



**Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook To Sue Over Trump's Decision To Fire Her**  
 U.S. Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook will file a lawsuit to prevent President Donald Trump from firing her, her lawyer said Tuesday, arguing the president has no authority to remove Cook. "His attempt to fire her, based solely on a referral letter, lacks any factual or legal basis," the lawyer, Abbe Lowell, said in a statement. Page 18

**NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW**  
*Gala Dinner*  
 WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI  
 WHEN: 17-21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025  
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**News >> Murang'a Governor Leads Dairy Farmers In Meru County Benchmarking**

P. 8. Farmers from Murang'a County yesterday toured Meru Dairy Union for milk production Benchmarking.



**News >> The 2010 Constitution Is Transformative, CJ Koome Says**

P. 12. Chief Justice Martha Koome has reaffirmed the transformative power of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, describing it as a catalyst for good governance, social justice, human rights, equality, and accountability.

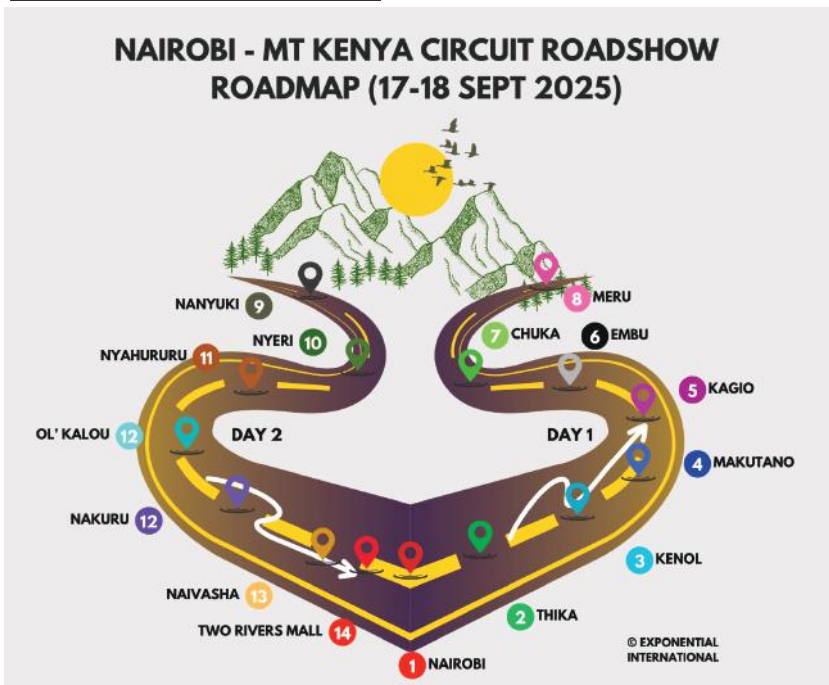
# Katiba Day: Hits And Misses Of The 2010 Constitution

Public participation remains one of the most overlooked aspects of the 2010 Constitution. Constitutional experts say Kenyans are still being left out of key legislative, policy, and decision-making processes. The standoff between counties and the national government over revenue allocation has also been flagged as a key stumbling block to fully realising the promise of devolution. Still, constitutional scholars believe the road ahead holds greater promise than the years past.



President William Ruto

STORY ON PAGE 9



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# KATIBA @ 15

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday led in inaugurating August 27 as Katiba Day; a day of solemn reflection, celebration of progress, and renewal of our steadfast commitment to the 2010 Constitution.

The president said that the day was “born of painful lessons and the struggles of generations, the Constitution stands as our solemn vow of Never Again; a covenant to build a just, inclusive, and democratic nation where dignity, unity, and equity are the guiding lights.”

He noted that for 15 years, this transformative charter has delivered devolution, safeguarded fundamental rights, advanced education, healthcare, and housing, and strengthened the institutions that protect justice and democracy.

He said, “these hard-won gains must be jealously guarded against the corrosive threats of corruption and disregard for the rule of law.”

The event took place at KICC, Nairobi and was graced by hundreds of leaders as well as citizens.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



The Director, KALRO Horticulture Research Institute (HRI), Joseph Njuguna yesterday hosted Mr. David Karanja (Grain Legume coordinator, KALRO), Beth Wanjiku (KALRO Katumani), Eliezah Kamau (bean's breeder, HRI), Antony Nyaga (KALRO Seeds) for a strategic planning session to plan on catalyzing the production of quality, tradable volumes of Nyota beans grain in conjunction with extension staff of Muranga, Kirinyaga and Nyeri counties. The discussions centered on catalysing the Bean Corridor Approach in these Counties, which aims to establish reliable areas where processors and aggregators can access, high quality tradable volumes of Nyota beans grain thereby creating a reliable value chain that boosts farmer incomes, enhances food security, and improves nutrition.



The State Department for Internal Security and National Administration, in partnership with the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC), held a sensitisation forum for 1,000 Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs from all 47 counties at the National Police Training College, Embakasi in Nairobi. The meeting highlighted the role of local administrators in addressing the Triple Threat of new HIV infections, adolescent pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). They were also sensitised on the timely reporting of SGBV cases through the NSDCC Partner Reporting System. The forum reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening grassroots leadership in protecting adolescents and young people, and advancing national health priorities.



The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) significantly contributes to sustainable water access, sanitation, and irrigation, aligning with Kenya Vision 2030 goals and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda through its provision of training, consultancy, and innovative water management solutions. Yesterday, Dr Leiro Letangule, Director/CEO of KEWI, paid a courtesy call to Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Eric Mugaa where he briefed him on KEWI's progress in fulfilling its mandate in the water, sanitation, and irrigation sectors and further updated the CS on the ongoing preparations for KEWI's graduation ceremony scheduled for November. The CS has been encouraging Water Service Providers (WSPs) to collaborate closely with KEWI to accelerate the adoption of smart meter technology and other innovative solutions in the water sector.



Bomachoge Borabu MP Obadiah Barongo, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, Kitutu Chache MP Anthony Kibagendi with Funyula counterpart Wilberforce Oundu addressing a presser at Parliament building yesterday where the Kenya Moja allied MPs demanded for resignation of Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale over SHA scandal.



Othaya town headquartered Wananchi Sacco's team yesterday toured their Murang'a town's based Unaitas Sacco for a benchmarking exercise. During the engaging session, staff from the two Deposit Taking Saccos shared their experiences in the competitive financial sector. They compared notes on the best practices and products they offer their customers.



The chairperson of the National Land Commission, Gershom Otachi has underscored the urgent need to safeguard constitutional achievements as the country marks 15 years since the promulgation of the current constitution on August 27, 2010. Speaking during a panel discussion organised by the Nation Media Group under the theme 'Guarding the Gains of the Constitution – 15 Years On', Mr Otachi who also chairs the Caucus of Chairs of Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices (CCIOs), he urged Kenyans to embrace full implementation of the Constitution, reminding the audience that it begins with "We the people." He emphasized that accountability lies with all arms of government, including the political leadership, and called for honest reflection and constructive engagement to strengthen public institutions.

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# Gachagua Implicates Ruto, Mathira Aspirant In SHA Heist

By: Charles Kinyua  
@themtkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- According to the impeached Deputy President, Affordable Housing funds are deposited in Sidian bank where Ruto is a majority shareholder after he bought shares on ascending into the highest political office in the country.
- Sidian bank is owned among other entities Bakki Holdco Ltd that was initially owned by the late business mogul Chris Kirubi and reportedly bought by the first family and has a 27.27 per cent shareholding.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has accused President William Ruto of banking housing levy funds in a small bank he co-owns.

During a Citizen TV live interview on Wednesday night, Gachagua said that the Head of State has breached Central Bank of Kenya rules that state that government funds should only be deposited in tier one banks but the president chose a tier three one for the funds.

According to the impeached Deputy President, Affordable Housing funds are deposited in Sidian bank where Ruto is a majority shareholder after he bought shares on ascending into the highest political office in the country.

Sidian bank is owned among other entities Bakki Holdco Ltd that was initially owned by the late business mogul Chris Kirubi and reportedly bought by the first family and has a 27.27 per cent shareholding.

The other entity that has sizeable ownership of the bank is Wizpro enterprises Ltd with 24.95 per cent shareholding. The company is solely owned by Solomon Muriithi Maina who has declared his aspiration in representing Mathira constituency in the 14th Parliament and has been crosscrossing the constituency with mouthwatering acts of philanthropy leaving residents mouths agape as to the source of the monies.

Residents have aired concerns over his political leanings as he has never mentioned the name of Gachagua though their homes are barely two kilometres apart.

Other shareholders of Sidian bank include Afram Ltd, Pioneer General Assurance and Telesc Africa Ltd reportedly owned by Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro who also happens to be Solomon's buddy and who officiated the official house opening of the latter's home some years back.

Maina, popularly known locally as

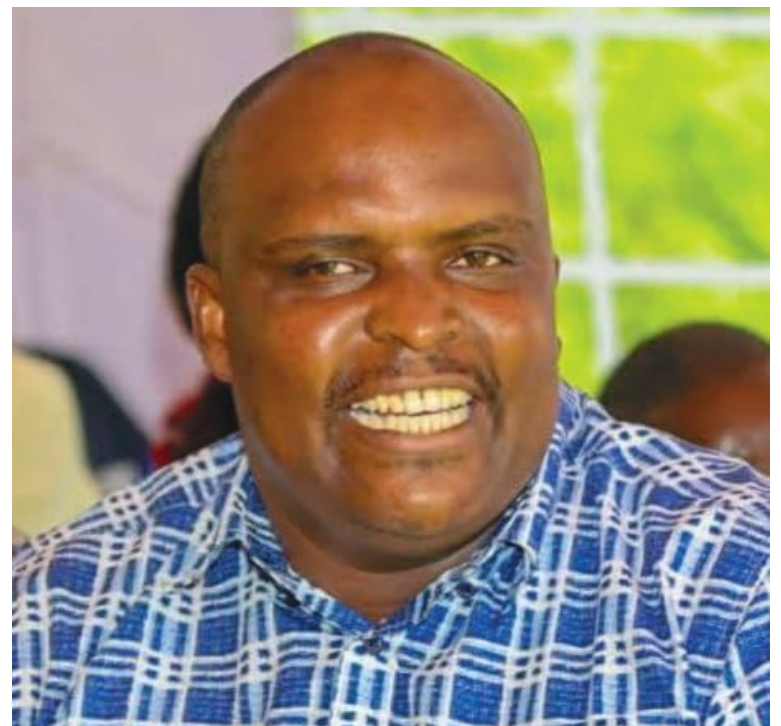


Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Citizen TV's Yvonne Okwara on Tuesday night at his Karen home.

Solo is also the chairman of Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) Management Services which was handed to him after the Ruto regime got into office.

Curiously, Solo has maintained his seat even as all appointed government officials associated with Gachagua are shown the door even in low regional entities such as Tana Water Works Development Agency where the chairman Wanyaga Gathaka and a director Wanjira Wamabati were ejected after the former DP's ouster.

In the political hot-spot constituency, Solo faces the incumbent Eric Wamumbi who is also Ruto's close ally, coffee marketer Peter Githinji "Tropical", two runners-up in the last general elections Daniel Kiige and Waruru Gikandi as well as Kirimukuyu MCA Anthony Ndagita and Wamabati who is also a former Magutu ward MCA.



Solomon Muriithi Maina alias Solo. Photos/Courtesy.

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# Murang'a Governor Leads Dairy Farmers In Meru County Benchmarking

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

Farmers from Murang'a County yesterday toured Meru Dairy Union for milk production Benchmarking. Murang'a governor Irungu Kang'ata led the farmers where they were received by Meru Dairy Union CEO Kennedy Gitonga.

"I have taken the delegation to milk cooling centers milk packaging and all the other units around the dairy union," said the CEO after the exercise.

He noted that problems that dairy farmers face are similar in both counties.

Kang'ata observed that they visited Meru Dairy as it is the highest paying farmers at KSh50 per litre, adding that they would emulate Meru Dairy which is one of the leading processors of milk in the region.

"We have seen that partnership is good and we have learnt and will continue to learn more from each other as unity is good," Kang'ata.

Meru Dairy chairman Simon Kiruja said they were happy to receive the delegation and they would continue with the partnership for the benefit of concerned farmers as he disclosed that they produces about 600,000 litres of milk per day.

Murang'a Ceremaries Cooperative chairman Edmond Muiruri Ngaruiya thanked the governor for organising the trip for them to learn and noted that the learning will make them know how to cut cost and make their production more effective and profitable.

The Ceremaries General Manager Daniel Gitau Kamau comended the benchmarking programme saying it would help them increase milk production from the current rate of about 50,000 litres a day.

After visiting the dairy unit, Kang'ata paid a courtesy call to his Meru counterpart, Isaac Mutuma where they held a meeting, exchanging insights on building strong partnerships, promoting efficiency, and treating dairy as a viable business rather than a social service.

Mutuma said the Meru Dairy model has succeeded through consistent farmer payments, modern infrastructure, insurance coverage for farmers, and value addition.

Mutuma said the Meru Dairy was working on significantly raising productivity from the current average of 5 litres to at least 20 litres per cow per day, expand product lines to include butter, cheese, and sweets, and explore export markets across West and Central Africa.

Plans are also underway to build a feed mill, adopt renewable energy solutions, and improve access to



Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata speaks to press at Meru Dairy Cooperative Union yesterday. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.



Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata is shown around the Meru Dairy Union Cooperative Union that produces Mount Kenya Milk as Meru Dairy Union CEO Kennedy Gitonga (with spectacles) looks on. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.



Murang'a Governor Irungu Kang'ata with his Meru counterpart Isaac Mutuma.

quality semen.

"Together, cooperative unions under visionary leadership can outpace even private players in transforming

the milk industry and driving rural development," he said.

On his part, Kang'ata noted that his team had learnt a lot which he noted

would be cascaded to farmers across the county.

**Worth Noting:**

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# Katiba Day: Hits And Misses Of The 2010 Constitution 15 Years Later

By: Melita Ole Tenges  
@themkenyatimes



Group photo of leaders at Katiba @ 15 celebrations

## Worth Noting:

- The standoff between counties and the national government over revenue allocation has also been flagged as a key stumbling block to fully realising the promise of devolution. Still, constitutional scholars believe the road ahead holds greater promise than the years past.
- Born on August 27, 2010, the Constitution was a beacon of hope, pages inked with the dreams of a nation breaking free from its dark past, a new dawn, a living promise that power would now flow from the people, not just to a privileged few.
- The live document bearing rights never seen before, drew borders around authority, and whispered to the forgotten: you belong.

Public participation remains one of the most overlooked aspects of the 2010 Constitution.

Constitutional experts say Kenyans are still being left out of key legislative, policy, and decision-making processes.

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Born on August 27, 2010, the Constitution was a beacon of hope, pages inked with the dreams of a nation breaking free from its dark past, a new dawn, a living promise that power would now flow from the people, not just to a privileged few.

The live document bearing rights never seen before, drew borders around authority, and whispered to the forgotten: you belong.

For 15 years, it has stood as both shield and mirror, sometimes honoured, sometimes ignored.

It laid the foundation for devolution, decentralising power from Nairobi to 47 counties, and in doing so, planted seeds of transformation.

“People had to travel long distances to get many documents... some had to come to Nairobi. Now they do not have to. Devolution has also brought in schools, different levels of hospitals... lots of women had to die,” said Dr. Koki Muli, a Constitutional Expert.

The Constitution birthed independent institutions to guard the rule of law: a restructured judiciary, the Supreme Court, watchdog bodies like the EACC and IPOA, and a reformed IEBC.

“We had this problem of decentralisation of power, what was called an imperial presidency, and as a result, the framers of the Constitution decided to have these independent bodies to check the Executive,” lawyer Prof. Kivutha Kibwana stated.

Dr. Koki Muli added, “Thanks to the judiciary, BBI did not succeed. And all other attempts like Punguzo Mzigo, even the latest one—the NADCO report—all these attempts to overhaul the Constitution for expediency or political gain have failed. We have a judiciary that has stuck to the oath of office they took. Unfortunately, you cannot say the same about the other arms of government.”

Yet, major challenges persist, especially in actualising meaningful public participation, one of the Constitution’s core principles.

“Public participation is not an ornament. It is a value addition and a value proposition for the people of Kenya. And it is not about ticking boxes. You don’t just go and say, ‘We have submitted this to public participation, it’s done,’” argued Dr Muli.

Experts also see the fight against corruption as just talk, since the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission cannot take cases to court.

“There are actually problems in terms of the political will to fight corruption. I think wealth declaration should be made public, because you see people going to interviews and they say what their wealth is. There should even be lifestyle audits, and we should also have open procurement, because that is where corruption hides and resides,” said Prof Kibwana.

Another persistent challenge lies in the division of revenue between national and county governments.

“It is like the governors have to beg the national government for their share of revenue. Once the budget

is passed and it’s appropriated, then what becomes the problem? This, to me, is an issue of prioritising expenditure and trying to use national resources for political mileage,” Dr Koki noted.

The right to protest, enshrined in the Constitution, has also seen major setbacks in recent years.

Dr. Koki Muli argued: “We were all in tears watching what we thought would be the one livelihood that would safeguard Kenyans being thrown on the side, having visions that we saw in the 90s and 80s in 2023, 2024, 2025. A lot of people like me are feeling paralysed by the violations of this Constitution and getting that sense of ‘mtadu?’”

Vice Chairperson, Council of Governors, Mutahi Kahiga, on his part, said: “We are still struggling with devolved functions that are stuck at the national government. We are still involved with the national government trying to bulldoze into county governments’ territory.”

# Devolution Must Be Respected If Constitution 2010 Is To Live Its Promise



By: Alex Njeru  
@themkenyatimes

ical because constitutions are not just legal documents, they are social contracts that bind leaders and citizens in the shared pursuit of a better future.

However, while we appreciate the President's symbolic gesture, the deeper question remains: have we truly implemented the 2010 Constitution as envisioned? The honest answer is not fully. One of the most transformative provisions of the Constitution was the establishment of devolved governments.

Devolution was designed to take services, resources and decision-making closer to the people, especially those in rural and marginalized areas who were historically left behind by a centralized state.

Fifteen years later, counties have indeed brought development closer to the grassroots. But devolution has not flourished as envisaged.

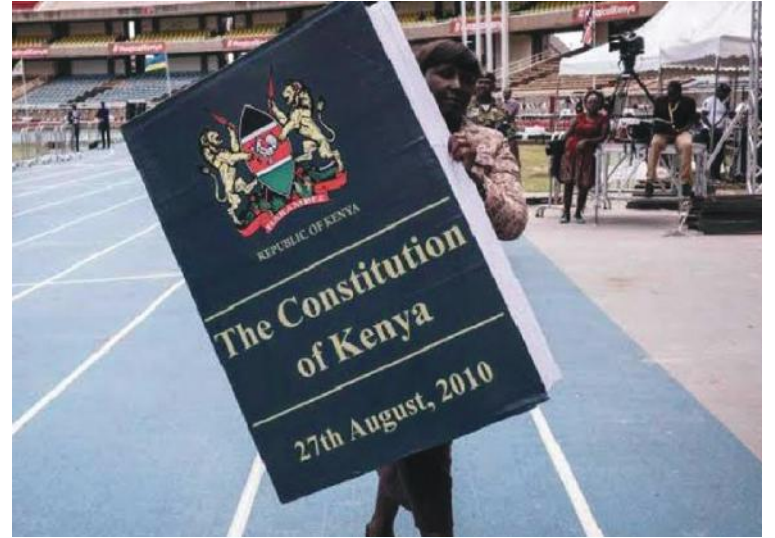
The greatest impediment has been underfunding. Counties receive only about 15 percent of sharable revenue, while the national government retains a staggering 85 percent despite criti-

cal functions like health, agriculture and early childhood education are devolved.

Worse still, the national government has often held back funds meant for counties, undermining their autonomy. This runs against the spirit of the Constitution, which clearly envisions counties as self-governing units, not mere appendages of the national government.

Ironically, while top officials in the national government are quick to accuse counties of corruption and mismanagement, some of the largest financial scandals in Kenya are unearthed at the national level. This double standard only weakens devolution further, casting unfair blame on counties while shielding the centre.

As Raila Odinga rightly stated during the Katiba at 15 commemoration at KICC, full implementation of the Constitution is long overdue. His reminder that the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) is unconstitutional deserves attention. No one should fear



“offending” politicians when defending the Constitution.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 was meant to reimagine governance, bring power closer to the people, and correct decades of centralization. To honour it, we must stop paying lip service to devolution and instead fund it adequately, protect it from interference, and allow it to deliver on its promise. President Ruto's commemoration of

this historic document is a welcome step. But beyond symbolism, what Kenyans want to see is the political courage to implement the Constitution fully and fairly. Only then will the 2010 Constitution truly live as the transformative charter it was meant to be.

*The writer is a journalist*

As Kenya marks 15 years since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, debate continues over whether the country is on the right track in living up to its promise of democracy, equity and justice.

First, it is commendable that President Dr. William Ruto honoured this landmark law by leading the commemoration event.

His gesture affirms the centrality of the Constitution in shaping our national destiny. This recognition is crit-



# Kenya Reaffirms Its Commitment To Responsible Use Of AI In Defence Sector

By: Wendy Sheilla and Naif Rashid  
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the defence and security sectors, stressing that the fast-evolving technology must be harnessed to advance peace, stability, and the protection of human dignity.

Speaking during the Africa Regional Consultation on Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAIM) in Nairobi, Defence Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya insisted that Africa must play a proactive role in shaping global frameworks on military AI, noting that the workshop hosted in Nairobi was a milestone for the continent.

“Kenya is particularly proud to co-host this consultation for the second year in a row, having already launched the AI Strategy 2030, which lays the foundation for a comprehensive national AI policy,” expressed Tuya, adding that the strategy provides a roadmap for integrating AI into national development while safeguarding against misuse in sensitive areas such as defence.

The CS noted that Kenya’s participation in the development of the United Nations resolution on responsible military AI underscored the country’s dedication to multilateral cooperation.

Further, she mentioned that the collaboration between Africa and international partners demonstrates the importance of shared responsibility in ensuring emerging technologies, strengthening peace and security.

Concurrently, National Defence University-Kenya Deputy Vice Chancellor, Centre for Security and Strategic Studies, Maj. Gen. Joyce Sitienei, stated that Africa must be an ‘active architect’ in developing ethical frameworks for military AI.

She applauded the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, and Spain for their continued collaboration as co-hosts of the consultations and congratulated Spain for assuming the role of hosting this year’s global REAIM Summit.

Sitienei also recognized the technical support provided by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and commended Kenya Defence Forces officers for their role in organizing the forum.

Additionally, she called for greater involvement of civil society, academia, and youth in AI governance, warning that Africa cannot afford to sideline its innovators in such a transformative field.

“We must bring different stakeholders on board, with young people at the center of this discussion, because they are innovative and at the heart of the AI revolution,” urged Sitienei.

Making his remarks, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kenya, Kang Hyung-shik, observed that the consultation was a platform for strengthening international cooperation in tackling emerging global challenges.

He congratulated participants on the opening of the UN General Consultations and praised Kenya’s leadership in



Defence CS Soipan Tuya.

## Worth Noting:

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convening the forum.

“AI is advancing at an unprecedented pace, bringing both opportunities and challenges that demand collective responsibility and principled approaches,” he noted.

Further, Hyung-shik underscored the need for multi-stakeholder dialogue while reaffirming Korea’s commitment to deepening bilateral ties with Kenya, particularly in defence cooperation.

Similarly, Hyung-shik revealed that Kenya and Korea have enjoyed a flourishing relationship since establishing diplomatic ties in 1964, anchored on shared democratic values and cooperation in multilateral platforms.

In his remarks, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Kenya, Henk Jan Bakker, highlighted the importance of dialogue and accountability in AI governance.

He described AI as a transformative tool in defence, supporting decision-making, logistics, and situational awareness, but warned that it also carries serious risks such as loss of human control over weapons systems, spread of disinformation, and erosion of trust.

“Innovation must be matched with accountability to ensure AI contributes positively to global peace and security,” advised Bakker.

He recalled that the Netherlands co-launched the first REAIM Summit in 2023 with Korea and the second in Seoul in 2024, stressing that challenges posed by AI are global and require inclusive cooperation.

Also speaking at the event was Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Spain in Nairobi, Miguel Solar Gomis, who reaffirmed his country’s commitment to advancing responsible use of AI in the military domain.

He thanked the governments of Kenya, the Netherlands, and Korea for their collaboration and commended UNDP for its technical support.

In addition, Gomis announced that Spain will host the third REAIM Summit on Responsible AI in the Military Domain later this year, organized by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy.

The event, according to Spain’s Deputy Head of Mission, will provide a platform for governments, academia, think tanks, and civil society to exchange views and translate principles into concrete actions.

“Spain is committed to a human-centered approach in AI, ensuring human responsibility and control, especially in critical decisions such as the use of

force,” explained Gomis.

He highlighted that the summit will focus on governance, technological aspects, and military applications of AI, with the aim of turning agreed principles into practice.

Notably, the Nairobi consultation underscored the need for AI development in defence to remain aligned with international law and ethical values.

Participants urged African nations to build capacity, strengthen regional cooperation, and engage diverse voices to ensure the continent plays a central role in shaping the rules governing military AI.

Meanwhile, Kenya has positioned itself as a regional leader in digital transformation, with its AI Strategy 2030 complementing wider government initiatives to harness technology for economic growth and national security.

Meanwhile, with international partners pledging continued support, the Nairobi forum was viewed as an important step towards building trust, transparency, and collective responsibility in managing AI for peace and security.

# The 2010 Constitution Is Transformative, CJ Koome Says

By: Michael Omondi

[@themkenyatimes](#)

## Worth Noting:

- During her keynote address at the event themed “Fifteen Years Later: The Constitution and Us,” the CJ highlighted the Judiciary’s progress since the Constitution’s promulgation, tracing the institutional reform journey through three major frameworks: the Judiciary Transformation Framework (JTF) under CJ Mutunga, Sustaining Judiciary Transformation (SJT) under CJ Maraga, and the ongoing Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) strategy, which will guide reforms through to 2033.

- “The greatest outcome of these reforms has been the strengthening of judicial independence. Kenyan courts have demonstrated courage in asserting themselves as defenders of constitutionalism, earning respect across Africa and beyond,” affirmed Koome.



Chief Justice Martha Koome

Chief Justice Martha Koome has reaffirmed the transformative power of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, describing it as a catalyst for good governance, social justice, human rights, equality, and accountability.

Speaking at the 15th Anniversary celebration of the Constitution, commemorated during a Katiba Day event convened by the Nation Media Group, Koome noted that the 2010 Constitution marked a turning point for the Judiciary by entrenching judicial independence, redefining accountability, and placing access to justice at the core of Kenya’s justice system.

“Fifteen years later, we can look back with pride at the distance we have travelled, while reflecting on the persistent challenges that continue to hinder the full blooming of the Constitution’s promise of social transformation,” contemplated the CJ, reiterating that the Judiciary has undergone profound reform, developed transformative jurisprudence, and expanded access to justice for all.

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journey through three major frameworks: the Judiciary Transformation Framework (JTF) under CJ Mutunga, Sustaining Judiciary Transformation (SJT) under CJ Maraga, and the ongoing Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) strategy, which will guide reforms through to 2033.

“The greatest outcome of these reforms has been the strengthening of judicial independence. Kenyan courts have demonstrated courage in asserting themselves as defenders of constitutionalism, earning respect across Africa and beyond,” affirmed Koome.

Equally, she cited the Supreme Court’s ruling in the BBI case, which upheld the sovereignty of the people; the Mitu-Bell and Musembi decisions on housing rights; the 2023 ruling upholding freedom of association for LGBTQ+ persons; and the Muruatetu decision, which declared the mandatory death penalty unconstitutional, marking a major milestone in criminal justice reform, as some of the landmark achievements in jurisprudence.

Additionally, the CJ emphasized the judiciary’s transformation, which she noted extended beyond jurisprudence, pointing out that court infra-

structure has expanded significantly, with High Court stations and registries now established in all 47 counties, ensuring wider access to justice.

Digitisation, she noted, has been among the most transformative reforms. The e-filing system launched in Nairobi in 2020—and extended nationwide in 2024—has replaced paper-based processes, allowing litigants to file cases, pay fees, and attend hearings online.

Koome added that real-time dashboards and online cause lists have enhanced transparency and accountability, while virtual hearings and AI-powered transcription tools have helped reduce delays and improve efficiency.

“Litigants can now access justice online, pay fees electronically, and even attend hearings virtually. These digital innovations have expanded access to justice and transformed the delivery of judicial services,” she elaborated.

Despite these strides, the CJ acknowledged ongoing challenges, including chronic underfunding, case backlogs, and emerging threats to judicial independence, such as cyberbullying and coordinated misinformation campaigns targeting judges.

“Criticism of court decisions must

follow lawful channels, not digital harassment,” she cautioned.

Further, Koome reaffirmed the Judiciary’s commitment to internal accountability mechanisms, revealing that the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has handled 946 judicial complaints since 2010.

Calling for increased budgetary support, the CJ decried the Judiciary’s current allocation of less than 1 percent of the national budget, despite its crucial role on par with sectors such as health and education.

She reassured Kenyans of the Judiciary’s unwavering commitment to upholding the Constitution, stating, “We will continue to administer justice without fear or favour, check abuses of power, and defend the rights of all Kenyans.”

The Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, Winfridah Mokaya, maintained that it has been the Judiciary’s role to fiercely and constantly patrol the boundaries of the Constitution, ensuring that no person or institution operates beyond these boundaries, and—ultimately—helping with the realization of the dreams and aspirations of the Kenyan people, as encapsulated in the Constitution.

# Kenya, Germany Launch Implementation Of Migration and Mobility Agreement

By: Hassan Adan Ali  
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenya and Germany have taken a decisive step in strengthening bilateral cooperation with the launch of the Joint Implementation Committee on the Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement.

A meeting held in Nairobi marked the beginning of coordinated efforts to operationalize the accord, which seeks to expand legal migration channels, support skills development, and enhance economic opportunities for Kenyan citizens.

The Kenyan delegation was led by the Diaspora Affairs PS, Roseline Njogu, and her Labour and Skills counterpart, Shadrack Mwadime.

The German delegation was headed by Ambassador Sebastian Groth and Dr. Joachim Stamp, Germany's Special Commissioner for Migration Agreements.

Both parties underlined the spirit of

mutual trust and constructive engagement that continues to shape Kenya-Germany relations in the field of migration policy.

The discussions emphasized the creation of structured pathways for employment, training, and education.

Central to this agenda is the promotion of language acquisition and vocational training, enabling Kenyan professionals to qualify under Germany's Skilled Immigration Act.

These initiatives are expected to provide Germany with a reliable source of skilled labor while simultaneously alleviating unemployment pressures in Kenya.

A key outcome of the session was the confirmation of the second Kenya-German Job Fair, scheduled for Nairobi in October 2025.

The fair will serve as a platform for direct engagement between Kenyan job seekers and German enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized companies, thereby expanding access to regulated and transparent employment opportunities.

Beyond immediate labor placements, the agreement is designed to promote institutional and private sector collaboration.

By facilitating partnerships between German businesses and Kenyan employees, the framework aims to strengthen skills transfer, encourage technology adoption, and foster sustainable industrial linkages that can benefit both economies.

In her remarks, Njogu emphasized that the initiative reflects a broader diplomatic and developmental vision: "This partnership is about building bridges of opportunity for our youth, strengthening people-to-people ties, and ensuring that mobility contributes to sustainable development on both sides."

For Kenya, the anticipated benefits are significant. The agreement is expected to increase remittance inflows, create opportunities for skills re-transfer when professionals return, and reinforce Kenya's diaspora engagement strategy, which recognizes the diaspora as an essential driver of national



Diaspora Affairs PS, Roseline Njogu

development.

Both delegations reiterated their commitment to ensuring that cooperation is conducted with transparency, fairness, and mutual respect.

Technical consultations will continue in the coming months, with the next meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee scheduled to be held in Germany in 2026.

By advancing this partnership, Kenya and Germany provide a practical model of how migration diplomacy can be managed as a constructive instrument for shared growth and strengthened bilateral relations.

# Kanu Official Warns Mountain Region On Gachagua

By: George Mugo  
 @themtkenyatimes

A Kiambu politician has asked Mt Kenya residents not to follow former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua blindly.

Former ruling party, Kanu Kiambu County Secretary John Karanja Sakina, says that Gachagua's political style appears as if he was brokering the region politically.

Sakina said that the former DP cannot control who will be elected and who will not, adding that locals were enlightened with the current politics.

"Mt Kenya region and more so the Kikuyu community living in this region are not on sale, we are not in action. We are enlightened, informed and can make our own decisions," said Sakina who is the former ruling party's Limuru chairman.

He was reacting to Gachagua and his supporters claim that they will

lead the region to make decisions in the forthcoming general elections.

Speaking before he returned from the United States, Gachagua said that the region was lied by President William Ruto and he will lead it to ensure he is a one term president.

However, Sakina said that Gachagua has been criticising president Ruto and his administration because he was removed from office.

Speaking in Limuru town yesterday, Sakina who is also the Central region Kanu communication liaison officer urged locals to support Ruto until his term is over.

Sakina noted that, the too much politics obstructs people from following and knowing what the government of the day had done.

Another politician Simon Gicheha says that Gachagua's DCP party candidates will not get automatic support since locals will crosscheck on what one can deliver.

"We have been frustrated by leaders for many years. This time round,

candidates should not think that they will go through that easily," Gicheha said.

Sakina who also holds the Development committee chairman for PCEA Joshua Matenjwa has asked Ruto to issue a Head of State commendation to his committee members owing their exemplary work.

He said when Ruto attended their church on July 19, he said he was overwhelmed by the beautiful and comfort of that church.

He was supported by Lucy Wanjia who said he has never heard the president describing beauty of a church, saying they need to be recognized.



John Karanja Sakina

## One Aim, One Mind, Endless Possibilities



When sunlight gathers through a tiny glass,  
a dry leaf smokes, a paper starts to burn.  
The power lies not in the sun alone,  
but in the focus held by steady hands.

The bowler bends his mind upon the stumps,  
he shuts the crowd, the noise, the running feet.  
The ball flies straight, the timber breaks in two,  
and in that moment, history is made.

A student shuts the door to all the world,

his books become the center of his day.  
The marks he earns will lift him step by step,  
until he holds the seat of rule one day.

A surgeon bends above the beating heart,  
his eyes are sharp, his fingers firm and sure.  
One careful move, the patient breathes again,  
success is born from silence and from skill.

The artist stares upon a block of stone,  
he sees a statue hiding deep inside.  
Each strike is placed with care, with patient  
thought,  
and soon the stone becomes a living soul.

V Durgadevi  
BT Assistant  
GHS Nosal  
Tiruvannamalai Dt

## Wisdom In Quietude



Controlling emotions in every situation,  
is a necessity that brings peace and relaxation.  
In a predicament, silence is the best reply,  
instead of letting fury flare and rise too high.

Silence is never a symbol of weakness,  
it shines instead as a mark of intelligence.  
It does not prove that one is a wallflower,  
but shows the wit to handle the hour.

In moments of quagmire, calm is the key,  
better to stay serene than set anger free.

Sometimes, quietness speaks more than enough,  
while countless words only make life rough.

The wisdom to face trials with gentle ease,  
is an attitude that needs steady practice, please.  
For many mayhems that burden this world,  
begin with the reckless words the tongue unfurled.

Maintaining peace in an obnoxious tide,  
is better than battling with anger inside.  
Silence is the truest and noblest attitude,  
a strength that lifts hearts to higher altitude.

K. A. Santhoshi,  
8 - D,  
Government Model Girls Higher Secondary  
School,  
Komarapalayam, Pallipalayam union, Namakkal,  
Tamilnadu, India.

## The Mobile Trap



The mobile phone, so small and bright,  
has taken over day and night.  
A clock, a torch, a calendar too,  
it tells us things we never knew.

With apps that claim to check our health,  
and show us tips to gain more wealth,  
it steals our time in subtle ways,  
and fills up all our nights and days.

At weddings, meets, or weekend fun,  
we sit apart, though joined as one.  
In villages or cities wide,  
the screen is always by our side.

We've lost the talks, the laughs, the cheer,  
that made our loved ones feel us near.  
Let's not let gadgets take that space,  
where warmth and family had their place.

So use it less, and wisely too,  
give games and chats their value due.  
But keep your heart and time aligned,  
with those you love - don't stay confined.

V Durgadevi  
BT Assistant  
GHS Nosal  
Tiruvannamalai District

## Friends Are Not Always Free, They Make Themselves Free For You



True friends make themselves free for others' sake,  
sacrificing time, money, and energy, for  
friendship's stake,  
when they're with us, don't think they're free  
by chance,  
they make themselves free for a friend.

Don't underestimate them, for any reason or test,  
they're the ones who motivate, inspire, and encourage.  
They lend a helping hand, when we're in need or pain,  
their love is pure, their hearts are genuine.

They're our treasure, a source of joy.

They listen to our stories, with sympathy and empathy.  
They understand our inner heart, and soul.  
Their presence is so comforting, their friendship,  
a treasure to keep.

They make life's journey easier, through every ups and down,  
traveling with us, through life's twists and turns.  
They're a heavenly gift, real blessing.  
Their love and friendship is a treasure to cherish,  
they don't expect anything in return,  
their love is selfless, their friendship is a gift  
to bring joy and happiness to all.  
True friends are a treasure, a gift that's rare and clear.

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

## Turn Sweat Into Perfume



We all know that hard work never fails, which earns profits for our ails!  
We should not turn back or give up our efforts, it will pay more to our debtors.

Trying in many ways can lead you, to reach the peak of your victory,  
that will keep your life glory, which will remind as evergreen memories,  
in your life!

We know the real worth of your hard work,  
like ....  
How the farmers turn their sweat into grain!

How the cook turns that grain into the

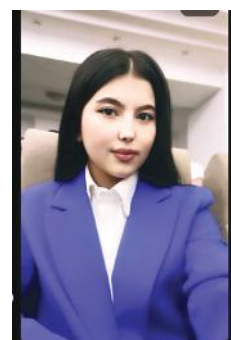
delicious food!  
How the weavers turn their sweat into a fine fabric!

How a tailor turns that fabric into a fantabulous outfit!  
How a sculpture turns his sweat into an attractive statue,  
how the people turn that statue as God by worshipping it!

Keep on going!  
Without any hesitation in full time, then only you can turn your sweat into perfume,  
which will spread a harmonious sweet smell till the end of your life.

N. DEEPA LAKSHMI  
B.T. ASST IN ENGLISH  
GOVERNMENT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
SATHUVACHARI,  
VELLORE DISTRICT  
TAMILNADU  
INDIA

## Parents - Our Pillars Of Strength



Thinking of their child's happiness without rest,  
wearing nothing decent upon their chest.  
Never once thinking of their own interest -  
are our pure-hearted, prayerful parents!

From our tender age, they gave us care,

Took us to school when we were barely there,  
staring at the road with longing stare,  
tearful-eyed - our loving parents!

When they hear praise of their child one day,  
their faces beam in a joyful way.  
Their hearts are warmed by fortune's ray -  
glowing with pride are our parents!

When sons and daughters grow mature and wise,  
parents stand tall, as if mountains rise.  
They would never trade light for darkest skies,  
their heads held high - our honored parents!

Sarvinoz Azimjonova  
Student of Alfraganus University,  
Faculty of Philology,  
2nd-year, Uzbek Language and Literature major

# Operators Begin Embracing Electric Tuk Tuks As They Join The Campaign For The Fight Against Climate Change

By: MKT Correspondent  
 @themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Tuk Tuk Operators Network national chairperson Vincent Were said this is in line with President William Ruto's clarion call for domestic solutions to climate change.
- "We are welcoming innovations that will empower our operators through affordable, reliable, and modern mobility solutions. The aim is to cut down harmful emissions, helping our towns and cities breathe cleaner air. We want Tuk Tuk operators to rally among other Kenyans and help conserve our environment by tapping into renewable and clean energy sources," he said.
- "This initiative is fully aligned with the Government of Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and Kenya's commitment to climate action. Together, we are co-creating the backbone of Kenya's e-mobility ecosystem," added Were.
- NTSA's Road Safety Manager and Director of Programs, Samuel Musumba said the adoption of electric tuk tuks is a step towards embracing the new technologies that help Kenyan drivers adopt cheap and clean green energy.
- They were speaking during the pre-launch of Alpha Electric Tuk Tuks in Nairobi, a partnership with Alpha E-Mobility, a global company that is devising ways of ensuring road mobility goes electronic.
- "We are witnessing a situation whereby the consumption of fossil fuels will go down as the adoption of solar and electric grid power goes up. This will in turn reduce the overall cost of operating tuk tuks and encourage more investment in the sector," said Musumba.
- "In turn, we will be embracing green energy on our roads and at the same time eliminating noise pollution and to ensuring that communities access safe, secure, inclusive, and affordable transport solutions," added Musumba.
- The partnership is designed to create green jobs for the youth by bringing the electric tuk tuks into the country for local assembly, empowering both drivers and mechanics and also opening up opportunities for assemblers, technicians, fleet managers, and innovators in clean energy solutions.

The Tuk Tuk Operators Network and the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) have launched a campaign to support the journey towards a cleaner, greener, and more inclusive transport future for Kenya.

This is with an aim of embracing electric Tuk Tuks that have begun operating on the Kenyan roads.

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NTSA Senior Road Safety, Policy and Programs management expert, Samuel Musumba, National Chairman, Tuk Tuk Operators Network, Vincent Were and Alpha E-Mobility Solutions Manager, Kenya Kinyar Karangi cut the ribbon, while Renewable Energy and Green Alternatives, Faith Waraki, Tuk Operator superwoman, Margret Njambi, among others, look, during the pre-launch of the Alpha electric Tuk Tuk at Ole Sereni hotel, Nairobi on Tuesday.

Alpha E-Mobility is also introducing battery banks and modelled swapping centres powered by solar energy making operations cheaper, faster, and greener for tuk tuk operators.

"This is not just about tuk tuks. It is about people. It is about families. It is about the environment we leave behind for our children. It is about a transport system that empowers, not exploits. It is about building an economy where the informal transport sector stands tall as a pillar of resilience, sustainability, and innovation," said Were at the launch.

"As Tuk Tuk Operators Network, we are proud to champion this cause. We thank the Government of Kenya for its supportive policies, our partners Alpha E-Mobility for their technical expertise, and all stakeholders who continue to believe in the potential of this sector," he added.

The Alpha E Mobility solutions manager for Kenya Ms Kinyar Karangi said the designs being offered for electric tuk tuks will be good for the Kenyan market as they will more inclusivity for female drivers, integrate solar and electric grid systems and are developed to be fit by radios and charging systems for the comfort of passengers.

"The new designs with the electric tuk tuks create spacious front and rear seating, comfortable leg room, maximized space for personal belongings and flexible flip seats designed for convenience," said Kinyar.

"The safety and enduring durability

is achieved from the reinforced chassis, super strong load-bearing capacity, auto grade vacuum tires suitable for high-speed driving and integrated rear axle robust for stability," added Kinyar.

The tuk tuk sector currently boasts an estimated 205,000 Tuk Tuks across the country with a growing number in major urban cities.

"At this pre-launch we have seen

great innovations in terms of the additional features and increased space in the electric tuk tuks. For the first time in Kenya, we are also witnessing the up-take of ambulances that are tuk tuk," said Musumba.

The ground stakeholder launch for the Alpha electric tuk tuks will take place in Kisumu County at Ola grounds on Saturday.



Alpha E-Mobility Manager, Nigeria, Ibrahim Suleiman, and Mombasa-based Tuk Tuk operator Agnew Omanga, carry Central-based tukTuk operator Karanja Mwago, as Senior Road Safety, Policy and Programs management expert, Samuel Musumba, National Chairman, Tuk Tuk Operators Network, Vincent Were, and Kenya Country Chair, Renewable Energy and Green Alternatives, Faith Waraki, look during the pre-launch of the Alpha electric Tuk Tuk at Ole Sereni hotel, Nairobi on Tuesday. Photos/ Courtesy.

# EDUCATION

## African Leaders, Civil Society And FEMNET4GTE Push For Gender Transformative Education

By: Naif Rashid

@themtkenyatimes



The delegates in a group photo...

### Worth Noting:

- Speaking at the event, Lydia Madyirapanzi, the Executive Director of FAWE Zimbabwe, emphasized the urgent need to finance education policies that remained underfunded despite progressive commitments.

- Madyirapanzi insisted that education is a tool for reparative justice that can only be achieved if pedagogy, content and environments challenge gender norms and respond to learners' realities.

- "Unless we finance policies and strategies, gender transformative education will remain a promise unfulfilled. Africa must invest in education for Africa," she urged.

- The Executive Director explained that cultural practices, gender norms, and hidden costs had continued to deny many girls access to school, adding that long distances to school, unsafe environments, early marriages, and inadequate menstrual hygiene facilities were among the key barriers.

Policymakers, education experts, and civil society leaders from 20 African countries have convened in Nairobi to chart strategies for dismantling barriers in education and positioning schools as engines of gender equality and justice.

The Africa Regional Action Workshop on Gender Transformative Education, organized by the Feminist Network for Gender Transformative Education (FEMNET4GTE), has brought together over 210 organizations, governments, and advocates who form the network.

FEMNET4GTE, which started annual convenings in 2022, has sought to strengthen solidarity and share best practices for advancing gender equality through education.

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The Nairobi forum took place against the backdrop of the African Union's 2025 theme of the year: Building a united front to advance the cause of justice and payment of reparations to Africans, which highlighted education as a cornerstone for restoring dignity and driving social transformation.

In her address, Alinafe Malonje, Community Coordinator at FEMNET4GTE, called for renewed commitment to address persistent inequalities.

"We cannot ignore the stark realities, where 122 million girls remained out of school, 138 million children were trapped in child labour and one in five faced early or forced marriage. Every four minutes a child dies from violence, and funding for girls' education and women's rights is shrinking, but division is taught, and through education, it can be untaught. We must build a world rooted in equality and justice," she noted.

Similarly, the civil society representatives observed that while African countries had strong legal frameworks protecting the right to education, implementation remained weak. In her remarks, Catherine Salina Asego, Senior Advocacy and Partnerships Officer at FAWE Regional Secretariat, underlined the importance of coordinated regional advocacy.

"We brought together over 20 countries to use our collective voice in influencing policy at national and continental levels. Africa has solutions to its own challenges, but we must document what works, scale up good practices, and ensure our policies are backed with resources. Education is the equalizer that will drive Africa's aspirations under Agenda 2063," she stated.

Further, Asego pointed out that although access to education had expanded, quality remained compromised by underfunded systems, limited gender-responsive teaching, and weak enforcement of re-entry policies for girls who dropped out due to pregnancy or early marriage.

Meanwhile, the workshop's objectives included aligning continental education strategies such as CESA 2026-2035 with gender transformative approaches, developing national action plans informed by grassroots realities and amplifying feminist and

youth voices through intergenerational dialogues and policy roundtables.

Delegates further highlighted that the success of education reforms depended on governments and civil societies working together to bridge gaps between policy and practice.

"Policies alone do not change communities. Financing, political will, and cultural change must go hand in hand," one participant noted during plenary discussions.

Nevertheless, organizers of the Nairobi convening, including FAWE, Oxfam, Plan International, Usawa Agenda, the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), and ANCEFA, expressed hope that the collective momentum would strengthen accountability for gender-transformative education.

Outcomes from the workshop were expected to feed into FEMNET4GTE's advocacy at the United Nations General Assembly later this year and into broader global efforts shaping the post-2030 development agenda.

At its core, participants agreed, gender transformative education was not only about closing the access gap but also about reimagining education systems to challenge harmful gender norms, empower learners, and deliver equity across generations.

# BUSINESS

## As 90% Of World Trade Moves By Sea, Africa Eyes Bigger Share Through Registries

By: Aoma Keziah  
 @themtkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

- Mr. Millah further stated that while considerable attention is being given to infrastructure development in our coastal and inland ports as well as railways, equal attention must be directed toward the “soft side” of the maritime sector especially the services ancillary to shipping and maritime affairs. Economically.
- “our states stand to lose greatly if we allow such opportunities in the shipping industry to pass us by. I am confident that developing and strengthening our national ship registries particularly through open international registries that attract ship owners globally can significantly reduce challenges such as limited sea time for our cadets across the region,” added the Principal Secretary.



The Maritime Organisation for Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA) two day stakeholders' awareness workshop in Nairobi, focusing on the role of ship registries in advancing maritime transport across the continent.

The Maritime Organisation for Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA) on Wednesday opened a two day stakeholders' awareness workshop in Nairobi focusing on the role of ship registries in advancing maritime transport across the continent.

The meeting, which runs from August 27 to 28, 2025, brings together policymakers, maritime administrations, and key industry players from MOESNA member states. The central theme is the importance of ship registration systems in boosting trade, enhancing safety and security at sea, and promoting environmental stewardship.

In his opening remarks Principal Secretary, State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs Mr. Aden Millah, noted that seaborne trade accounts for about 90 percent of global trade, carried by over 100,000 vessels as of January 2024, each flying different flags.

“According to UNCTAD, by the end of 2023, 94 percent of the world's merchant fleet deadweight was under just 35 registries, with the top ten registries accounting for 78 percent of global tonnage. The five leading registries Liberia, Panama, the Marshall

Islands, and Malta, together with the Bahamas accounted for 54 percent of the world fleet deadweight. These figures underscore the immense economic value of ship registries, a value that our states can also share if we act decisively,” he stated.

Mr. Millah further stated that while considerable attention is being given to infrastructure development in our coastal and inland ports as well as railways, equal attention must be directed toward the “soft side” of the maritime sector especially the services ancillary to shipping and maritime affairs. Economically.

“our states stand to lose greatly if we allow such opportunities in the shipping industry to pass us by. I am confident that developing and strengthening our national ship registries particularly through open international registries that attract ship owners globally can significantly reduce challenges such as limited sea time for our cadets across the region,” added the Principal Secretary.

According to the organisers, the workshop is expected to lead to several outcomes. These include a better understanding among member states of how well-managed registries can attract investment, create jobs, and

raise revenue. Delegates are also set to develop policy recommendations that could guide governments in establishing or strengthening ship registries. A roadmap for building stronger systems at both national and regional levels is another anticipated result.

In addition, the forum aims to foster greater collaboration between agencies within each country and across the wider region. By sharing experiences and pooling expertise, MOESNA hopes to position African registries to compete more effectively at the international level while complying with global standards set by bodies such as the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization.

The officials underscored the importance of reliable registries in unlocking the potential of Africa's maritime sector. They noted that robust registration systems are not only vital for trade facilitation but also for creating sustainable growth opportunities for coastal and inland states alike.

“This workshop is about capacity building and creating awareness on some of the issues in the shipping and maritime sector. Some of the challenges that comes with, is these vessels flying flags that are not le-

gally registered. Registry means that if a country gives you that flag, then you abide by the rules of that flag, and movement in international waters is governed by international laws. Therefore, every vessel is expected to abide by the laws of the global regulatory framework of shipping,” explained Mr. Kassim Mpaata MOESNA Secretary General

Discussions will cover the economic and developmental benefits of ship registries to flag states, as well as the challenges African countries face in managing them. Delegates are also expected to examine strategies for aligning regional practices with international benchmarks and ensuring that African registries are recognised and whitelisted globally.

The workshop is seen as a timely intervention at a moment when African nations are working to expand their participation in global shipping and maritime trade. By the close of the two day meeting, MOESNA expects to have a clear set of policy directions and collaborative strategies that will guide member states in building competitive, sustainable, and trusted ship registries.

# Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook To Sue Over Trump's Decision To Fire Her

By: Xinhua News Agency  
 @themkenyatimes

U.S. Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook will file a lawsuit to prevent President Donald Trump from firing her, her lawyer said Tuesday, arguing the president has no authority to remove Cook.

"His attempt to fire her, based solely on a referral letter, lacks any factual or legal basis," the lawyer, Abbe Lowell, said in a statement.

"We will be filing a lawsuit challenging this illegal action," Trump said in a letter posted on Truth Social on Monday night that Cook's firing was "effective immediately" for alleged "deceitful and potential criminal conduct in a financial matter." Trump cited a criminal referral letter from Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Bill Pulte, accusing Cook of mortgage fraud. Pulte alleged that Cook had claimed two primary residences in the states of Michigan and Georgia in 2021 to get better mortgage terms, reported the Associated Press.

In response, Cook has refused to step down. "President Trump purported to fire me 'for cause' when no cause exists under the law, and he has no authority to do so," she said in a statement. "I will not resign."

When asked at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday to respond to the lawsuit, Trump said: "She seems to have had an infraction."

"We need people that are 100 per cent above board. And it doesn't seem like she was," Trump told reporters at the White House.

Trump said that he is still considering candidates to replace her. "We have some very good people for that position." Earlier this month, following the resignation of Federal Reserve Governor Adriana Kugler, Trump nominated Stephen Miran, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, to temporarily fill the vacant seat on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. The Justice Department last week opened a criminal investigation into Cook's alleged false statements on home mortgage applications, which were made before she took office as a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors on May 23, 2022.

Cook, nominated by former President Joe Biden, is the first Black woman to serve on the Fed's board.

Trump's attempt to remove Cook was depicted by media outlets as "unprecedented" in the history of the nominally independent U.S. Federal Reserve Board. The Fed on Tuesday said it would abide by any court decision. "Congress, through the Federal Reserve Act, directs that governors



Donald Trump

serve in long, fixed terms and may be removed by the president only 'for cause,'" the central bank said, defending its longtime independence from politics. "Long tenures and removal protections for governors serve as a vital safeguard, ensuring that monetary policy decisions are based on data, economic analysis, and the long-term interests of the American people," the Fed added. Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua: "It is not clear Trump has the legal authority to fire Cook. No Federal Reserve Board member has been fired in 100 years and there has been no arrest or indictment of this individual. He is convicting her without any due process or legal process ... Cook is within her rights to stay on the board because she has not been charged with any crime."

Dean Baker, co-founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, told Xinhua: "Trump is having his political appointees look through mortgage records to find dirt on his political opponents. Using this dirt as a pretext to fire a Fed governor shows that he will stomp on anyone who gets in his way." Dissatisfied with the Fed's refusal to lower interest rates at his request, Trump has recently repeatedly lashed out at Fed Chair Jerome Powell and urged him to step down early. Cook has said the trade policies Trump is pursuing could suppress U.S. productivity and

may force the Fed to raise interest rates in a less efficient economic environment to contain inflation. Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua: "Legally, she can fight.

Chair Powell would be in exactly the same position if or when Trump comes after him. Powell has already said publicly that if Trump asked him to leave, he would not go. The fracas with Cook is a dress rehearsal for trying to get rid of Powell."



Ms Lisa Cook

**Worth Noting:**

- "We need people that are 100 per cent above board. And it doesn't seem like she was," Trump told reporters at the White House.
- Trump said that he is still considering candidates to replace her. "We have some very good people for that position." Earlier this month, following the resignation of Federal Reserve Governor Adriana Kugler, Trump nominated Stephen Miran, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, to temporarily fill the vacant seat on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. The Justice Department last week opened a criminal investigation into Cook's alleged false statements on home mortgage applications, which were made before she took office as a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors on May 23, 2022.

# Kenya Power Hosts Grid And Innovation Conference To Address Sector Issues

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

Kenya Power has kicked off its 2nd Grid and Innovation Conference 2025, a forum through which it intends to drive innovative solutions to address emerging issues in the energy sector.

The conference, themed “Accelerating Innovation for Business Sustainability,” has brought together more than 400 participants, including employees, energy sector leaders, researchers and policy makers.

“At Kenya Power, our mandate goes beyond keeping the lights on. We aim to be the energy solutions provider of choice, delivering efficiency, reliability, and sustainability. Therefore, innovation is not an option but the foundation of our growth, resilience, and ability to serve a growing economy,” said Kenya Power’s Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Eng. Joseph Siror.

The conference comes at a time when the country is scaling up electricity connections to attain universal access by the year 2030, thus calling for innovative ideas to ensure reliable and adequate power supply as cus-



Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi and Kenya Power’s Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Eng. Joseph Siror follow the proceedings at the ongoing Grid and Innovation Conference.

tomers adapt to new technologies that drive demand for electricity, such as e-cooking and electric mobility.

“Innovation is a catalyst for revolutionizing access to affordable, clean, and reliable energy solutions. Kenya’s leadership in renewable energy integration, smart grid technologies and e-mobility are a testament to the critical role of innovation in the energy sector,” said Kenya Power’s Chairman of the Board of Directors, Joy Brenda Masinde.

To demonstrate its commitment to

mainstream innovation in its operations, the Company has today launched its Innovation Ideas Portal that will be hosted at the Institute of Energy Studies and Research (IESR), a fully-owned subsidiary of Kenya Power.

The portal will capture and track the growth and commercialisation of innovations targeting the energy sector in the region.

“It is through innovation that energy systems will become environmentally, socially, and financially solid. The



From Left to Right: Kenya Power’s IESR Director Dr Jeremiah Kiplagat, Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi and Kenya Power’s Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Eng Joseph Siror during the launch of Kenya Power’s Innovation Ideas Hub at the ongoing Grid and Innovation Conference. Photos/Courtesy..

innovation ideas hub will provide structured support to the innovators to match solutions to the challenges that we are facing in the energy sector. I commend Kenya Power for organising the Grid and Innovation Conference, which serves as a platform for cross-sector collaboration, with stakeholders from academia, government, and private industry ex-

changing ideas and forging partnerships,” said Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi.

This year’s conference will explore transformative solutions on Emerging Issues, Knowledge Management, System Losses, Revenue Diversification, and Kenya Power in the digital space.

# Suspected Animal Trophy Arraigned At JKIA Following Arrest With Rhino Horns In Mombasa

By: MKT Correspondent  
@themkenyatimes

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies yesterday arraigned at the JKIA Law Courts a suspected international wildlife trafficker, Feiswal Mohammed Ali, alias Feisal, alongside his accomplice, Mohammed Hassan Kontoma, following their arrest in Mombasa County.

At the court, the presiding magistrate granted the defence lawyer’s request for additional time to review affidavits filed by investigators seeking to hold the suspects further for ongoing investigations. As a result, the matter was deferred today.

On Tuesday, the two suspects were intercepted at Mama Ngina Drive, Mombasa, in possession of two pieces of rhino horn weighing 2.2 kilograms. Intelligence reports in-

dicating they were actively seeking a buyer for the trophies at the time of their arrest. They were initially held at Mombasa Central Police Station before being transferred to Langata Police Station in Nairobi, ahead of yesterday’s arraignment at the JKIA Law Courts, which has jurisdiction over transnational organized crimes. Feisal is not a new name in global wildlife trafficking circles. He was first arrested in June 2014 in connection with 228 pieces of ivory weighing 2,152 kilograms, seized at a motor vehicle warehouse in Tudor, Mombasa.

Then described as one of the most wanted poaching syndicate leaders in East Africa, Feiswal escaped arrest during the seizure and was subsequently placed on an INTERPOL Red Alert Notice, requesting member states to locate and apprehend him.

His arrest in December 2014 in Tanzania and extradition to Kenya marked a breakthrough in Kenya’s

anti-poaching efforts.

In 2016, he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and fined KSh20 million by a Mombasa court. However, in a 2018 ruling, he was acquitted on appeal by the High Court on technical grounds.

The latest arrest with rhino horn underscores Kenya’s resolve to combat wildlife crime and dismantle sophisticated trafficking networks.

Rhino horn, highly sought after in illegal markets abroad, remains one of the biggest threats to endangered rhino populations.

Speaking on the arraignment, the Kenya Wildlife Service Director General, Prof. Erustus Kanga commended the joint operation, stating: “The arrest and arraignment of Feiswal Mohammed Ali and his accomplice once again demonstrates Kenya’s commitment to the fight against wildlife crime. We will continue to pursue traffickers relentlessly, no matter how long it takes, to safeguard our iconic species and



Feisal Mohammed Ali, alias Feisal, 58, (left), with his accomplice, Mohammed Hassan Kontoma, 75, at the JKIA Law Courts in Nairobi yesterday.

protect Kenya’s heritage for future generations.”

He reiterated KWS’s commitment to working with national and international partners, including INTER-

POL and cross-border enforcement agencies, to ensure wildlife traffickers are brought to justice.

# The Power Of Knowledge And The Word



By: Nargiza Esemuratova  
@themtkenyatimes

“The Karakalpak language, belonging to the Turkic language family, is the mother tongue of the Karakalpak people living in the Republic of Karakalpakstan within Uzbekistan. According to available data, today around 800–900 thousand people speak Karakalpak. This year, as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Karakalpak language and literature department of the faculty of Karakalpak philology at Berdakh Karakalpak State University, I feel a deep sense of pride. Societies awaken through the power of the word, yet they preserve their values through the power of knowledge. The place that unites these two forces has become the greatest source of inspiration in my life. For this institution is a sacred sanctuary where the might of knowledge and the word converge. Through these powerful forces, our language lives on, and our nation strengthens. And I shall remain a loyal follower of this path.”

Throughout human history, no forces have been greater than knowledge and the word. The word is the power to comprehend existence, to express thought, and to shape the future. Knowledge, in turn, is the sacred strength that breathes life into the word, analyzes it deeply, and elevates it to the heights of moral and cultural value. Without words, there can be no society; without knowledge, that society faces spiritual impoverishment.

The word is not merely a sequence of sounds — it is the soul of a people, the heartbeat of a nation, the voice of history. Knowledge gives spirit to that word, carrying it across generations. The place where I felt these two powers — knowledge and the word — most profoundly was the Karakalpak language and literature department of the faculty of Karakalpak Philology at Berdakh Karakalpak State University.

Here I not only studied language, enjoyed the treasures of literature, and learned to analyze academically, but I also discovered myself, found my identity, and realized who I truly am. My love for my language, my

people, and my history grew stronger within these walls. Every lesson, every word of every teacher was dedicated to preserving and developing our national identity, historical roots, and cultural heritage.

The department of Karakalpak language and literature is the very heart of Karakalpak philology. Here, the language is not only taught but also preserved in its spirit. Our teachers revealed to us that behind every phonetic shift lay traces of history, and within every literary work was the reflection of our soul. They did not merely teach grammar — they taught us to love, cherish, and safeguard our language. Each class, each research project, each creative endeavor was a service to preserving the Karakalpak language in the minds of future generations.

My journey began as a dream. In 2016, when I first walked through the doors of this sacred faculty as a freshman, I was an ordinary girl — one who loved her mother tongue, yet was unaware of its inner structures, historical roots, and cultural treasures. Every lesson, every piece of wisdom from my professors gave me not only knowledge, but also strength, inspiration, purpose, and a new perspective on life. For the first time, I realized that my language was not just a means of communication, but the soul of a nation, the memory of history, the essence of spiritual heritage.

Those four golden years of undergraduate study became one of the most meaningful, fruitful, and unforgettable periods of my life. Each year, each opportunity was a new milestone, a school of growth, and a chance to express my identity.

In 2018, I became the first student from Karakalpakstan to receive the Youth Union Scholarship of Uzbekistan — one of my earliest great achievements, and a powerful motivation to move forward. During my student years, I took part in numerous national and international competitions and scientific projects, winning several of them. In 2019, I was awarded the State Scholarship named after the First President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov — another high recognition of my academic and social activities. Thanks to this honor, I was able to pursue my master’s degree on a state grant. When I received my bachelor’s diploma in 2020, I knew it was not the end, but the beginning of a new journey.

Knowledge is my path. From 2020 to 2022, I continued my studies in the master’s program specializing in Karakalpak linguistics. At this

stage, I learned to look at my language through a scientific lens, to analyze the layers of meaning hidden beneath words, and to interpret the spirit of a people through linguistic forms. During my research, my work and dedication were highly valued. By the decree of the President of Uzbekistan, I was awarded the “Shukhrat” Medal, a clear expression of trust and recognition. In addition, the honorary badge “Umid uchquni” became another sign of high appreciation of my youthful aspirations and active efforts.

Looking back today, I can confidently say that my student years were not spent in vain. Behind every achievement stood hard work, perseverance, and loyalty to my homeland and my mother tongue. This path continues — and I continue to strive forward. Today, I am pursuing my doctoral research (PhD) on paremiology in the Karakalpak language. For paremiology embodies the centuries-old wisdom, experience, and social consciousness of a people; it is a cultural mirror of society. Each proverb, saying, and aphorism is not merely a word, but a product of history, philosophy, morality, and national thought.

My mission is to study the Karakalpak language in depth, and through it, to propose new approaches to global linguistic issues, cultural differences, and language policy. No matter how small the audience that speaks our language may be, I firmly believe that through its inner richness and scholarly scope, it can find its rightful place in the world.

The Karakalpak language and literature department of the faculty of Karakalpak philology, now celebrating its 90th anniversary, is not just an

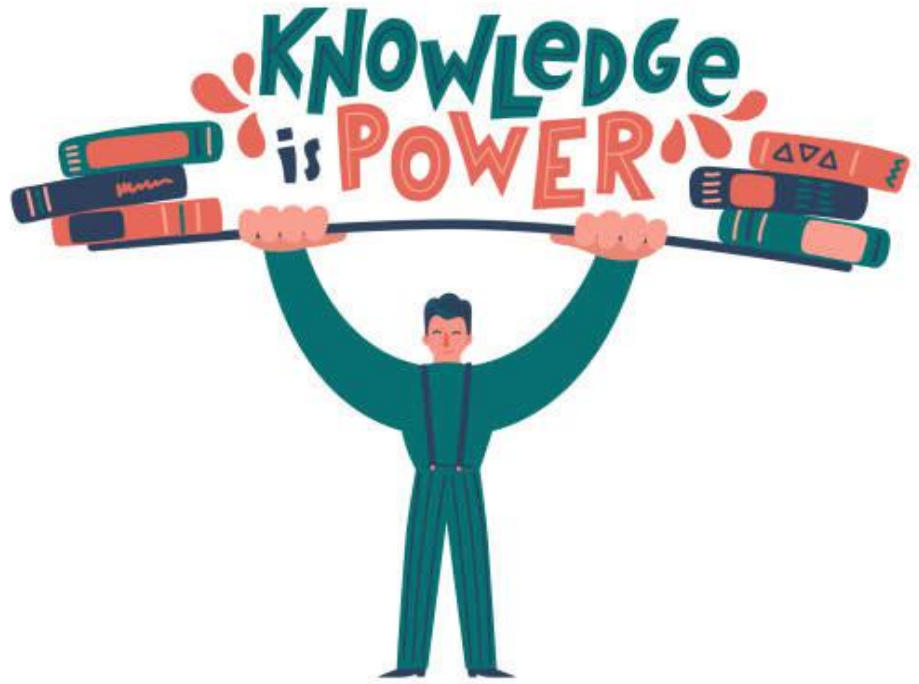
educational institution. It is a perfect intellectual and spiritual school devoted to preserving the Karakalpak language, developing it, and raising generations through its power. Over the years, it has nurtured thousands of linguists, literary scholars, teachers, journalists, writers, and translators — all of whom have contributed to promoting language culture and enlightening society.

Our professors taught us Karakalpak not from the textbook, but from the heart. They showed us not just grammar rules, but the very spirit of words. It is with this spirit that today we are capable of raising our mother tongue to higher platforms and new stages of recognition.

The present day brings new challenges. In this era of rapid technologies and artificial intelligence, every national language is struggling for survival. Under the pressure of digital information flows and global culture, small languages are at risk of extinction. In such times, it is not enough to simply speak our mother tongue — we must study it, develop it, and express it on modern platforms. This has become the sacred duty of our generation.

To love a language means to serve it. To serve it means to preserve it for future generations, to ground it scientifically, to teach it, and to make it known to the world. Every article I write, every research I conduct is directed toward this very goal.

Today I proudly declare: the sacred institution that opened the path for me to understand the power of knowledge and the word was the faculty of Karakalpak philology, department of Karakalpak language and literature. This place not only taught me language, but also gave



me self-awareness, dreams, and a sense of responsibility.

As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of this faculty, I can say with pride: this institution is not merely a school of knowledge, but a creator of words, of national identity, and of the destiny of future generations. Here I was shaped; here I recognized my language, understood my nation, and learned to step firmly into the world of knowledge.

Knowledge is the path, the word is the power. United together at the Karakalpak language and literature department of the faculty of Karakalpak philology, these two forces gave me not just a diploma, but direction, purpose, and inspiration. Today, as a scholar, as someone who loves her mother tongue and believes in its power, I affirm: through knowledge and the word, we eternalize language, and through language, we eternalize the nation. The mother tongue is our identity; knowledge is our path. One who unites these two forces can serve not only their people and their society but all of humanity. This is the path I have chosen. And I am ready to devote my word, armed with knowledge, to the prosperity of my people, the eternity of my language, and the rise of our culture. It is the power of knowledge and the word that guides this journey.

And I — I am its traveler.

*Nargiza Esemuratova,  
PhD student at the Karakalpakstan Branch of the  
Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan,  
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# Kenya To Host 27th IUFRO World Congress In 2029—A Historic First For Africa



By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- Dr. Barasa officiated the preparatory meeting with key players from across government, civil society, academia, and the forestry sector. The meeting focused on the strategic planning and coordination efforts necessary to ensure Kenya's successful hosting of the prestigious global congress—a premier event attracting thousands of forestry and environmental scientists, policymakers, and practitioners worldwide.
- “It is both a privilege and a responsibility for Kenya to host the 27th IUFRO World Congress. This is a historic first for Africa, and it underscores the continent's growing role in global environmental governance and forest research,” said Dr. Barasa. She emphasized that the congress would provide a critical platform to showcase Kenya's rich forest biodiversity, cutting-edge research initiatives, and commitment to sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation.



The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa officiating over a stakeholders meeting at KICC for the preparation of the 27th IUFRO World Congress to be held in Kenya in 2025

Kenya has been officially named the host country for the 27th International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress, set to take place from August 5th to 11th, 2029, in Nairobi. This landmark announcement was made by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, during a high-level stakeholders meeting held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC).

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derscores the continent's growing role in global environmental governance and forest research,” said Dr. Barasa. She emphasized that the congress would provide a critical platform to showcase Kenya's rich forest biodiversity, cutting-edge research initiatives, and commitment to sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation.

The IUFRO World Congress, held every five years, is the largest global gathering of forest scientists and experts, aiming to exchange knowledge, foster collaborations, and advance innovations that support sustainable forest ecosystems worldwide. The selection of Nairobi as the host city was part of a competitive bidding process, reflecting Kenya's increasing prominence in forestry research and environmental conservation.

Speaking at the meeting, representatives from various sectors expressed optimism about the opportunities the congress would generate, particularly in boosting Kenya's eco-tourism, enhancing regional collaboration, and advancing the country's Vision 2030 environmental goals. Several

stakeholders highlighted that the event would offer a unique opportunity to highlight sustainable forestry innovations and foster partnerships to combat deforestation, land degradation, and climate change impacts.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry is collaborating with national institutions, including the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), regional forestry organizations, universities, and international bodies to develop a robust agenda and program for the congress. The meeting also discussed infrastructural upgrades at KICC, public engagement strategies, and capacity-building efforts to prepare local researchers and professionals for the homegrown global event.

“This congress will catalyze knowledge transfer, funding opportunities, and policy advancements that can support Kenya's journey towards climate resilience and green growth,” remarked one forestry researcher present at the meeting.

Kenya's hosting of the Congress aligns with the government's broader efforts to strengthen environ-

mental sustainability and address climate change challenges through science-based decision-making. Forests play a vital role in carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and providing livelihoods for millions of Kenyans, making this congress timely and strategically important.

As preparations get underway, Kenya is set to welcome the world's forestry experts in 2029, reinforcing its position as a leader in environmental stewardship on the African continent. The upcoming years will see intensified stakeholder engagement, infrastructure development, and public awareness campaigns to ensure the event's success and lasting legacy.

Sports >> \*Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy has named a 23-man squad ahead of next week's World Cup qualifiers against the Gambia and Seychelles.

# McCarthy Names 23 Players As Harambee Stars Eye 2026 World Cup Slot After Fairytale Run In CHAN



Harambee Stars coach Benni McCarthy with Captain Micheal Kibwage and Lewis Bandi during their match against Morocco. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

## SPORTS NEWS

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



Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy has named a 23-man squad ahead of next week's World Cup qualifiers against the Gambia and Seychelles.

The squad consists of a majority of the players that did duty for Kenya at the African Nations Championships (CHAN), in addition to a foreign contingent led by Qatar-based Michael Olunga.

Other foreign-based players who have been called up include goalkeeper Brian Bwire — based in South Africa — Lech Poznan's Timothy Ouma, Sweden-based Collins Sichenje, Rooney Onyango, Yanga's Duke Abuya and William Lenkupae.

Harambee Stars will be hoping to build on the momentum of an exceptional performance at CHAN as they play catch-up in Group F.

They lie fourth with 6 points

— a whopping 10 behind leaders Ivory Coast — having only won once, drawn thrice and lost twice.

*Capital Sport*



### 2026 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS FINAL SQUAD



- GOAL KEEPERS**
  1. FARUK SHIKHALO
  2. BRIAN BWIRE
  3. BYRNE OMONDI
- DEFENDERS**
  4. SYLVESTER OWINO
  5. ALPHONCE OMIJA
  6. COLLINS SICHENJE
  7. MICHAEL KIBWAGE
  8. ROONEY ONYANGO
  9. ABUD OMAR
  10. LEWIS BANDI
- MIDFIELDERS**
  11. RICHARD ODADA
  12. ALPHA ONYANGO
  13. DUKE ABUYA
  14. MANSUR OKWARO
  15. TIMOTHY OUMA
  16. BEN STANLEY
  17. MARVIN NABWIRE
- FORWARDS**
  18. EMMANUEL OSORO
  19. WILL LENKUPAE
  20. JOB OCHIENG
  21. BONIFACE MUCHIRI
  22. MICHAEL OLUNGA
  23. RYAN OGAM



THE HARAMBEE STARS

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>>** \*After a starring role at the African Nations Championships (CHAN), Harambee Stars winger Boniface Muchiri has been promoted to corporal in the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF).

# Big Birthday Present For Muchiri As Harambee Stars Forward Earns Military Promotion



Harambee Stars forward Boniface Muchiri during a ceremony to promote him to rank of military corporal. PHOTO/ULINZI STARS FC

After a starring role at the African Nations Championships (CHAN), Harambee Stars winger Boniface Muchiri has been promoted to corporal in the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF).

In a statement, Muchiri's parent club, Ulinzi Stars, said the 29-year-old was promoted from the senior private to the rank of a corporal by Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Charles Kahariri.

"Today, Chief of the Defence Forces (CDF) General Charles Kahariri honored our very own Harambee Stars forward and

Ulinzi Stars skipper, Senior Private Boniface Muchiri, with a well deserved promotion to the rank of Corporal," the club said.

The promotion is a just reward for a player who has exhibited exemplary leadership qualities on and off the field, while proving himself a workhorse on the field.

The former Tusker midfielder, who debuted in national team colours in 2019, won hearts with his tiresome runs down the flanks and pinpoint deadballs as Harambee Stars cruised to the quarterfinals of the continental showpiece.

A standout was his assist to

Ryan Ogam in their final Group A encounter against Zambia at the Kasarani Stadium, which they eventually won 1-0.

He then floated in a cross to Alphonse Omija, which the Gor Mahia centreback headed into the net, in their quarterfinal defeat to Madagascar, a week ago.

Muchiri will be back with Harambee Stars in next week's twin World Cup qualifier fixtures against the Gambia (September 5) and the Seychelles (September 9) at the Kasarani Stadium.

On the same day he was promoted, the Ulinzi Stars skipper was

named in Benni McCarthy's 23-man squad for the two fixtures.

His promotion also comes on the eve of his 29th birthday.

### Capital Sport

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
SCORES  
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STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS





The Mt Kenya Times

By: Hira Jamal  
@themtkenyatimes

## The Belt And Road Initiative: A New Silk Road Or Chinese Imperialism

### Worth Noting:

- Many critics argue that this initiative of China is less about mutual advantages or interests but more about China increasing its geopolitical influence.
- One of the most critical concerns is that the BRI is another form of “debt-trap diplomacy”, where China provides loans and economic aid to developing countries, and as they will struggle to pay the loan back. China might use this as an advantage to exert its control over their assets and valuable resources. The case of Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka can be taken as an example to justify these claims, In 2017 Sri Lanka leased the port to china for 99 years as it was unable to pay back the loan to china for its construction.



China launched the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) often associated as the new Silk Road in 2013 under the government of President Xi Jinping, this project aims to foster global economic development and growth by providing better infrastructure and connects countries through the ancient Silk Road and beyond, facilitating global investments and trade. It consists of both land-based and sea-based (Maritime silk road) to enhance regional cooperation and economic growth. Supporters of the BRI argue that it is a beneficial initiative for the countries that are struggling economically, such as in Asia and Africa. These underdeveloped regions can take advantage of this advanced infrastructure and trade routes to boost their economies, reduce poverty and become more connected with the developed nations. BRI is often seen as an opportunity to reduce the infrastructure gap and resource gap between core and periphery nations.

However some critics claimed it

to be a modern day imperialism or neo imperialism, despite Chinese governments claims that the belt and road initiative BRI does not intend to play any geopolitical games many political analysts believe that through BRI project china wanted to increase its political and economic influence in the world particularly in Asia. Many European countries and especially USA has been concerned about the rising influence of china in trade, economy and investment sectors, because this could threaten the position of USA as the superpower and biggest creditor of the world. Not only this but the rising influence of china perpetuated the economic dependency of the many periphery and semi periphery nations as they now largely rely on china for trade partnership, foreign investment and economic aid. In this sense the famous “World System Theory” of Immanuel Wallenstein can also be applied to the BRI project, as china represents a wealthy and developed core country being equipped with

advance technology, infrastructure, and industries, offering economic benefits and trade opportunities to underdeveloped countries by investing in their infrastructure, however ultimately set to exploit and took control of these countries for its own gains and interests. Many critics argue that this initiative of China is less about mutual advantages or interests but more about China increasing its geopolitical influence.

One of the most critical concerns is that the BRI is another form of “debt-trap diplomacy”, where China provides loans and economic aid to developing countries, and as they will struggle to pay the loan back. China might use this as an advantage to exert its control over their assets and valuable resources. The case of Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka can be taken as an example to justify these claims, In 2017 Sri Lanka leased the port to china for 99 years as it was unable to pay back the loan to china for its construction. This example solidify the claims of

critics that how China now using BRI as a tool to gain control on the infrastructure particular on strategic locations to strengthen its global power and influence particularly in Asia. Till now the BRI has received mixed reactions from the world, as some countries seeing and welcoming it as an economic and trade opportunity while others are worry about the economic dependency and loss of their sovereignty.

The belt and road initiative BRI has an unlimited scope and ambition and has the potential to shape global trade and better infrastructure. However the concerns about the Chinese imperialism and an intention to indirect influence or control are still there. In short the BRI’s real nature depends on how China maintain the balance between promoting and fostering cooperation and achieving its own strategic interests or gains.