



AI: Experts Meet In Kenya To Promote Adoption Of AI In Africa As Journalists Are Trained On The Rise Of AI And Its Impact On Journalism

Regional and global technology experts kicked off a four-day meeting in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa on Monday to discuss ways to promote the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa.

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NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW



Galaxy Dinner
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WHEN: 17-21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

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News>>President Ruto Praises Aga Khan Development Network For Various Initiatives

P. 6. President William Ruto awarded the global leader of Ismaili Muslims, His Highness Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini Aga Khan V, Kenya's highest national civilian honour, the Chief of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya (CGH).



News>>Kiambu Constituency Undergoes Major Transformation As MP Machua Waithaka Unveils Scorecard

P. 12. Kiambu Town is witnessing an unprecedented wave of development as Member of Parliament, Machua Waithaka, champions a series of projects through the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

Gachagua Dismisses Being A Tribal Leader

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has rubbished claims that he is a tribal leader, instead accusing President William Ruto of orchestrating a negative narrative against him after their bitter political fallout. Speaking during an exclusive interview on Citizen TV's The Explainer Show last night, Gachagua said his former boss was keen on creating narratives to suit political convenience.



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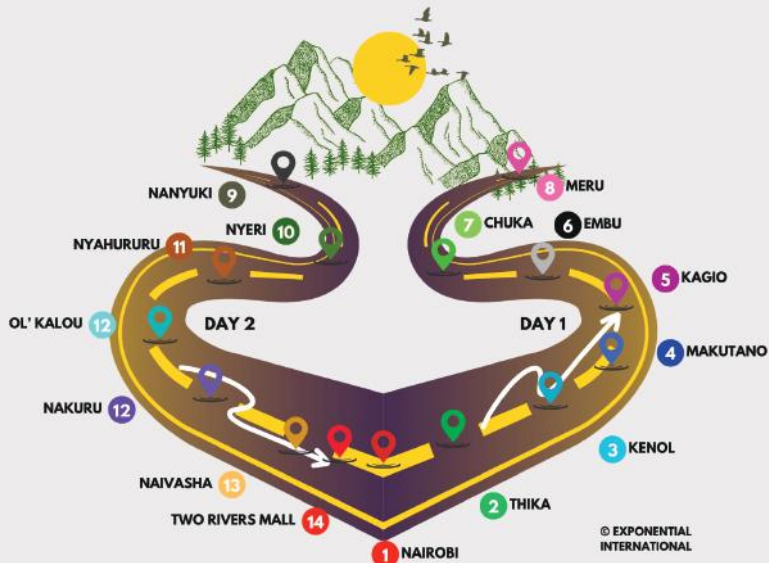
RED WITH RUTO WHEN HE CHANGED OUR AGENDA

KSH 7.6B NEEDED TO CATER FOR UHC WORKERS

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua exclusive interview on Citizen TV's The Explainer Show

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



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PRESIDENT RUTO HOSTS AND AWARDS AGA KHAN V THE CHIEF OF THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN HEART

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatices

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Samoei Ruto awarded the global leader of Ismaili Muslims, His Highness Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini Aga Khan V, Kenya's highest national civilian honour, the Chief of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya (CGH). The award is in recognition of Prince Aga Khan V's personal commitment and the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) distinguished service to the people of Kenya over the years. Conferring the award at State House, Nairobi, on Tuesday, President Ruto said: "This moment is both historic and symbolic."



Editor's Desk




The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Diplomatic relations between Kenya and Ukraine go back more than 30 years, cementing cooperation between our two countries in various areas. They include trade in grains, especially wheat and maize, and fertilisers from Ukraine. On its part, Kenya exports tea, coffee, flowers and cabbages. The effects of the war in Ukraine, now in its fourth year, have been felt far and wide, especially in the disruption of supply chains of grains, fuel and fertilisers. Yesterday, President William Ruto bid farewell to Ukraine Ambassador to Kenya Andrii Pravednyk, State House Nairobi, after his tour of duty. The ambassador brought a goodwill message from President Volodymyr Zelensky.



Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) Holdings Limited National Chairman Chege Kirundi and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Wilson Muthaura on Monday hosted a senior management delegation from Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRa) led by Executive Director Dr. Eldah Onsomu. The engagement aims to tap into KIPPRa's expertise in public policy research, strategic analysis, and public-private collaboration. This partnership will provide valuable insights as KTDA works to align its strategy with national socio-economic priorities, strengthen its policy framework, and chart new pathways for sustainable growth anchored on the Farmer First approach.



The Ministry of Health (MoH) and Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) leadership met to review the National Equipment Support Program (NESP), focusing on ensuring continuous access to medical modern equipment at a fixed fee for service (FFS) in order to boost quality healthcare for all Kenyans. Available, functional and updated equipment in KNH and other hospitals means faster diagnosis, safer procedures and better outcomes. Government investments through NESP are ensuring Kenyans access world-class healthcare. Every new machine installed in the hospitals brings the government closer to saving more lives and Improving patient experience. Investing in equipment equals investing in Kenyans. During the meeting, the KNH team was led by CEO Dr. Richard Lesiyampe (4th left) while the Ministry's by Dr. Isaac Kimani (3rd right), who is coordinating the project.



Vihiga County has partnered with the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP 2) to embark on a five-day mapping and physical planning exercise targeting key settlements within the county. Area Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Physical Planning, Lands and Urban Development Prof. Mike Iravo yesterday received the KISIP 2 delegation and held deliberations aimed at strengthening collaboration and setting clear frameworks for the exercise. The programme, supported by the World Bank in collaboration with both the National and County Governments, seeks to enhance access to basic services and strengthen tenure security for residents of informal settlements across the country. Prof. Iravo noted that the initiative is in line with Kenya's urban development strategy and the government's Affordable Housing agenda, which prioritizes sustainable and inclusive urban growth.

Egerton University Vice Chancellor Professor Isaac Kibwage has warned young Kenyans against using social media irresponsibly as the consequences could be very harmful. Prof. Kibwage indicated that social media should be a tool for empowerment and positive change, not a platform that encourages moral decay and divisive banter on the digital spaces. The Vice Chancellor pointed out that misuse of social media, is not only a threat to individuals but to the very fabric of the nation. Delivering his orientation address to first year students at Kilimo Hall within the institution's Njoro Main Campus, Prof. Kibwage acknowledged the positive aspects of social media, further encouraging them to use it within reason, as negative exploitation of the platforms would have severe consequences, ultimately impacting their future.

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

President Ruto Praises Aga Khan Development Network For Various Initiatives

The President Awarded Aga Khan V The Chief Of The Order Of The Golden Heart

By: MKT Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Prince Aga Khan V became the 50th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims in February 2025 following the death of his father, Prince Karim Aga Khan IV.
- Through the Aga Khan Development Network, which he chairs, the Ismaili Muslim community worldwide has invested in various sectors of the economy, including media, education, health, banking, insurance, tourism, and hospitality.
- In Kenya, they run the Diamond Trust Bank, Serena Hotels, Jubilee Insurance, Nation Media Group, Aga Khan University Hospital, and Aga Khan University, among others.

President William Ruto awarded the global leader of Ismaili Muslims, His Highness Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini Aga Khan V, Kenya's highest national civilian honour, the Chief of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya (CGH).

The award is in recognition of Prince Aga Khan V's personal commitment and the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) distinguished service to the people of Kenya over the years.

Conferring the award at State House, Nairobi yesterday, President Ruto said: "This moment is both historic and symbolic."

He added: "It affirms Kenya's deep appreciation of the enduring legacy of the Ismaili Imam, whose service to humanity has long been a pillar of our national journey."

Prince Aga Khan V became the 50th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims in February 2025 following the death of his father, Prince Karim Aga Khan IV.

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"These contributions align seamlessly with our Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, which is anchored in equity, opportunity, and dignity for all Kenyans," President Ruto said.

In his acceptance speech, Prince Aga Khan V said Kenya has a special place in the hearts of his family, pointing out that some of them, including his late father and uncle, partly grew up in the country.

"Some of the earliest Aga Khan de-



President William Ruto with Aga Khan V at State House, Nairobi yesterday.

velopment projects from the time of my great grandfather were launched in this country; and many of them are still operating today," he said.

He added: "In Kenya, we have found a Government and a society that have consistently welcomed these efforts and supported them with vision and resolve."

The two leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Kenya and the Ismaili Imam for the provision of the framework for recognition of the Ismaili Imam as the legal entity representing the office of the Imam of the Shia Imami Muslims to engage with the government on international relations.

The other MoU is between the Government of Kenya and the Ismaili

Imamat on General Cooperation, which will provide the framework for bilateral cooperation in environmental conservation, urban rehabilitation and cultural heritage preservation.

Flagship initiatives expected to benefit under the cooperation include the Nairobi River Regeneration Project, National Museums Development, and City Park Rehabilitation.

"With AKDN's proven expertise in conservation, cultural heritage, and community-driven development, I am confident we can expand the scale and impact of these initiatives so that climate action delivers both ecological restoration and human dignity," he said.

During the function, Prince Aga Khan V's sister, Princess Zahra, was also awarded the Elder of the Order of

the Golden Heart (EGH) for her leadership in advancing health, education and social development in Kenya and beyond.

Present at the event were Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Minister for Foreign Affairs Musalia Mudavadi, Kenya Chief of Defence Forces General Charles Kahariri, Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja, and Attorney-General Dorcas Oduor.

Others were Cabinet Secretaries Aden Duale (Health), Julius Ogamba (Education), Hassan Joho (Mining) and John Mbadi (Treasury), Majority Leader Kimani Ichung'wa and Principal Secretaries, among others.

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Leave Mbeere North Seat To DP, Rigathi Told

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Yesterday, the part’s Management Committee met to evaluate the fielding of candidates in the November 27 by-elections where they officials resolved to support their coalition colleagues in their strongholds.
- At the same time, the meeting held at the party headquarters in Mbagathi, Nairobi, under the chairmanship of its National Deputy Vice chairman Peter Ndubai called on opposition parties support for the Mbeere North seat.
- The seat was held by Geoffrey Ruku who resigned to take up a Cabinet Secretary position. Ruku was the only MP elected under the sponsorship of DP.
- During the meeting, it emerged that other caucus parties, save for Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) which is led by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua had already resolved to support them.

Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) wants the united opposition caucus to support and allow it defend the Mbeere North parliamentary seat in the forthcoming by-elections.

The party says it is only by leaving the party to reclaim the seat that the caucus, formed a few months ago will seem to make sense.

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During the meeting, it emerged that other caucus parties, save for Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) which is led by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua had already resolved to support them.

Apart from DP which is headed by JB Muturi, the other parties that recently formed an opposition coalition are; Wiper Patriotic Front of Kalonzo Musyoka, Democratic Action Party - Kenya (DAP-K) of Eugene Wamalwa, Jubilee Party of Uhuru

Kenyatta, People’s Liberation Party of Martha Karua and DCP.

The meeting resolved to request its party leader to meet with Gschagua over the issue ahead of their National Executive Committee meeting in two weeks’ time.

Last evening, the party Secretary General Dr Jacob Haji confirmed the issues and said their party leader was expected to meet Gachagua as soon as today.

“Yes, we met and one of the key resolution was to ask DCP of Rigathi Gachagua to leave the Mbeere North seat to us. That seat is ours since it is our MP who heid it before he joined the government,” Dr Haji said when asked about yesterday’s meeting.

He added, “our opposition caucus will only make sense if they all leave us to face the UDA candidate. All parties in the caucus have declared support for us, apart from DCP where our party leader will be meeting with its leader to resolve the issue.”

He said if they don’t agree on a single candidate, the ruling party might take advantage and get the seat.

The DP spokesman said there is grave danger of losing seats to the ruling coalition if each opposition party is to front its own candidate in the by-elections.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has lined up by-elections in 24 electoral areas for Senator, Members of the Nation-



JB Muturi

al Assembly and Members of County Assemblies.

Seats that are up for grabs are; Baringo Senatorial seat, Constituencies - Banisa, Kasipul, Magarini, Malava, Mbeere North and Ugunja. Also in the list are 17 Wards across 14 counties.

The by-elections were occasioned by deaths and court rulings.

Yesterday, DP Secretary General Dr Jacob Haji said his party will be bound by the pledge of supporting each other in their strongholds and was expecting the other coalition members to do the same.



Dr Jacob Haji



Peter Ndubai

Gachagua Dismisses Being A Tribal Leader

By: Joseph Muia
@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has rubbished claims that he is a tribal leader, instead accusing President William Ruto of orchestrating a negative narrative against him after their bitter political fallout.

Speaking during an exclusive interview on Citizen TV's The Explainer Show last night, Gachagua said his former boss was keen on creating narratives to suit political convenience.

He also referred to his once close allies turned foes, alleging that Ruto's close allies have been instrumental in perpetuating the "tribalist" narrative as a way to sideline him politically.

"Narratives are created in this country and my former Boss, William Ruto, is a master of narratives; he is very good. When you are friends, he says so many nice things about you and when he and I were getting along, when I was helping him to be president, he had very kind words about Rigathi Gachagua; a great mobiliser, a people's man, a great strategist, a man who loves and cares about people's issues..." he stated.

"...But the minute we fell out, he labelled me as a tribal. It is something that he has been preaching in every meeting so that he can justify to Kenyans why, after I helped to make him President, he hounded me out of office."

Citing the 2022 General Election, Gachagua defended his track record, saying his political choices went against tribal considerations.

Gachagua who was impeached last year by the Kenya Kwanza outfit, insisted he has always been a nationalist who has never spoken ill of other communities.

"The man before you is a great nationalist, who loves Kenya, who has never uttered something negative about another community. He loves his community, yes, but that does not mean he hates other communities," he stated.

"If you want to know, I am a nationalist, against all odds, when Uhuru Kenyatta wanted me to support Raila Odinga, and he is my kinsman, had I been tribal, I would have listened to Uhuru. I went ahead to support Ruto."

Turning his guns on Ruto's Rift Valley backyard, Gachagua questioned the region's voting patterns in 2022, instead throwing the tribal card to his former boss.

"When I supported Ruto, I knew he was not a Kikuyu or Meru, but a Kalenjin, and still I together with my community supported him, in fact, we gave him 87% of our votes and the other 13%, there was another candidate (David Mwaure), a Kikuyu,



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua exclusive interview on Citizen TV's The Explainer Show

Worth Noting:

- "Narratives are created in this country and my former Boss, William Ruto, is a master of narratives; he is very good. When you are friends, he says so many nice things about you and when he and I were getting along, when I was helping him to be president, he had very kind words about Rigathi Gachagua; a great mobiliser, a people's man, a great strategist, a man who loves and cares about people's issues..." he stated.
- "...But the minute we fell out, he labelled me as a tribal. It is something that he has been preaching in every meeting so that he can justify to Kenyans why, after I helped to make him President, he hounded me out of office."

we didn't give him but we gave it to Raila, a Luo. That tells you that my people and I are not tribal," he explained.

"William Ruto and his community, how many votes did they give to Raila? None. All their votes went to their kinsman (Ruto)," he said.

At the same time, the outspoken DCP leader dared the president and his allies to produce evidence of him ever making derogatory remarks against other ethnic groups.

"I would like to challenge William Ruto and his cronies to produce a single video of me making negative remarks against another tribe," he stated.

During the debate, Gachagua discussed various ranging issues.

He said the opposition need to produce one candidate to face William Ruto adding that he will be persuading his colleagues that they publicly sign a pact with the people of Kenya, committing that each one of us will support whoever is picked and none of us will go astray.

"Whoever goes astray will be a traitor to the Kenyan cause. I believe I am the candidate," he said.

Asked whether he was not angry and only interested in revenge, he retorted, "I don't think stopping abductions is revenge; I think it is the right thing. I am not interested in revenge; I am interested in good governance. I am not a vengeful person; I have nothing against William Ruto as a person. I have a big problem with killing children, I have a big problem

with corruption", adding, "It's not about revenge. I am a courageous leader standing up for the people of Kenya. Raila was compromised, Parliament and Senate have been captured, someone has to stand up and say no."

He added, "Did you expect William Ruto to give us a hug for wanting to remove him from office? He knows one term is lethal and he is complaining about slogans. His people are trying slogans of two term. For us to stop corruption and theft of public resources, Ruto must leave office. It is not our business to make him happy, we are not in the business of making him comfortable, we should not do what he wants."

On the recently established IEBC commission, the former DP said, "I am not very happy with the way the IEBC was picked. I could see there was some consultation between Raila and Ruto, who were on the same side, and therefore, there was no concurrence with other people. I want to assure Kenyans that nobody can steal elections."

On being asked why he failed to report various allegations against the government to the relevant agencies, he said, "I cannot report William Ruto to the police, because they are under him, I cannot report the police to themselves. I cannot report Murkomen to the DCI because he is under him. I can only report them to the people of Kenya. The National Police Service is not independent; they are just pretending they are independent

and they are not. I told Douglas Kanja that he is a potential customer of ICC. William Ruto and Murkomen will use you, one of these days, he will be in ICC,"

On formation of a team to seek ways of compensating victims of protests, he noted, "It is laughable that the President, ahead of his address to the UN, is going to the United Nations General Assembly, he is trying to appease the international community because there is a lot of concern about extrajudicial killings and abductions. He is trying to hoodwink the international community by ordering Prof Makau Mutua to set up a team to compensate victims of extrajudicial killings and abductions. I think it is good to compensate people, that should be the tail end. The President should call a press conference and say that he accepts there were extrajudicial killings and abductions and he apologizes to the people of Kenya."

He termed State House as a crime scene saying, "Rigathi Gachagua: State House has become a crime scene. Corruption is being practiced in the highest office of the land in broad daylight. The DP is carrying money in sacks, bribing women and young people to say two-term and then the President is here pretending that he can fight corruption, where does he start?"

CoG Rejects Health Ministry's Stand On UHC Staff Absorption

By: Alex Njeru
@themkenyatimes

The Council of Governors (CoG) has dismissed the Ministry of Health's directive on the absorption of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) staff, saying the ministry's position contradicts earlier agreements reached between the two levels of government.

In a statement issued yesterday, CoG Health Committee Chairperson and Tharaka Nithi Governor, Muthomi Njuki, faulted the ministry for rushing the process without addressing critical issues agreed upon during consultations.

"While acknowledging the ongoing collaboration between the two levels of government in addressing the management of UHC staff, the council wishes to clarify that it does not concur with the Ministry of Health's position. The statement contradicts the previous agreement between the National and County Governments," Njuki said.

Among the concerns raised by the governors is the transfer of payroll for

UHC staff to counties before the national government allocates adequate resources in line with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) scales.

The governors argued that since the contracts of the staff are still valid, the decision to transfer them at this stage is both "premature and untimely."

The council also raised questions over the verification process of UHC staff, noting that the report from the recent verification exercise has not been validated or officially shared.

"The process of transfer that the ministry is proposing is not agreed upon," Njuki stated.

On gratuity payments, CoG emphasized that the staff engaged on contractual terms are entitled to gratuity, which should be settled by the Ministry of Health before the transition to county governments.

"The council reiterates its earlier commitment to absorb verified UHC staff and facilitate their salaries in line with the SRC salary scale once resources have been disbursed to counties and gratuity payments honored," the statement read.

The governors further recommended that the national government allocate



Governor Muthomi Njuki

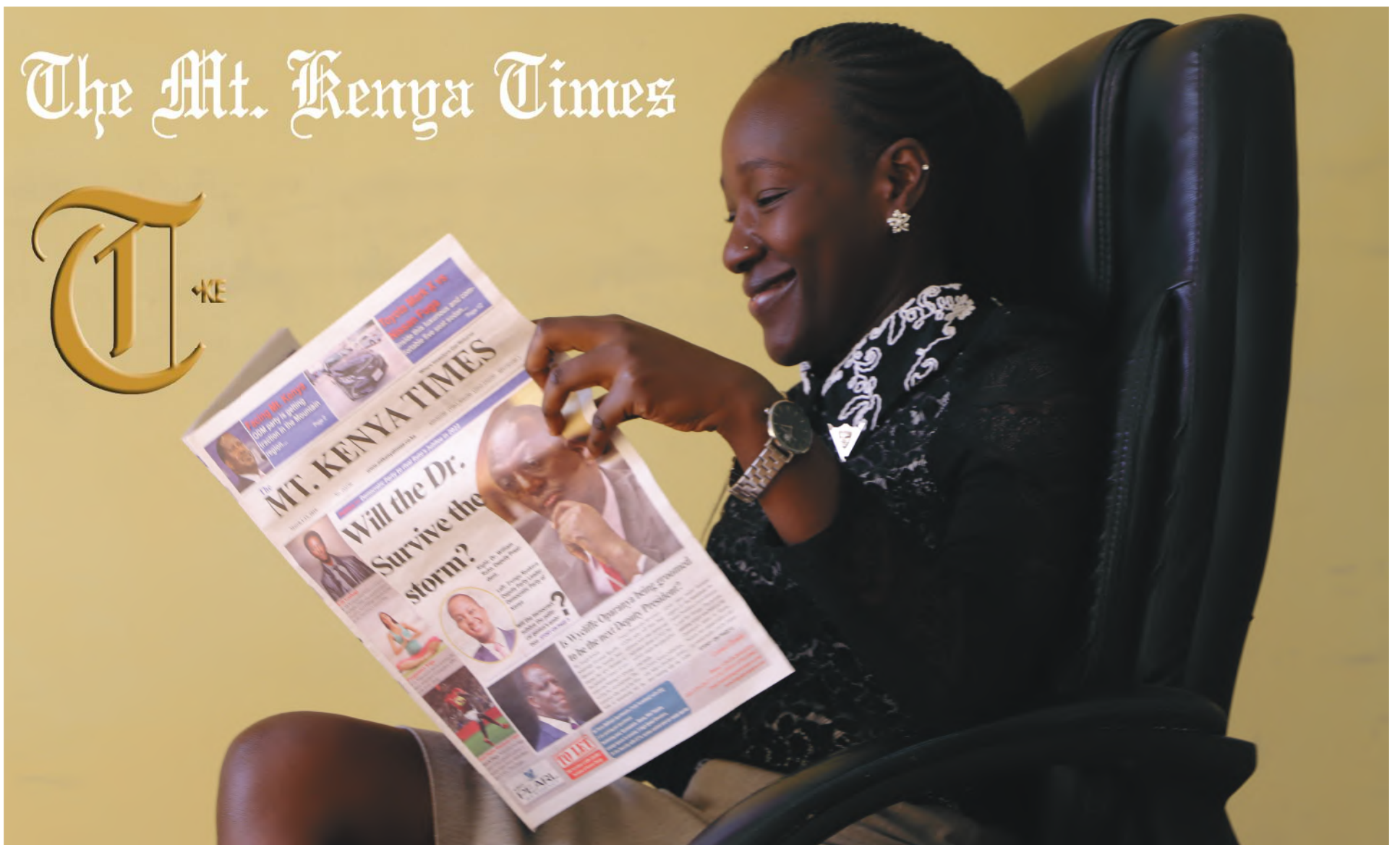
and channel the necessary resources directly to county governments to enable proper absorption of the UHC staff. Failure to do so, they warned, would render the exercise "unattainable."

Quoting the Constitution, CoG un-

derscored that relations between the two levels of government must be anchored on consultation and cooperation, not unilateral directives.

"The Council of Governors reaffirms its commitment to working collaboratively with the Ministry of Health

to resolve all matters related to UHC staff management in the spirit of partnership and in the best interest of strengthening health services across counties," Njuki concluded.



Members Of Parliament To Be Feted For Prudent Use Of NG-CDF, Empowerment Initiatives

Kiharu MP, Ndindi Nyoro Will Be Leading The Group For His Transformative ‘Masomo Bora’ Programme That Has Been Replicated By Dozens Of His Colleagues

By: John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Dozens of Members of Parliament from across the country are set to be awarded for their exemplary performance and prudent use of public funds.

Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro will lead the pack for his education support programme dubbed as ‘Masomo Bora’ that has benefitted many learners since its inception in 2023.

The programme has significantly reduced the burden on parents as learners pay as little as sh 1000 for fees per term.

Key components of the program include school fee waivers, infrastructural improvements, nutritional support, and bursaries, all aimed at ensuring that students in Kiharu receive quality education and support.

The financing for this ambitious program is drawn primarily from the National Government Development Fund (NGCDF).

The award from a research firm known as Opinion Sphere recognizes Ndindi for his contribution towards making education accessible and affordable to all learners and especially those in day schools, supporting learning as well as feeding for learners.

CEO Joe Mutheki in an interview, said that the outspoken and development-oriented lawmaker will also be recognized for enhancing school 6 modern classrooms, laboratories, libraries and sanitary facilities.

“The MP’s contribution towards education support has been immense. Needy students in both boarding and day schools as well as those in institutions of higher learning have received financial support,” he noted.

He also quipped that the lawmaker has been in the forefront in enhancing learning and teaching environment for both the learners and teachers through the school renovation programme targeting 112 primary schools in Kiharu constituency.

The “Masomo Bora” program has several overarching goals, including elevating education levels by fostering changes in attitude, character, and confidence among students.

It also highlights the importance of environmental conservation alongside motivation and aims to enhance enrolment and transition rates to secondary schools.

This program builds upon the success of its pilot phase, which benefitted approximately 13,000 students through school fees payments.

The “Masomo Bora” program has already garnered significant interest from other Members of Parliament.

The “Masomo Bora” program represents a holistic approach to education that goes beyond addressing immediate financial barriers. It underscores the importance of infrastructure, nutrition, and recognition of educational achievements.

The involvement of other MPs and benchmarking visits highlight the potential for positive collaboration and the replication of successful models in other regions.

Other programmes that have earned Ndindi recognition include Youth Empowerment through skills training in a programme dubbed Fanikisha and sports development under Talent Quest programme.

Other lawmakers are also set to be feted for prudent use of NGCDF funds in a ceremony set to take place at a Nairobi hotel on Friday.

Among the MPs set to receive the awards include : Brighton Leonard Yegon (Konoin), Andrew Adipo (Karachuonyo), Francis Kipyegon (Sotik), Geoffrey Mulanya (Nambale), Patrick Munene (Chuka Igambang’ombe), Robert Basil (Yatta), Thaddeus Nzambia (Kilome), Anthony Kibagendi (Kitutu Chache South), Joseph Lekuton (Laisamis) and Mejjadonk Benjamin Gathiru (Embakasi Central).

Other MPs are George Koimburu (Juja), Charity Kathambi (Njoro), Didmus Barasa (Kimilili), Joseph Kalasinga (Kabuchai), Bishop Titus Khamala (Lurambi), Lilian Achieng (Rangwe), Obadiah Barongo (Bomachoge Borabu), Musa Sirma (Eldama Ravine), Jackson Lentoijoni (Samburu East) Kassim Tandaza (Matuga), Julius Mawathe (Embakasi South), Joseph Kimutai (Kipkelion East), Falhada Iman Dekow (EALA) and Richard Yegon (Bomet East).

Women Representatives will also be recognized for engaging in empowerment activities through the National Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF).

Some of those involved include Zam Zam Mohammed (Mombasa), Rael Chepkemioi (West Pokot), Lydia Haika (Taita Taveta), Jematiah Sergon (Baringo), Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga), Christine Ombaka (Siaya) and Catherine Omanyo (Busia).

Senators Ali Roba (Mandera), Wahome Wamatinga (Nyeri) and Peris Tobiko (Nominated) are also set to be awarded.



Ndindi Nyoro



Senator Wahome Wamatinga



Benjamin Gathiru Mejjadonk



Catherine Omanyo



Mirira primary school in Kiharu. Landscaping and cabro works have been done through the NG-CDF.

Worth Noting:

- Key components of the program include school fee waivers, infrastructural improvements, nutritional support, and bursaries, all aimed at ensuring that students in Kiharu receive quality education and support.
- The financing for this ambitious program is drawn primarily from the National Government Development Fund (NGCDF).
- The award from a research firm known as Opinion Sphere recognizes Ndindi for his contribution towards making education accessible and affordable to all learners and especially those in day schools, supporting learning as well as feeding for learners.
- CEO Joe Mutheki in an interview, said that the outspoken and development-oriented lawmaker will also be recognized for enhancing school 6 modern classrooms, laboratories, libraries and sanitary facilities.

Kiambu Constituency Undergoes Major Transformation As MP Machua Waithaka Unveils Scorecard

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes

Kiambu Town is witnessing an unprecedented wave of development as Member of Parliament, Machua Waithaka, champions a series of projects through the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

The initiatives, which span from infrastructure upgrades to a complete overhaul of educational facilities, are part of the MP's three-year strategic plan aimed at improving the lives of his constituents.

The most visible sign of progress is the ambitious road tarmacking projects currently underway. Work is well advanced on the Kaiyaba–Muchatha Road in Kanunga, a crucial artery that is set to improve transport, stimulate economic growth, and enhance connectivity within the constituency.

In a significant move for the community, the long-awaited tarmacking of the ACK – Palmview – ACK Mungai Chengecha Ring Road has also begun.

For years, the ring road has been a source of daily struggle for residents, becoming a muddy path during the rains and a dust bowl in the dry season. The upgrade to a bituminous standard promises to bring an end to these challenges, offering a smooth, reliable link for parents, schoolchildren, traders, and farmers. "This project is more than just tarmac," a statement from the MP's office reads. "It brings faster and safer transport, easier market access for our farmers, better business opportunities, and improved property values for our village."

Alongside infrastructure, education has emerged as a cornerstone of the MP's development agenda. Several schools are undergoing extensive renovations and new constructions to create a modern, safe, and inspiring learning environment.

At Kiambu Primary School, a new block of 11 classrooms and a 22-door ablution block have been completed, a significant step in easing congestion and creating a conducive environment for academic growth. Similarly, Gichocho Primary School is receiving a complete facelift, with new floor tiles, roofing, and general upgrades to every classroom. The school previously saw the successful construction of a fully equipped Junior Secondary School (JSS) laboratory.

Ndumberi Primary School, a beneficiary of a new concrete fence, a modern gate, and a JSS laboratory, is now seeing a total transformation of its classrooms. The old roofs are being replaced, and new tiles are being laid, raising the school to modern standards.



Kiambu Town MP Machua Waithaka

Worth Noting:

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"This transformation is more than bricks, tiles, and paint," MP Waithaka stated. "It's about raising the quality of education, uplifting the morale of our learners and teachers, and creating an inspiring environment for teaching and learning."

In a recent meeting with grassroots leaders, MP Waithaka provided a detailed review of his three-year scorecard. The meeting highlighted several key achievements, including the construction of JSS laboratories, installation of cabros and tiles in schools, and the provision of free day secondary school education. The MP also stressed the importance of transparency in the issuance of bursaries and the successful installation of solar power in schools.

He reiterated his commitment to fostering national unity as the bedrock of lasting development. "Together, we remain committed to delivering development, strengthening unity, and driving progress for our people," he concluded.

The MP's office has released a series of 'before' photographs, showing the cracked walls and rusted roofs of old classrooms, a stark reminder of the challenges that are now being overcome. "Serving the great people of Kiambu Constituency has been my joy," the MP remarked. "Not just building classrooms, but rewriting the story of public education in our land. One project at a time, we are changing the face of Kiambu."



Tarmacking of Kaiyaba-Muchatha road in Kanunga location

Continental Fundraising Course Opens In Nairobi To Build Sustainable Non-Profit Financing Models

By: John Kamau
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- This training has been designed to address that gap by equipping participants with the knowledge, tools, and practical models needed to build long-term financial resilience.
- The initiative is convened by Impact Africa Consulting Limited (IACL) in collaboration with the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, Bloodlink Foundation, the Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI) at Wits Business School, and United Muslim Relief (UMR).
- Dr. Shariq Siddiqui, Director of the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative at Indiana University and Lead Trainer, remarked at the opening session, "This program is about positioning African nonprofits for the future. It combines global evidence with regional realities to help organizations move beyond short-term fundraising and design models that are data-driven, community-rooted, and sustainable."

An elite fundraising course aimed at reshaping how African nonprofits mobilize resources has officially commenced in Nairobi, bringing together participants from across the continent.

The three-day program dubbed as 'Fundraising for African Nonprofits', has attracted leaders of civil society organizations, fundraising professionals, grant makers, and policy experts to respond to a pressing challenge confronting Africa's nonprofit sector: reduced foreign aid, shifting donor priorities, and the urgent need for organizations to develop home-grown and sustainable fundraising strategies.

While the sector plays a critical role in advancing health, education, livelihoods, climate resilience, and other humanitarian and development interventions, many organizations remain highly dependent on external grants.

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His sentiments were echoed by Dr. Edward Mungai, Lead Consultant at IACL who highlighted the significance of the training. "Our goal is not only to transfer skills but also to build institutional resilience. African nonprofits must stop chasing grants and instead craft fundraising approaches that support long-term growth and impact," he said.

Across the continent, nonprofits are navigating a shifting fundraising landscape marked by declining foreign aid, heightened competition for grants, and donor expectations for measurable impact.

Traditional reliance on international partners is proving less sustainable, pushing organizations to explore alternative revenue streams, local



Participants at the elite fundraising course aimed at reshaping how African nonprofits mobilize resources in Nairobi.

philanthropy, and strategic partnerships with the private sector.

The course responds directly to these dynamics by equipping participants with frameworks to diversify funding portfolios, strengthen donor relationships, and design fundraising approaches that align with both community needs and global best practice.

Oscar Kimaro from Private Agricultural Sector Support Trust, Tanzania, emphasized the stiff competition for donor funding. "Competition for grants is incredibly high, and many strong initiatives are left unfunded. This program will show us practical ways to position our organizations for success and improve our chances of securing the resources we need to deliver lasting impact," he said.

The course is structured around interactive sessions, simulations, and case studies that mirror the realities African nonprofits face daily.

It offers a pragmatic approach that moves beyond theory by blending international best practice with local context, the program.

Participants are engaging with tools on donor mapping, leadership alignment, and resource diversification, ensuring that the lessons translate directly into institutional strategies that can withstand the volatility of the funding environment.

Joseph Wang'endo, Senior Technical Officer at Africa CDC and Founder of Bloodlink Foundation, emphasized the structural gap being addressed. "African nonprofits are often expected to deliver world-class results with limited resources. By providing practical systems and frameworks

for fundraising, this initiative gives them a fair chance to build reliable support."

The realities Wang'endo highlighted are not unique to one country. Across Africa, organizations are grappling with the dual challenge of shrinking donor budgets and rising social demands.

Local nonprofits are increasingly expected to fill service delivery gaps left by governments while also meeting rigorous reporting and compliance standards set by international funders. These pressures have instigated the urgency of equipping institutions with adaptable fundraising models that draw on both domestic and global opportunities.

Daniel Oluwasola, a participant from One Life Initiative in Nigeria, spotlighted the relevance of the program to their fundraising efforts. "This training is giving us the skills and

strategies to compete for grants more effectively and secure the resources we need to keep our programs alive and growing."

The course will conclude on Thursday, August 28, with a fundraising conference featuring panel discussions, case studies, and regional insights from leading experts led by Dr. Edward Mungai.

At the close of the program, participants will receive a Professional Development Certificate from Indiana University, 13 CFRE education points, and access to proprietary fundraising tools, donor behavior reports, and customizable templates.

By the end of the week, African nonprofits are expected to leave Nairobi better positioned to lead their own fundraising agendas and chart new pathways for sustainable growth.



The ongoing elite fundraising course aimed at reshaping how African nonprofits mobilize resources in Nairobi.

14 POEMS

Let's Be Good To People For No Reason



We all born with benevolence with brotherhood
 So give your hand of honourable humanity
 Without reasons cultivate the culture of compassions
 Germinate the great gem of generosity
 With out excuse elevate other's

enthusiasm
 Care and concern everybody with courtesy
 There is no justification to saw your sympathy
 No need any definition for dreams of delicacy

Everybody has goodness be grateful
 No limits to share your love with lavishness
 Acknowledge and accept other's with affection
 Value the behaviour of virtuousness

DHANALAKSHMI DM
 BT ASST, VKVM GGHSS VELAPADI
 VELLORE

Sorry For All The Mistakes



It hurts a like thorn inch by inch
 every place pricks like needle even in the face
 Sorry for all the mistake
 Because many times I smiled very fake

Sorry for misuse of water
 Because water occupies less than a quarter

Misuse of all resource and power
 Without switching off the fans and shower
 Sorry for not watering the plants
 When cats and dogs were in want
 Poor mobile phone I'm really very sorry
 For using you day and night without any worry
 Extremely sorry my dear little died fish
 While changing water you jumped outside dish
 How will I tell sorry to all my dear for having
 bothering a lot without fear

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

My Hero



A hero is measured by his heart
 A hero who is my advisor
 Being brave in all situations
 A hero who is my best friend
 With a little ego and fight
 A hero who is my well wisher
 Who teaches you everything
 From the scratch of your life

A hero is a person
 Who does anything for me
 Who scolds me for my mistake
 Who was with me at my loneliness
 Who doesn't hesitate to do anything

Two pillars of my life
 My two heroes of my world
 Sacrifices everything for me
 Take care of me any time

According to the world's custom
 The hero of a daughter is her father
 In my life I have two heroes
 My one and only two worlds
 My loveable parent's

Sivadurga V

The Struggle Of Independence



A few years ago,
 With a do or die motto,
 Our leaders fought for our independence,

Some with patience and some with weapons,
 For our country's freedom,
 All of them sacrificed their life,
 If not our life will be like standing on a knife,
 Without their efforts our life won't be
 awesome...

Praveen Kumar P
 Creative Writer
 Quality Supervisor
 MRF Limited, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai
 Tamil Nadu, India

Everything Comes To You At The Right Time



A seed takes time to sprout out
 An egg takes time to grow as an adult
 A duck seems to be calm on the surface of water
 But it is paddling underneath for moving better
 Be patient and calm like a duck

But never give up your hardwork
 When right opportunity meets the right time,
 You get the incredible success and fame
 The synergy happens when you are ready to grab
 So, be prepared with pre-planned slab
 Be conscious and have situational awareness
 To make use of your right time precious

S SIVASANKARI
 HEADMISTRESS,
 GOVERNMENT AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL
 (HINDU)
 NALMUKKAL, MARAKKANAM BLOCK,
 VILUPPURAM DISTRICT.

If Everything Around You Seems Dark; You May Be The Light



When the world feels cold and dark,
 Let your light show them the spark,
 Even if the night seems long,
 Your small spark can be strong,
 Shine with hope both near and far,
 Guide the lost like a sinking star,
 Darkness fades when you shine bright,
 You were born to be the light...

Maha Lakshmi V
 Creative Writer
 Graduate Teacher
 John Dewey Matriculation Higher Secondary
 School,
 Panruti, Cuddalore District
 Tamil Nadu, India

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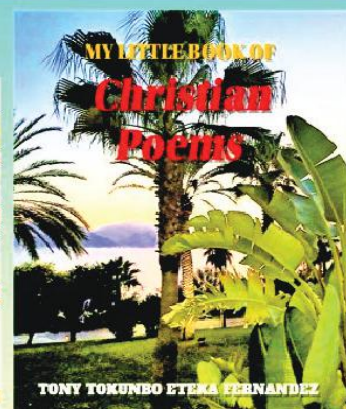
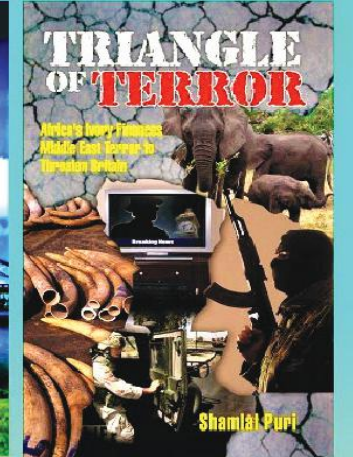
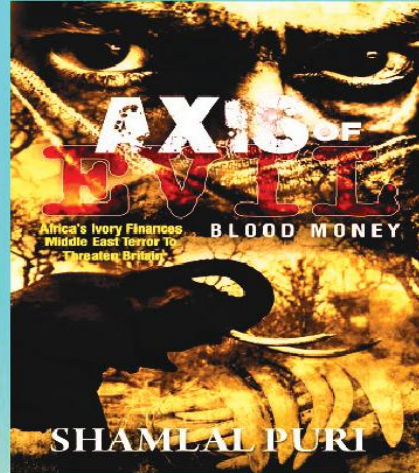
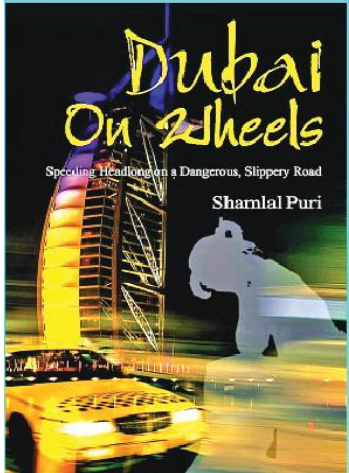
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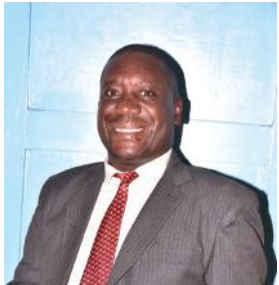
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BUSINESS

Cummins C&G Launch State Of The Art Engine Rebuild Centre



By: Raphael Ndakala Atanda
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• Speaking at the launch Gidoomal said, “In the region, the Cummins’ brand is strengthened by Cummins technical expertise and C&G’s local market knowledge and network. This has enabled us keep our mantra of making customers smile in every street, every town.”

• The workshop features a dynamometer test, a generator performance test that involves a genset being connected to a dyno load bank that simulates real working conditions and measures how the generator performs under different loads including output power, voltage and frequency stability, fuel consumption and efficiency, cooling system performance, exhaust emissions.



Ignazio Gonzalez (centre), the Executive Director of Cummins Powergen Markets EMEIA (Europe, Middle East, India and Africa), Vijay Gidoomal (left), Group CEO of Car & General Kenya Plc and Erick Sangoro (right) the Managing Director of Cummins C&G look at an engine being rebuilt during the official opening of the new Cummins Engine Rebuild Centre at the Cummins C&G premises along Lusaka Road in Industrial Area, Nairobi. The facility features dynamometer testing, engine rebuilding, and customer technical training. Cummins C&G is the Cummins dealer in East Africa.

Cummins C&G, which specialises in the sales, service and support of Cummins engines and power equipment across East Africa, has officially opened its state-of-the-art workshop in Kenya. Launched on Monday by Erick Sangoro, the Managing Director of Cummins C&G, Vijay Gidoomal, the Chief Executive Officer of Car & General (Kenya) and Ignazio Gonzalez, the Executive Director of Cummins Powergen Markets EMEIA; Europe, Middle East, India and Africa, the engine rebuild centre is located along Lusaka Road in Nairobi.

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of making customers smile in every street, every town.”

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On his part, Sangoro said, “Dyno testing verifies the rated capacity, ensures genset reliability and safety, validates designs and repairs and detects issues like over-heating, unstable voltage, poor fuel efficiency and mechanical faults early. This ensures compliance with standards, builds customer confidence and reduces risk

of field failure by catching defects before deployment.”

Apart from general generator repairs, engine rebuilds will also be undertaken here. This is the restoration of a worn-out or damaged generator engine to a close to new condition. Rebuilt engines run reliably and efficiently.

The centre will also be used as a technical training facility for customers.

At the same time, Gonzalez noted, “We are happy about the relationship between C&G and Cummins Inc that goes beyond transactions and focuses on collaboration. This has enabled us ensure that our customers remain happy.”

Car & General was appointed the Cummins distributor in 2006. In 2017, the Cummins C&G 50:50 joint

venture was formed with Cummins Inc. In 2023, C&G re-acquired the 50 per cent stake from Cummins Inc, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary once again.

Car & General is a diversified distributor of motorcycles, three wheelers, tractors, forklifts, generators, earthmovers among other equipment in East Africa.

It represents Cummins in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and Seychelles.



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AI: Experts Meet In Kenya To Promote Adoption Of AI In Africa As Journalists Are Trained On The Rise Of AI And Its Impact On Journalism

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Harun Katusya, director and chairman of the AIPAC 2025 Secretariat, said the conference will provide a platform on how Africa can leverage AI to transform agriculture, healthcare, energy, manufacturing, and the creative sectors. Katusya also revealed that participants of the forum are expected to address risks such as bias, discrimination, and transparency in AI decision-making.
- At the same time, Xinhua News Agency on Tuesday organised a seminar for Journalists, most of them editors from different Media houses for a training on Artificial Intelligence.
- The seminar, titled, "The Rise of AI and Its Impact on Journalism" took place at the Xinhua News Agency Africa Regional Bureau in Kilimani-Nairobi, and was hosted virtually from Xinhua News Agency Headquarters in Beijing, China.

Regional and global technology experts kicked off a four-day meeting in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa on Monday to discuss ways to promote the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa.

The Africa Artificial Intelligence Conference (AIPAC 2025) brought together more than 1,500 delegates of policymakers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and innovators to exchange views on ethical AI and real-world applications of the technology on the continent. Mary Kerema, secretary of ICT, e-government, and digital economy in the Ministry of Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy, said the meeting came at a time when Kenya is harnessing the power of AI to ensure it plays a key role in uplifting the lives of people in all sectors of the economy. "The country's AI strategy is anchored on the development of necessary digital infrastructure and data systems to facilitate local AI innovations," Kenema added. She urged African countries to prioritize the development of AI solutions that promote the use of local language data to ensure the production of tools that reflect the continent's unique social and cultural contexts.

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The seminar, titled, "The Rise of AI and Its Impact on Journalism" took place at the Xinhua News Agency Africa Regional Bureau in Kilimani-Nairobi, and was hosted virtually from Xinhua News Agency Headquarters in Beijing, China.

Journalists were presented with the global landscape of AI development and its revolutionary impact on the media industry;

They were taken through strategies to counter misinformation in the AI era as well ways of promoting cooperation on AI applications among Global South media organizations.

Some of the facilitators included Mr. Wang Zhonghao who is a Senior engineer of artificial intelligence al-



Journalists/Editors from different Media houses who underwent training on Artificial Intelligence at Xinhua News Agency Bureau in Nairobi. Photo/Xinhua.

gorithms at the Technology Bureau of Xinhua News Agency and an associate researcher at the National Key Laboratory of Xinhua News Agency. The other facilitator was Dr. Chen Yingying an Associate professor at

the School of Journalism and Communication of Renmin University of China and formerly chief correspondent at the Xinhua News Agency Nairobi Bureau. Others were; Mr. Li Wenfei, Mr.

Zhou Nan, Ms. Qiao Meng from Xinhua News Agency Africa Regional Bureau who were physically at the training venue.



Some of the editors during the training in Nairobi on Tuesday. Photo/Xinhua.

Kenya Forest Service Launch Tree Planting Competition

By: George Mugo
 @themkenyetimes

In an effort to boost achieving the target of 30 per cent tree cover by 2032, the Kenya Forest Service has launched an awarding strategy so as to motivate partners.

The KFS will be partnering with Blue Focus Company Limited, in the awarding strategy dubbed Africa Champion of Trees (ACT).

Chief Conservator of Forest Alex Lemarkoko said that the strategy will create a competition among stakeholders, thus planting more trees in different forests.

Lemarkoko said they were targeting government ministries and state agencies, corporate organizations, NGOs, communities, learning institutions, religious bodies and other stakeholders.

He added that these partners are those which have made tremendous contributions to realization of annual tree growing.

However, he added that, others can pop in and join the competition, since their contribution will be recognised and can even eventually win

the award. “This is about creating competition as we and other partners continue planting more trees. We are sure we shall achieve the 30 per cent tree cover by 2032, that is where we are all focused” he said.

Lemarkoko revealed that the best prize is worth KSh5 million, adding that the rest will also get prizes that will recognise their efforts and contributions.

“The event will create a spirit of forest conservation, planting and growing of trees” he said.

Speaking at KFS headquarters at Karura in Nairobi, Lemarkoko said according to the jaza miti where all planted trees are recorded, the country has been able to plant more than 800 million trees in 2 years since President William Ruto launched the project of planting 15 billion trees by 2032.

He said an independent body will oversee the selection of the best partners, so as to ensure fairness.

He was accompanied by his Deputy Beatrice Mbula and who will lead ACT, senior officials at the KFS and officials from Blue Focus Company Limited.



Chief Conservator of Forest Alex Lemarkoko and his deputy Beatrice Mbula at the KFS headquarters in Karura at Nairobi.

KDF Special Forces Kill 5 Terrorists In Boni Raid, RPG Launchers Among Weapons Seized

By: Correspondent
 @themkenyetimes

Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Special Forces have killed five al-Shabaab militants in a raid on a makeshift camp in the expansive Boni Forest, recovering a cache of weapons including RPG launchers, AK-47 rifles, and ammunition.

KDF Strategic Communications said the Special Forces undertook the intelligence-led operation in Boni’s Lacta Mangai area, where they neutralized the militants while others escaped with injuries.

“The operation also resulted in the recovery of al-Shabaab significant operational items, including AK-47 rifles, RPG launchers with warheads, rounds and ammunition, solar panels, tents, and various materials used for making improvised explosive devices (IEDs),” KDF said yesterday.

The operation is part of Operation Amani Boni (OAB), a long-running security campaign aimed at eliminating terrorist cells in the Boni enclave, which has served as a hide-out for al-Shabaab fighters targeting Kenyan security forces and civilians.

KDF reaffirmed its commitment to restoring lasting peace and stability in the region, urging citizens to remain alert and report suspicious activity.

“Operation Amani Boni (OAB) remains committed to restoring lasting peace and security in the Boni region, ensuring that families can live without fear,” the force said.

“We call on citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to support our mission. Together, we will exterminate terrorism and ensure a peaceful Boni.”



Equine Milk As A Strategic Alternative For Infant Nutrition In Africa: Nutritional Analysis, Public Health Implications, And Implementation Pathways



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Across sub-Saharan Africa, the intersection of food insecurity, poverty, and public health constraints has made infant malnutrition a chronic development barrier. In communities where exclusive breastfeeding is not always possible - due to maternal mortality, HIV, displacement, or lactation failure - commercial infant formula is often financially prohibitive and logistically inaccessible. This creates a gap where locally available animal milks enter the conversation as potential substitutes.
- Equine milk, derived from mares and donkeys, presents an intriguing candidate due to its biochemical similarity to human milk proteins and its lower allergenic potential compared to ruminant milks such as cow and goat. This article explores the nutritional viability of equine milk, its potential role in African infant feeding strategies, and the critical research and policy steps needed to ensure safety and efficacy.

Abstract

Infant malnutrition remains a persistent challenge across many African nations, exacerbated by limited access to safe, affordable infant formula and inconsistent breastfeeding practices. This article evaluates the biochemical suitability of equine milk - specifically mare and donkey milk - as an alternative feeding option for infants unable to access breast milk. It integrates nutritional science, clinical considerations, socio-economic factors, and policy pathways for implementation in African contexts. Comparative profiles with goat and human milk are presented, alongside fortification requirements, safety protocols, and cultural integration strategies. The conclusion argues for a carefully designed research and pilot framework to test fortified equine milk products under African field conditions.

Introduction

Across sub-Saharan Africa, the intersection of food insecurity, poverty, and public health constraints has made infant malnutrition a chronic development barrier. In communities where exclusive breastfeeding is not always possible - due to maternal mortality, HIV, displacement, or lactation failure - commercial infant formula is often financially prohibitive and logistically inaccessible. This creates a gap where locally available animal milks enter the conversation as potential substitutes.

Equine milk, derived from mares and donkeys, presents an intriguing candidate due to its biochemical similarity to human milk proteins and its lower allergenic potential compared to ruminant milks such as cow and goat. This article explores the nutritional viability of equine milk, its potential role in African infant feeding strategies, and the critical research and policy steps needed to ensure safety and efficacy.

Protein Composition: The Digestive Advantage

Human Milk Baseline
Human milk proteins are uniquely adapted to the infant gut. The whey-to-casein ratio of approximately 60:40 ensures easy digestion and prevents excessive renal solute load. Whey proteins - such as lactoferrin, lysozyme, and immunoglobulins - play a critical role in immune defense, gut maturation, and nutrient



absorption. Casein, while important for calcium transport, forms a tougher curd in the stomach and is harder to digest.

Equine Milk Protein Structure
Equine milk closely mimics the human whey-to-casein ratio, offering a digestibility advantage. Notably, it lacks beta-lactoglobulin, a major allergen found in cow's milk. Studies such as Salimei et al. (2004) and Vincenzetti et al. (2011) confirm that donkey milk contains high levels of lysozyme and lactoferrin, contributing to its antimicrobial and immunomodulatory properties. These features make equine milk a promising alternative for infants with cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA), especially in settings where hypoallergenic formulas are unavailable.

Goat Milk Protein Features
Goat milk, often promoted as easier to digest than cow's milk, still contains a higher proportion of casein and beta-lactoglobulin. While some infants tolerate it better, its protein structure does not match the immunological benefits of human or equine milk. Research by Park et al. (2007) highlights the limitations of goat milk in replicating the immune-supportive functions of human milk proteins.

Fat Content: Neurodevelopment and Energy

Human Milk Dynamics
Fat is the primary energy source in human milk, averaging 4-5%. It contains essential long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (LC-PUFAs), notably docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and arachidonic acid (ARA), which are critical for brain development, myelination, and visual acuity. The fat content varies within a single feeding, with hindmilk being richer in fat than foremilk.

Equine Milk
Equine milk has a significantly lower fat content (1-2%), making it less energy-dense. However, its smaller fat globules enhance digestibility. The absence of DHA and ARA is a major drawback, necessitating fortification to meet infant neurodevelopmental needs. Studies by Malacarne et al. (2002) and Martini et al. (2008) emphasize the need for lipid supplementation if equine milk is to be used as a primary infant food source.

Goat Milk
Goat milk has a higher fat content than equine milk and smaller fat globules than cow's milk, aiding digestion. However, it lacks the full

spectrum of essential fatty acids found in human milk. Fortification remains necessary to support optimal infant development.

Carbohydrates and Microbiome Health

Human Milk Carbohydrates
Human milk is rich in lactose, which fuels brain metabolism. It also contains Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs), complex carbohydrates that act as prebiotics. HMOs promote the growth of beneficial gut bacteria, inhibit pathogens, and support immune system development. Research by Bode (2012) and Donovan & Comstock (2016) underscores the irreplaceable role of HMOs in infant health.

Equine Milk
Equine milk has a high lactose content, similar to human milk, but lacks HMOs. This absence limits its ability to support gut microbiota and immune development. Synthetic prebiotics or plant-derived oligosaccharides may partially replicate HMO functions, but cost and effica-

Equine Milk As A Strategic Alternative For Infant Nutrition In Africa: Nutritional Analysis, Public Health Implications, And Implementation Pathways

Contd from page 20

cy remain concerns.

Goat Milk

Goat milk contains less lactose than human and equine milk and also lacks HMOs. While lower lactose may benefit infants with rare congenital lactase deficiency, it does not offer the microbiome support provided by human milk.

African Public Health Context

Malnutrition Burden

According to UNICEF and WHO reports, over 45 million children under five suffer from wasting globally, with sub-Saharan Africa accounting for a significant proportion. Exclusive breastfeeding rates vary widely, and formula access is limited by cost, distribution, and water safety concerns.

Livestock Availability

Donkeys and horses are common in rural African communities, particularly in East Africa (e.g., Kenya, Ethiopia) and Southern Africa (e.g., Namibia, Botswana). Their milk is underutilized despite its nutritional potential. A study by Faye et al. (2018) highlights the feasibility of integrating donkey milk into local food systems.

Emergency Feeding

In refugee camps, orphanages, and maternal health crises, a safe, locally sourced breast milk substitute could be life-saving. Equine milk's hypoallergenic profile and digestibility make it a strong candidate, especially where medical infrastructure is limited.

Socio-Economic Development Potential

Rural Equine Dairies

Small-scale equine dairies could provide income for rural households, reduce dependency on imported formula, and improve food sovereignty. Pilot programs in Mongolia and Kazakhstan have demonstrated the viability of mare milk dairies for both nutrition and economic development.

Gender Implications

Women often manage small live-

stock and dairy operations. Equine milk production could enhance female economic empowerment, especially if integrated into cooperative models.

Cultural Acceptability

Cultural perceptions of donkey and horse milk vary. Anthropological studies are needed to assess acceptability and design culturally sensitive education campaigns. In some communities, donkey milk is already used medicinally, which could support its integration into infant nutrition programs.

Research and Implementation Roadmap

Nutrient Fortification Protocols

Equine milk must be fortified with iron, vitamin D, DHA, ARA, and zinc to meet infant nutritional needs. Research should focus on cost-effective, locally sourced fortification methods. Partnerships with universities and agricultural research centers can drive innovation.

Safety and Processing

Pasteurization is essential to prevent bacterial contamination. Solar-powered pasteurization units and community-based hygiene training can ensure safety. Studies by Griep et al. (2015) show that low-tech pasteurization methods are effective and scalable.

Clinical Trials

Controlled trials in African contexts are needed to assess growth, neurodevelopment, and morbidity outcomes in infants fed fortified equine milk. Ethical approval, community engagement, and long-term follow-up are critical.

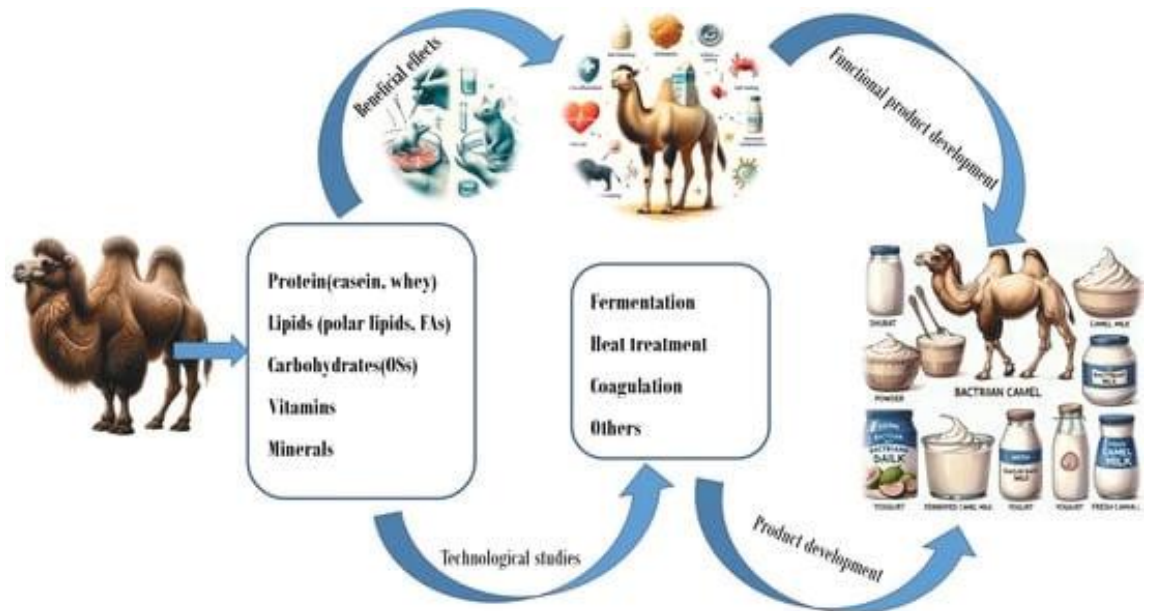
Policy Integration

If proven safe and effective, equine milk should be included in national complementary feeding guidelines. Ministries of Health and Agriculture must collaborate to develop standards, training programs, and monitoring systems.

Case Studies: Lessons from Global and African Contexts

Mongolia and Kazakhstan: Traditional Mare Milk Use

In Central Asia, mare milk (known as kumis) has been consumed for centuries, both as a nutritional beverage and a medicinal tonic. In Kazakhstan, small-scale mare milk



dairies have been formalized into cooperatives, producing pasteurized kumis for local markets. A study by Wanner et al. (2014) found that kumis contains high levels of lysozyme and lactoferrin, contributing to its antimicrobial properties.

Key Takeaways:

- Cultural acceptance is high due to historical use.
- Pasteurization and bottling infrastructure were scaled using local resources.
- Kumis is used therapeutically for gastrointestinal and immune conditions.

Relevance to Africa:

While kumis is fermented and not suitable for infants, the infrastructure and cooperative model offer a blueprint for rural equine dairies in Africa.

Italy: Donkey Milk for Infants with CMPA

In Italy, donkey milk has been used in pediatric clinics for infants with cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA). A clinical study by Monti et al. (2007) showed that fortified donkey milk supported normal growth and was well tolerated by allergic infants. The milk was pasteurized and supplemented with essential nutrients before use.

Key Takeaways:

- Donkey milk was safe and effective for CMPA-affected infants.
- Fortification with fats and micronutrients was essential.
- Clinical oversight ensured safety and efficacy.

Relevance to Africa:

This model supports the use of fortified equine milk in medical settings, especially where hypoallergenic formulas are unavailable.

Kenya: Camel Milk Cooperatives

While not equine, camel milk initiatives in Northern Kenya offer a parallel. Camel milk is collected by pastoralist women's groups, pasteurized locally, and sold to urban markets. The initiative, supported by NGOs and government agencies, has improved nutrition and livelihoods.

Key Takeaways:

- Livestock-based nutrition can be scaled sustainably.
- Women-led cooperatives enhance community ownership.
- Local processing reduces spoilage and improves safety.

Relevance to Africa:

Donkey and horse milk could follow similar cooperative models, with community-led production and distribution.

Namibia: Potential for Equine Integration

In Namibia, donkeys are widely used for transport and agriculture, especially in rural regions like Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto and Omusati. While donkey milk is not commonly consumed, its availability and the presence of veterinary infrastructure make it a viable candidate for pilot programs.

Opportunities:

- Existing livestock familiarity could ease adoption.
- School-based nutrition programs could integrate fortified donkey milk.
- Partnerships with agricultural extension services could support training and hygiene protocols.

Challenges:

- Cultural perceptions of donkey milk may require sensitization.

- Initial investment in pasteurization and fortification equipment is needed.

Conclusion

Equine milk - particularly from mares and donkeys - offers a scientifically grounded, culturally adaptable, and potentially life-saving alternative for infant nutrition in regions where breastfeeding is not possible and commercial formula is inaccessible. Its protein composition closely mirrors that of human milk, and its hypoallergenic properties make it especially valuable in vulnerable populations. However, its lower fat content, absence of key fatty acids, and lack of human milk oligosaccharides underscore the need for targeted fortification and rigorous safety protocols.

Africa stands at a unique crossroads: the continent faces high rates of infant malnutrition, yet possesses untapped livestock resources and resilient community structures. By investing in localized equine milk production - paired with ethical research, clinical trials, and community engagement - African nations can pioneer a sustainable model of infant feeding that is both scientifically sound and socially empowering.

This is not merely a nutritional intervention. It is a call to reimagine infant health through indigenous solutions, to elevate rural economies through innovation, and to place the welfare of the youngest citizens at the heart of development. With the right partnerships, policy frameworks, and visionary leadership, equine milk could become more than an alternative - it could become a cornerstone of equitable infant nutrition across the continent.

20 Palestinians, Including 5 Journalists, Killed In Israeli Attack On Hospital In S. Gaza

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes



Palestinians inspect the damage after an Israeli airstrike in the Al-Rimal area, west of Gaza City, on Aug. 8, 2025. File Photo

Worth Noting:

- The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate said in a statement that the Israeli army committed a “horrific massacre against journalists” while they were carrying out their professional duty covering the ongoing “aggression” on the Gaza Strip. The statement held the Israeli army fully responsible for the incident, calling on the International Federation of Journalists to take practical steps to halt “the systematic killing” against journalists in Gaza.

- Hamas, in a statement, considered the killing of the journalists “a war crime and a horrific massacre aimed at discouraging journalists from reporting the truth,” calling on the international community and the United Nations to take immediate and serious action. The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also called in a statement for the formation of a UN peacekeeping force to protect Palestinian civilians and ensure the sustainable delivery of aid to the Gaza Strip.

At least 20 Palestinians, including five journalists, were killed on Monday in an Israeli attack on Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip. The Israeli army said it launched “an initial inquiry” into the incident.

Gaza-based health authorities said in a press statement that Israeli warplanes targeted the fourth floor of Nasser Hospital, killing 20 and injuring several others. The authorities condemned the airstrike on the only functioning public hospital in southern Gaza, describing the attack as “a continuation of the systematic destruction” of the health system, and calling on the international community to take immediate and urgent action to protect humanitarian personnel in Gaza. Palestinian security sources reported that Israeli warplanes targeted the hospital with at least one missile, followed by a second attack as medical crews arrived to retrieve the dead and wounded. The Hamas media office announced in a statement that the attack on the hospital resulted in the deaths of five journalists who were on a “journalistic reporting mission.”

According to the statement, the

latest deaths have brought the total number of journalists killed by Israeli army fire in Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023 to 245. In addition, a Civil Defense personnel was killed, and seven others wounded while attempting to rescue the injured and retrieve the dead in the airstrike, bringing the total number of Civil Defense personnel killed by the Israeli army since the conflict began to 139, the authority said. In a statement, the Israeli military acknowledged targeting Nasser Hospital in Gaza, and expressed regret that the strike resulted in civilian casualties. “Earlier today, IDF (Israel Defense Forces) troops carried out a strike in the area of Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis,” southern Gaza, the Israeli military said, without elaborating on the reason for the attack. “The IDF regrets any harm to uninvolved individuals and does not target journalists as such,” it said.

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Türkiye also slammed the killing of the journalists. “Press freedom and human values have been targeted once again, in the shadow of genocide, amid the cries of pain from the innocent,” Burhanettin Duran, head of the country’s communications directorate, said in a post on social media platform X. “Israel, which continues its oppression without regard for any humanitarian or legal principles, believes it can prevent the truth from being reported

through systematic attacks on journalists,” Duran said. Meanwhile, airdrops of aid packages continued on Monday, Israel said, as famine claimed the lives of 11 more people, according to Gaza health authorities.

In a statement, Israel’s military said that Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, and Indonesia airdropped 116 aid packages containing food. However, aid agencies and experts say the airdrops are insufficient, unsafe, and ineffective in stopping hunger in the Palestinian enclave. They have called on Israel to allow more truck convoys and to enable the rebuilding of Gaza’s health system, which airstrikes have largely destroyed. Gaza health authorities reported that as of Monday, at least 300 people -- including 117 children -- had died of hunger in Gaza.

Meanwhile, as Israeli troops continued their onslaught throughout Gaza, at least 58 people were killed by strikes and gunfire over the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 62,744, with 158,259 others injured since Oct. 7, 2023, the authorities added.

Waiguru's Grassroots Healthcare Revolution Restores Dignity For Kirinyaga Families

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru's bold investment in grassroots healthcare is transforming the lives of thousands of families across the county.

By commissioning and equipping new dispensaries in villages, the governor has brought essential medical services within walking distance for residents who once had to travel long and costly journeys for care.

Two of the latest facilities-Kiandai in Baragwi Ward and Kiandangae in Kiine Ward- are already serving hundreds of patients every week, delivering on Waiguru's pledge to expand universal health coverage through the completion of 20 dispensaries across the county.

"Facilities like Kiandai dispensary will be reaching over 6,000 people, we know we are delivering real change. Families are saving time and finances, mothers are accessing antenatal care close to home, and children are getting immunized on time. This is the essence of universal health coverage-bringing services closer to the people so that no mother, child, or family is left behind," Governor Waiguru said.

Her words are already being felt on the ground. When Purity Wakuthii from Baragwi recently fell ill, she no longer had to dig into her pocket for bus fare to travel to Kianyaga town. Instead, she walked a few minutes from her home to the newly opened Kiandai Dispensary, where she was promptly attended to.

"It has really changed our lives. We just walk in whenever we need treatment, saving both time and money. We thank Governor Waiguru for ensuring this facility was completed and equipped," Wakuthii said.

At Kiandai, Nurse-in-Charge Beth Njeri said the dispensary targets about 2,434 residents from about 585 households, with an average of 40 patients daily seeking outpatient consultation, pharmacy, laboratory, family planning, and maternal and child healthcare. "We are now able to serve the community right here at their doorstep. This has relieved families of the financial burden of traveling long distances for care," she noted.

The story is similar at Kiandangae Dispensary in Kiine Ward, where Nurse-in-Charge Antony Muriuki said the facility attends to 50 patients daily, serving about 40 percent of the ward's 6,000 residents. With 95 percent of essential drugs in stock, the dispensary guarantees reliable treatment, saving patients



Governor Anne Waiguru inspecting drugs at Kiandangae dispensary pharmacy

an average of Ksh. 300 in transport costs.

Mr. Muriuki added that the facility has already covered 21 percent of expectant mothers seeking antenatal care and immunization for children in its catchment area, marking a major milestone in improving maternal and child health.

For locals like Regina Watiri and Rose Wairimu, the facilities have been a lifeline. "Healthcare is finally

within reach for those who need it most," said Watiri. "This dispensary has been a blessing to us. We no longer have to struggle or postpone seeking care because of distance or costs," Wairimu added.

The County Government under Waiguru's leadership has also upgraded Kerugoya Hospital to Level Five while the process of expanding Kimbimbi and Kianyaga hospitals to Level Four are at advanced stag-

es. The county has also strengthened community health units -all part of a healthcare system designed to meet residents where they are.

Today, Kiandai and Kiandangae dispensaries alone serve close to 100 patients daily, translating into thousands annually. For families in Baragwi and Kiine, Waiguru's investment is not just about new buildings, it is about dignity restored, costs reduced, and lives saved.



Beth Njeri, Nurse in charge of Kiandai Dispensary attending to Purity Wakuthi and her child at the facility.



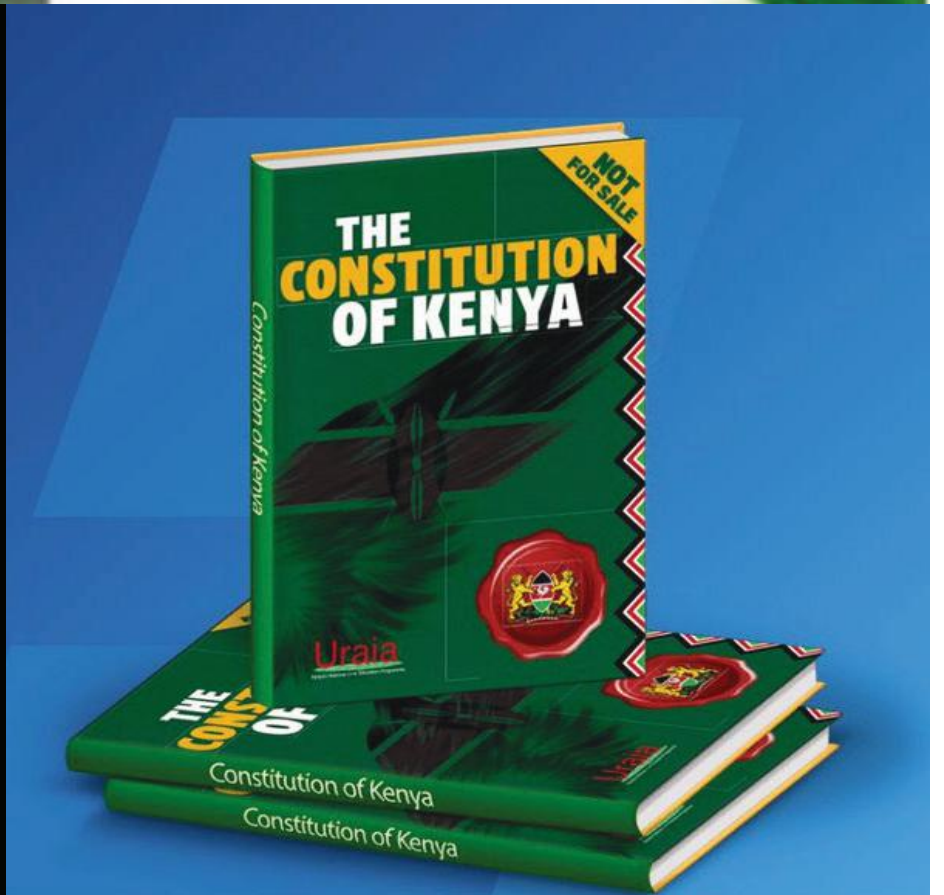
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HAPPY KATIBA DAY

27th August



African Feminist Movement Rallies Partners To Make Schools Engines Of Justice

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes



In picture, Feminist Network for Gender Transformative Education (FEMNET4GTE) Africa Regional Action Workshop, which brought together over 50 leaders, policymakers, activists, and education experts to chart bold strategies for advancing gender equality in and through education across the continent.

Worth Noting:

- Organizers say the meeting is timely, as it aligns with the African Union's 2025 Theme of the Year on reparations. By positioning education as a pathway to justice and empowerment, the gathering aims to push forward conversations on how schools and education systems can help address historic and ongoing inequalities.

- Ms. Alinafe Malonje, Community Coordinator for FEMNET-4GTE, highlighted that they are grateful to FAWE, Oxfam, Plan International, Usawa Agenda, GCE, ANCEFA, and all members of the organizing committee for their leadership and commitment to gender-transformative education, and to each of you for making the time to be here.

The Feminist Network for Gender Transformative Education (FemNet-4GTE) has convened a two-day Africa Regional Action Workshop in Nairobi, bringing together partners from across the continent to advance gender equality in education.

The workshop, which opened on 26 August 2025, has drawn participants from civil society, academic institutions, multilateral bodies, governments, and donor organizations. Young feminist leaders are also taking part, highlighting the importance of including youth voices in shaping education policy.

The organization, is an intergenerational movement of more than 210 organizations, governments, researchers, and advocates working to dismantle structural barriers in education and ensure that schools across the globe become engines of gender equality and justice. Since 2022, the network has hosted annual convenings to strengthen solidarity, share learning, and co-create strategies for transformative change.

"Education is a tool for reparative justice, and we must ensure that its content, pedagogy, and environment truly challenge gender norms and

drive transformation. This means valuing intergenerational leadership and ensuring young feminist activists are co-leaders at the decision-making table. It also requires addressing how gender intersects with disability, displacement, poverty, and crisis contexts, so that no learner is left behind. And critically, without adequate financing, gender transformative education remains a promise unfulfilled we must not only advocate for sustainable investments, but also interrogate how we use our resources in Africa, for Africa," said Ms. Lydia Madyirapanzi, Executive Director, FAWE Zimbabwe

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Usawa Agenda, GCE, ANCEFA, and all members of the organizing committee for their leadership and commitment to gender-transformative education, and to each of you for making the time to be here.

"We cannot ignore the stark realities 122 million girls are out of school, one in five faces early or forced marriage, 138 million children are in child labour, and every four minutes, a child is lost to violence. At the same time, international funding for gender equality, girls' education, and women's rights is declining, while hate and division are on the rise. Too many boys are growing up believing they are superior to girls, and tragically, many girls believe it too. But children are not born this way division is taught. And together, through education, we can unteach it and build a world grounded in equality and justice," she remarked.

The program builds on previous continental and global efforts such as the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC). Discussions are centered on how to strengthen education systems to en-

sure they are more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of girls and marginalized communities.

One of the central goals of the workshop is the development of regional and national action plans. These plans are expected to provide a roadmap for governments and partners to translate policy commitments into tangible outcomes, particularly in expanding access to quality education and dismantling barriers rooted in gender discrimination.

Participants emphasized that gender transformative education goes beyond increasing enrollment numbers. It involves rethinking curricula, teacher training, and school environments to challenge stereotypes, prevent gender-based violence, and prepare students to contribute to more just and equal societies.

The workshop continues on 27 August with a focus on commitments from governments and funders, ensuring that the recommendations discussed translate into sustained investment and accountability.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Teen golfer Shashwat Harish is targeting another appearance at the Magical Kenya Open after his debut at this year's edition at the Muthaiga Golf Club.

Teen Golfer Harish Hungry For Another Swing At Magical Kenya Open After Impressive Debut



Muthaiga Team Captain Harish Shashwat leads teammates in celebration lifting Patrons Cup. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

Teen golfer Shashwat Harish is targeting another appearance at the Magical Kenya Open after his debut at this year's edition at the Muthaiga Golf Club.

The 15-year-old says he will be using the Kenya Amateur Golf Championships (KAGC) to prepare for the prestigious competition.

"I have been injured for a bit so I am hoping to get back to play in a few KAGC events...to win and then play at the Magical Kenya Open again," Harish said.

The Muthaiga Golf Club player had a debut to remember in the Magical Kenya Open, finishing as the second-highest ranked Kenyan amateur player alongside John Lejirma.

A shot of 74 and 72 in the opening round put him on the pathway to an impressive display, which cemented his status as one of the country's brightest sparks in the sport.

His latest accolade was over the weekend when he captained the Muthaiga Golf Club to victory in the Patron's Cup Tournament, held at the same venue to honour Kenya's third president – Mwai Kibaki.

Muthaiga finished first in the Trophy category – the highest level of competition – with 129 points, ahead of Railways (73) and Nyalii (56) in second and third respectively.

Harish admitted that playing alongside more experienced

players in the team helped unload the pressure of captaining the team off his shoulders.

"The pressure was there but the skill and talent that our players possess was good enough for me not to have pressure to win the tournament. Instead, the pressure might have been there to try and lead them the best way I could and I am happy I was able to do so," he said.

Harish added: "The game plan was to start off strong and get a lead in the opening rounds to give us a buffer as much as we could to the last day. The final day was easy day for us...we put our best foot forward with the best pairing and try to get the trophy home."

It is Muthaiga's fourth straight title, having ruled the competition since its inception in 2022.

The youngster says they are keen to extend their dominance to many more years.

"I think the most important thing is to keep the skill and talent within us. It is all about the same game plan...start off strong, good pairings and go out there and enjoy ourselves," Harish said.

The three-day tournament attracted 15 clubs from across the country, competing in five categories of competition.

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Manchester United head coach Ruben Amorim is convinced his side is better off without having a European campaign to distract them this season.

No European Games A Positive For Man Utd – Amorim



Manchester United midfielder Kobbie Mainoo (right) and goalkeeper Andre Onana (left) are expected to start the EFL Cup second round tie at Grimsby

Manchester United head coach Ruben Amorim is convinced his side is better off without having a European campaign to distract them this season.

As a consequence of their 15th-placed Premier League finish and Europa League final defeat by Tottenham, United are missing out on Europe for only the second time since English clubs returned to Uefa competition after a five-year ban in 1990.

It means they must start their Carabao Cup campaign a round earlier than usual, with Wednesday's tie at League Two Grimsby their first meeting since 1948.

However, Amorim feels this is a minor issue compared to the free midweeks he will get to work with his players as the season progresses.

"We were not prepared to play in Europe and the Premier League," he said.

"We need time to develop as a team."

United's previous entry into round two of the competition was in 2014 and ended in embarrassing fashion with a 4-0 defeat at then League One MK Dons, who had an 18-year-old Dele Alli in their side.

Now, as then, the intention is to make changes to the team that started Saturday's 1-1 draw at Fulham.

"We have three games this week and we have quality players, so we need rotation to try to win every game," said Amorim.

England duo Kobbie Mainoo and Harry Maguire, plus midfielder Manuel Ugarte and striker Joshua Zirkzee are among the senior players who have been among the substitutes but had limited – or none in the case of Mainoo and Zirkzee – playing time so far this season.

Goalkeeper Andre Onana is also likely to come into contention, along with youngsters Ayden Heaven and Tyler Fredricson.

Noussair Mazraoui is yet to feature as he recovers from an injury that kept him out of pre-season and the trip to Blundell Park may come too soon for the versatile Morocco defender.

"He is near," said Amorim. "We are just finishing some drills with him to be sure he is not going to have another problem."

It is not expected striker Rasmus Hojlund will play with negotiations continuing over a loan move to Serie A title holders Napoli. Sources feel that move is likely to happen more quickly than the exits of the four remaining members of Amorim's 'bomb squad' of Antony, Jadon Sancho, Alejandro Garnacho and Tyrell Malacia.

Manchester United have collected one point from their opening

two Premier League games, after losing to Arsenal on the opening weekend of the season, and Amorim needs to take the Carabao Cup seriously given the winners qualify for Europe, which is the club's stated aim for the season.

One year free from midweek European distractions offers the chance of a reset. Any more than that would bring a massive financial headache.

"We need time to build a base and then, in the future, to move forward," said Amorim.

"We will reach a moment where we need to have Europe so everybody can play games."

AFP

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Central Asia's Water Crisis: The Aral Sea Tragedy And Future Risks



By: Nilufar Mo'ydinova
@themtkenyatimes

Abstract

This article provides an in-depth analysis of the causes, ecological, social, and economic consequences of the drying of the Aral Sea. This environmental disaster, which occurred in the second half of the 20th century, plunged not only Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan but the entire Central Asian region into a severe crisis. The sharp decline in the Aral Sea's water level was the result of mismanagement of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, cotton production policies, and the absence of water-saving technologies. This process led to changes in the regional climate, a decline in agricultural productivity, deteriorating public health, and economic collapse. The article also examines the current environmental situation in the Aral Sea region, the problems of water resource management among regional states, the potential for international cooperation, and scientific-practical proposals for solving the issue. The Aral Sea tragedy is a global warning to humanity about the necessity of rational water resource management.

Keywords: Aral Sea, water crisis, ecological disaster, Central Asia, water resources, climate change, Aral region.

Introduction

Water resources are among the most essential natural assets for human development and quality of life. In the 21st century, water scarcity has emerged as a global issue in many regions of the world. According to the United Nations, by 2050 the world population is projected to reach 9.7 billion, and global water demand will increase by 55 percent. For Central Asian countries, this

problem is particularly urgent, as the region's climate is arid and relies heavily on Trans boundary rivers for its main water supply.

The Aral Sea tragedy is one of the most striking examples of this problem. Once the world's fourth-largest inland body of water, the Aral Sea began shrinking rapidly in the 1960s. Its desiccation was caused by excessive diversion of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers for irrigation purposes. This process brought not only ecological, but also social and economic repercussions. Millions of people living in the Aral region faced deteriorating living conditions, increased incidence of diseases, and loss of jobs.

Main Part

The roots of the Aral Sea's desiccation trace back to the mid-20th century agricultural policy of the Soviet Union. In order to boost cotton exports, large-scale irrigation projects were implemented in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. The volume of water taken from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya increased drastically, resulting in a sharp reduction in the amount of water reaching the sea. This process was exacerbated by the slow pace of technological development, the lack of water-saving equipment, and errors in water planning.

The ecological consequences were catastrophic in scale. The sea's surface area shrank by 90 percent, while salinity levels rose several-fold. Salt and pesticide-laden dust from the dried seabed spread thousands of kilometers, reducing soil fertility and damaging plant and animal life. Due to wind erosion, millions of tons of salty dust are lifted into the air from the Aral region each year.

The social consequences were equally severe. In the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm region, respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, skin disorders, and cancer rates increased dramatically. Infant mortality reached the highest rates in the region. Many families were forced to migrate due to worsening health and economic conditions.

From an economic perspective, the



drying of the Aral Sea destroyed an entire industry — fishing. In the 1960s, the annual catch was 40,000 tons of fish; by the late 1980s, this figure had dropped to zero. Agricultural yields also declined as soil salinity and environmental degradation reduced land productivity.

Currently, several initiatives are underway to restore the Aral region. In northern Kazakhstan, the "Small Aral" restoration project has achieved certain results — the water level has risen slightly, and fishing has resumed. Uzbekistan is implementing large-scale ecological projects aimed at creating green areas, planting forests, and reducing wind erosion in the Aral region.

To address the problem in the future, it is essential to widely introduce water-saving technologies, establish a fair system of transboundary water resource distribution, strengthen environmental monitoring, and enhance cooperation with international organizations. Additionally, developing ecotourism in the Aral region can help expand economic opportunities.

Conclusion

The Aral Sea tragedy is one of the largest environmental disasters in human history, caused by large-scale natural and social crises stemming from the mismanagement of

water resources. This disaster not only severely damaged the ecological environment of the Aral region but also negatively impacted the health, living standards, and economic well-being of millions of people.

This tragedy strongly reminds the international community of the urgent need to manage water and environmental resources rationally and to develop sustainable development strategies. Today, with global climate change and population growth, water scarcity is becoming increasingly relevant worldwide. The situation in Central Asia vividly demonstrates this reality.

For the countries of the region, this problem is not only environmental but also a matter of political, economic, and social security. Disputes over water management complicate inter-state relations and threaten regional stability. Therefore, it is crucial to widely implement water-saving technologies, establish effective environmental monitoring, and ensure genuine cooperation among states.

Ongoing restoration projects in the Aral region must not be unilateral but should be carried out through regional and international collaboration. By developing ecotourism, the green economy, and sustainable agriculture, it is possible to bring

the regional economy to a new level.

Preserving water resources and living in harmony with nature for future generations is not only a responsibility but also a necessary condition for humanity's collective well-being. The Aral Sea tragedy sends a decisive message about the importance of protecting the environment and using resources wisely. Ignoring this lesson may lead to similar environmental catastrophes elsewhere.

Therefore, it is necessary to develop new strategies for water resource management, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development at both regional and international levels. This is not only about solving today's problems but also about laying the foundation for the future.

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