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President William Ruto



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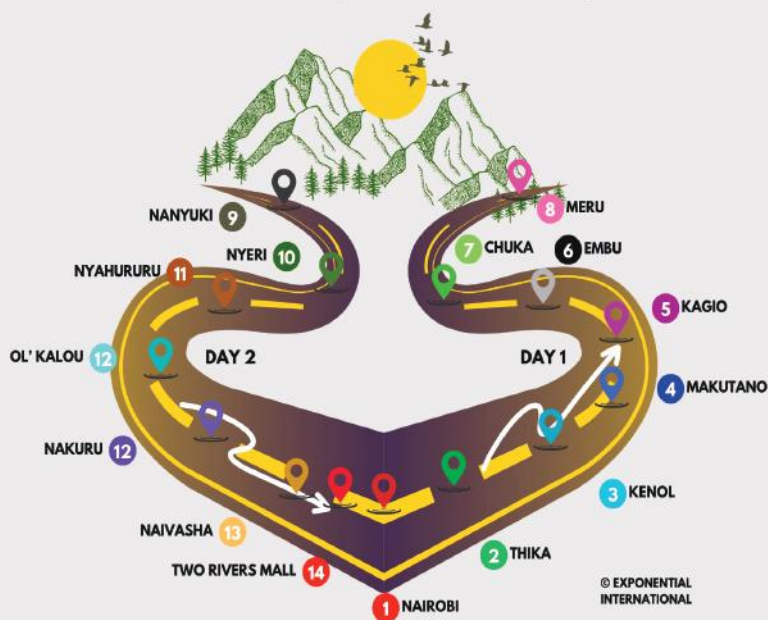


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NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



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The National Assembly And The Judiciary Leadership Joint Retreat

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyentimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

The National Assembly House committees chairmen and their deputies have been held up in a joint consultative meeting with Judiciary officials. The Parliamentary team is headed by Speaker Moses Wetang'ula while the Judiciary by Chief Justice Martha Koome. The event themed "Social Transformation through Institutional Comity," is aimed at fostering working relationships while ensuring the Independence and Interdependence of the two Institutions remains paramount.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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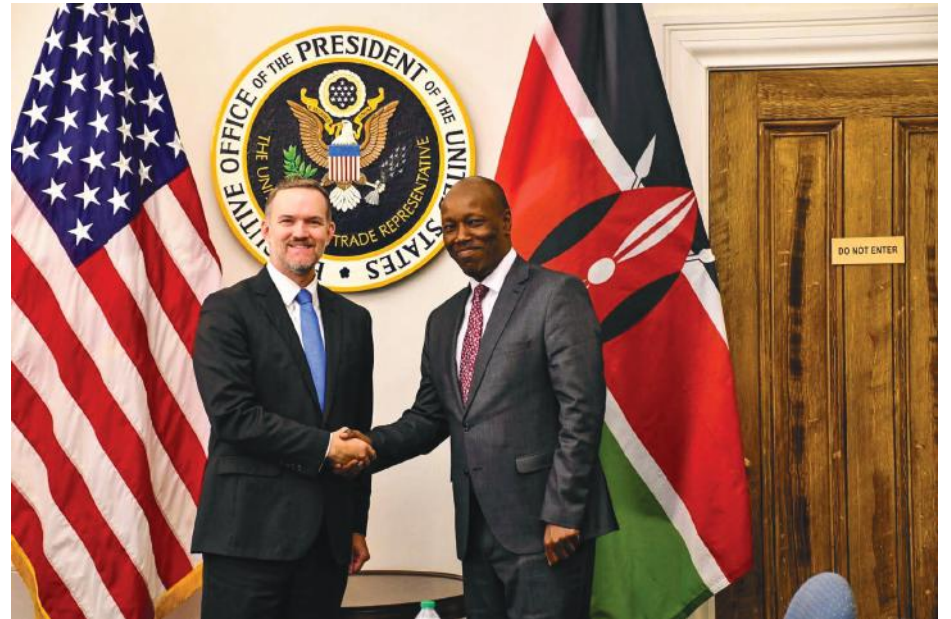
NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenyan farmers have been cautioned against the overuse of synthetic fertilizers, with experts warning that decades of heavy reliance on chemical inputs are steadily eroding soil fertility and reducing productivity. Soil expert and CEO of Pure Plant Organics, Dennis Murithi, said continued dependence on synthetic fertilizers poses a serious threat to soil health and long-term food security. Murithi noted that degraded soils cannot retain water, support strong root systems, or resist pests and diseases—ultimately leading to lower yields. He further warned that overuse of fertilizers kills beneficial microbes, compacts the soil, and disrupts its natural balance. Murithi stressed that soil degradation risks triggering a food security crisis, as reduced yields mean less produce for markets, higher costs for farmers, and fewer resources for communities.



The Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRM) has re-elected its chairperson for a second term, in an election that members described as historic for the statutory body that regulates the HR profession in Kenya. In his acceptance speech, Certified Human Resource Professional (CHRP) Dalmas Philip Odera, who will now serve another term as the IHRM Chairperson, said the overwhelming support he received was not a personal victory but a collective win for the profession. Odera paid tribute to the founders of IHRM, led by Mr. Adrian Mutesi and his first counsel, whose foresight 38 years ago gave rise to the institution. He also recognized his predecessors for transforming the institute from a private entity into a statutory professional body. The IHRM Chairperson congratulated his opponent for a spirited contest, noting that the campaign was not divisive but a reflection of passion for the profession. He also commended the IHRM Secretariat led by Executive Director, Ms. Kureisha Abdullahi, whose dedication he said has raised the institute's profile nationally and regionally. Reflecting on his first term, CHRP Odera apologized to members who may have been offended by his remarks or decisions, while forgiving critics in the spirit of reconciliation.



Kenya and the United States have taken a major step towards a reciprocal trade agreement following high-level discussions in Washington D.C. between Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry, Lee Kinyanjui, and U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Jamieson Greer. Kinyanjui emphasized Kenya's commitment to deepening strategic ties with the United States, noting that a reciprocal pact will provide Kenyan exporters with long-term access to the U.S. market and attract new investments. He also conveyed President William Ruto's goodwill message reaffirming Kenya's dedication to strengthening bilateral trade and investment. Ambassador Greer welcomed Kenya's approach and pledged U.S. support for a balanced framework that benefits both economies, pointing to opportunities in manufacturing, infrastructure, services, and agricultural exports. With bilateral trade valued at US\$1.5 billion in 2024, both sides believe a formal pact will significantly expand economic opportunities while preparing Kenya for the eventual expiry of preferential programs like AGOA. Technical teams from both governments are expected to begin consultations in the coming months.



The Abdalla Muse community of the Greater Samawathal in Garissa County converged in Masalani Town, Ijara Sub-County, for a landmark meeting aimed at fostering unity and pursuing a common vision on social, economic and political issues affecting the community both locally and in the diaspora. As the leading clan of the Greater Samawathal and part of the wider Ogaden community, Abdalla Muse leaders and elders pledged to work closely and remain united to strengthen cohesion across all spheres of society. A technical committee was unveiled to spearhead the unity drive and bring on board those yet to join the dialogue. The team will be led by Mzee Ali Site Sagar, alongside Ali Abdullahi Dahir, Yussuf Irshad Dagane, Mzee Ragow Khalif, and Idris Bashir Olow. Community leaders hailed the Masalani meeting as historic, noting that the Abdalla Muse had never gathered in such big numbers and in unity before, despite past divisions and divergent views. Speaking at the forum, Chairman Mzee Ali Site Sagar urged members to put aside differences and focus on their shared aspirations.

On Friday, the Principal Secretary State Department for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir, accompanied by the Water Secretary and all the Heads of Departments, held a meeting with officials from The Auditor-General's office. The objectives of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the terms of reference, extent of reporting, access to records and specific officers, liaison teams and audit time frames. During the meeting, the PS directed the relevant officers to prepare and provide a status report for the ongoing projects to ensure compliance with regulatory standards and finance matters. The entry meeting was scheduled to cover Horn of Africa Ground Water for Resilience Project and Kenya Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (K-WASH). The Auditor-General's team is expected to undertake the exercise in a seamless process with liaison personnel until the completion date after issuance of the management letter. The PS gave further directions that Heads of Departments should ensure the execution of the same is done as quickly as possible and in strict compliance with the set timelines.

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Tanzania To Host 14th Mara Day Celebrations

By: Chris Mahandara

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- For four days, Butiama will stage a mix of activities designed to highlight the urgency of conservation in the basin.
- They include tree planting, exhibitions, sporting events, and a scientific conference bringing together regional and international experts.
- LVBC Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire said the scientific conference, to be held on September 14 at the Mwalimu Nyerere University of Science and Technology (MNUAT) has already attracted more than 60 submissions from researchers in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Norway.

The historic town of Butiama in northern Tanzania will come alive in September as it hosts the 14th Annual Mara Day celebrations, a flagship event of the East African Community's Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC).

The festivities, set for September 12th to 15th, 2025, will run under the theme "Protect Mara River: Preserve Life"- a reminder of the river's central role in sustaining biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, and maintaining ecological balance across Kenya and Tanzania.

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Scholars, government officials, policymakers, academics, and students from the region and around the world, he said, will explore sub-themes on the long-term survival of the Mara ecosystem.

Dr. Bwire said more than 100 exhibitors from Kenya and Tanzania are also lined up to showcase innovations and community-driven solutions promoting sustainable environmental practices.

The climax of the celebrations, he said, will be the gathering on September 15 at the Mwenge Grounds in Butiama town, where dignitaries including Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers from Kenya and Tanzania are expected to underscore the shared



LVBC Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire

responsibility of the two countries in protecting the Mara.

Dr. Bwire said the 2025 theme ties directly to the Lake Victoria Integrated Water Resources Management Programme (LVB IWRMP), through which the Commission is promoting a coordinated approach to managing water, land, and related resources.

"Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is seen as vital to safeguarding water flow and ecological health in iconic landscapes such as Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve and Tanzania's Serengeti National Park," he said.

He warned that without such interventions, the Mara River faced escalating threats from overuse, pollution, and habitat destruction, with devastating consequences for both wildlife and communities that depend on it.

To strengthen this effort, he said, the LVBC was developing the Lake Victoria Basin Water Information System (LVB-WIS), a decision-support tool that will improve access to data and guide investment.

The system will integrate with IWRM models to produce maps, graphs, and other analyses showing the impacts of climate change, deforestation, and pollution.

Mara Day was established in 2012 following a resolution by the 10th Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin in Kigali, Rwanda.

September 15 was deliberately chosen to coincide with the Great Migration of wildebeest between the Serengeti and Maasai Mara.

Since its inception, the annual celebration is held on rotation basis between Kenya and Tanzania, evolving

into a symbol of cross-border solidarity in conservation.

Key milestones include the signing of a transboundary water management Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries and the creation of the Mara River Transboundary Water Users' Forum.

The 2025 edition is being organized by the LVBC with the backing of the European Union and the German Government through KfW, alongside regional partners in Kenya and Tanzania.

"The Mara River is a shared treasure, essential for the survival of ecosystems and livelihoods across our region. Mara Day is a celebration of our unity and commitment to protecting this vital resource for future generations," said Dr Bwire.

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Private Hospitals Raise Alarm Over Unpaid SHA, NHIF Debt

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themkenyetimes

The Rural and Urban Private Hospitals Association of Kenya (RUPHA) has raised alarm over delays by the Social Health Authority (SHA) to pay for its services and the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) debt. The association said the debts will cripple the country's healthcare system.

RUPHA vice chairman Rev Dr. Joseph Kariuki said the association which represents more than 700 private and faith based sponsored hospitals since SHA's launch in October 2024, hospitals have submitted claims worth KSh93 billion, yet only 53% (about KSh50 billion) has been reimbursed.

He spoke during a press briefing in Meru on Thursday.

Social Health Authority owes the hospital KSh43 billion while NHIF arrears amount to KSh33 billion.

Kariuki said this has left facilities crippled by debts exceeding KSh76 billion.

Kariuki further accused SHA of failing to meet its own directive requiring reimbursements by the 14th of each month and criticized its public transparency portal as misleading for omitting crucial claim-to-payout ratios.

Kariuki also raised concern over the non-payment of Primary Healthcare (PHC) reimbursements in pilot counties such as Mombasa, Kirinyaga, Embu, and Nandi, arguing that digitization has worsened delays and undermined the government's promise of free PHC.

In addition, the group decried what it termed as unlawful downgrading and removal of licensed healthcare facilities from the SHA system, citing violations of Gazette Notice No. 269 of 2021 and other legal safeguards.

RUPHA Chairperson Dr. Brian Lishenga called on the government to urgently settle outstanding bills, restore transparency in reimbursements, stop arbitrary downgrades of facilities, and ensure fair treatment of private hospitals that provide nearly half of Kenya's healthcare services.

"The health sector is on the brink. Many hospitals are now demanding cash only payments, while others risk



Rural and Urban Private Hospitals Association of Kenya (Rupha) issue a statement on Thursday in North Imenti constituency Meru county. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

closure especially in rural counties like Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, and Samburu, where private facilities are often the only lifeline," said Dr. Lishenga.

Three days ago Health CS Adan Duale reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to tackling structural challenges and called for a collaborative framework.

"I reaffirmed the Ministry's commit-

ment to tackling structural challenges through legal, institutional and data-driven reforms and called for a Public-Private Collaborative framework involving MoH, SHA, private insurers and IRA," Duale said.

The health coverage was introduced on October 1, 2024 to replace the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF). President William Ruto said NHIF accumulated billions of shillings in

debt and had misalignments with the contributions from Kenyans in comparison to the cost of healthcare services.

President Ruto also promised that SHA would rid the healthcare sector of problems associated with NHIF, although recent adaptations of biometrics and bed-sharing fraud by healthcare facilities are proving challenging to ailing Kenyans.

Kenya Education Fund Brings Principals Together To Strengthen Partnerships In Education

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyetimes

The Kenya Education Fund (KEF) held its annual Principals' Meeting in Nairobi, bringing together more than 50 school heads and representatives from leading partners, among them the KCB Foundation, Zeraki, Contentment, and the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC).

The gathering, a fixture in KEF's calendar, gave principals and partners a chance to take stock of the foundation's work, examine challenges facing schools, and share ideas on how to better support learners across the country.

KEF Executive Director and Co-Founder Dominic Muasya opened the meeting with a reminder of why the organization was created two decades ago.

"We had children around us who could not afford school fees. Education is a right, and poverty should not block access to it. When students are given a chance, they not only change

their lives but uplift their communities," he stated.

Muasya announced an adjustment to KEF's scholarship program to align with Kenya's new education system. Instead of covering five years, the scholarship will now support students for three years in high school and one year in college.

"KEF's approach is making a difference: in 2024, 80 percent of KEF students scored C+ and above in KCSE, all of them progressed to higher education, and 65 percent are now employed or running businesses," he added.

The day's program included sessions led by experts from different fields. A team from Chiromo Hospital Group spoke about mental health in schools, urging principals to integrate professional counseling and organize wellness seminars for both students and teachers. Dr. William Chelimo of KNEC outlined how schools can adapt to the evolving Competency-Based Education curriculum, particularly with the upcoming Grade 10 placements. He noted that teacher preparedness would be key to a



The Kenya Education Fund (KEF) annual Principal's Meeting that brought together more than 50 school heads and representatives in Nairobi..

smooth transition.

Other sessions focused on practical skills. Standard Chartered guided principals on financial literacy and long-term investment planning, while Dr. Norlena Albert introduced design thinking as a tool for problem-solving and innovation in schools. Susan Gathu, speaking on contentment, encouraged principals to foster resilience and values-based leadership

among students and staff.

The KCB Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to supporting education access, while Zeraki showcased digital platforms that improve school administration and classroom delivery.

KEF leaders said the annual meeting was not only about learning but also about building stronger relationships between schools and partners.

"Partnership is the heart of our suc-

cess. When we work together, we create lasting opportunities for young people," Muasya continued to say.

Looking ahead, KEF said it plans to expand its support to ensure scholarships are backed by programs that help students succeed beyond the classroom.

President Ruto Calls On Africa To Reform And Revitalise Agriculture

By: PCS
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- “Partners like Japan can help remedy this skewed trade by investing in local manufacturing and industrialisation, supporting local agricultural value chains, and financing renewable energy generation to power industry,” he said.
- The President pointed out that Africa has abundant resources, including minerals, renewable energy, and a young, tech-savvy and hardworking workforce.
- “By adding value to what we produce, whether it is coffee, tea, minerals, textiles or services, we build industries, create local wealth and, therefore, empower our people,” he said.
- He went on: “This is how Africa stops being the world’s supplier of unprocessed raw materials and extractives, and becomes a global hub for high-value production, innovation, and prosperity.”



President William Ruto Speaking at the last day of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development

President William Ruto has called on Africa to reform and revitalise agriculture so as to stop exporting raw materials for processing in other countries.

Speaking at the last day of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Yokohama, Japan, on Friday, the President said Africa’s urgent challenge is to accelerate the pace of inclusive wealth creation to eliminate poverty, create jobs, and restore dignity.

He pointed out that this practice must change to correct the imbalance in global trade, a situation that has locked out Africa out of opportunity and stifled the aspirations for industrialisation.

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President Ruto noted that over the years, TICAD has remained faithful to its founding principles of African ownership, inclusivity, openness, and genuine partnership.

“We commend the Government of Japan and the co-organisers for sustaining this unique framework,” he said.

He said Kenya deeply values Japan’s consistent support in critical sectors: Education, health, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and security, saying such partnerships have been central to Africa’s socio-economic progress.

The President told the meeting that resilient, adaptive, and inclusive societies form the foundation of Africa’s transformation.

“The Society Pillar challenges us to invest deliberately in people, including their health, education, and their well-being. Only then can Africa un-

lock its vast potential through holistic human capital development,” he explained.

He said Africa is richly endowed with natural resources and a youthful population of nearly 400 million, bursting with energy, creativity and innovation. Yet, systemic social challenges persist.

“To close this gap, we must champion programmes aligned with global, regional, and national priorities, and tailored to build inclusive and resilient societies that leave no one behind,” he pointed out.

In Kenya, President Ruto said the government is implementing the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, anchored on building a fair and inclusive society in which every citizen has a stake.

“By expanding opportunities, enhancing access to services, and empowering communities at the grassroots, we are bridging divides and ensuring prosperity is shared equity,” President Ruto explained.

Earlier, President Ruto also met with International Finance Corporation (IFC) Managing Director Mokhtar Diop and said Kenya had excellent ties with the World Bank Group, of which IFC is the private sector arm.

He explained that Kenya has made a decision to divest from said the experience with the privatisation of the Kenya Commercial Bank and Safaricom have proven that there is value in going in this direction.

The Head of State also met officials of various Japanese companies, including Sumitomo Corporation, Marubeni Corporation and Fujita Corporation.

“We are creating a good environment for business to invest, grow and flourish in Kenya through a progressive and facilitative legal, tax and incentives’ regime,” he said.

He said Kenya has become an attractive destination for many international and regional companies.

“For example, more than 120 Japanese companies operate in Nairobi, engaging in an array of businesses ranging from construction to manufacturing,” he said.

He called for the elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers that make it difficult for Kenya and Africa’s agricultural products to access the Japanese market.

“They committed to expanding their businesses in our country and to be our partners in facilitating balanced trade between Kenya and Japan,” said President Ruto.

Sanlam Kenya Posts A KSh30.9 Million Half-Year Profit, Confirms Focus On Customer Excellence, Cost And Liability Management To Sustain Growth

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Listed Non-Bank financial services provider Sanlam Kenya Plc has posted a KSh30.9 million net profit in its half-year trading results.

The results, released by the Sanlam Kenya Group CEO, Dr Patrick Tumbo, indicate that the firm accelerated its insurance revenues to KSh3.73 billion, up from KSh3.52 billion posted within the same period last year.

According to Dr Tumbo, the half-year results demonstrate a customer-centric business that is both resilient and well-positioned for sustained growth. While commenting on the divisional business fundamentals, Sanlam Life Insurance reported a 220% solvency rate at the end of the half-year period, while Sanlam General Insurance's solvency rate stood at 194%, indicating sound business operations.

"Our financial strength is underscored by a robust balance sheet, with total assets rising to Ksh41.3 billion from Ksh39.2 billion at 31st December 2024, driven by strategic growth in financial assets and continued prudent management of capital," he said.

He added, "The recent successful rights issue—raising issued share capital to KSh2.7 Billion—has significantly strengthened our capital base, enhanced solvency and enabled us to pursue growth opportunities with confidence. Shareholders' funds more than doubled to Kshs 3.85 Billion, reflecting improved retained earnings and investor confidence in our strategic direction."

At the operations level, Sanlam Kenya, a leading general and life insurance solutions provider, he explained, has continued to maintain strong insurance revenue growth, supported by disciplined underwriting and enhanced customer engagement.

"Our investment portfolio continues to deliver solid returns, with other in-

vestment revenue increasing by over 34% year-on-year to KSh3.07billion, demonstrating the effectiveness of our diversified asset allocation strategy in delivering shareholder value," Dr Tumbo said.

With a reinforced capital structure, a high-quality investment book, and a commitment to operational excellence, Sanlam Kenya, he said, is well placed to navigate the evolving economic environment. Our focus remains on sustainable profitability, deepening customer relationships, and leveraging innovation to unlock value for all stakeholders.

"We move into the second half of 2025 with optimism, anchored by strong fundamentals, an experienced leadership team, and a clear growth strategy that prioritises market leadership, customer trust, and long-term value creation," he assured.

The firm's cost and liability management, he said, remains a key strength, with borrowings reducing sharply from KSh4.2 billion to KSh1.19 bil-



Sanlam Kenya PLC Chairman Dr John Simba (left) shares a light moment with the company's Group CEO Dr Patrick Tumbo (right) at a past event .



lion, further improving our leverage position and creating headroom for future strategic investments.



Waiguru Commends Collaboration In Service Delivery And Tackling Emerging Security Threats As Murkomen Tours Kirinyaga

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has commended the collaboration between the National and County governments in enhancing public service delivery and addressing emerging security threats facing the county.

She was speaking during a visit by the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, Kipchumba Murkomen, who toured the county under the auspices of the Jukwaa la Usalama forum on Friday to assess the state of security.

Governor Waiguru hailed the initiative as a demonstration of the government's commitment to working hand in hand with counties to secure communities and strengthen service delivery.

She emphasized that security was not merely the absence of danger, but the presence of peace, trust, and opportunity for residents. She noted that Kirinyaga is generally peaceful, save for a few concerns such as the emerging trend of politically sponsored chaos and violence.

On youth radicalization into crime and the menace of illicit brews, the governor called for a united front to dismantle criminal networks, illicit brews, rehabilitate victims, and provide alternative livelihoods. "We cannot normalize poison in the name of livelihood. Enforcement must be coupled with hope, purpose, and pride for our people," she emphasized.

Waiguru also raised concern over the rising threat of miraa-related road accidents, through which more than 21 lives have been lost in 2025 alone due to speeding vehicles, particularly along the Mwea-Embu Highway.

"Our people are calling for stricter regulation of these vehicles, including possible rerouting and enhanced traffic enforcement, to protect innocent road users," she appealed.

She further stressed the need to strengthen community policing and Nyumba Kumi initiatives, which she said play a vital role in intelligence gathering and early detection of crime.

"Security begins with the community itself. Strengthening grassroots structures builds trust and ensures quicker, more targeted responses by security agencies," she noted, while also urging the adoption of technology-driven surveillance and digital reporting platforms to modernize security operations.

On his part, CS Murkomen said the objective of Jukwaa la Usalama is to transform Kenya's approach to national security governance by bringing together local leaders, community members, and government officials to discuss pressing security concerns through inclusive engagement.

"We want to listen to diverse views on how we can better improve service delivery as well as security in the country. These forums have been fruitful, as many of the views shared have informed critical policy decisions such as the cash transfer fund for the vulnerable, as well



Cabinet Secretary for Interior Kipchumba Murkomen, Kirinyaga County governor Ann Waiguru with other national and county governments officials..

as the training and promotion of administrative officers, which has reduced discrepancies within various ranks," noted the CS. He added that the government is committed to ensuring that public servants operate in a conducive environment.

CS Murkomen assured Kirinyaga res-

idents of the national government's full support in addressing the highlighted challenges, affirming that security is a shared responsibility between national agencies, county governments, and citizens.

The forum was attended by senior national and county government officials,

including the Principal Administrative Secretary for National Administration, Beverly Opwora, and the Speaker of the Kirinyaga County Assembly, Murimi Muteti.



Governor Ann Waiguru addressing locals as CS Murkomen and other leaders listens.

Time For Radical Movement For Economic Democracy



By: Ndung'u Wainaina
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- There are three emerging crucial scenes in the new political landscape in Kenya. First, confronting and disrupting the traditional political establishment whether in power or opposition. Second, groundswell rise of a significant population of Kenyans strongly focusing on key issues of interest but no political affiliation. And finally, decolonizing development and challenging established economic power structure for new economic order and new political system.
- What began as fiscal justice has evolved into full economic revolution. It was never a passing cloud. This is our struggle for our economic rights. Our economic sovereignty. People of Kenya are demanding for their economic dignity. They want their economic and financial security. This is revolution to establish a constitutional economic order.

At independence, Kenya set to eliminate three enemies namely poverty, disease and ignorance. That mission remains stalled. 63 years later, it is time to dismantle the system of extraction, exploitation and domination which is the cause behind the three enemies at the independence still holding the country back.

Kenyans can despair, feel disillusioned and frustrated because of situation prevailing in the country. But that is not what Kenyans are. They are hardworking, resilient and optimistic. They rise up.

Our country is land of infinite possibilities and opportunities. Kenyans are going to make real fundamental change. The clouds have been gathering and torrential rains pouring. Political floods are coming. We must enter the economic democracy Ark. It is our only hope and ultimate salvation.

There are three emerging crucial scenes in the new political landscape in Kenya. First, confronting and disrupting the traditional political establishment whether in power or opposition. Second, groundswell rise of a significant population of Kenyans strongly focusing on key issues of interest but no political affiliation. And finally, decolonizing development and challenging established economic power structure for new economic order and new political system.

What began as fiscal justice has evolved into full economic revolution. It was never a passing cloud. This is our struggle for our economic rights. Our economic sovereignty. People of Kenya are demanding for their economic dignity. They want their economic and financial security. This is revolution to establish a constitutional economic order.

Our political freedoms have proved inadequate. Yes, we shall keep protecting them. But economic freedoms are very crucial. History strongly shows that countries with more economic freedom grow faster, and those with less economic freedom mostly don't grow at all. Economic freedom is necessary condition of individual liberty.

Economic freedom is not just a driver of our prosperity and greatness. It is a vital safeguard for our political freedom. Economic independence provides the foundation for individual autonomy, and without it political rights and civil liberties are hollowed out.

Economic freedom is not just an engine of our material prosperity. It is key pillar of our political liberty. Without it, the ability to exercise political rights is significantly weakened, making economic free-



Poverty, disease and ignorance

dom a prerequisite. This is why the economic revolution is not stopping and won't stop until a new political system that guarantees our economic rights is established. Economic freedom allows for innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, and the pursuit of new ideas, which collectively foster prosperity and human flourishing.

Ours is mission to realize our economic independence. But we have one handicap: debt slavery.. Debt is taking more than 70% of revenue. Right now, it is the future income of Kenya's population that is being leveraged in debt. In the last two years of President Ruto regime, the average Kenyan's income has fallen by 12%. This is not a theoretical default. It is the real default happening in diminished wages and lost opportunities.

The catastrophic human consequences of illegal debt crime and discounted future are being witnessed everywhere in our daily lives education, health, food, jobs, etc. The beneficiaries of this system are the banks, international bondholders, politicians, bureaucrats, and land speculators.

Kenyans must stop this racket of selling Kenya's future. Cutting off payment of debt will unleash capital and completely change our economy and lives. This is why the economic revolution that began with June 2024 protests will not stop. This revolution is the desire by the people of Kenya to unshackle and exploit their capabilities, ingenuity and knowledge to

better seize emerging opportunities and technological innovations to advance their human and economic freedoms beyond survival mode.

Kenyans have come out very strongly on economy, clean governance and the rule of law. They want new country, new transformative leadership and new 21st century competitive ideas. It is never again about bringing together coalition of ethnic and regional kingpins' politics. The establishment politics of divide and rule politics is upended. The political earthquake and shifting of politics keeps evolving. Anti-establishment is escalating.

The democratic spring by Gen Z marked the start of end of the old political culture of ethnicity and kingpin. Kenyans are united on a common cause. We have politics driven by new generation demanding change. This generation want the current political system dismantled. We have need new generation of political thinkers to rise to the challenge and tackle the major unique problems of our time. And ensure that the Fourth Industrial Revolution dividend change the state of our country and change our lives.

Our population demographics has significantly changed. Thus, our politics must change. This is our generational change moment. Let's not miss it. Together, we reset Kenya—not only for ourselves—but for those yet to be born.

Today's world is competing on ideas

and issues of interest. Our politics must become competition of visions. People should be elected on the basis of their ideas and issues of interest to the communities and country. Ours must be tent of issues of interest not ethnic groupings. The defining challenge of our time is making sure our economy works for every Kenyan with social and economic mobility.

We must create situation where you can be elected anywhere in the country. Not because of tribe you come from. But on basis of your ideas and issues you are able to articulate. This is because the decisions we make on issues affecting us don't differentiate people or communities.

We must define our politics on basis of leadership with capacity, competence and capability to deliver. We must have issues based, people-centered and delivery oriented politics. This is our new Kenya. Our political conscientious has significantly improved. We must bring out our best. We must stop talking change. We must make change. This is our moment to rise up.

The Writer is Transitional Justice and Human Security Fellow @NdunguWainaina

Wetang’ula Raises Concern Over Conservatory Orders Stalling Parliament Work

By: PSCU
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The retreat was attended by Chief Justice Martha Koome and senior Judiciary officers.
- Wetang’ula further urged the Judiciary to centralize cases filed against Parliament in Nairobi, where the institution is domiciled. He argued that such a move would cut costs and enable Parliament’s legal team to respond more effectively.
- “Currently, our lawyers are forced to travel to upcountry courts, only to find magistrates on leave or transferred along with files,” he explained.
- On Judiciary funding, Wetang’ula assured Chief Justice Koome of Parliament’s support in enhancing its budget. He acknowledged that the Judiciary’s requests were justified, particularly in light of its ambitious programme to expand access to justice.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang’ula has voiced concern over the frequent issuance of conservatory orders by judges against the National Assembly, saying the practice disrupts the legislative process.

Speaking during a joint session between the National Assembly leadership and the Judiciary on the second day of the Third Leadership Retreat, Wetang’ula noted that several matters before Committees and the House have been halted due to such orders.

“This is a matter that needs to be addressed by the Judiciary urgently,” he said, adding that some hearings are pushed up to six months ahead, adversely affecting the progress of legislation.

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Koome revealed that the Judiciary plans to establish magistrate courts in all 290 constituencies but currently has only 143.

She said underfunding by the National Treasury had slowed this effort and appealed to the National Assembly to intervene.

“The Judiciary requires enhanced allocations for infrastructure development. This will ensure equitable access to justice across the country,” she stated.

Koome emphasized that cooperation between the Judiciary and Legislature does not erode institutional independence. Instead, she argued, structured dialogue would prevent adversarial relations that often paralyze governance.

“This conversation is long overdue. Had we convened earlier, some misunderstandings and instances of working at cross purposes might have been avoided,” she said.

She added that the principle of separation of powers secures checks and balances but must be exercised in a spirit of constructive engagement.



Martha Koome

“Institutional comity does not erode independence. There is a difference between institutional independence and decisional independence. While institutions may engage, decisional independence remains sacrosanct,” she affirmed.

National Assembly Clerk Samuel Njoroge also called for enhanced knowledge sharing between Parliament and the Judiciary through their respective training institutions, the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training and the Kenya Judiciary Academy.

“Collaboration between our institutions of learning will strengthen capacity-building and reinforce professional growth for our officers,” he said.

The retreat, themed “Social Transformation through Institutional Comity,” sought to build consensus on shared priorities, fiscal planning for the 2025/26 financial year, and improved cooperation between Parliament and the Judiciary.



Moses Wetang’ula

Two Important Places



The two places we should visit often
OLD AGE HOMES and ORPHANAGES,
where love is born
Help the poor and you'll feel happy.

You'll see the God in their eyes
On birthdays and celebrations, let's visit
these places.
These places need love and kindness.

And spread love, kindness, and warm caring
Faces
You'll get blessings From above, pure and
true
Visiting these places we'll learn and grow
strong
And find love, kindness, and compassion
that glow.

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

Treat All In A Kind Manner



Even in a position of authority.
No chair is permanent

When you shoulder many responsibility as a
leader
Remember, kindness is the only way
No one's chair is permanent, no throne stays
forever
Rules and laws change, for person place and time

After attaining power speak and behave gently
walk, talk, look, and heart should be divine
Once soft and gentle person may turn to be a
terror
They Forget who they were earlier

They point fingers, and claim you are at fault
They are Aware of loopholes, and how to escape
the fall,
They treat others with unkindness manner
With No sympathy, no empathy to all

But true leadership is not about treating all
unkindly
But It's about kindness, compassion, and gentle
light,

Treat all with equality, without partiality
Because no chair is permanent, and no one stays
forever

Leadership's not an easy role to play,
Only kind and gentle leaders will be remodel
They'll be liked by all, and remembered for ever
Their gentle words and actions will become a
sweet song..

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

The Garden Of Memory



Store your memories, rich and true,
For they shall walk the path with you.
Not the one who holds your hand,
But echoes From a distant land.

Preserve the ones that make you whole,
The golden moments of your soul.
Let not the shadows linger near,
But keep the light you hold so dear.

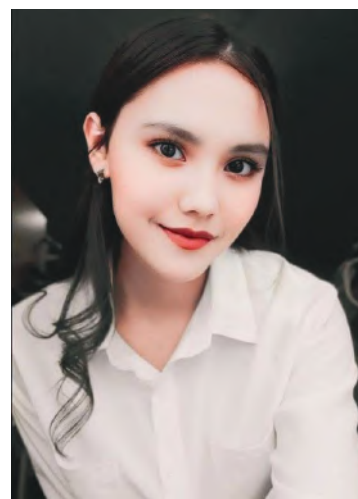
A blooming garden in your mind,
With fragrant joy and peace entwined.
Cast out the waste, let beauty stay,
And let your thoughts not drift astray.

Let memories lift you when you fall,
Stand strong through time, surpassing all.
Let them ignite your youthful flame,
Though silver crowns may grace your name.

So treasure them, both great and small,
For in their grace, you shall not crawl.
They bring the best of life anew—
A timeless joy that lives in you.

V Durgadevi
BT Assistant
GHS Nesar
Tiruvannamalai Dt

Belief



Alisher was very clever, polite and
cheerful boy. He studied well in school.
His teachers loved very good and set
an example of their classmates. It was
Alisher's birthday at the end of May. He
celebrated his birthday in memorable way
with his loved ones.

On that day, his friends and family
members brought gifts to Alisher. His
grandfather presented him a blue football
ball. His mother baked a nice cake for her
son. But, the best gift hasn't been given
yet. His father gave him a new bicycle as
a gift. Alisher felt very happy that night.

But, even though a lot of time has
passed, he still couldn't ride the bicycle.
Because he was afraid he wouldn't be

able to do it. Yet, he admired his friends
and wished he could go cycling like them.
One day, while Alisher was sitting quietly
by the window concerning his friends ride
their bicycles, he suddenly noticed a tiny
ant. The little ant was carrying a piece
of sugar many times larger than its tiny
body.

Alisher surprised, asked:
– Isn't that load too heavy for you? How
are you carrying it?

The ant replied:
– Of course it's heavy, but I managed
to carry it because I believed in myself.
If it were the other way around, I would
never have been able to do it.
Inspired by the ant's words, Alisher
realized that one must move forward
bravely toward a goal.
He practiced without giving up, and soon
he learned how to ride a bicycle.

Ibrohimova Qizlarxon Born in 2006 in
the Khavos district of Syrdar'ya region.
A 2nd year student at the Faculty
of Uzbek Language and Literature of
Jizzakh State Pedagogical University.
She writes children's prose in Uzbek and
Turkish. Her works have been published
in literary journals, Turkish and Uzbek
newspapers and magazines.

My Dear Mother



My mother, who fed me without
eating,
The most important person in my life.
She always cares for me as if I were
her child,
My dear angel, my mother.

You are my caretaker in the world,

When I am sick, you are with me.
You are only with me,
My heaven, my angel, my mother.

The light of my two eyes,
The caretaker of my heart.
The meaning of my life,
My soul, my mother.

She stayed awake at night,
Smiling next to me.
She did not tell me her pain,
My soul, my mother.

Dinora Norsafarova, a 4th grade
student at secondary school No. 70,
Dehqanabad district, Kashkadaryo
region.

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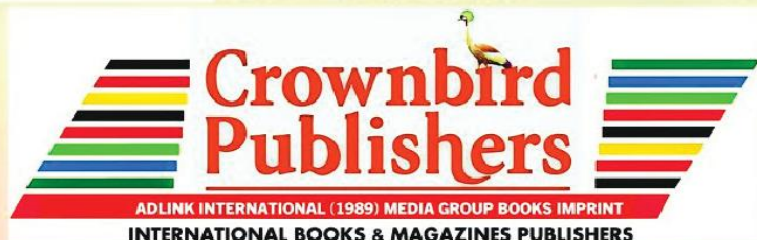
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Government On Course To Complete Digitization Of Land Records By 2029

By: Esther Mwangi and Lucy Mukui

@themtkenytimes

Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome has assured that all land-related records in the country would be fully digitized by 2029.

The assurance comes as the government puts necessary measures in place to eradicate land-related corruption and fraud in a move aimed at protecting public resources and improving service delivery to the citizens.

Wahome said the National Lands Management Information System (NLMIS) dubbed the 'Ardhisasa system' was currently fully operational in Nairobi and Murang'a Counties adding that it would cost the government Sh15 billion to carry out the first phase of the digitization exercise and a further Sh15 billion to fully conclude the process.

The CS said at the heart of the lands reforms was the Ministry's commitment to the digitization of all land registries, which she said was a crucial pillar in the transformation of the lands sector.

Wahome explained that digitization was not just about technology, but about eliminating manual inefficiencies, curbing fraud, securing land records, and enhancing access and transparency for all citizens.

She reiterated that the ongoing digitization process was aimed at not only modernising the sector but also restoring public confidence on its management.

"We are not just reforming systems, we are rebuilding trust, and as we move, we must walk with the people, not ahead of them," she stated.

The CS elaborated that digitalization had helped citizens in embracing improved ease of doing business, increased accessibility of land services, and enhanced transparency in day-to-day land transactions.

Wahome who conducted an impromptu inspection of the Nakuru Lands Registry on Thursday afternoon, issued a strong warning against corruption, inefficiency, and outdated practices that allegedly facilitate fraud in most lands offices.

She has made similar visits and inspections at the Naivasha, Nyanjira and Laikipia land registries.

The Cabinet Secretary who was accompanied by County Commissioner Dr. Lyford Kibaara and Deputy Governor David Kones, said under

her leadership those entrusted with responsibilities in the sector must protect public resources and improve service delivery.

She stressed the need for accountability in the generation of revenue and land acquisition processes, valuation and registration to avert loopholes through which unscrupulous individuals found ways of engaging in malpractices.

"Any loopholes that enable the loss of public funds must be sealed. Accountability is not optional. Every coin we safeguard strengthens our ability to deliver better, faster, and more transparent services to Kenyans," She declared.

During her visit at the Nakuru registry, the Cabinet Secretary assessed the condition of the facility and the quality of service delivery in the registry.

She underscored the need for transparent and efficient service delivery to the public and reaffirmed her Ministry's zero-tolerance policy on the mismanagement of public resources.

The Cabinet Secretary disclosed that digitization of land records at the Mombasa lands registry was at 50 percent complete and assured that the Ministry would be finished with digitizing land registries at Isiolo, Marsabit and Machakos counties within the next few months.

For decades, Kenya's land sector grappled with inefficient manual processes, delays, and rampant fraud. Navigating land transactions was often a daunting exercise marred by lost records, forged documents, and bureaucratic bottlenecks.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that Kenya, like other nations, endeavours to harness the transformative power of data, innovation, and technology in solving multifaceted challenges in land governance.

She said that data and technology tools were not only essential for modernizing land governance systems but also for ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusivity by addressing matters to do with land tenure security, land use planning, environmental sustainability, and equitable resource distribution.

She added that Kenya was adopting the use of block chain technology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and drone technology to enhance land registration, title management, create detailed and interactive maps, and provide high-resolution imagery and real-time data.

The Cabinet Secretary pointed out



Lands CS Alice Wahome briefing journalists.

that Ardhisasa was not just a system upgrade, but also represented a fundamental shift from outdated paper-based workflows to a real-time, transparent, and secure online framework that serves citizens, professionals, and institutions alike.

"Through Ardhisasa, users can now conduct land searches, apply for title deed transfers, pay land rent, register charges and cautions, and initiate subdivision and amalgamation processes, entirely online. This 24/7 accessibility has cut transaction timelines drastically, reduced dependency on physical visits to land offices, and minimized human error and interference," Wahome explained.

She said the system was also accredited with addressing long-standing concerns around land fraud by digitizing records, enhancing traceability, and ensuring data accuracy. The aim, she added, was to eliminate loopholes, boost investor confidence, and protect the sanctity of land ownership.

"The new lands system will expose fraudulent surveyors who have been taking advantage of unsuspecting landowners," she assured.

Wahome exuded confidence that the security and operational protocols deployed during development of the National Land Information Management System had greatly aided in warding off quacks and fraudsters.

She said the system was developed with strict adherence to the law and would therefore not allow for illegal transactions.

She said unlike the manual system that had loopholes which impersonators, fraudsters and middlemen capitalized on to solicit bribes, the digital system upholds the integrity and sanctity of the title.

Users can sign into Ardhisasa through a computer or mobile phone, and within seconds make applications for various services on the platform.

The CS said the launch of Ardhisasa would strengthen the security of land tenure as it had been designed to remove human interference with land records.

The digitalization which started back in the year 2018 is a rigorous process which includes validation and manual verification of the records of all the departments from different state departments.

The digitization derives its legality from the Land Registration Act No. 3 of 2012 which mandates land registrars to maintain land registers and documents relating to land in a secure, accessible, and reliable format including electronic files. The Land Registration (Electronic Transactions) Regulations, 2020 also outline the legal framework relating to digitization.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that like other nations and agencies, Kenya is also fast moving away from old methods of doing business by embracing data innovation and technology, which are vital elements in efficient governance and management of different sectors, including

the land governance sector.

Wahome indicated that the introduction of the National Land Information System (NLIMS) to address land management records that were held in paper form and managed manually for a long time has proven very successful and timely.

The CS said that land transactions that were handled through paper forms and files have today turned into E-Systems, while physical visits to land offices have been reduced as services are delivered at the touch of a button from somewhere else.

She said that Kenya is committed to making land information available in a language that could be understood by populations.

She said that Kenya plans to establish a comprehensive, computer-based, user-friendly, accessible, affordable, transparent, and gender-sensitive land information management system and revealed that Kenya was currently developing national guidelines on land information to govern matters on land information standards, security, dissemination, and pricing.

The CS further said that the Ministry of Lands had gone cashless by embracing FinTech in the collection of revenue, which had replaced conventional cash payments with Mpesa mobile money payment services.

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Waiguru’s Huduma Center Brainchild Still Transforming Service Delivery A Decade Later

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “We had a big concern with the turn-over time it was taking to get National IDs for our youth but we are very thankful for the additional machines you have brought here today,” Waiguru said. She reminded the gathering that Huduma Centers were her brainchild, initiated in 2014 under the Ministry of Devolution and Planning. Waiguru piloted the first center at Nairobi’s GPO before the model was rolled out across the nation. “This initiative has since become a transformative model for delivering government services efficiently and closer to the people. We now look forward to further decentralization of Huduma Centers to all subcounty levels,” she said, to applause from residents and local leaders.



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has hailed the remarkable growth of Huduma Centers across the country, a decade after she pioneered the transformative concept as Cabinet Secretary for Devolution and Planning.

Governor Waiguru, who hosted Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen during Jukwaa La Usalama Kirinyaga Chapter tour, accompanied him to the Kerugoya Huduma Center where he launched a rapid registration exercise for birth certificates and national identity cards. The exercise will ensure IDs are issued within three days of application, a development Waiguru praised as a major win for the youth.

“We had a big concern with the turn-over time it was taking to get National IDs for our youth but we are very thankful for the additional machines you have brought here today,” Waiguru said.

She reminded the gathering that Huduma Centers were her brainchild, initiated in 2014 under the Ministry of Devolution and Planning. Waiguru piloted the first center at Nairobi’s GPO before the model was rolled out across the nation. “This initiative has since become a transformative model for delivering government services efficiently and closer to the people. We now look forward to further decentralization of Huduma Centers to all subcounty levels,” she said,

to applause from residents and local leaders. From a single pilot, Huduma Centers have expanded to 59 across the 47 counties, with Nairobi hosting five. By 2024, they were serving nearly 28,000 walk-in customers daily through counters, call centers and digital platforms. The one-stop shops provide a wide range of services under one roof, including birth and death certificates, ID cards, NHIF, NSSF, KRA, and business registrations, greatly reducing queues and bureaucratic delays.

The innovation earned Waiguru international acclaim, winning the 2015 United Nations Public Service Award after recognition by the African Association of Public Administration and Management for improving efficiency in public service delivery. Huduma remains a flagship programme under Kenya’s Vision 2030.

Governor Waiguru urged CS Murkomen to expand Huduma Centers to the sub-county level to ease access for rural residents. “The Huduma Kenya programme has already proven its value, but to deepen its impact, we need to take it closer to the people at the grassroots. Expanding these services to sub-counties would be a game-changer for wananchi,” she noted.

Now at the county level, Waiguru has replicated the Huduma model in Ki-

rinyaga by setting up a Huduma-style service desk at the county headquarters. Located on the ground floor, the centre consolidates devolved services and includes targeted facilitation for persons with disabilities, eliminating the traditional office-to-office run-around.

The visit underscored the growing collaboration between the national and county governments in enhancing service delivery, while also reaffirming Waiguru’s legacy as a reform-driven leader whose innovation continues to shape governance in Kenya.



Blight-Resistant Biotech Potato To Protect Farmers From Losing Their Crops

By: Wangari Ndirangu
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The technology, he explained, was started 3 years ago, and starting from the laboratories and in the greenhouses to show that the Shangi variety actually is resistant to blight, they also tested it under Confined Field Trials (CFT), which have been concluded, and submitted the results to the National Biosafety Authority (NBA), a government regulatory agency.
- “We are waiting for approval by the National Biosafety Authority (NBA), who will also engage the public participation before approval that will see us proceed to the next phase of National Performance Trials (NPT),” he said
- Dr Nyongesa said once they get the approval, they will conduct the NPT trials in six different locations in major potato-growing areas, coming closer to where the farmers will interact with this potato variety.

The Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) is in advanced stages of producing and testing a blight-resistant Genetically Modified (GM) potato variety.

The potato late blight disease is a major problem for potato farmers in Kenya and can cause significant yield losses of up to 30 percent if no adequate control measures are put in place

KALRO, in partnership with the International Potato Centre (CIP), has been testing the ‘Shangi’ potato variety, which has shown high resistance without the need for fungicides.

The technology has so far undergone testing in three different potato-growing locations in the country, namely Muguga in Kiambu, Njabini in Nyan-darua, and Molo in Nakuru County.

Speaking Thursday during a guided media study tour to the GMO potato Confined Field Trial (CFT) site at KALRO Muguga, Dr Moses Nyongesa, a research scientist at KALRO, gave insights into the science behind GMO potatoes and their potential impact.

He said farmers have been controlling the blight disease by relying on fungicides, which are costly and have a health and environmental implication if not used appropriately.

“We have now a biotechnology potato variety that is under development at quite advanced stages; it has gone through the proof of concept and is promising, as farmers will now be able to reduce the cost of production, eliminating completely what they would have incurred if they had used fungicides.

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The tests, he confirmed, are conducted by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), and once



Dr. Moses Nyongesa, speaking on the BT potato technology they are undertaking.

the data from these NPTs is assembled together and assessed, then the recommendation for variety release will be made based on those reports, followed then by commercialisation.

Dr Nyongesa was optimistic, saying in case the NPTs commence in October, it will take six months, so looking at mid next year for all the reports to support the recommendation for release even as other authorities, including the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Agriculture, make a formal declaration that the variety has been released for cultivation in the country.

The current production of potatoes in the country stands at 3 million metric tons, and we are hopeful that this new variety promises to increase the yield by an additional 30 percent, he said.

Dr Miriam Mbiu, plant pathologist from KALRO, explained that as they progressed the trials into the field for two seasons in three agroecological location working on Blight resistance, they adjacently carried out the nutritional composition analysis where they wanted to see if the varieties differ with the non-transformed varieties.

“What we have found out is that these varieties are not different from the others. In terms of proteins, carbohydrates, and the phenolic compounds, we were able to test about 13 of that nutritional composition in terms of the agronomic data that includes the vegetative and also the tubers, and we saw they are not different from each other.

She noted that the only difference between the new potato variety and the non-transformed one already in the market is only the gene that confers and allows it to have resistance against potato blight; otherwise, the taste is the same.

“Currently we are bulking our seed for the NPTs following the same protocol that is also done on the conventionally bred varieties. After NPTs, we are going also to conduct just one trial to check the distinctiveness and uniformity and stability of the candidates that we will have submitted for the NPTs,” D. Mbiu said

Dr Paul Chege, a plant scientist currently working at ISAAA Africa Centre said the Genetically Modified (GM) crops have been adopted in about 29 countries globally

Kenya is among the countries producing GM crops, with BT cotton being with the farmers and virus-resistant cassava that is almost reaching the end of research through KALRO.

In Africa, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and South Africa are growing BT maize; Ghana and Nigeria have BT cowpea, and South Africa is also producing the soybean.

Dr Chege said that looking at a biotech potato that is resistant to late blight disease, which has been affecting a staple crop and causing devastating yields to farmers, could not come at a better time, he said.

“Researchers are talking about more than 16 percent loss due to this disease, and these losses come as a result of the farmers spraying fungicides against the disease with about 13 spray rounds per season, which is a lot.

Now that we know this technology works, the farmers will not have to spray all that much fungicide, which at the end of the day is harmful to human health. it will also alleviate farmers from a lot of backbreaking labour and, at the same time, increase yields of potatoes that would have been lost to the disease,” he added

Dr Chege noted that one of the major reasons for technology not reaching farmers is mostly misinformation, and thus the reason interaction between scientists and journalists is very important so that the public gets the information on what is GMO and what is not.

Many countries, he added, have embraced the Shangi variety in the country, and we commercialise it on the continent and globally, and therefore this potato research is one of the pioneer research projects of unique crops in Africa.

According to the GM database globally, over 43 countries consume and import GM crops. The crops are planted in over 209 million hectares, and between 1996 and 2024, there has been a rise in the adoption of GM globally by 21 percent.

In Kenya, potatoes are the second most important food crop after maize, with a large number of small-scale farmers involved and a significant contribution to the national economy, generating an estimated USD 500 million annually.

The industry employs millions and has a substantial market value but also faces challenges related to yields and disease like late blight.

Trump Administration Vetting 55 Million U.S. Visa Holders For Potential Violations

By: Xinhua

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The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump said that it is reviewing the records of over 55 million U.S. visa holders for any deportable violations, part of its escalating crackdown on immigration.

The State Department said in an emailed statement that the “continuous vetting” will allow the revocation of visas, including those held by tourists, if signs of ineligibility emerge, such as overstays, criminal activity, threats to public safety or ties to terrorism. If such visa holders are found in the United States, they would be subject to deportation. The reviews will cover visa holders’ social me-

dia activity, law enforcement and immigration records from their home countries, as well as “any actionable violations of U.S. law” committed while in the United States, the AP said in a Friday report, citing anonymous officials. The Trump administration has focused on deporting the undocumented migrants and holders of student and visitor exchange visas.

The State Department said on Monday that it has revoked over 6,000 student visas for overstays and violations of local, state and federal law since January. Around 4,000 of the cases were due to the holders’ infractions of laws, including assault, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and support for terrorism.



U.S. President Donald Trump.

Pro-Palestine Activists In South Africa Protest Against Coal Exports To Israel

By: Xinhua

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More than 100 pro-Palestine activists launched protests on Thursday in three major South African cities, calling on the government to ban coal exports to Israel, which has been blamed for committing genocide in the Gaza Strip.

The energy embargo protests, organized by the activist group Palestine Solidarity Campaign, took place in Pretoria, Cape Town, and Durban. The protesters handed over a memorandum to the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, according to local media. South Africa has exported approximately 1.6 million metric tons of coal to Israel, the memorandum said, criticizing the government for allowing South Africa’s ports to be used as

“conduits for transporting fuel, minerals, and other dual-use goods to Apartheid Israel.” The protesters claimed in the memorandum that the South African government should “lead in implementing a coal embargo and stop our complicity in feeding the Israeli electricity grid that fuels the genocide, illegal occupation, and Apartheid Israel’s military industrial complex.”

The South African government has accused Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza following a deadly Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, in which about 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed and some 200 taken hostage. Israel’s ongoing military campaign in Gaza has killed more than 62,000 people and injured over 157,000 others, according to Gaza-based health authorities.



Uganda, South Sudan Pledge Joint Efforts To Resolve Border Tensions



By: Xinhua

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The Ugandan and South Sudanese armies have agreed to step up cooperation to address recurring border skirmishes, some of which have turned deadly, the Ugandan military said.

Uganda’s top military chiefs met with a visiting South Sudanese delegation in Kampala, Uganda’s capital, to discuss security challenges along the shared frontier, the military said in a statement released Wednesday. Kayanja Muhanga, commander of the Uganda Peoples’ Defense Forces (UPDF) Land Force, speaking on behalf of Chief of the UPDF Muhoozi Kainerugaba, said the two sides had a long history of cooperation in handling shared challenges. Referring to a

recent border clash that left four people dead, Muhanga said dialogue was the best way forward. “We need to approach this maturely and solve this problem. I am confident our discussions will find a remedy for the misunderstandings, which are not between the two governments nor the two armies,” he said.

Dau Aturjong Nyuol, chief of the South Sudan People’s Defense Forces, reaffirmed his country’s commitment to working with Uganda to resolve disputes. “Joining hands in joint operations will maintain security. Even the spoiler will not be given room to cause havoc to our local population along the border. We will come out with something that can rescue the security and let our people live in good harmony,” he said.

KALRO Hosts Media Study Tour To Highlight Advances In Biotech Potato Research



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- At the KALRO-Muguga research center, participants were taken through an interactive program that showcased the ongoing research into biotech potato varieties engineered for resistance against devastating diseases such as late blight, which is a major constraint to potato production in Kenya and across many parts of Africa.
- Scientists explained the meticulous research process, from gene identification to field trials, and highlighted the potential benefits of biotech potatoes, including increased yields, reduced reliance on chemical pesticides, and enhanced food security for smallholder farmers.
- One of the key sessions focused on the science behind genetic modification and how biotech crops are developed, tested, and regulated to ensure they meet stringent safety standards.

In a bid to enhance accurate and informed reporting on agricultural biotechnology, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), in collaboration with the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa (OFAB) and the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), recently hosted a media study tour at its Muguga biotech potato research site. The event provided journalists with an opportunity to engage directly with scientists and regulators, gain first-hand insights into the latest developments in disease-resistant biotech potatoes, and understand the regulatory frameworks guiding biotechnology and biosafety in Kenya.

The study tour drew a diverse group of journalists from across the country, all keen to deepen their understanding of biotechnology’s role in transforming agriculture and ensuring food security. KALRO’s initiative comes at a crucial time when biotechnology, particularly genetically modified crops, continues to attract significant public interest and scrutiny. By fostering dialogue among scientists, regulators, farmers, and the media, the tour aimed to promote accurate and balanced media coverage on the subject.

At the KALRO-Muguga research center, participants were taken through an interactive program that showcased the ongoing research into biotech potato varieties engineered for resistance against devastating diseases such as late blight, which is a major constraint to potato production in Kenya and across many parts of Africa. Scientists explained the meticulous research process, from gene identification to field trials, and highlighted the potential benefits of biotech potatoes, including increased yields, reduced reliance on chemical pesticides, and enhanced food security for smallholder farmers.

One of the key sessions focused on the science behind genetic modification and how biotech crops are developed, tested, and regulated to ensure they meet stringent safety standards. Officials from Kenya’s biosafety regulatory authority detailed the country’s framework for assessing and approving biotech crops, emphasizing transparency and safety at every stage. Journalists were briefed on the importance of biosafety protocols in protecting human health and the environment, an aspect often misunderstood or misrepresented in public discourse.



Through interactive sessions and site visits, journalists gained insights into biotech crop science and regulation.

During the visit, farmers currently engaged in biotech crop trials shared their experiences, providing real-life perspectives on how such innovations impact their livelihoods. Several farmers recounted the challenges they face with traditional potato farming due to pests and diseases and expressed optimism about the enhanced resistance traits of the biotech potatoes under development.

The study tour also incorporated a hands-on component: journalists toured experimental plots, observed the biotech plants firsthand, and reviewed data from recent field trials. This experiential learning was crucial in building media literacy, enabling journalists to better grasp complex scientific concepts and

convey them accurately to the public.

KALRO’s head representative of Biotechnology and Biosafety, speaking to the media, underscored the importance of the collaboration with OFAB and ISAAA in driving public awareness and acceptance of agricultural biotechnology. “Through such engagements, we aim to empower the media to be champions of science-based reporting, which is essential for informed decision-making by policymakers and farmers alike,” he said.

Participants left the event equipped with a richer understanding of biotechnology’s potential and responsibilities. The media study tour underscored the power of informed

journalism in shaping public perceptions and policy around agricultural innovations, highlighting how collaboration between research institutions and the media can contribute to sustainable agricultural development in Kenya and Africa.

As Kenya continues to explore biotechnology as a means to boost agricultural productivity and food security, initiatives like this media tour are vital to ensuring the public discourse is grounded in facts, science, and balanced reporting. With disease-resistant biotech potatoes on the horizon, the future looks promising for Kenyan farmers striving for resilience against plant diseases.



A biotech potato in picture at the Muguga Field site

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Sports >> *Kenya's fairytale run at the African Nations Championship (CHAN) came to an agonizing end on Friday night as Harambee Stars were knocked out in the quarterfinals after a 4-3 penalty shootout

CHAN: Kenya's Fairytale Ends In Penalty Heartbreak Against Madagascar



Kenya's fairytale run at the African Nations Championship (CHAN) came to an agonizing end on Friday night as Harambee Stars were knocked out in the quarterfinals after a 4-3 penalty shootout defeat to Madagascar at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani.

The opening half produced few clear chances, with both teams showing flashes of promise but lacking the cutting edge to break the deadlock.

Kenya's Ben Stanley Omondi and Madagascar's Lalaina Rafanomezantsoa both went close with long-range efforts, but neither goalkeeper was seriously troubled as the contest remained goalless at the interval.

The second half came alive almost immediately. In the 48th minute, Boniface Muchiri de-

livered a beautifully curved overhead free-kick from outside the box, which found Alphonse Omija who headed it in the opponent's net to send the home crowd into raptures.

Kenya thought they had doubled their lead five minutes later when Ryan Ogam struck, but VAR ruled the ball had crossed the line in the build-up, and the goal was disallowed.

Madagascar clawed their way back into the game in the 70th minute. A handball by Lewis Bandi inside the penalty area gifted the Barea a spot kick, which forward Fenihasima Gilles Razafimaro confidently dispatched to level the tie.

With momentum swinging, Harambee Stars coach Benni McCarthy responded by handing teenage sensation Austin "Musa"

Odongo his debut, alongside Edward Omondi, in an effort to rejuvenate his side's attack. Further changes followed in the 83rd minute, with Siraj Mohammed and Massoud Juma introduced to replace Ben Stanley Omondi and Manzur Okwaro.

Kenya piled on the pressure in extra time, pushing numbers forward in search of a decisive goal. However, a lack of sharpness in the final third meant the match remained tied at 1-1, forcing penalties.

In the shootout, Madagascar held their nerve to convert four of their kicks, while Kenya faltered as Alphonse Omija and Michael Kibwage missed from the spot.

The Barea, who finished third in the 2022 edition in Algeria, celebrated another memorable step,

while Kenya's debut quarterfinal journey ended in heartbreak.

They however end the tournament on a high after managing to conquer Pool 'A' in the group stages.

For Benni McCarthy and his charges focus now shifts to the World Cup qualifiers in September, where they are expected to face Seychelles and Gambia at the Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani.

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Arsenal's move to win the race to sign Eberechi Eze is a sign of the Gunners' ambition to end a 22-year wait to win the Premier League, said manager Mikel Arteta on Friday.

Eze Move A Sign Of Arsenal's 'Ambition', Says Arteta



Crystal Palace's English midfielder Eberechi Eze (C) runs with the ball during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge in London on August 17, 2025. (Photo by JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP)

Arsenal's move to win the race to sign Eberechi Eze is a sign of the Gunners' ambition to end a 22-year wait to win the Premier League, said manager Mikel Arteta on Friday.

Eze appeared to headed to the other side of north London and a move to Tottenham from Crystal Palace until Arsenal pounced to reportedly close in on a £60 million (\$81 million) deal plus £7.5 million in add-ons.

The arrival of the England international would take Arsenal's spending in the transfer window to around £260 million following the signings of Viktor Gyokeres, Cristhian Mosquera, Martin Zubimendi, Kepa Arrizabalaga, Christian Norgaard and Noni Madueke.

Arsenal have finished second in the Premier League for each of the past three seasons and last won a trophy five years ago.

"We are showing the ambition that we are here to win major trophies and to keep evolving and improving every single year and that comes with demands and those demands are clear," said Arteta ahead of Leeds' visit to the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

"We want to be in front in the league, not just chasing or reacting or being behind, but in front of it and every decision that we make in every area of the club is to achieve that."

The move for Eze came just hours after Arsenal learned that Kai Havertz faces a spell on the

sidelines due to a knee injury.

However, Arteta denied the two were related.

"We are not reacting to anything," added the Spaniard.

"We've been very prepared and understanding what we could do and we have decided this is the moment to do it."

Eze was not in the Palace squad that beat Fredrikstad in the Eagles' Conference League play-off on Thursday, but Arteta does not believe he will be registered in time to face Leeds.

The 27-year-old began his career at the Arsenal academy -- he said he cried for a week when he was let go -- and reportedly desperate to return to his boyhood club.

"The better the feeling, the stron-

ger the feeling, I think the better," said Arteta.

"It brings a different edge, a different will and emotion to what you do. I think that always brings something extra."

Arsenal began their quest for the Premier League title by winning 1-0 away to Manchester United on the opening weekend of the campaign.

AFP

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Sustainability In Book Publishing: Challenges And Opportunities



By: Saodat Musurmonova
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Worth Noting:

- Sustainability is a concept that integrates environmental, economic, and social spheres, aimed at the rational use of natural resources and the reduction of pollution. In the publishing industry, sustainability refers to processes based on the use of eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient technologies, and waste reduction. Paper production involves deforestation, high water consumption, and the use of chemicals, all of which pose environmental threats. As a result, the demand for recycled paper and other eco-friendly materials is increasing.
- There are several challenges in achieving environmental sustainability in publishing. Firstly, eco-friendly materials and new technologies are often more expensive than traditional methods. This can lead to an increase in product prices and a potential decrease in consumer demand. Secondly, recycled paper may not always match the quality of conventional paper. Additionally, both producers and consumers may lack sufficient environmental awareness.

Abstract

This article analyzes the concept of sustainability in book publishing, the challenges it faces, and the opportunities available for sustainable development. It examines the use of environmentally friendly materials and energy-efficient technologies in the publishing industry, the role of digital publishing, and its economic and social aspects. Improving production processes and introducing innovations in line with sustainability principles will contribute to the long-term development of publishing houses.

Keywords

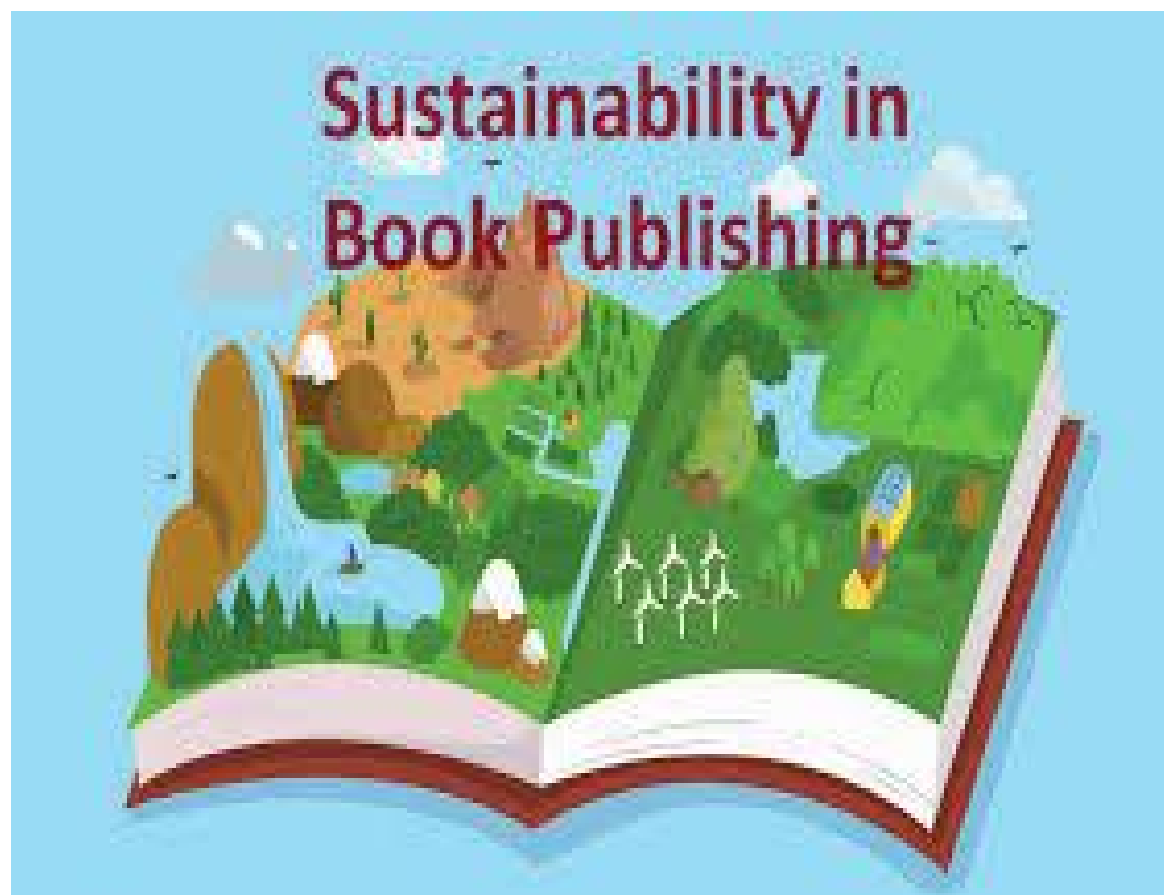
Sustainability, book publishing, eco-friendly materials, digital publishing, energy efficiency, environmental protection, waste reduction, recycled paper, social responsibility, innovative technologies

Introduction

Today, the global economy and industry are increasingly based on the principles of environmental sustainability. Sustainable development is a set of strategies aimed at conserving natural resources for future generations, protecting the environment, and ensuring social well-being. The book publishing industry is no exception to this process and is striving to increase its environmental responsibility. This is due to the fact that paper production and printing processes have a significant environmental impact. This article explores the concept of sustainability in book publishing, the emerging challenges, and the new opportunities in this field.

Main Body

Sustainability is a concept that integrates environmental, economic, and social spheres, aimed at the rational use of natural resources and the reduction of pollution. In the publishing industry, sustainability refers to processes based on the use of eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient technologies, and waste reduction. Paper production involves deforestation, high water consumption, and the use of chemicals, all of which pose environmental threats. As a result, the demand for recycled



paper and other eco-friendly materials is increasing.

There are several challenges in achieving environmental sustainability in publishing. Firstly, eco-friendly materials and new technologies are often more expensive than traditional methods. This can lead to an increase in product prices and a potential decrease in consumer demand. Secondly, recycled paper may not always match the quality of conventional paper. Additionally, both producers and consumers may lack sufficient environmental awareness.

However, innovative technologies and government policies play a crucial role in addressing these issues. For example, strengthening environmental protection laws, implementing eco-certification systems, and providing subsidies can encourage the production of sustainable products. At the same time, publishing companies should optimize their internal processes and adopt methods that conserve energy and water resources.

Today, the growth of e-books and digital publishing is reducing the demand for paper. Digital publi-

cations offer opportunities for sustainable development, but they also come with challenges such as energy consumption and electronic waste. Therefore, it is important to focus on hybrid models that combine digital and print publishing.

Demand for products manufactured in accordance with sustainability principles is growing. This provides publishing businesses with opportunities to access new markets and attract customers. Moreover, increasing social responsibility improves the company's image and strengthens relationships with both employees and customers. Adhering to sustainability principles can enhance economic efficiency in the long term and ensure resource conservation.

Conclusion

Sustainability in book publishing is a pressing issue of our time. Publishing companies must address environmental challenges by implementing innovative technologies, using eco-friendly materials, and developing sustainable strategies in collaboration with government policies. Combining digital and print publishing opens up new opportu-

nities. Thus, sustainability becomes the foundation for the environmental, economic, and social health of the publishing industry.

In addition, by widely adopting sustainability principles, publishing houses can enhance their competitiveness on a global scale. Along with the positive impact on the environment, they can demonstrate social responsibility, thereby building trust among consumers and partners. Furthermore, the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of sustainable production help reduce manufacturing costs in the long run. Therefore, supporting sustainability is an effective strategy not only from an environmental standpoint but also from business and social perspectives.

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