to the release. Additionally, the president has also commuted 78 death sentences to life imprisonment and 51 life sentences to 20-year terms.

Macron Says Putin-Zelensky Meeting Possible In 2 Weeks

PARIS, Aug. 19 (Xinhua)

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday that a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky could happen in the next two weeks.

Speaking in an interview with the LCI news channel, Macron said that Putin, who held phone talks with U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday, expressed his readiness to meet Zelensky within that timeframe. "We have decided to have a bilateral meeting between the two presidents, then a trilateral meeting (with Trump), and



then a multilateral meeting where the Europeans must be at the table," Macron said. The French president added that such meetings should be held in Europe, reflecting the "collective will" of European leaders. Unlike their 2019 meeting in France, Macron

suggested that the upcoming meetings could take place in a "neutral country," such as Switzerland or Türkiye, where Russia and Ukraine have previously held bilateral talks.

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Sports >> *One salient tradition that has shaped motor racing careers over the years is that of second generations of racing drivers—a true demonstration that “an apple doesn’t fall too far from a tree.”

Motorsport: Speedster Naushad Lota Following In His Father’s Footsteps

One salient tradition that has shaped motor racing careers over the years is that of second generations of racing drivers—a true demonstration that “an apple doesn’t fall too far from a tree.” With their apparently insatiable appetite for speed and success, scions of racing dynasties continue to follow in their father’s footsteps, hence transforming into even more formidable course warriors.

But when all is said and done, being a second-generation driver has its advantages and disadvantages, though, as rising tarmac racing star Javed Lota (son of multiple Coast Rally Champion Naushad Kara Lota) would put it.

And after winning three out of three races during the weekend’s 2025 National Tarmac series at Whistling Morans behind the wheel of a Subaru contraption, Javed is convinced that his maiden career motorsport title is within striking distance.

The Lota family has a long tradition with Subarus, and Mombasa-based Javed is overly excited to be the one riding on the crest of a wave!

“We did it again. The third round of the Tarmac Championship, organized by Delta Motorsports at Whistling Morans could not have come at a better time, when my driving lines are closer to where I want them to be. Whistling Morans was a great occasion where I secured my third win of the year and the fastest time of the day (FTD) to boot. “This was my third fastest time in a row,” highlighted Javed, adding, “On to the last round in Machakos Peoples Park on November 2.”

Asked how hand-me-down knowledge plays out in shaping a driver’s career, Lota Motorsports’ tarmac speedster Javed sounds quite enthusiastic in his talk.

Javed is sublimely fast on tarmac, having chosen an alternative career path to his rallying dad. By and large, Javed appreciates the breakneck nature and febrile atmosphere that tarmac racing presents.

“Being second generation is



more of an advantage, as you get to learn a lot from the first generation: the driving skills, techniques you employ on your driving lines, personal preparations for events, and so much more. With the team effort and a well-prepared car, you are familiar with the weaknesses in the vehicle, you know where to target to become stronger, and you know how to improve your timings on the stages,” explains Javed.

But Javed, who plans to partake in both Tarmac and Autocross championships, candidly admits that the second-generation facet has its own challenges to fathom out.

“The pressure is immense because the first generation looks up to you, and they want the results, so you have to always try your best,” he quips.

--Early Days--

Javed kickstarted his motorsports career with go-karts and ventured into a bit of rallying before settling on asphalt. He has been a part of Delta Motorsports events for over a year now and is already bubbling with confidence as the 2025 season wears on.

Javed started this tarmac journey in October 2023.

“My first event was in Naivasha in a Subaru N12. In 2024, I started racing fully and had a new car, a Subaru N14. So the whole of 2024 has gone well. Unfortunately, we had one breakdown, which cost us the championship title, so let’s see how the 2025 season pans out.”

“Rallying is an expensive

sport, and I needed somewhere I could settle in the long run, so I scrapped an acquaintance with Delta Motorsports, and the rest is history.”

In his very first full season of racing in 2024, Javed steered his Subaru N16 with considerable vigor. But the event that cost him the championship was a Whistling Moran event in Athi River, where he suffered engine gremlins, much to his chagrin.

“In 2024, we did six rounds with Delta; we kick-started our season in February at Whistling Morans, then went to WRC Naivasha Service Park for our second event, where we had a gymkhana set up, which went very well and came second. Then we went to Machakos People’s Park, where we did the RX and finished second again. In our last event, we went back to Machakos and came third overall,” said Javed.

Weighing up the dynamics of asphalt and gravel racing, Javed went on: “Gravel racing is exciting, yes, with lots of sideways, whilst tarmac is something akin to a precision drive, sharper driving that is. In gravel racing, you encounter enough spectacular obstacles like jumps, hairpin bends, and water slashes. I would say both forms of racing are equally fun.”

--Racing Bug--

The motorsport bug for Javed came from his father, Naushad Kara Lota, who is a multiple Coast Champion and a previous winner of the prestigious Johnny Hellier Memorial trophy for the best-placed Coast driver in a

Mombasa, Kenya National Rally Championship (KNRC) event.

“I’d say my love of racing predates my memories. It’s been in the family.

My dad has been a Coast Champion for many years and did lots of gravel rallying back in the day; it’s more like a culture we’ve grown up with in the family. I guess it’s now my turn to shine,” Javed said.

--Second Generation Siblings--

Javed (25) and his younger brother Zuhair (17) are the two members of the Lota family venturing into their dad’s tracks. While Zuhair is into gravel rallying, Javed hopes to become the next tarmac 4WD champion in his N14 Subaru.

Javed is currently studying International Business Management virtually at London’s Hertfordshire University.

He is not aspiring to become an automotive specialist like his dad but explains the reason why: “My dad has always pushed me to be an automotive engineer, but I decided to pursue different path. Being a race driver, I only have general knowledge of cars, meaning I have to be well-versed with intricacies of pressure, tire grip, tire wear and other things like fuel mixture; which is general knowledge, and very key for a race driver to comprehend.”

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *More than 286 golfers turned up at the prestigious Muthaiga Golf Club on Saturday for the second edition of the Amerucan Golf Day

Golfers Celebrate Heritage At Second Amerucan Golf Day In Muthaiga



More than 286 golfers turned up at the prestigious Muthaiga Golf Club on Saturday for the second edition of the Amerucan Golf Day, a unique event blending sport and culture in celebration of the Ameru heritage.

The annual tournament, which has quickly grown in stature, is hosted across golf clubs with the aim of not only promoting the game but also highlighting the importance of celebrating cultural heritage.

The organizers described the Amerucan Golf Day as a platform for golfers and guests to experience the rich Ameru identity through food, art, and camaraderie.

Tee-off began in the morning hours, with the first round attract-

ing a large pool of golfers before the afternoon session drew even more participants eager to test their skills on the green.

While competition remained at the heart of the event, the overarching theme was cultural celebration, with golfers treated to traditional Ameru cuisines and performances.

Speaking during the evening awards ceremony, Muthaiga Golf Club Chairman Dennis Meirigi noted that the event has become instrumental in showcasing Ameru culture while also strengthening bonds within the golfing fraternity.

“This is more than just golf. It is about celebrating who we are and encouraging other communities to preserve and showcase their cul-

ture. In unity, we find strength as a nation.”

Beyond the fairways, conversations also centered on forging stronger partnerships. Former Chairman Ronald Meru called on the community and friends of the Ameru to rally behind initiatives that promote culture and national cohesion, emphasizing that sport provides a unique platform to bring people together.

“Most of all, I want to invite all the Merus and friends. This is for the greater nation to come and experience the Ameru culture both on and off the course.”

As winners of the tournament were recognized, the night came alive with song, dance, and a taste of Ameru hospitality.

Many golfers described the cul-

tural showcase as an unforgettable experience, one that deepened their appreciation for Kenya’s diversity.

The Golf Club’s finance director, Stella Macharia has assured that next year’s edition will be “bigger and better,” with expectations of drawing even more golfers and offering an expanded cultural experience.

The next event will be the highly anticipated Patron’s Cup at the Muthaiga Golf Club from August 22-24.

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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 Pro-
fessor,
Member of the Union of Azerbaijani
Writers, and laureate of numerous inter-
national awards.

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

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

People frequently ask me about the dif-
ficulties of carrying both.

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

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

And still—it is difficult too, because
writing a poem is not the end. One must
publish, have books printed, represent
the country abroad. These too are re-
sponsibilities.

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 woman's
gaze and tender feelings. What inner
rhythms help you preserve such deli-
cacy?

— Poetry is the mirror of our inner
world.

A writer does not merely write her
own fate, but transforms what happens
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 em-
bers.

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 re-
sponsibility inspire both your poetry
and your scientific research?

— The act of creating words is itself 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 carries po-
ems devoted to my homeland.

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, Re-
joice was published.

I have written of the Syrian child who
drowned while fleeing, of the Turkish
earthquake victims, of the starving chil-
dren south of the Sahara.

A poet must be the mirror of her age.

My scientific work is guided by the
same responsibility: I research income
growth, social justice, reducing inequal-
ity, strengthening social protection.
Whatever I do, I do with love.

— What colors have your travels
and encounters with different cultures
brought into your work?

— Every journey enriches the human
soul.

I have attended many festivals, met
countless writers, immersed myself in
their cultures. Naturally, such encoun-
ters leave traces in my poetry. Yet my
work remains deeply national in spir-
it—its fragrance is that of Turkic identi-
ty, which is my philosophy of life.

— What spiritual and practical advice
would you give to young women pursu-
ing science and poetry?

— To young women scholars: never
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 tirelessly,
publish both at home and abroad, and
represent our nation with dignity.

— What principles guide your efforts
in preserving and sharing national 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 principle—
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 happi-
ness and balance in life?

— For me, eternal happiness exists
only in art.

In life, true lasting happiness is impos-
sible, 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 entire day.

At a certain age, peace of mind be-
comes more valuable than anything.
And within me, the love of humanity
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 deepest
layers of human feeling.

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

Our works arise from observing glanc-
es, silences, gestures, from feeling oth-
ers' joys and sorrows as our own.

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

— How do you balance critical view
with love and respect in science and
poetry?

— When one is honest, balance comes
naturally.

To criticize is also to love. As Mirza
Jalil and Mirza Alakbar Sabir showed—
those who loved their nation most, crit-
icized 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 improve. 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 daugh-
ter.

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 literature
find and preserve its voice in global cul-
tural dialogue?

— Through cultural self-awareness
and professional presentation.

This is not only the duty of writers, but
of translators, publishers, cultural insti-
tutions, the diaspora.

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

Our works must be at international fes-
tivals, on digital platforms, in universi-
ties worldwide.

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

— How have your creative and schol-
arly paths shaped your personal and
family life?

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

Science especially demands daily de-
votion. At times, I have given my re-
search the hours meant for my daughter.
That pains me. Yet I explain 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 students as well.

And so, I believe, I have lived an hon-
orable life.

*Jakhongir NOMOZOV, is a young poet
and journalist from Uzbekistan.*

*He is also a Member of the Union of
Journalists of Azerbaijan and the World
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