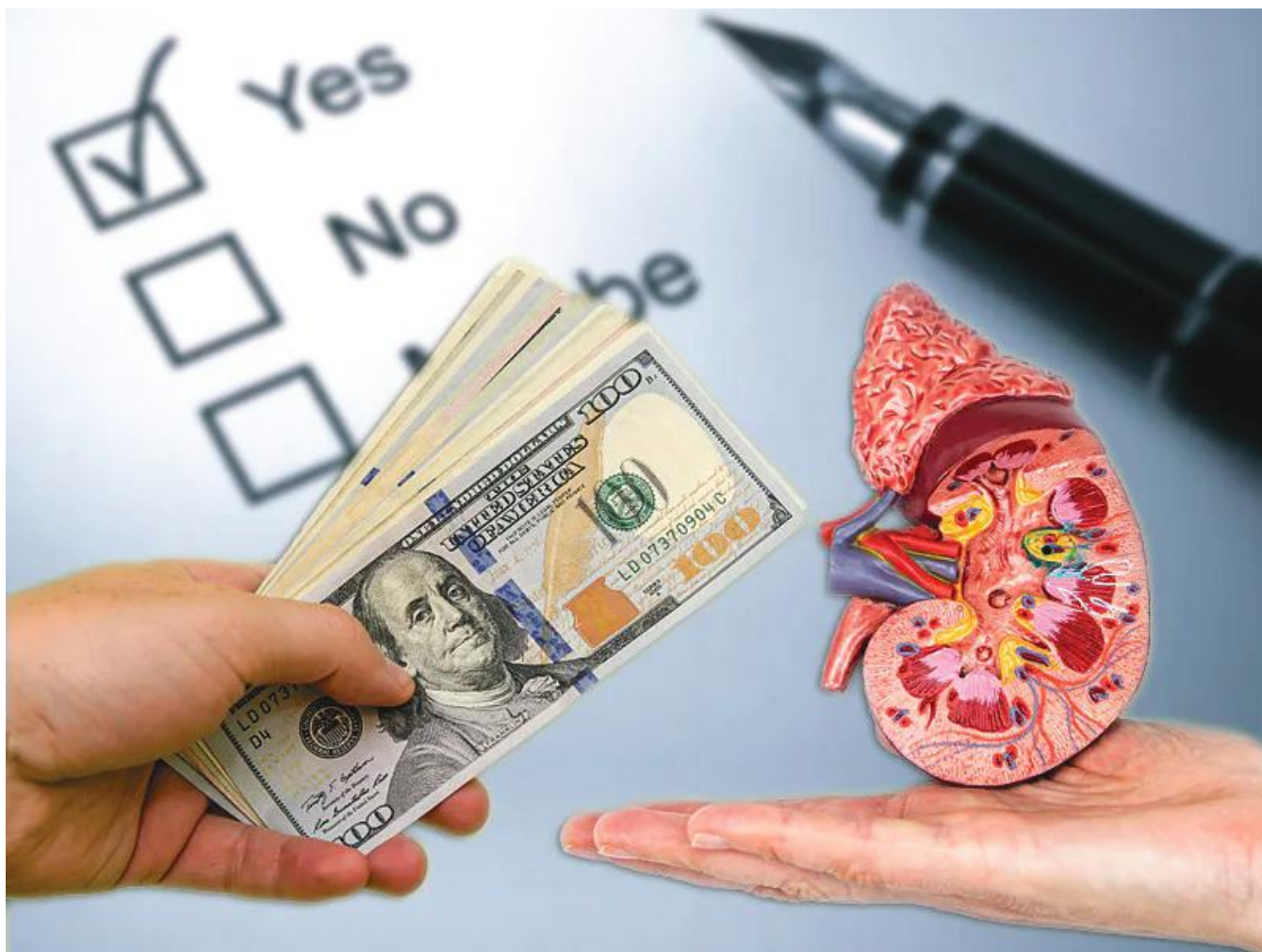


Cash For Kidneys: Kenyans Expose Shocking Organ Trade To MPs



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Kidney for money



Politics: Kindiki: Kenyans To Benefit From Free Outpatient Services Under SHA **P.11**

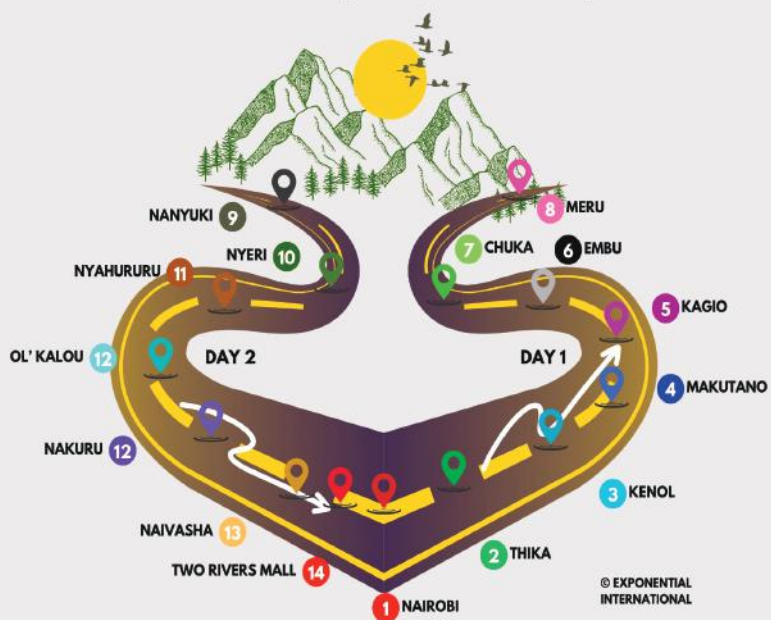


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NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



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President Ruto Hosts Meru County Grassroots And Community Leaders


By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto on Friday hosted thousands of leaders and a section of residents from Meru County. Led by Governor Isaac Mutuma, the leaders, numbering about 5,000 pledged to support the Kenya Kwanza administration as they thanked it for spearheading various development projects in the area. The President was accompanied by among others, his deputy Prof Kithure Kindiki.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) on Friday marked a significant leadership transition as Dr. Felister Makini handed over the Deputy Director General-Crops role to Dr. Alice Murage during a ceremony presided over by the KALRO Board Chairman, Dr. Thuo Mathenge. The Board consequently held a joint meeting with HR officers from all KALRO institutes and centres, focusing on staff welfare and strategies to enhance research effectiveness. Dr Mathenge emphasized the importance of strong work ethics, collaboration and resource utilization to drive self-sustainability and contribute to national food security, urging KALRO to leverage existing resources and opportunities to expand its impact.



Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa on Friday met a delegation from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), led by Chief of Mission Mr. John McCue at the Ministry’s Headquarters. The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between the Ministry and IOM to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, human mobility, and support communities affected by climate-induced displacement and environmental pressures. Dr. Barasa outlined key areas for enhanced collaboration, including better use of climate data to guide decision-making and improve preparedness. She further emphasized the need to build resilience in communities vulnerable to climate shocks, promote policy dialogue and technical cooperation to strengthen institutional frameworks, and accelerate the adoption of renewable energy to advance sustainable development goals.



Tragedy struck Arina Primary School in Kisumu city, when an eight-year-old pupil died after sustaining a severe head injury during a playground accident. The learner, a Grade Two pupil, was playing with classmates on an iron six-seater merry-go-round at around 3:45 p.m. when she slipped and fell. The rotating seats struck her on the head, causing a deep cut and heavy bleeding.



Misi Mutua has been selected by the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) to be their flag bearer for Mumbuni North ward by election slated for 27th November 2025. The unveiling of the candidate was held at Kisoomi Catholic church grounds in Mung’ala, Machakos county, spearheaded by the Mwala MP Vincent Kawayu, who also doubles up as the UDA National Organizing Secretary. The by-election will determine the successor to the Mumbuni North MCA seat, which was previously held by the late Gideon Kavuu of Maendeleo Chap Chap who died in August of 2023.



The Kenya National Highways Authority (KENHA) has advised motorists on the Nairobi Nakuru Highway to use alternative routes after a major traffic jam between Naivasha and Kikopey. The congestion, which began Thursday night, was worsened by lane indiscipline and heavy traffic from the NYS pass-out parade in Gilgil. “The Authority regrets to bring it to the attention of the public that from around 2030 hrs yesterday, congestion developed along the Nakuru – Nairobi Highway.” “Motorists are urged to observe lane discipline and avoid overlapping as it will make it impossible to ease the congestion,” the Agency stated on its X account. KenHA recommends the Gilgil – Ol Kalou – Dundori Lanet route for travelers from Gilgil, and the Flyover Njambini – Ol Kalou – Dundori Lanet route for those from Nairobi. Traffic police are on site to ease the snarl-up.

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

Let Us Work With The Gov't, Mudavadi Urges The People Of Malava

By: OPCS Press Service

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mudavadi said the Malava electorate has always demonstrated that their choice is one that reflects the will of the people and paints a national figure and face.

- “Malava has never failed to identify quality leadership, and this time there are not going to fail to identify quality leadership.” said Mudavadi.

- “My good people of Malava, let us work with the government. Let us be focused and look at the bigger picture as a region.” added Mudavadi.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has asserted that the people of Malava will go to the ballot and elect a focused, dedicated and trustworthy leader in the forthcoming by-election.

He said Malava has a good history in producing visionary leaders, and this time round it should not be any different.

Mudavadi said the Malava electorate has always demonstrated that their choice is one that reflects the will of the people and paints a national figure and face.

“Malava has never failed to identify quality leadership, and this time there are not going to fail to identify quality leadership.” said Mudavadi.

“My good people of Malava, let us work with the government. Let us be focused and look at the bigger picture as a region.” added Mudavadi.

As the patron of the people of Malava ahead of the mini polls, he said he is ready to engage the electorate and help

them get the leader Malava deserves to carry on with the legacy of the late MP Malulu Injendi.

He was speaking during the burial of Mwalimu Enock Andanje one of the aspirants who was contesting for the UDA ticket in the September 20th, 2025 party nominations.

“Right now, we are mourning and we want the family of our brother Andanje to get comfort in the Lord. He was one of us in UDA just like the late Malulu. But once the dust settles, I urge the people of Malava to treat the nomination exercise seriously so that we get the best candidate for UDA.” Mudavadi told the electorate.

“I have engaged over 4,000 teachers, 2,000 boda boda operators, hundreds of women leaders and women groups, religious leaders and clan elders, all from Malava. I am planning to have more engagements with other groups including the youth. My clarion call has remained to be that the decision



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi at Malava

as to who is going to be the MP for Malava will rest with the people of Malava.” Mudavadi added.

The Prime CS said a UDA victory in Malava will have a greater impact on the development track record for the people of Malava since President William Ruto has a lot of confidence in the people of Malava.

He told the gathering that Malava stood to benefit more by supporting a party already in government and with established political structures.

“I have heard some politicians asking UDA to conduct free, fair and credible nominations come September yet they are in other political parties. My question is why aren't they speaking about the nominations in their parties? Others are coming here and they only have a single aspirant within their political outfits. Why are matters for UDA giving them sleepless nights?” Mudavadi posed.

He maintained that UDA, is better

placed to deliver on the remaining development projects and address the needs of the constituency as it was the wish of the late Malulu Injendi and also as it was the wish of the late Mwalimu Andanje if he could have become the flag bearer for UDA.

Mudavadi is expected to be back in Malava in a couple of weeks, intensifying UDA's campaigns by penetrating the grass roots, even as the party prepares for the September nominations.

In several constituencies and wards, the political atmosphere is also gradually heating up as aspirants position themselves, with parties seeking to consolidate their bases and expand their influence ahead of the scheduled November 27, 2025, by-elections.

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Kenya Reaffirms Commitment To IGAD Pandemic Preparedness Drive



PS Mary Muthoni during the forum



Some of the delegates who attended the session. Photos/Courtesy.

By: MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, underscored Kenya's commitment to regional cooperation as the foundation of pandemic preparedness and response, highlighting solidarity, transparency and cross-border collaboration as key to building resilience against future health emergencies.

Addressing the launch of the IGAD Pandemic Preparedness and Response Initiative in Kampala, Uganda, Ms Muthoni stressed that investment in early detection, rapid response systems and stronger health infrastructure is critical to safeguarding lives, protecting economic stability and enhancing regional security.

The meeting brought together Health Ministers and senior officials from across the IGAD region in a show of unity towards stronger health systems capable of tackling emerging and re-emerging health threats. Among those present were Dr. Me-

kdes Daba Feysa (Ethiopia), Dr. Miriam Mohamed Hussein (Somalia), Sarah Cletto Hassan Rial (South Sudan), and Dr. Heitham Mohammed Ibrahim (Sudan), together with Ugandan ministers led by Sam Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment.

Kiambu Town MP Defends CDF, Warns Against Transfer To Counties

By: Felix Njenga
 @themkenyatimes

Kiambu Town Member of Parliament Waithaka Machua has strongly defended the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), calling it a crucial tool for improving schools and supporting needy students. He dismissed recent proposals by opposition leader Raila Odinga to transfer the fund to county governments, arguing that such a move could severely disadvantage many constituencies.



Newly constructed classrooms by NG-CDF at Mungai Chengecha primary school in Kiambu Town.

Speaking at Mungai Chengecha Primary School during the commissioning of four new classrooms, the MP underscored the significant impact of CDF in developing school infrastructure and providing bursaries.

"The CDF has been central to transforming the learning environment across Kiambu constituency enabling thousands of students from poor backgrounds to access education," he stated.

Parents present at the event echoed the MP's sentiments, commending the effective use of CDF in improving classrooms and expanding educational opportunities. They insisted that the fund should remain under the

management of Members of Parliament, where its benefits are directly felt by the community.

The MP also highlighted other CDF-funded projects at the school, including the construction of a new perimeter wall to enhance security and prevent the theft of school property. He noted that the school's playground is also used by the public, and the new wall will safeguard school assets such as taps and doors from damage. He also addressed a sanitation problem at Kiambu Primary, where the NG-CDF constructed an

additional 22 toilets to improve hygiene for pupils. He announced plans for further renovations at Mungai Chengecha Primary, including tiling and repairing damaged classrooms.

Machua further elaborated on the extensive use of CDF in the education sector, stating that nine classrooms have already been constructed for junior secondary school. He said the bursary distribution process has been fair and inclusive, with all applicants receiving support. "In the first batch of bursary disbursement, we gave out to over 7,000 beneficiaries, the second



Machua Waithaka MP Kiambu Town constituency being handed scissors to commission newly constructed classrooms for junior secondary school at Mungai Chengecha primary school.

batch we gave out to over 9,000 applicants and the third batch we gave out to over 11,000 beneficiaries," he said. The MP also announced that his office had made all day secondary schools in the constituency free of charge.

In addition to classroom construction, the MP said the NG-CDF has funded comprehensive school makeovers, including the installation of tiles, new roofing, painting, cabro paving in school compounds, and the installation of solar lighting to reduce

electricity costs.

At the same time, parents at the event urged the government to ensure the timely disbursement of school capitation funds. They warned that delays are forcing parents to pay extra fees at a time when many households are struggling with the high cost of living. According to them, timely funding would ease the burden on parents, help schools run more smoothly, and provide a better learning environment for children

‘We Were Given Ksh.50,000 Upfront’: Kenyans Reveal To MPs How They Were Duped Into Donating Kidneys

By: Gatete Njoroge
@themkenyatimes

Victims of kidney transplants in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, have told the National Assembly Health Committee how they were duped into donating their kidneys in exchange for money.

Two victims, Emmanuel Kipkosgei and Amon Kipruto, who are still nursing the effects of living with one kidney, told MPs that the organ trafficking was a well-coordinated scheme involving multiple hospitals in Eldoret.

The committee also grilled top police officials in Uasin Gishu and the management of Mediheal Group of Hospitals, which is at the center of the allegations.

On the second day of their fact-finding mission, members of the National Assembly Health Committee came face to face with the victims in an

in-camera session that sought to give justice to the victims.

Emmanuel Kipkosgei and Amon Kipruto are among the tens who are suffering in silence. Kipkosgei remembers the day he was lured into the trap by being taken to a posh house in Elgon View Estate where, together with 13 others, they allegedly met a doctor.

“Kidogo daktari mwingine akakuja hapo akatu convince convince akatuelezea, me nikaona hiyo biashara itakuwa ngumu lakini mzee mwingine mweupe akatokea akatupea 50,000 cash kila mtu so me sikuwai shika pesa mingi hivyo nikaona ni kama nitapata pesa nyingi sana,” Kipkosgei noted.

The allure of more cash pushed him to agree to the deal. Together with a friend, they went to one of the hospitals in Eldoret Town where tests were done for three weeks.

At one point, they traveled to Nairobi for more tests before the operation that was performed at a different



facility from the one conducting the tests. By this time, he was given a new identity to conceal the truth.

“Nilikuwa nimepromisiwa Ksh.1.2 million lakini nilipewa Ksh.400,000,” he added.

He says the brokers asked for part of the money. Three days later, he was arrested and detained for four days on allegations of being involved in an illegal business. He believes it was a setup.

Kipkosgei added, “Kuwauliza wapi makosa hawaniambi kitu wananiambia wewe tuambie tu vile ulienda hii shughuli hivi na hivi.”

For Kipruto, the pay at a construction site where he used to work was too meagre to sustain him. When a friend proposed the deal, he didn’t think twice about the consequences. All he wanted was some quick cash, a decision that left him with life-threatening injuries and put his family in

danger.

Others who appeared before the committee included the Uasin Gishu Police Commander and the Uasin Gishu County Criminal Investigations Officer. Later, MPs toured Mediheal Hospital, grilled the management, and assessed the situation on the ground.

‘100 Here, 120 There...’: UN Denies Claims Of Mass Staff Relocation To Nairobi

By: Bruhan Makong
@themkenyatimes

The United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) has dismissed claims that thousands of UN staff are being relocated to its African headquarters, clarifying that only limited and gradual staff movements are taking place. Chris Kirkcaldy, Director of the Division of Administrative Services (DAS) at UNON, said reports of a mass migration were misleading.

“We’ve seen some fairly wild stories out there about this mass migration to Nairobi. We don’t really recognize that as bearing any relationship to reality,” he told journalists on Thursday.

According to Kirkcaldy, several UN agencies have requested additional office space in Nairobi, but the numbers involved are relatively modest.

“We have seen a number of agencies asking for office space in Nairobi, but we’re not talking about thousands of

people. We’re talking about in some cases 100 here, 120 there, 160, or even as few as 10 or 15,” he said.

UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women

Agencies expected to move some of their staff include UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women.

Kirkcaldy explained that while Nairobi continues to attract agencies due to lower operational costs, efficient energy use, and favorable working conditions, the UN system is also grappling with a funding crisis that has forced some downsizing.

He highlighted Nairobi’s long-term advantages, including a favorable climate, lower overheads compared to cities like New York, and access to a pool of qualified local labor. Many relocations, he added, are offset by staff reductions in other locations, keeping overall numbers modest.

With the ongoing expansion of the UNON complex, Kirkcaldy said the office is well-positioned to host more staff in the future, though not on the scale suggested by recent reports.

“The current situation is such that we do not see large numbers. We certainly have the capacity through improved space utilization and outdoor facilities to accommodate more, but we do not foresee thousands of people moving,” he said.

Cost efficiency

Confirming the relocations, Zainab Hawa Bangura, Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of UNON, emphasized that the moves should not be mistaken for a shift of UN headquarters.

She said the relocations are driven partly by cost-efficiency measures and the need to bring UN operations closer to Africa-based clients.

“The reality is the relocation is not about uprooting offices in New York or Geneva and moving them here. No,” Bangura said, stressing that moving an agency’s headquarters requires a decision by the UN General Assembly.

She noted that many agencies recognize that a significant portion of their



work serves Africa, making Nairobi a practical hub.

“If your clientele are based in Africa, it doesn’t make sense to keep flying back and forth to New York. It is costly and inefficient,” she said.

Bangura added that the Secretary-General’s efficiency agenda encourages agencies to consolidate operations to cut costs, and Nairobi’s 140-acre UNON compound—gifted by the Kenyan government in the 1970s and recently expanded—offers an ideal base.

Commenting on the number of agen-

cies and staff set to relocate, Bangura said it was difficult to give precise figures since the process is ongoing.

“We will never be able to tell you exactly how many agencies are coming. Every day I get new requests—sometimes just 10 people, sometimes more. It depends on assessments and budgets,” she explained.

She added that Nairobi’s location in a favorable global time zone and its relatively affordable cost of living also make it an attractive option for global operations.

Government Fast-Tracks Legal Frameworks To Guide The Adoption Of Artificial Intelligence Agents

By: Sadik Hassan
 @themtkenyatimes

As the curtain falls on the inaugural Africa Artificial Intelligence conference, the government is rushing against time to establish robust Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy, strategies, standards, guidelines, and data protection to ensure ethical integration of AI agents in health to protect the lives of Kenyans.

Secretary of ICT, E-Government and Digital Economy in the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Digital Economy Mary Kerema, said on the sidelines of the Africa Premier AI Conference (APAIC2025) in Mombasa that the agents will not be used in isolation, but will undergo strict oversight to safeguard Kenyans.

She called for the customization of all foreign AI solutions being promoted to fit the country's needs while considering culture and beliefs, "so that we are not injuring the human aspect at the expense of using machines."

She disclosed that an AI strategy has

been launched while an AI policy is being developed, and will be ready before the end of the current financial year.

"We have developed the AI principles. We are going to engage the stakeholders to validate the principles together with the policy. We are also developing the Digital Public Infrastructure framework to bring coherence in the way we are deploying systems and solutions in our country," stated the ICT Secretary.

She further lauded innovators and techpreneurs for developing Agentic Artificial General Intelligence in health.

The government, she said, is committed to developing regulatory frameworks, standards and guidelines to ensure quality and safeguard patients. "This is about life, you make a mistake, and the person is no more. As a government, we are not going to rely solely on AI systems for treating patients. We will ensure there is the human part, where the human doctor will be able to deduce a correct diagnosis," said Kerema.

She went on: "If you just give an AI



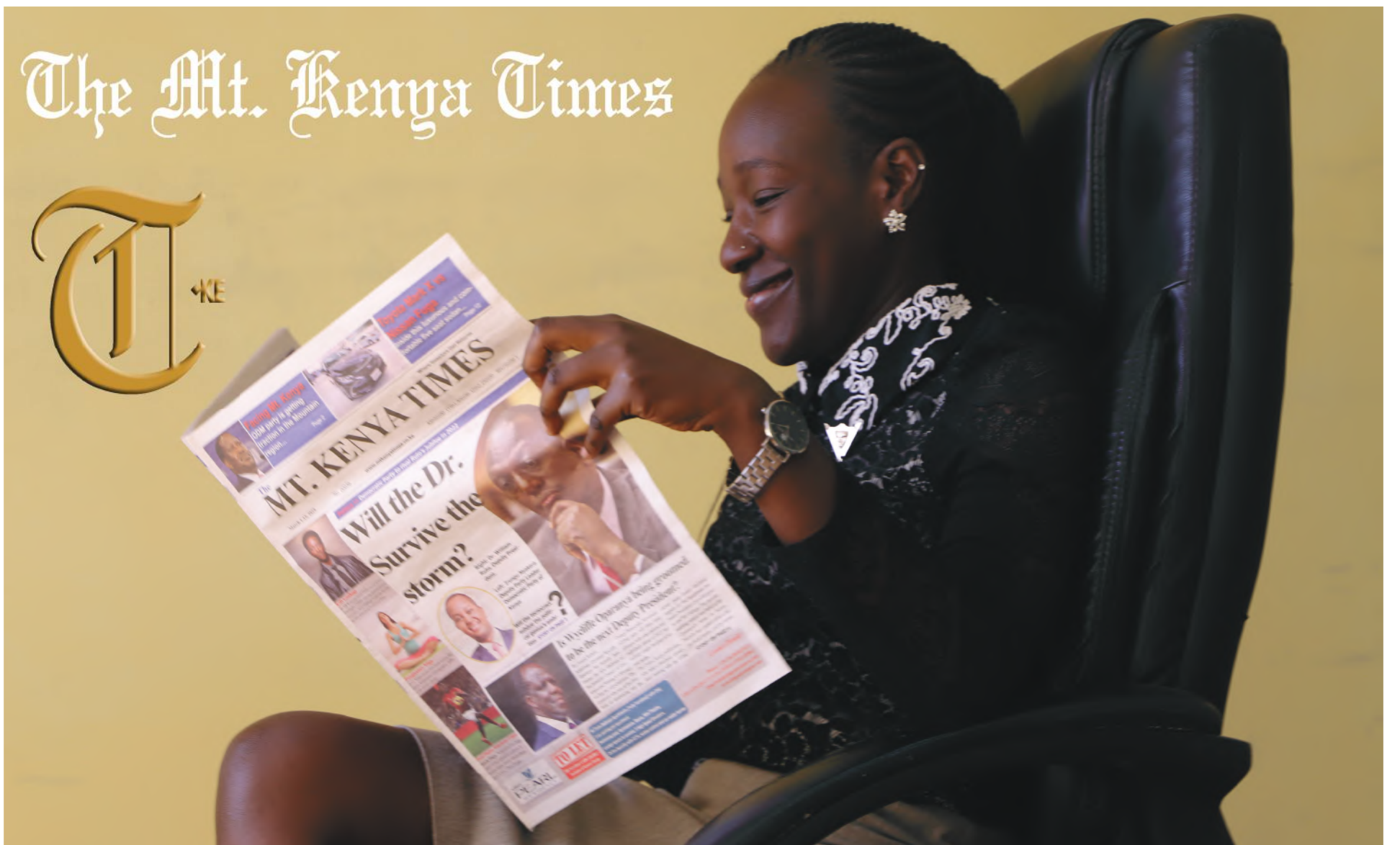
agent to prescribe, diagnose and even propose what kind of medication, then we are bound to really mess up our citizens."

MindHYVE.ai, a global pioneer in adaptive intelligence and AGI agents, has developed an AI health agent. The company's mission is to empower nations to build AI systems that reflect their values, accelerate innovation, and ensure sustainable growth.

The company showcased the new agentic AI system for clinical intelligence called Chiron AI. The autonomous clinical decision support system is designed to be used by a licensed medical practitioner to assist in consultation, recommend additional diagnoses to determine the condition of the patient, to inform the treatment plan.

"The clinical intelligence platform is

designed to be used by physicians. It has been brought to life by an agentic system in a simple dashboard that Doctors can use anywhere. It lowers the cost of healthcare and improves outcomes for professionals in health," explained Bill Faruki, Founder and CEO of MindHYVE.ai and DV8 Infosystems.



Kindiki: Kenyans To Benefit From Free Outpatient Services Under SHA

By: DPCS
@themtkenyatimes

Kenyans will soon benefit from free outpatient medical services in all hospitals after the government allocated funds for them.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki said the coverage to be offered under the new SHA medical cover will ease the burden of hospital bills for many Kenyans looking for treatment.

“In the current Budget, the government has appropriated 22 billion shillings to make sure SHA pays all outpatient medical bills in all hospitals in Kenya. If you go to the hospital and you are not admitted, you receive treatment and go home without paying anything,” Prof. Kindiki said.

The DP spoke on Friday during a consultative meeting with grassroots’ women leaders and opinion shapers from Kirinyaga County at his home in Irunduni, Tharaka Nithi County.

For a patient to enjoy the services, DP noted, one must be registered lest they will not benefit from the free treatment.

“SHA will not cover you if you are



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki greeting some of his guests on Friday.

not registered. It is encouraging to see most Kenyans are enthusiastic about it and so far, we have enrolled 25.8 million Kenyans. We hope to have all the 55 million Kenyans enrolled,” he said.

Further, Prof. Kindiki acknowledged the teething challenges facing SHA’s implementation but assured that they are being addressed promptly to improve its efficacy.

“We are fine-tuning SHA. It is a new and expansive system. We are work-

ing hard to do away with the teething challenges but be assured that it is the best investment we have ever made,” DP said.

At the same time, the second-in-command, said Mt Kenya region will continue to benefit from development as every other part of the country. He underscored the nation’s economic recovery as the catalyst to the ongoing development initiatives.

“We are happy the economy has stabilized enabling us to revive the



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki addressing the meeting.

roads and other socio-economic activities,” DP noted.

In addition to reviving stalled roads, he promised, the government will also prioritize dualling of Makutano-Mwea-Embu-Chuka-Meru Highway.

“Once we are done with the Rironi-Mau Summit dualling, the next one will be Makutano to Meru,” he added.

The administration is also constructing Modern markets in Kirinyaga

County including in Kagio, Mwea, Kutus, Mukinduri, Kagumo, Kibin-goti, Kibirigwi towns and others.

Prof. Kindiki warned against attempts by some politicians to resort to violence to manage politics in the region.

“We will not allow violence in our politics. People should compete on ideology. Looting and torching people’s properties is not our custom, we are hardworking people who build not destroy,” he stated.

Environmentalists Urge KFS To Maintain The Relationship With Stakeholders

By: George Mugo
@themtkenyatimes

Environmentalists have applauded the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) for the strategies they have employed to achieve the 30 per cent tree cover by 2032 in the country.

However, the strategies they have will succeed to see the 15 billion trees required, if they maintain the relationship they have created with stakeholders.

Escarpment Conservation Network coordinator Mbugu Waiganjo says that KFS has greatly created partnerships with non-governmental organizations, national government departments, environmentalists, international community among others. He said the KFS has also created a partnership between the local com-

munities who lives near forests by creating Community Forests Association’s.

“The members of the CFAs have helped the forest agency by planting, cultivating and protecting trees. The act created the CFAs, have seen members benefiting from the forests” he said.

“It is about motivating each other. The stakeholders are very important and they need to feel they are very important. Just that” he added.

Speaking to journalists through a telephone interview, Waiganjo said the ongoing tree planting within the country assures the country of rehabilitated forests, conserved environment as well as a bright future.

“We are happy with how environmental issues are being handled. We are sure that environment will be protected” the coordinator said.

Waiganjo urges the stakeholders to support all the planting exercises,

since it is about supporting the country’s environment for future.

“We need each other. The relationship’s created by the strategies need to be protected and defended so as strengthen the work being done for this country” he said.

The Chief Conservator of Forests Alex Lemarkoko noted since the tree planting exercise started two years ago, over 800 million trees have been planted, adding strategies to plant more trees are ongoing.

He urged stakeholders to continue supporting them so as to attain the President William Ruto directive of attaining 15 billion planted trees by 2032.

Chief Conservator of Forest Alex Lemarkoko addressing the media.



Governor Njuki Commissions 16th Bridge In Chogoria Ward To Boost Connectivity

By: Alex Njeru
 @themtkenyatimes

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has commissioned the Mpuri-Kiego Bridge across River Maara, marking the 16th bridge constructed in Chogoria Ward, Maara Constituency, since 2017.

Speaking during the launch, the governor said bridges play a crucial role in enhancing road connectivity and are a gateway to economic growth, especially in the agriculturally rich areas of upper Maara that border Mt. Kenya Forest.

“This is the 16th bridge that I have constructed in Chogoria Ward since I took over as governor,” he said. “The upper side of Maara requires many bridges because of the deep rivers that hinder movement of people and goods.”

Governor Njuki added that his administration has invested in similar projects across the county to ease transport and spur economic activities.

Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael and Chogoria Ward MCA Franklin Mawira praised the governor for delivering transformative projects since 2017.

Mr. Muisrael urged residents to consider electing Governor Njuki as senator in 2027 so that he can continue championing county interests at the national level.

The governor used the event to call for unity among county leaders and residents, asking them to rally behind Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki.

He dismissed leaders pushing locals to support impeached Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, saying the county would not take a confronta-



Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki and Deputy Nyaga Muisrael commissioning newly constructed Mpuri-Kiego bridge in Chogoria ward. Photo/Alex Njeru.

Worth Noting:

- Governor Njuki added that his administration has invested in similar projects across the county to ease transport and spur economic activities.
- Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael and Chogoria Ward MCA Franklin Mawira praised the governor for delivering transformative projects since 2017.
- Mr. Muisrael urged residents to consider electing Governor Njuki as senator in 2027 so that he can continue championing county interests at the national level.
- The governor used the event to call for unity among county leaders and residents, asking them to rally behind Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki.
- He dismissed leaders pushing locals to support impeached Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, saying the county would not take a confrontational path against the national government.

tional path against the national government.

Beyond bridges, Governor Njuki outlined other flagship projects his administration has undertaken in Maara Constituency, including the ongoing tarmacking of the Katharaka-Mukui-Mumbuni road, tarmacking of Mitheru-Kaanwa road and the construction of Kajiunduthi Stadium.

He said in collaboration with the national government, his government has rolled out major investments such as the KShs 112 million Chogoria Modern Market, KShs 350 million Chuka Modern Market, KShs 60 million Gatunga Modern Market and a KShs 1.2 billion housing project in

Chuka.

Others projects from national government include the KShs 720 million last-mile electricity connectivity program targeting 7,400 households, the KShs 180 million Phase 2 Kirumi Kia Mujari Water Project and the KShs 90 million Kibung'a Kakimiki Water Project.

Roads under construction by national government include the Chogoria-Weru, Kaanwa-Kamutiria and Keria-Magutuni routes.

Governor Njuki further announced plans to elevate Chogoria town into a municipality before the end of his tenure in 2027.

He also said that the tender for

the redesign of the notorious Nithi Bridge, valued at KShs 7 billion has been awarded. Njuki described the project as a “litmus test” for President William Ruto’s government ahead of the 2027 General Election.

“Major development promises made in past elections remain unfulfilled, even though this region overwhelmingly voted for the Kenya Kwanza government,” he said. “All promises made to the people must be delivered to guarantee our votes. We are fully behind the government, but we are destined to vote for a government that will deliver projects to us.”



Governor Njuki alongside exited residents walk along the newly constructed Mpuri-Kiego bridge in Chogoria ward. Photo/Alex Njeru

Mathira MP Turns Farmers Meeting Into A Tutam Campaign

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Mathira Member of Parliament Eric Wamumbi turned a farmers Special General Meeting into tutam campaign.

Wamumbi who stormed the Baricho Farmers Cooperative meeting at Karindundu at the outskirts of Karatina town meant to discuss utilisation of compensation funds received from KENHA for the expansion of the Sagana- Marwa highway, exploited the opportunity to praise the president and the government.

The society that has four factories; Karatina, Karindundu, Gaturiri and Gatomboya have received KSh171m to relocate stores and drying bays at their Karatina factory that borders the highway that is being turned into a dual carriage from Kenol in Murang'a to Marwa in Nyeri.

After the rowdy meeting came to an end, the legislator stood at the gate



Farmers and villagers queue for handouts from Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi at Karindundu coffee factory. Photos/Courtesy

issuing KSh400 to each of the over 1,200 farmers present as they exited the precinct of the factory.

In his address praising the government, Wamumbi insisted that the management should not budget the money for payments of debts "because the government would clear all of them".

"We have passed in parliament a sum of over KSh2 billion to offset

farmers' debts and all that is remaining is disbursement, so just wait," assured the legislator.

He further disclosed that the head of state would be visiting the area in the next two weeks where he would launch various development projects.

"Here in Mathira, the president will launch the Affordable housing project in Karatina Town where the ministry of public works workshop was locat-

ed", noted the MP.

He also told those in attendance that Ruto would also open a new market in the town.

But even as he distributed the handouts in brand new 200 shilling notes scores of elders walked out without taking the money arguing that their consciences were not on sale.

Maria Mumbi, a septuagenarian farmer told Mt Kenya Times that she

had only come for coffee issues and not politics and that she was beyond handouts.

Hundreds of non farmers had also gatecrashed into the premises in anticipation of receiving beans and rice as the MP has been distributing the same in almost all his meetings.

Kamiti Forest Squatters Petition State To De-Gazette Land Amid Parliament Push

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyatimes

A long-standing land dispute in Kamiti Forest has resurfaced, with four stakeholder groups petitioning the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to de-gazette a contested 419 acre parcel of land.

The petition, submitted this week, seeks to pave the way for subdivision and issuance of titles to hundreds of squatters who have waited decades for ownership.

The groups — Kamiti/Amner Development Welfare Group (KADWAG), Kamiti/Amner Development Association (KADA), Kamiti/Amner Forest Squatters (KAFSA), and Muungano wa Kamiti Society say their claim to the land dates back to 1994 when a presidential directive earmarked the parcel for settlement of the needy.

Led by their respective chairpersons, including James Kinuthia Mwangi of KADWAG, the petitioners argue that after years of disputes, Parliament recommended an Alter-

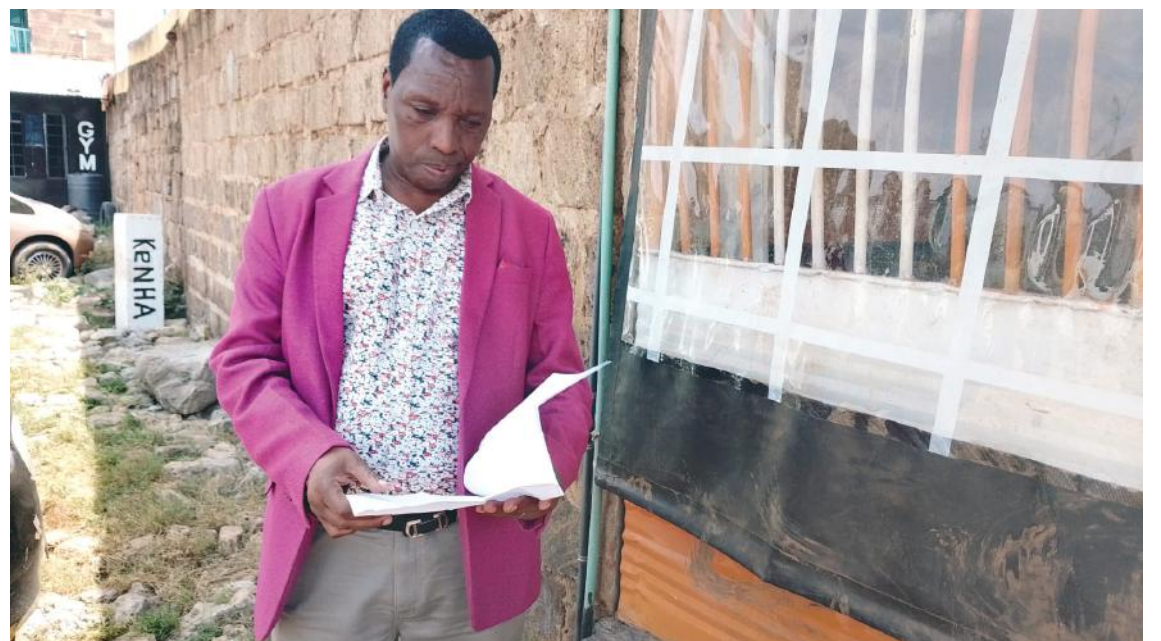
native Dispute Resolution mechanism that united the rival groups to negotiate a fair sharing formula.

"Our plea is simple: de-gazette the land so that our people can finally be allocated their rightful plots and public amenities can be planned," said Kinuthia, noting that the process has already been recognized by the National Assembly.

The matter has also drawn the attention of the National Assembly's Select Committee on Implementation, chaired by Budalang'i MP Raphael Wanjala. This week, the committee questioned the Ministry of Lands and the National Land Commission (NLC) over delays in implementing Parliament's resolutions on the Kamiti land.

Appearing before the committee, Lands Principal Secretary Nixon Korir assured MPs that the titling process would commence once the land was officially de-gazetted. "We are ready to move forward, but the process has to start with de-gazette-ment by the Kenya Forest Service," he said.

NLC Chairperson Gershom Ottachi echoed the PS's position, urging the petitioners to fast-track consulta-



James kinuthia chairman Kamiti/Amner Development Welfare group perusing the petition presented to the director general Kenya forest service of degazetment of their land so that they can start processing titles.

tions with KFS to unlock the stalemate.

The Kamiti dispute is one of several land rows Parliament is monitoring. Others include the restoration of land in Kilifi North fraudulently transferred to Libya Oil Kenya, the regularization of plots occupied by

Mwananguvuze residents in Likoni, and the controversial annexation of private land in Matuga Constituency by Greatcom Limited.

The Wanjala-led committee has resolved to conduct fact-finding visits to Kamiti and other disputed parcels to assess progress on implementa-

tion of House resolutions.

For Kamiti's squatters, the hope is that this latest petition will finally bring closure to a struggle spanning more than three decades

Masks and Mirrors



Looks can deceive the eye that tries to see,
The truth is lost upon the glowing screen.
Dark shades grow faint, while fairer faces shine,
And brightness rules the pictures of the day.

The filter hides the skin beneath its glow,
It paints a mask and covers what is real.
A child will smile before he learns to speak,
And pose with ease before he speaks his mind.

From early years we act before the world,
We wear new masks for people, place, and
time.

Life is a stage where many roles are played,
And none can keep a single face for long.

The mirror once revealed the self as true,
But filters now have taken up its place.
They show a face more bright than flesh can
be,
And bury truth beneath a shining mask.

Yet truth is stronger than the painted glow,
And inner light will last when masks are gone

V Durgadevi
BT Assistant
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

The Lonely Sea Gull.. His first flight



Days of waiting, on the ledge I stay,
Body aching, with no end in sight
No words to express the pain I feel,
No water to drink, no food to have

The sun blazing down, with a cruel might,
Hardly a soul, to look at me with light.
Not even my mother, father, or brothers .
They've flown ahead, leaving me alone

They eat herring, while I scrape by,
On mackerel tails and eggshells, they were once

thrown away
The sun rises in the east and sets in the west,
A lonely cycle I watch from here

The sky turns yellow, orange, and dark once again
I'm alone, sometimes with one leg, eyes closed,
yet no sleep.

No one understands, my hardships and pain,
Though family is near, I feel like an orphan,

Oh, God, please grant me, the art of flight,
Let me soar with my family, in love and delight.
When will my fate change? When will I be free?
Laments the young sea gull, in His first flight

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

Conversion With The Moon



I talked to the moon, one silent night
She listened to me, with gentle light

I shared my dreams, my hopes and fears
She heard my whispers, through all my tears

She told me secrets, of the starry sky

Of the mysteries, that lie beyond the eye

I asked her questions, about life and its ways
She answered softly, with a gentle sway

Her words were wisdom, pure and true
A conversation, I'll always hold anew

The moon and I, we talked all night
Under the stars, in a gentle delight.

SRIPRIYA R
BT ENGLISH GHSS KOLAPAKKAM
KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT TAMILNADU INDIA

Road To Recovery



My road to recovery
Leads me to self-discovery.

Searching for peace
Is not actually easy.

The heart asks for solitude,
To escape from this crude.

Pain goes far,
Leaving a deep scar.

Healing myself for the future,
To become my own booster.

S.M.PRATHIKSHA
B.Tech IT First year
Sri sairam engineering college, Chennai

The Butterfly



Oh, butterfly, so beautiful, cute, and sweet,
My favorite creature, to meet.
To become a butterfly, is not so easy
A magical journey, through life's cycle,

From pupa to larva, and more, it grows,
Undergoing plenty of challenges and changes,

It is all nature shows.
After emerging, it flies so free,
With vibrant colors, wonderfully

Its wings are designed, in a beautiful way,
It is a masterpiece, every single day.
There's no word to express its beauty
It is a rare Creature
A butterfly's charm is beyond comparison.

When I see a butterfly, I feel so happy
Because I love them so much,
They never harm, they just fly and play,
Bringing joy to all, in their own sweet way.

My question is, who designed this butterfly?
Who crafted its beauty, with such beauty ?
My request is, let's protect these creatures
And never harm them, for they bring us joy

R. Tharini, 7A
GHS. Melpattampakkam
Cuddalore district
Tamil Nadu India

Conversation With The Moon



Can we converse with the moon?
Yes, it's our children
Their twinkling eyes talks with us more
A flawless face, so serene and bright
Innocent and pure, and shines in the silent night.
Like a child's laughter, the moon's soft beam
Illuminates our path and our dream
Just like children, the moon's gentle glow
Brings joy and wonder as its light does flow
So, we can converse with the moon through our
children.

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

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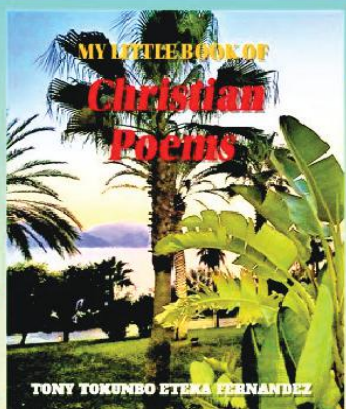
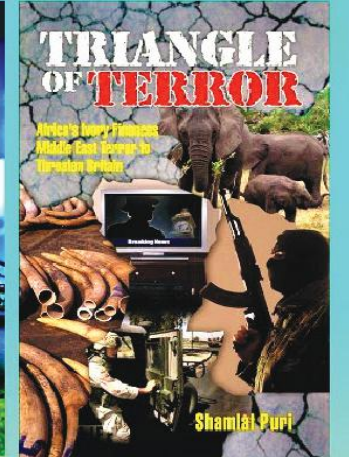
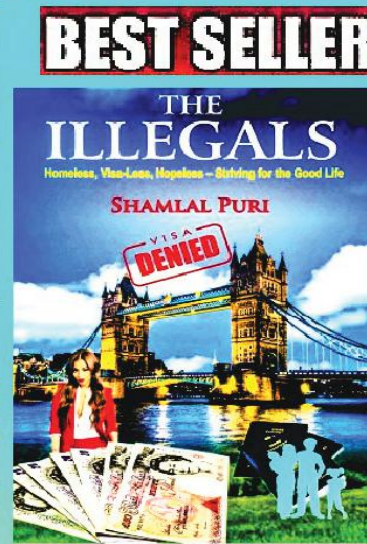
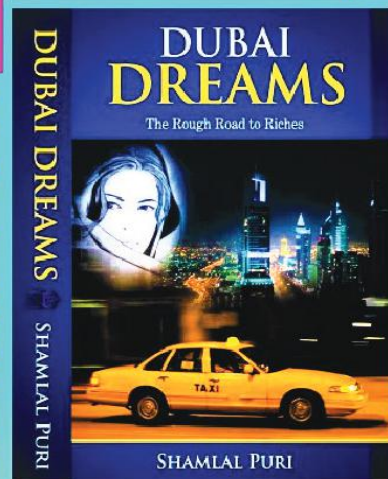
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Court Grants State 10-Day Detention And Forensic Access In Rhino Horns Case

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

A Nairobi magistrate has granted the state's application to detain two suspects linked to rhino horn trafficking for ten more days, authorizing a forensic examination of their electronic devices to advance a complex, international investigation.

The ruling, delivered by JKIA Senior Principal Magistrate Njeri Thuku, follows a heated application hearing in which the prosecution argued that Feiswal Mohammed Ali alias Feisal (58) and Mohammed Hassan Kontoma (75) are central figures in a sophisticated network and pose a significant flight risk based on past behaviour.

The prosecution, led by Mr. Allen Mulama, informed the court that the state is liaising with international agencies, including INTERPOL, with a view to presenting charges under the Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering Act.

Mr. Mulama stressed the gravity of the economic crimes involved and the urgent need to protect a star witness, stating that the Witness Protection Program alone was insufficient



The court session on Thursday

to guarantee their safety.

In her submission, defence lawyer Ms. Gathoni Ibrahim sought to poke holes in the state's case. She argued that the seriousness of the alleged offences and the evidence presented did not constitute compelling reasons for further detention. Ms. Gathoni revealed that the state had failed to disclose that Feiswal is not a convict, as his previous 20-year sentence for ivory trafficking was quashed on appeal by the High Court in 2018.

Citing the legal precedent set in Sudi Oscar Kipchumba v Republic [2020], Ms. Gathoni contended that the prosecution had not met the re-

quired threshold for detention and that there was no existing charge to warrant holding her clients. She urged the court to release the elderly suspects, noting their medical conditions, and impose restrictions instead.

In his rejoinder, Prosecutor Mulama reiterated that the ten-day request was the "least restrictive measure" and assured the court that the suspects would be charged as soon as investigations were complete, even if before the deadline. He added that the suspects had been treated with dignity throughout the process.

In her determination, Magistrate Thuku acknowledged that the sus-



The suspects

pects are arrested persons yet to be charged but noted the possible charges touch on serious wildlife trafficking and economic crimes. She highlighted the significant public interest in the case, stating, "for the alleged rhino horn to be away from the rhino, means that a rhino died... The supposed weight and value are an indicator that not anyone can make a demand for a rhino horn. This requires someone ultra-rich with a fetish for wildlife trophy."

The court ordered the detention of the duo for a further period of ten (10) days at Langata Police Station pending the completion of investi-

gations into economic crimes and dealing in wildlife trophies (rhino horns).

She also issued an order authorizing the investigating officer to forensically examine electronic gadgets recovered from the respondents.

The Officer in Charge of Langata Police Station was instructed to make sure that the suspects have reasonable access to medication and medical treatment as needed.

The matter will be mentioned on September 9, 2025, to confirm compliance and/or issue further instructions.

New Report Urges Kenya, Global Leaders To Act On Learning Poverty

By: Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

A new literacy paper unveiled at the Education Evidence for Action (EE4A) Conference in Embu has called for urgent translation of education research into government policy to tackle global learning poverty.

The paper, produced by the What Works Hub for Global Education (WWHGE) in partnership with the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (GEEAP) and the British Council, stresses that foundational literacy must be prioritized or millions of children risk being locked out of future learning.

It recommends proven strategies such as structured pedagogy, teacher training, and targeted interventions, urging governments to embed evidence-based reforms directly into classrooms.

"Strong partnerships that link glob-

al evidence with local policies and teaching practices are key to sustainable progress," WWHGE said at the conference.

At the conference, WWHGE convened education leaders in a session on "Strengthening the Evidence Ecosystem," outlining how evidence must not remain in research but be embedded into government reform agendas and classroom teaching.

The British Council also showcased its Learning and Life for Global Education (LL4GE) initiative, which integrates literacy, language, and life skills to equip learners with academic and social competencies for work and citizenship.

Together, WWHGE, GEEAP, and the British Council said they aim to accelerate reforms by linking global research to local education policy, ensuring that proven strategies directly shape how teachers teach and how children learn.

The literacy paper will be officially launched later in 2025, with partners pledging to support ministries of

education in scaling up reforms that ensure every child acquires basic reading and learning skills.

Governments must urgently translate education research into classroom policies to combat global learning poverty, a new literacy paper previewed at the 6th Biennial Education Evidence for Action (EE4A) and EDF-Kenya Conference in Embu has urged.

The paper, developed by the What Works Hub for Global Education (WWHGE) in partnership with the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (GEEAP) and the British Council, calls for immediate adoption of evidence-based strategies such as structured pedagogy, teacher professional development, and targeted interventions to improve foundational literacy.

"Foundational literacy is essential – without it, children are locked out of future learning opportunities," the paper stresses, warning that delays in policy adoption risk worsening global learning inequality.



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Looking ahead, the partners pledged to work with ministries and education institutions to scale reforms that will guarantee every child the opportunity to acquire foundational literacy skills.



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The Unassailable Gavel: When Decisional Independence Becomes A Shield For Systemic Dysfunction



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

The dawn of Kenya's 2010 Constitution was heralded with fervent optimism, particularly concerning the Judiciary. Envisioned as a veritable game-changer, the new constitutional order promised a radical transformation of the justice system, anchoring it firmly on principles of integrity, accountability, and the efficient delivery of justice. A more independent, professional, and citizen-centric judiciary was not merely a hope but a constitutional imperative. Indeed, the early days saw a flurry of judicial reforms, vetting processes, and a renewed emphasis on judicial officers' autonomy, an independence designed to free them from external manipulation and ensure fearless adjudication. Yet, a decade and a half later, the echoes of that constitutional promise sometimes ring hollow against the backdrop of persistent judicial challenges that threaten to erode public trust.

Despite the constitutional safeguards, the operational reality within Kenya's courts frequently presents a disquieting spectacle. Instances abound where judicial pronouncements appear starkly incongruous with established legal principles, or where procedural dictates seem to be willfully disregarded. One observes judgments so glaringly devoid of sound legal reasoning that they defy basic comprehension, or judges issuing final orders at the *ex parte* stage, effectively condemning parties unheard. More perniciously, there are regrettable delays in granting real-time orders to halt egregious illegalities, rendering a litigant's subsequent triumph in court a pyrrhic victory, a legal remedy arriving long after the injury has become irreparable, rendering the entire suit nugatory. Such scenarios, sadly, are not isolated aberrations but rather an increasingly visible pattern that leaves citizens questioning the very efficacy of the judicial process.

The predicament intensifies when aggrieved citizens, clutching their evidence of what appears to be judicial ineptitude, approach the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), the constitutional body mandated with the promotion of judicial independence and accountability. One might expect a robust mechanism for scrutinizing such grievances, but the response often follows a well-worn, almost ritualistic, refrain: the Commission asserts its inability to undertake a "merit review" of a judicial decision. Litigants are advised, with an almost poetic consistency, that their recourse lies exclusively in seeking a review or an appeal through the hierarchical court system. This official stance,



while seemingly adhering to the separation of powers and the appellate structure, inadvertently cultivates an environment where the quality of primary judicial work appears to be insulated from direct disciplinary accountability.

This institutionalized response, therefore, begs the question of whether the noble concept of decisional independence has been inadvertently transmuted into a convenient shield for various forms of judicial shortcomings. It creates an almost impenetrable fortress around the individual judicial officer, implying that any error, however egregious or patently unsound, falls solely within the purview of the appellate system, rather than reflecting on the competence or diligence of the decision-maker themselves. Such an interpretation, if widely embraced, risks turning the constitutional guarantee of independence into a license for unchecked discretion, where the quality of justice administered at the trial level becomes a perpetual gamble. One might cheekily suggest that this interpretation effectively grants judicial officers a legal equivalent of diplomatic immunity, but for errors of judgment.

The constitutional framers, in their wisdom, sought to secure judicial officers from undue influence and coercion, recognizing that fear of reprisal could compromise impartial adjudication. Decisional independence, as scholars like Shimon Shetreet and others have articulated, is fundamentally about protecting judges from political interference or public clamor when making rulings. It ensures judges can interpret the law and apply it to facts without fear of being penalized for unpopular but legally sound decisions. It is not, however, traditionally understood as a *carte blanche* for demonstrable incompetence or, dare one say, even willful dereliction in decision-making. The very premise

of delegated power that judges act as custodians of the citizenry's sovereign authority implies a corresponding duty of accountability.

Indeed, the emerging judicial philosophy, as espoused by the JSC and within certain judicial circles, appears to suggest that judges and magistrates can only be disciplined or removed from office for misconduct not tied to the quality of their primary work. In other words, a judicial officer might face sanctions for corruption, insubordination, or gross moral turpitude, but rarely for persistently rendering decisions that are legally indefensible. This creates an unsettling dichotomy: competence in one's core professional function, which is to decide cases fairly and lawfully, becomes decoupled from the standards of professional accountability. It is almost as if a surgeon could be disciplined for poor bedside manner but never for leaving a tool inside a patient, so long as the patient could (theoretically) seek a second opinion.

The practical ramifications for litigants are profound and often devastating. A party subjected to a patently wrong decision at a lower court is then forced into the labyrinthine appellate process, incurring additional costs, enduring prolonged delays, and often suffering further prejudice while waiting for correction. This is not merely an inconvenience; it represents a significant barrier to justice, particularly for the indigent or those lacking the financial fortitude to traverse the entire judicial hierarchy. Moreover, if the "decisional independence" doctrine holds sway at every level, then the appellate judge, too, enjoys a similar immunity from disciplinary action for their own potential errors, raising the satirical specter of an endless parade of flawed judgments, each impeccably insulated by the same principle, all the way to the apex court.

This state of affairs risks fostering a culture of impunity, where the quality of initial adjudication is relegated to a secondary concern, with the appellate system serving as the sole, albeit costly and protracted, corrective mechanism. It undermines the very essence of judicial excellence and public accountability that the 2010 Constitution so passionately sought to entrench. For the citizenry, whose power is merely donated to the judiciary, this feels less like justice being administered and more like a high-stakes lottery, where the initial draw can be profoundly unfair, and the only recourse is to buy another ticket (an appeal) hoping for a better outcome.

Ultimately, a nuanced understanding of decisional independence is imperative. It must protect judges from improper external influence, but it cannot, and should not, shield them from accountability for demonstrable and persistent professional incompetence or deliberate misapplication of the law. The JSC's mandate for judicial oversight must extend beyond matters of external misconduct to encompass a rigorous, albeit judicious, evaluation of judicial performance directly tied to the quality and soundness of decisions. Failure to address this growing chasm between constitutional aspiration and practical reality risks not just a loss of public faith, but the dangerous institutionalization of a system where the pursuit of justice becomes an increasingly elusive and financially punitive endeavor for the ordinary Kenyan. The ugly head of unaddressed judicial ineptitude, left to fester under the guise of independence, will indeed, one day, begin to devour the very fabric of our democratic society.

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher

Worth Noting:

- The predicament intensifies when aggrieved citizens, clutching their evidence of what appears to be judicial ineptitude, approach the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), the constitutional body mandated with the promotion of judicial independence and accountability.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Africa's Climate Summit Must Prioritize Just Transition In Clean Cooking Initiatives



By: **Twongirwe Ireen**
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CEO - WoGEM Uganda

Worth Noting:

- As global leaders convene, one question demands urgent attention, how will Africa's energy transition serve the very people it most affects particularly women at the grassroots?
- Across the continent, over 900 million people still lack access to clean cooking solutions and electricity. In rural areas especially Kijumba, Hoima district most communities depend more on biomass fuels like firewood and charcoal remain the norm, exposing women and girls to indoor air pollution, forest degradation, school dropouts, sexual harassments and hours of unpaid labor spent gathering fuel. These realities are not development challenges they are violations of climate, health, gender, and economic justice.

On 8th -10th September, Global leaders, climate activists, feminists, policy makers, will convene in Addis Abba Ethiopia for the 2nd Africa Climate summit under the theme, "Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development"

The first Africa Climate Summit 2023 in Nairobi focused on the theme, 'Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World. It's important to note that several declaration were made that including a call for increased renewable energy capacity to 300 GW by 2030, a reform of the global financial architecture to unlock investment, and a fair playing field for African products to compete globally.

As global leaders convene, one question demands urgent attention, how will Africa's energy transition serve the very people it most affects particularly women at the grassroots?

Across the continent, over 900 million people still lack access to clean cooking solutions and electricity. In rural areas especially Kijumba, Hoima district most communities depend more on biomass fuels like firewood and charcoal remain the norm, exposing women and girls to indoor air pollution, forest degradation, school dropouts, sexual harassments and hours of unpaid labor spent gathering fuel. These realities are not development challenges they are violations of climate, health, gender, and economic justice.

Uganda specifically, is endowed with significant oil and gas reserves, still relies significantly on biomass (notably firewood and charcoal) for domestic energy. Energy poverty has a particularly large effect on women and girls, who have the responsibility for gathering firewood, endure the health consequence with indoor air pollution from the cooking stoves, and lack influence in the decision-making in the energy sector. It's clear that climate crisis escalated by high levels of deforestation, fossil fuels and this has led to human rights violations, displacement of people and food insecurities.

In addition, the concept of a just transition is often treated as a high-level framework tied to solar farms, wind parks, and green financing mechanisms. But at the heart of daily energy struggles in Africa lies something far more personal and immediate the cooking fire. In my opinion, Just transition means recognizing that women



Clean Cooking Initiatives

are not just passive beneficiaries but they are energy entrepreneurs, innovators, change makers and community leaders.

Furthermore, when women are supported to lead clean cooking projects whether through briquette-making, solar cooker assembly, or peer-to-peer education adoption rates increase, incomes improve, and environmental impact grows through mindset change at grassroots.

In many African countries, it is women who cook, who manage fuel, who care for the sickened children suffering from smoke inhalation. Yet too often, they are absent from the planning tables where climate and energy decisions are made.

The Africa Climate Summit must not overlook this. A just energy transition is not just about megawatts and grids it's about dignity, health, time, and opportunity for every African woman and girl who cooks. Their future should not be an afterthought; it should be the foundation of our climate vision.

Recall that only seven years remain to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, and note with concern that 600 million people in Africa still lack access to electricity while 970 million lack access to clean cooking;

Therefore ahead of ACS, as a climate activist I call upon the global community to act with urgency in reducing emissions, fulfilling its obligations, honoring past promises, and supporting the continent in addressing climate change, specifically to accelerate all efforts to reduce emissions to align with goals of the Paris Agreement.

They should also honor the commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual climate finance, as promised in 2009 at the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Furthermore, Promotion of clean cooking technologies and initiatives as a just energy transition must be prioritized and funded with grants not loans. In addition, there should also be total phase out of fossil fuels that have escalated

climate crisis in our communities and more funding in the green Economic alternatives that are sustainable, inclusive, just, and equitable for ALL.

There is also urgent need to strengthen actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, deforestation, and desertification, as well as restore degraded lands to achieve land degradation neutrality; and implement the Abidjan declaration on achieving gender equality for successful land restoration.

For and my Country
Ireen Twongirwe
Executive Director
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An Analysis Of The Legal And Political Dimensions Of The Prosecution Of Joseph Kabila In The Democratic Republic Of Congo



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
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Worth Noting:

- The principle that a head of state is not above the law has been a cornerstone of international jurisprudence since the post-World War II Nuremberg and Tokyo trials. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has further solidified this principle in its Rome Statute, which explicitly states that a person's official capacity is no bar to their criminal responsibility. While the DRC is a party to the Rome Statute, the current proceedings against Kabila are taking place within its domestic legal system, specifically a military court.

- The charges against Kabila are serious and include treason, war crimes, murder, and supporting the M23 rebel group. The M23 has been responsible for widespread human rights abuses in eastern DRC, and any proven link to a former head of state would be a grave matter.

Introduction

The legal proceedings against former Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) President Joseph Kabila represent a major development in the country's political landscape and raise profound questions about justice, accountability, and the rule of law. While there has been much speculation, it is crucial to ground the analysis in fact: a military prosecutor in the DRC has requested the death penalty for Mr. Kabila on charges including treason and war crimes, but a verdict has not yet been rendered. The trial is being conducted in absentia, as Mr. Kabila has been outside the country since the charges were filed. This situation, therefore, is not about a sentence already passed, but rather a complex legal and political process in motion.

This analysis will explore the legal basis for prosecuting a former head of state, the procedural and political challenges of such a trial, and the broader implications for the DRC and international law.

The Legal Framework for Prosecuting a Former Head of State

The principle that a head of state is not above the law has been a cornerstone of international jurisprudence since the post-World War II Nuremberg and Tokyo trials. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has further solidified this principle in its Rome Statute, which explicitly states that a person's official capacity is no bar to their criminal responsibility. While the DRC is a party to the Rome Statute, the current proceedings against Kabila are taking place within its domestic legal system, specifically a military court.

The charges against Kabila are serious and include treason, war crimes, murder, and supporting the M23 rebel group. The M23 has been responsible for widespread human rights abuses in eastern DRC, and any proven link to a former head of state would be a grave matter. For the trial to proceed domestically, the DRC's Senate first had to lift the lifetime immunity granted to former presidents who serve as senators. This was a critical step, as it formally removed a major legal obstacle and demonstrated the political will to pursue the case.

The prosecution is reportedly relying on evidence to establish a direct link between Kabila and the M23's activities. The legal arguments will

likely focus on command responsibility, which holds a commander criminally liable for the acts of their subordinates, and on evidence that Kabila provided material or political support to the rebel group. The legal challenge for the prosecution is to prove these connections beyond a reasonable doubt, especially given the trial in absentia and the political context.

Procedural and Extradition Challenges

The fact that Mr. Kabila is being tried in absentia presents significant procedural challenges. While some legal systems allow for trials in absentia, they are often criticized on the grounds that they can undermine the defendant's right to a fair trial, including the right to confront witnesses and present a defense. Furthermore, any verdict from such a trial would be difficult to enforce without the cooperation of another country.

This brings us to the issue of extradition, which is often a point of contention in cases involving former political leaders. If Kabila remains abroad, the DRC would have to formally request his extradition. This is not an automatic process and is governed by a complex web of bilateral treaties and international conventions. A host country could deny an extradition request on a number of grounds, including:

Political Motivation: The most common argument against extraditing a former leader is that the charges are politically motivated. The host country's courts would have to determine whether the prosecution is a genuine effort to secure justice for criminal acts or a form of political persecution.

Concerns about a Fair Trial: If the host country's judicial system determines that Mr. Kabila would not receive a fair trial in the DRC, they could deny the request. The in absentia trial and the political tensions surrounding the case could be factors in this determination.

The Death Penalty: The DRC's recent decision to lift a 20-year moratorium on the death penalty could also complicate matters. Many countries, particularly in Europe, have a strong policy against extradition to countries where the death penalty may be imposed. This is often an absolute prohibition in their domestic law or in extradition treaties. The fact that the prosecutor is



Former Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) President Joseph Kabila.

seeking the death penalty for Kabila could be a decisive factor in a foreign court's decision to deny extradition.

Political Dimensions and Broader Implications

The legal process against Kabila is deeply intertwined with the DRC's domestic politics. The current president, Félix Tshisekedi, came to power in a historic transition, but his relationship with his predecessor has soured. The prosecution is widely seen as a strategic move by Tshisekedi's government to dismantle Kabila's influence, marginalize his political party, and consolidate power. This political dimension is what leads many observers to question the neutrality of the proceedings, regardless of the merits of the charges.

The case also has broader implications for the rule of law in the DRC and the fight against impunity in Africa. On one hand, a successful and credible prosecution could be seen as a powerful signal that no one, not even a former president, is above the law. It could set a precedent for holding leaders accountable for their actions and could contribute to long-term stability and good governance.

On the other hand, if the trial is

widely perceived as a political witch hunt, it could further polarize the country and undermine public trust in the judiciary. It could also set a dangerous precedent for future leaders, where legal proceedings are used as a tool for political retribution.

The international community is watching these events closely. Organizations like the United Nations and human rights groups are concerned about the human rights implications, particularly the reinstatement of the death penalty. At the same time, many within the DRC and abroad would support a genuine effort to bring to justice those who have committed heinous crimes, regardless of their position.

In conclusion, the prosecution of Joseph Kabila is a high-stakes legal and political drama. It is not about a sentence already delivered but about a prosecutor's request that is now before a court. The outcome of the trial, and any subsequent attempts at extradition, will test the strength of the DRC's legal institutions, the principles of international law, and the political future of the country.

South Sudan Sees Renewed Clashes Between Gov't, Opposition Forces

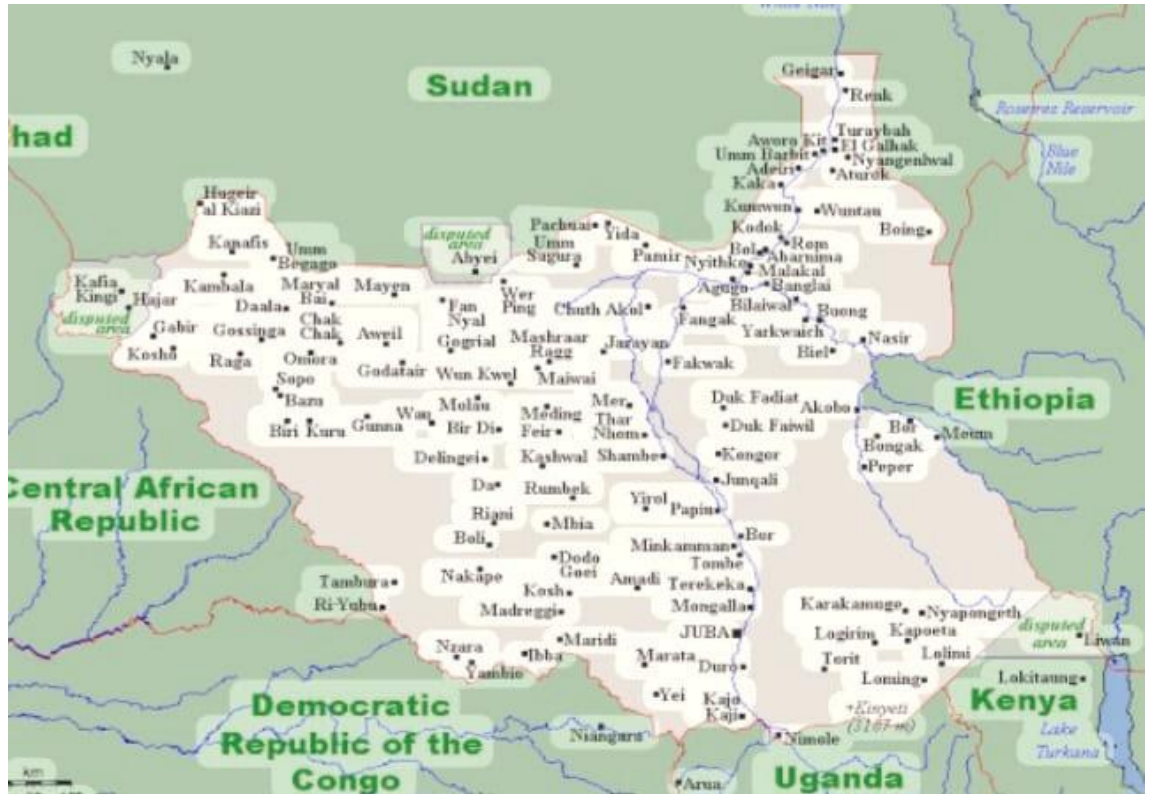
By: Xinhua
@themkenyatices

South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) and the opposition Sudan People's Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO) have clashed for two consecutive days in Central Equatoria and Upper Nile States.

"This morning, the SPLA-IO intercepted an attacking force of the SSPDF outside Mathiang, leading to the ongoing clashes that have now reached Mathiang town in Longechuk County. The situation in Mathiang remains tense as the SPLA-IO joins with the armed youth and continues to maintain presence inside the town," SPLA-IO Spokesperson Lam Paul Gabriel said Thursday on his official Facebook page. Besides, he also disclosed that fighting broke out on

Wednesday after their forces prevented two coordinated attacks from the SSPDF in Jamara Saba and Limuro areas in Lainya County. "The SSPDF countered by trying to move towards the SPLA-IO positions around Lainya. Two enemy soldiers were killed and several others wounded during the clashes," Gabriel said. SSPDF Spokesperson Lul Ruai Koang told Xinhua on Thursday that he could not comment on the clashes because he is out of the country.

Tensions erupted between the opposition and the SSPDF following an attack on March 4 by the White Army militia, which the government said is allied with the SPLA-IO, overran a military base in Nasir County, Upper Nile State. On March 7, the White Army killed 27 SSPDF soldiers and a general who were being evacuated by the United Nations in Nasir. This incident led to the arrests of several high-ranking SPLA-IO officials.



South Africa Vows To Combat Online Gender-Based Violence

By: Xinhua
@themkenyatices

A South African official on Thursday pledged the government's commitment to tackling the online abuse against women, as digital platforms see a rise in threats, harassment, cyberstalking, and the non-consensual sharing of images.

"When threats of rape, doxxing, or image-based abuse go unpunished, we normalize gender-based violence. We reinforce impunity. We send the chilling message that women's safety, online or offline, is not a priority. I want to be clear today: this government does not accept that," said Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Mondli Gungubele. Speaking in Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, Gungubele met with organizations from the film industry and other groups to discuss the government's efforts to end online gender-based violence and create a safer digital

space for women. "In our increasingly digital world, the internet should be a place of connection, learning, and empowerment. Yet so far for many women, it has become a place of harassment, abuse, and fear," Gungubele said. Gungubele said there are organizations established to handle such matters, appealing to victims and their families to report online abuse against women. The deputy minister called on netizens to "report harmful content and hold perpetrators accountable."

In recent years, steps have been taken to address issues affecting women online, including revenge pornography, with some recent court rulings acting against perpetrators. Organizations handling these matters, such as the Film and Publication Board (FPB), have been actively involved. In the 2024/25 financial year, the FPB dealt with 34 public complaints covering a range of issues, including sextortion, online harassment, impersonation, and the non-consensual sharing of sexual images.



SPORTS
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Sports >> *The outdoor season for athletes, welfare concerns notwithstanding, should be stretched longer than it currently is, according to World Athletics president Sebastian Coe.

Outdoor Athletics Season Should Be Longer, Says Coe

The outdoor season for athletes, welfare concerns notwithstanding, should be stretched longer than it currently is, according to World Athletics president Sebastian Coe.

The indoor season presently runs from end-January to April, before track and field moves outdoors, normally until September, but Coe believes this window is not big enough.

Speaking in Zurich, host of the Diamond League finals that finished Thursday with the world championships in Tokyo now just two weeks away, the 68-year-old Briton said the season was too short.

“One of the things that I spend a lot of time thinking about, and our innovation teams, is actually, ‘how do we extend the season longer?’” he told media.

“We are, still for a professional sport, a relatively short season now.”

Options were varied, “whether that is utilising the opportunity that the hemispheres give us, starting slightly earlier in environments where athletes can run quick”.

“Or extending the season into environments where athletes can run, jump, throw at the height of their powers, but later on in the season, I think it is really important.”

Coe, a two-time Olympic 1,500m gold medallist, added that World Athletics and other interested parties “always have to be conscious of athlete welfare”. “But I think it is really important going forward that we find as many opportunities to be able to showcase the extraordinary talent that’s out there and not have it entirely condensed from effectively sort of late May-early June through until the few first few days of September.

“That’s not a long enough season for professional sport.”

- **Extraordinary performance**

-



President of World Athletics and former British track and field athlete Sebastian Coe reacts at the end of the Diamond League athletics meeting “Weltklasse” at the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich, on August 28, 2025. (Photo by Fabrice COFFRINI / AFP)

The world champs in Tokyo will close out the athletics season. The last time they were held so late was in 2019, when Doha hosted between September 27-October 6.

The 2027 Worlds will be held in Beijing between September 11-19 while the first time Tokyo hosted the worlds, in 1991, they fell August 23-September 1.

Coe, however, did not expect any dip in performance come Tokyo, tying this in to his thread on a potential prolongation of the season.

“Well it’s not obviously evident from the way that our athletes have been performing in our world, in the Diamond League,” he said of the prospect of underperforming in the Japanese capital.

“And it’s not quite as late as it was in Doha. But if you remember, Doha wasn’t without

its challenges. But the one thing that the gift that kept giving in Doha was the extraordinary performance.

“Performance is slightly later in the season of our competitors. This is the first year that under the new calendar configuration our world championships conclude the season.

“And it’s our ambition to conclude every season with the world championships, not have a Diamond League that then continues beyond the world championships.”

To that effect, World Athletics last year unveiled the new Ultimate Championship team event, which Coe predicted would be a “gamechanger” for track and field.

The inaugural event will be held in Budapest on September 11-13, 2026, and will be staged every two years to fulfil World Athlet-

ics’ ambition of holding a global championship every year.

The event boasts a “record-setting” prize pot of \$10 million (9.6 million euros). World Athletics said it was “the largest ever offered in track and field”, with champions set to receive \$150,000.

Each session will last three hours and athletes will represent both themselves and their national teams, wearing national kit.

Coe said he didn’t think the current calendar “led a great deal of understanding to the fans who didn’t quite understand why, ‘Well, you know, somebody’s just won a world championship. What does a diamond League Final mean?’

“I think it’s much better sequenced. But only time will tell.”

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Athletics Kenya (AK), the national governing body for athletics, has announced the start of a comprehensive review of its constitution

Athletics Kenya (AK) Embark On Constitution Review



(FILE)Athletics Kenya (AK) President Lt. Gen. Jackson Tuwei (L) shake hand with Paul Mutwii, AK Senior Vice-President at the Riadha house offices in Nairobi on Kenya on January 28, 2016. Photo/Stafford Ondego/Sportpicha.

Athletics Kenya (AK), the national governing body for athletics, has announced the start of a comprehensive review of its constitution, inviting stakeholders and the public to submit their views between September 15 and October 15, 2025.

The federation, which oversees track and field, cross country, road running, race walking, mountain and ultra-running, is undertaking the review to strengthen its governance structures and ensure its framework aligns with future operations and vision.

“This review is an important step towards shaping the future of athletics in Kenya. We encourage all stakeholders—athletes, coaches, officials, and fans—to actively participate by sharing their sub-

missions and proposals,” AK said in a statement.

Written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary of the AK Constitution Review Committee and sent via email to admin@athleticskenya.or.ke.

A copy of the current constitution has also been made available on the Athletics Kenya website for reference.

The review follows a history of constitutional reforms within the federation. On October 18, 2011, AK unveiled a draft of its new constitution after a five-year consultation process.

This was followed by a review process in November 2015 to align the document with the Kenyan Constitution and the Sports Act of 2013.

The revised version was formally approved and ratified at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 27, 2016.

By reopening the process, AK says it aims to ensure that the governing framework not only complies with national laws but also addresses evolving needs in athletics management and development.

The National Athletics Championships and other sanctioned competitions will continue as scheduled during the review period, with AK emphasizing that the exercise is part of its broader mandate to foster transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in the sport.

Stakeholders now have until mid-October to contribute to the

shaping of a constitution that will guide the federation for years to come.

In March last year, High Court ordered President Jackson Tuwei alongside the officials within his Executive to leave office after having extended their tenure at the helm of the organisation.

However, an Appeal Court set aside the ruling on March 20, noting that the petitioners had not sought orders barring the executive committee members from being re-elected to the office.

Citizen Sport

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Dear Mothers-In-Law, Treat Your Daughters-In-Law Like Your Own Daughters

By: Saodat Musurmonova

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- A daughter-in-law is like a flower — newly transplanted into unfamiliar soil, adjusting to a new climate and environment. How you water and care for her will determine how she blooms. Harsh looks, cold words, and constant criticism will cause her to wither. But a kind word, a warm smile, and a prayerful glance — these will help her flourish and become the adornment of the family.
- A newlywed bride enters your home with anxiety, excitement, dreams, and hopes. She expects warmth from you. She listens to your words, tries to understand your heart. If you treat her with affection, she will respond with love.

Annotation

This article discusses the relationship between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law, which forms an important pillar of the family. It emphasizes that love, patience, and tolerance lie at the heart of this bond. The daughter-in-law is portrayed as a woman entering a new household with dreams and hopes. The article reflects through literary, real-life, and emotional expressions how a mother-in-law's affection, kind words, and prayers contribute to the strength of a family. It also analyzes the impact of this relationship on societal issues such as divorce and family harmony.

Keywords

Daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, family, love, patience, prayers, harmony, woman, mother, tolerance

Introduction

In this world, there are two motherly hearts — one that gives birth, and one that embraces. One raises a child with love, and the other, from the moment the daughter-in-law walks in wearing a white dress, becomes her companion through life. These two women — the mother and the mother-in-law — are connected by a bond called the daughter-in-law. This bond serves as a bridge for peace, blessings, and love within the family. However, this relationship is not always warm and sincere. Without mutual understanding and compassion, the foundation of the family begins to shake. This article delves into this delicate yet vital topic — how to strengthen the loving bond between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law.

Main Body

The Daughter-in-Law is a Flower, and Love is Water

A daughter-in-law is like a flower — newly transplanted into unfamiliar soil, adjusting to a new climate and environment. How you water and care for her will determine how she blooms. Harsh looks, cold words, and constant criticism will cause her to wither. But a kind word, a warm smile, and a prayerful glance — these will help her flourish and become the adornment of the family.



A newlywed bride enters your home with anxiety, excitement, dreams, and hopes. She expects warmth from you. She listens to your words, tries to understand your heart. If you treat her with affection, she will respond with love.

A Relationship Built on Love

There is an old saying: "If the mother-in-law doesn't simmer, the daughter-in-law won't spoil." This is not just a phrase — it's a life lesson. A daughter-in-law grows in the shadow of her mother-in-law's affection. The tenderness in the mother-in-law's heart reflects in the daughter-in-law's eyes as gratitude. Becoming a good daughter-in-law requires patience, but before that, becoming a good mother-in-law requires a heart overflowing with motherly love.

People often say: "If you don't discipline your daughter-in-law, she'll climb over your head." But disciplining does not mean blaming. Nurturing should be done with love. Call your daughter-in-law "my daughter" and she will call you "my

mother." Don't say to her what you wouldn't say to your own daughter. When there's fairness in affection, there will be blessings in the family.

Another Truth: The Daughter-in-Law is Not a Test, But a Blessing

People often consider the daughter-in-law/mother-in-law relationship a test. But let's not forget: this is not a test, but a gift. Every daughter-in-law is someone who brings happiness into your son's life. The more warmly you embrace her, the more she becomes a part of you. A daughter-in-law is not a test, but a blessing granted by God — an answered prayer.

Nowadays, many family break-ups occur due to misunderstandings between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law. These conflicts also burden the husband and negatively affect the children's emotional well-being. Thus, the warmth of a home begins with the hearts of its women.

Conclusion

Dear kind-hearted mothers-in-law,

remember: a daughter-in-law brings with her dreams, fears, hopes, and uncertainties when she enters your home. If you become a mother to her, she will become a daughter to you. The doors of the heart that you open will, in turn, open doors to harmony and blessings within the family. Therefore:

Treat your daughters-in-law like your own daughters.

Treat your sons-in-law like your own sons.

Because this love will eventually return to your heart as happiness.

Families built on mutual affection are happy families. When women are happy, the entire society shines.

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