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African livestock farmers are set to benefit from an initiative geared towards improving indigenous livestock, reduce emissions while strengthening productivity, food security, and climate resilience. The initiative being spearheaded by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), with support from the Bezos Earth Fund and the Global Methane



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# MT. KENYA TIMES Daily ePAPER

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#### News>>Kiambu Hosts Turkana Delegation For Fire And Rescue Benchmarking Tour

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P. 12. Co-operatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya, has underscored the government's commitment to empowering small businesses as a backbone of Kenya's economy.

# DCP Backs Opposition Allies In By-Elections

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In a hard-hitting statement issued after a National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Nairobi, party leader Rigathi Gachagua announced that DCP would support the Democratic Party (DP) in Mbeere North Constituency, the Wiper Democratic Movement in Muumbuni Ward, and the DAP-K in Kabuchai/Chwele Ward.



DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua addressing the media yesterday.

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# NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE,

WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI WHEN: 17-21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

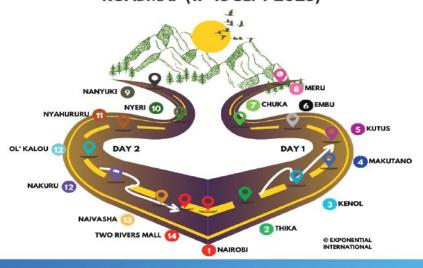
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#### NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



## President Ruto Receives Letters Of Credentials From **Eight New Ambassadors**

By: MKT Reporter (2) @themtkenyatimes

#### Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday officially received and welcomed eight Ambassadors posted to represent their country.

••••••

"We are enhancing cooperation with other countries across the globe to expand trade and investments, besides working together in tackling emerging challenges, for our mutual benefit and success," the President said after formally receiving the

The newly-posted ambas-

sadors are; Farid Ouahid Dahmane (Algeria), Katalin Nyirati (Hungary), Catherine Moe (Norway) and Yurii Tokar (Ukraine). Others are Ambassadors Gisele Fernândez Ludlow (Mexico), Hatem Yousri Hosni (Egypt), Kristina Radej (Slovenia) and Abdusalom Khatamov (Uzbekistan). Also present were senior government officials led by **Deputy President Kithure** Kindiki and Prime Cabinet

Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.































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#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**



The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua (centre) yesterday welcomed Lemanyishoe Samuel Abraham (right) an aspirant for the Laikipia North Member of Parliament seat, into the party. Lemanyishoe is currently serving as the Chief Officer for Water and Climate Change in the County Government of Laikipia. He was also accompanied by Koinange Wahome (left), the County Secretary of Laikipia who is widely expected to contest the area gubernatorial seat.



investment and debt repayment, while keeping family unity strong; just as they do during planting, plucking, pruning, and throughout the tea journey. Njeru thanked Daima Sacco officials for facilitating the session that enlightened the tea farmers.



National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) chairperson Dr. Samuel Kobia yesterday led the Transgenerational Conversations at CFK Headquarters in Kibra, Nairobi City County. He underscored the contributions of all generations Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, and Baby Boomers in Kenya's liberation and nation-building. At the same time, Dr. Kobia urged all citizens to foster unity, harmony, and peaceful coexistence across communities.



The Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK), with the support of Urgent Action Fund-Africa facilitated a two-day hybrid legal aid and mental health support clinic for women journalists in digital media. The intensive workshop focused on two critical pillars of resilience: legal empowerment; understanding remedies for prosecuting online crimes and safeguarding digital spaces and mental wellness through self-care, stress management, and peer support. Participants gained practical skills in digital safety, explored relevant Kenyan laws, and engaged in open discussions on the disproportionate burden of cyberbullying, doxxing, and sexualized hate on women journalists. The clinic highlighted strategies that enable journalists to protect themselves and continue speaking truth fearlessly. Above all, it reaffirmed that prioritizing wellness is not just personal; it is essential to our work as journalists. This Suicide Prevention Month is shining a light on mental health and resilience; because the wellbeing of journalists matters, and their voices are too important to be silenced.



Residents and business people say the recent upgrade of Kwale town to municipal status is heralding urban transformation. Those interviewed say they are witnessing improvements in infrastructure such as roads, streetlights and other social services in the hilly town that dates back to the colonial era. The ongoing construction of the Affordable Housing Project (AHP) championed by the national government taking shape and featuring modern high-rise units will also change the face of Kwale town. Already the Sh450 million state-of-the-art Kwale sports stadium commissioned in October 2024 has already elevated the status of Kwale to a position befitting county headquarters. Led by businessman Geoffrey Muriuki, they said they anticipate better access to water and sanitation, better drainage, enhanced power connectivity, increased social status and secure land tenure for business persons.



first time in decades, more than 2.000 households in Waita Ward, Mwingi Central Sub-County, Kitui County, can now access clean and reliable water following the successful completion of the Mwania-Maongoa Sand Dam project. Implemented by the State Department for the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and Regional Development through the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), and funded by the European Union (EU), the Sh35.16 million project combines sand dam technology with a solar-powered pumping system that channels water through a 10.87-kilometre pipeline. The system is supplying households, schools, a health facility, churches, and over 5,000 livestock, while also supporting small-scale irrigation and kitchen gardening. For decades, residents of this semi-arid region trekked up to eight kilometres in search of water, a burden that has now been lifted.



## Traditional Healers Urged To Unite To Boost Trade

By: KNA

@ @themtkenyatimes

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Worth Noting:

• "What we are trying to do is to put them (traditional medicine practitioners) into cooperative societies since there is a law that governs associations and therefore it will be easier to manage them. Currently we have at least 15 registered cooperatives in Nyeri for such practitioners but we really want those who have not joined to do so," she told

• While there is no actual figure in regard to the total number of traditional medicine practitioners in Kenya, studies from the late 2010s estimated them to be around 40,000 to 60,000.

KNA.

Traditional medicine practitioners in Nyeri have been advised to form or join existing cooperative societies as one way of enhancing their trade.

Trade, Tourism and Culture County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Diana Kendi says for the practitioners to excel in their trade, they need to coalesce themselves into groups that can help them showcase their products to the public.

She said while the county will do everything to open opportunities through which such cottage industries can thrive, it remains the responsibility of the concerned players to look for avenues that can popularise them to the world.

"What we are trying to do is to put them (traditional medicine practitioners) into cooperative societies since there is a law that governs associations and therefore it will be easier to manage them. Currently we have at least 15 registered cooperatives in Nyeri for such practitioners but we really want those who have not joined to do so," she told KNA.

While there is no actual figure in regard to the total number of traditional medicine practitioners in Kenya, studies from the late 2010s estimated them to be around 40,000 to 60,000.

And while traditional health practitioners are rarely recognised among core health providers, they managed to register their services under the umbrella of Kenya National Traditional Health Practitioners Association (NATHEPA) on October 29,2021.

Among the roles of the association is to advocate for recognition of traditional medicine, register practitioners, and set professional standards for traditional medicines and practices.

Kendi says some of the challenges



Ms Diana Kendi

hampering the recognition of traditional medicine is due to lack of scientific research to ascertain their efficacy unlike conventional remedies.

She says that unlike trained medics who go through medical colleges before they can be qualified as health providers, traditional health practitioners learn their trade through word of mouth.

"A lot of the herbal medicine that we have has not gone through the sacrifice of scientific requirements. A lot of times the information I regard to alternative medicine has been passed through successful generations and therefore in 2020 we started a programme to bring them together and

today some have even sold their patents." she continued.

"With herbal medicine the information is not there. In addition, the medicine has not been tested through what we call a clinical trial and therefore the process of knowing whether it works is very difficult."

Aside from efficacy issues, the county government is also partnering with recognised government institutions such as the Dedan Kimathi University of Science and Technology and the Kenya Medical and Research Foundation (KEMRI) in improving their visibility.

In addition, Kendi says the government has been pushing for the recognition of herbal treatments as alternative sources of remedies in combating known and emerging ailments.

"We are now trying to bring in the Kenya Medical and Research Foundation to look at how we can look at broad acceptance of traditional medicine and the things that were raised by KEMRI such as dosage and efficacy. We are trying as a government towards that broad-based acceptance of traditional medicine. We have seen instances in which traditional medicine has been effective. What we are trying to do is to go through a scientific process to ascertain these claims." she stated.

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# **Kiambu Hosts Turkana Delegation For Fire And Rescue Benchmarking Tour**

By: MKT Reporter @ @themtkenyatimes

Kiambu County played host to a delegation from Turkana for a benchmarking tour at the Kiambu Fire and Rescue Training School.

The visit was aimed at strengthening inter-county collaboration and knowledge-sharing in disaster management, fire response, and rescue operations.

The delegation, led by CECM Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Area Management Ms. Faith Aletia and Chief Officer Mr. Peter Lomorukai, was received by senior Kiambu officials including Chief Fire Officer Mr. Samuel Kahura and Chief Officer for County Utilities Ms. Virginia Kahonge.

During the visit, the Turkana team was taken through different practical demonstrations ranging from fire suppression to collapsed building rescue exercises. The drills were conducted by the Kiambu Fire Brigade, which is recognized as one of the most well-trained teams in the country. The of-



An Officer taking the Turkana team through fire and rescue operations.

na so that our people can also benefit from better disaster preparedness," she noted

Kiambu Fire and Rescue Training School has earned a reputation as a Centre of Excellence, boasting a state-of-the-art facility that has so far trained more than 1,000 fire officers since its inception. By investing in skills development and modern equipment, the county has enhanced its capacity to respond swiftly to emergencies, thereby protecting lives

and property.

Chief Fire Officer Mr. Samuel Kahura said the visit reflected the growing recognition of Kiambu as a national hub for firefighting excellence. "We have so far trained over 1,000 officers from different counties, and our goal is to continue building capacity across the country to save more lives during emergencies," he said.

Speaking during the tour, Kiambu officials emphasized the importance of inter-county collaboration in building safer communities across Kenya. The Turkana delegation expressed appreciation for the warm reception and valuable insights gained, noting that the experience would inform efforts to establish and strengthen their own fire and rescue capacity.

CECM Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Area Management Ms. Faith Aletia

The benchmarking visit highlighted the crucial role of counties working together to share knowledge, build resilience, and ensure effective disaster response nationwide.

ficials had the opportunity to learn about modern firefighting equipment, advanced rescue techniques, and the organizational framework that has enabled Kiambu to position itself as a leader in emergency preparedness. Ms. Faith Aletia, who led the Turkana delegation, praised Kiambu's commitment to investing in modern equipment and training. "What we have witnessed here is a true model of excellence. We are eager to replicate some of these practices in Turka-

# **UNEP Hands Over Mikindani Wastewater Treatment Plant To Community**

By: MKT Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has officially handed over the Mikindani wastewater treatment plant to the local community in Runyu Village, Mombasa, marking a major milestone in wastewater management and environmental conservation.

•••••

Speaking during a site visit at the area, UNEP Chief of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Division, Sinikinesh Jimma said the facility is a nature-based solution that addresses social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the community.

"The plant collects wastewater from Mikindani and treats it using natural processes. It relies on gravity flow and solar pumps, making it cost effective and sustainable for community management. Beyond treatment, the project provides clean water for irri-

gation and creates opportunities for local households, especially women, to engage in farming," Jimma stated. Residents of Runyu Village described the project as transformative. Community Development Chairman, Peterlis Omondi, said the wetland has improved sanitation and reduced waterborne diseases.

"Before the project, our environment was polluted with stagnant water and foul smells. Malaria and diarrhea were common, and people were leaving the area. Today, these health problems have drastically reduced, and the community has regained dignity. Treated water is now being used for farming, and more people are even moving here to settle," Omondi said.

On her part, Pamela Achieng a local resident noted the change in food security and access to water.

"Previously, no one wanted to buy food from this area. Now buyers come from as far as Mikindani Estate. We also struggled to acquire water, but this project has given us easier access to water," she said.

The Mombasa County Director of NEMA, Fanuel Mosago, said the project supports compliance with the Water Quality Regulations of 2024.

"Wastewater from Mikindani is treated before it is released to the environment. This initiative serves as an example for replication across Mombasa. It benefits the community socially, economically, and environmentally," he said.

The wetland system combines anaerobic baffled reactors with vertical and horizontal flow wetlands, mimicking natural purification before discharging clean water into Tudor Creek.

Implemented by UNEP in partnership with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and Mombasa County, and funded by the European Union, the facility benefits 40,000 residents, supports irrigation for 50 farms, and contributes to the restoration of mangroves and fisheries habitats.

The project contributes to Kenya's commitments under Sustainable De-



velopment Goal (SDG) 14.2, which seeks to protect marine and coastal ecosystems, and SDG 15.5, which focuses on halting biodiversity loss and preventing the extinction of threatened species.

Residents have been actively involved through training, clean-up drives, and awareness sessions, fostering local ownership.

The Mikindani wetland is part of the

Go Blue Project, a joint initiative by the European Union, the Government of Kenya, and six coastal counties: Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Taita Taveta, and Tana River. The programme promotes sustainable blue economies by creating jobs, protecting ecosystems, and improving livelihoods.

## DCP Backs Opposition Allies In By-Elections, Demands Ruto Expel Jubaland Militia From Kenya

By: MKT Reporter @ @themtkenyatimes

The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) has resolved to back select opposition partners in the upcoming November 27 by-elections while vowing to field its own candidates in most constituencies and wards across the country.

In a hard-hitting statement issued after a National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Nairobi, party leader Rigathi Gachagua announced that DCP would support the Democratic Party (DP) in Mbeere North Constituency, the Wiper Democratic Movement in Muumbuni Ward, and the DAP-K in Kabuchai/Chwele Ward.

"For all other elective positions, DCP shall field candidates and mobilize fully to campaign under our party ticket," Gachagua said, stressing that the party would respect fellow opposition partners while preparing for the 2027 General Election under the United Opposition banner.

The NEC also approved the creation of two internal organs; the National Elections Board (NEB) and the Internal Disputes Resolution Committee (IDRC), to oversee transparent nomination processes.

In addition, a fully fledged Electoral Secretariat will be established at the party headquarters to coordinate campaign logistics, messaging, and resource mobilization.

The party took a sharp turn on matters of national security, with Gachagua issuing a blistering attack on President William Ruto over the alleged presence of Jubaland militia in Mandera County.

"This is not just a policy misstep; it is a national betrayal," he declared, accusing the government of allowing foreign forces to occupy Kenyan territory.

Quoting the Constitution, Gachagua argued that Kenya's sovereignty had been compromised by "reckless foreign policy and interference in Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan."

The DCP leader demanded the immediate flushing out of foreign mi-

litia, the re-opening of schools in Mandera that were closed due to insecurity, and the unhindered deployment of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) to protect Kenya's borders.

"Kenya is not for sale. Not an inch of our soil shall be occupied by foreign powers," Gachagua warned. "If President Ruto cannot defend this Republic, he knows the honorable thing to do: resign before the 2027 embarrassment that awaits him."

The party reiterated its commitment to justice, fairness, and accountability, promising to stand with other opposition partners in defending democratic values.

"Our sovereignty is not negotiable," Gachagua said. "We shall remain steadfast in protecting the rights of citizens and ensuring the will of Kenyans is respected and fulfilled."

The November 27 by-elections will involve one senatorial, six parliamentary, and seventeen ward seats.

During the press briefing, Gachagua was accompanied by among; Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala, other party officials as well as several other elected leaders allied to him.



Democratic Party of Kenya Mbeere North Constituency aspirant Newton Karis.

# IEBC, EACC Sued Over Failure To Enforce Parliamentary Ethics Code

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) wants the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), and other state institutions to be compelled to establish and enforce a code of ethics for Members of Parliament (MPs).

The petition filed before the High Court argues that the absence of a robust ethical framework has allowed impunity to flourish in Kenyan politics, undermining constitutional demands for accountability and integrity among public leaders.

"This Petition recognises and responds to the need to disrupt the unchecked corruption that has become characteristic of Kenya's political scene. The accountability and integrity requirements under our Constitution are key to the standard of governance contemplated by the people of Kenya. Our institutions must remain alive to their power and discharge their duties without fear or favour,"

LSK President Faith Odhiambo said. The LSK's legal action calls for immediate reforms, including the development of a specific code of conduct for legislators and other elected officials

The society is seeking court orders to compel the EACC and the Registrar of Political Parties to create a framework that addresses the ethical conduct of MPs, ensuring that breaches result in severe consequences, such as criminal charges and loss of remuneration.

Additionally, the LSK is pushing for a declaration that Kenyan citizens are constitutionally obligated to provide information about the integrity of candidates seeking elective positions before the IEBC clears them to run.

The LSK points to the 2022 general elections as a glaring example, where the EACC flagged 241 aspirants with corruption or integrity issues, yet most were permitted by the IEBC to run for office.



Named in the lawsuit alongside the IEBC and EACC are the Registrar of Political Parties, the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), and the Attorney-General.

The LSK accuses these bodies of neglecting their constitutional duty to ensure that only individuals of office. According to the petition, the absence of a tailored code of ethics, despite the enactment of the 2010 Constitution, has perpetuated a culture of "haphazard, escalating, and incendiary behavior" among elected officials.

The LSK contends that the Leadership and Integrity Act and the Public

Officer Ethics Act, which were intended to guide ethical conduct, have not been effectively implemented.

The petition notes that in the 15 years since the Constitution's adoption, oversight agencies have failed to consistently apply integrity laws, resulting in flawed vetting processes and inadequate scrutiny of candidates.

# ACCPA Launches Kilimo Swafi Campaign, To Distribute 3.8 Million PPEs To Farmers

By: MKT Reporter @athemtkenyatimes

The African Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action (ACCPA) has launched the Kilimo Swafi Campaign to make farming safer for local communities.

At the same time, farmers and other stakeholders have decried continued use of counterfeit chemicals which are illegally imported through neighbouring countries.

The ceremony was held on Tuesday at Nguka area in Mwea West sub-county in Kirinyaga County, where farmers gathered to witness the launch of the program.

Through the campaign, farmers will receive 3.8 million free protective gear (PPEs in the next three years to shield them from harmful agrochemicals. It will also teach safe ways of disposing chemical waste and push for a ban on products that are not allowed in Europe and America from

being sold to African farmers.

ACCPA Founder, James Mwangi Macharia, emphasized the urgency of the initiative saying, "It is not acceptable that we have accepted as normal a cyclical poisoning of our lives and environment on account of our collective carelessness and indifference. Farmers are the first and last line of defense when it comes to our food safety, A sick farmer will produce hazardous food."

He noted that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government used to insist on use of PPEs and wondered why the same force was not being applied to the section of citizens who are at the risk of getting severe effects due to exposure of certain things like chemicals.

Macharia revealed that only about 1,000 farmers had access to PPEs and hence his organisation's initiative to address the issue.

The campaign seeks to protect farmers' health, improve food safety, and empower communities to embrace safer farming practices for a healthier

future

On the counterfeit and harmful chemicals, the stakeholders noted that continued usage was detrimental to not only farmers but also consumers.

They noted that some of the effects that were detrimental to kenyans, whether farming, consuming or not were like environmental degradation and contamination of water.

Some of them revealed that there were chemicals which upon being applied in rice farmers required consumption of the affected product after two years, which was practically impossible and thus risky to consumers.



ACCPA founder Mwangi Macharia showcasing how PPEs should be worn.

Photo/Courtesy.



# Government To Press On With Implementation Of e-Procurement And Digitization Of Public Assets

By: MKT Reporter 
<sup>2</sup> @themtkenyatimes



#### **Worth Noting:**

- On public resource management, Mr Odede stated that the government had operationalized the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) Asset and Inventory Module and cascaded it to county governments.
- He explained that the nationwide IFMIS) Asset and Inventory Module initiative was aimed at digitizing public asset records, enhancing accountability, and streamlining financial reporting across all levels of government.
- Speaking at the **Kenya Industrial Training** Institute (KITI) in Nakuru during the closing ceremony of a week-long sensitization workshop for county officers from Kericho, Baringo, Bomet, Narok, Uasin Gishu, Kisii and Nyeri Counties the Principal Secretary emphasized that IFMIS Asset and Inventory module was not just a technical upgrade but also a fundamental shift towards greater accuracy, enhanced safeguarding of public resources and uniform reporting standards across the public sector.

Thirty county governments have already joined the end-to-end e-government procurement (e-GP) platform, with 10 more said to be waiting for approval by the Controller of Budget (CoB).

This comes even as Principal Secretary for Public Investments and Assets Management at the National Treasury Wagunda Odede maintained that the government will press on with the implementation of e-procurement (e-GP) and digitization of public assets, with projection that the two systems would help save up to Sh150 billion in the current financial year by sealing loop holes previously exploited.

The Principal Secretary noted that the government rolled out the e-GP on July, 1, 2025, to automate procurement processes of counties, all State Departments and agencies starting from planning process to payment of services.

On public resource management, Mr Odede stated that the government had operationalized the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IF-MIS) Asset and Inventory Module and cascaded it to county governments.

He explained that the nationwide IF-MIS) Asset and Inventory Module initiative was aimed at digitizing public asset records, enhancing accountability, and streamlining financial reporting across all levels of government.

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While noting that IFMIS Asset and Inventory module was a centralized system where the National Government and the 47 devolved units could store and retrieve an inventory of their assets, the PS said the national government had already uploaded 90 percent of its assets to the system and regretted that only fourteen counties had embraced the system.

He said at the advent of devolution more than ten years ago assets previously owned by the defunct local authorities were transferred to county governments, with some parcels of land and vehicles changing ownership without surrender of title deeds and log books.

"The system IFMIS Asset and Inventory module will enable Kenyans to know the value of public assets. The register will flag out vehicles and parcels of land without ownership documents so that affected county governments can start processing or applying for duplicate copies of missing title deeds and log books," he explained.

The main objective of the workshop was to ensure that Public Sector en-



Wagunda Odede

tities safeguard their assets, maintain accurate and up-to-date asset registers, and adopt standardized processes for identifying, recording, disclosing, and reporting assets.

The Principal Secretary said the new module was key to establishing robust asset management structures that promotes prudent management of public resources in addition to enabling counties maintain accurate, real-time asset registers, a critical step in transitioning from manual systems to digital governance.

Mr Odede directed counties to urgently submit the names of their designated IFMIS users for system mapping, fast-track documentation such as title deeds for public assets, and explore innovative revenue-generating strategies, including using public roads for advertising.

"Public assets should not lie dormant; they must be leveraged to generate revenue for service delivery." Odede stated.

The National Government has already implemented the IFMIS fixed asset module for all state departments in the 2023/24 financial year, with departments uploading their asset data. Counties are now expected to mirror this commitment and align with the broader national vision for fiscal transparency.

Odede also reminded county governments of the legal requirement under the Public Finance Management Act to maintain current and reliable asset registers accessible to both the county treasury and the Auditor-General. With the mandatory shift to accrual-based accounting by 2027, Mr Odede affirmed that the urgency to digitize asset records had never been greater.

Commenting on e-procurement (e-GP), the Principal Secretary said all counties, state departments and agencies were required to finalize and upload their annual procurement plans to the new digital public tenders' portal before the end of September as the government's resolve was to ditch the old manual system which the State maintains will curb malpractices including overpricing and payments to non-existent suppliers.

He emphasized that e-procurement was central to curbing corruption, potentially saving taxpayers billions lost annually through manual procurement loopholes.

To sustain these reforms, counties have been urged to allocate dedicated budgets for asset management and staff training.

On the issue of fund disbursement, the Principal Secretary assured that the National Treasury was working tirelessly to upload county budgets into IFMIS, with 30 counties already on boarded. The remaining counties are expected to follow suit to ensure equitable access to national resources.

This digital transformation marks a pivotal moment in Kenya's journey toward transparent, efficient, and accountable governance, one where every shilling is tracked, every asset accounted for, and every citizen better served.

County governments, he said, were now expected to replicate the same commitment to ensure the new measures are applied across the two levels of government.

He added that all public entities were required to transition from cash to accrual-based accounting by the year 2027, a shift that makes accurate digital asset registers more urgent.

## Oparanya; Government To Unlock Opportunities For **MSMEs**

By: MKT Reporter @themtkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:** 

- The CS further stated that the government has prioritised access to affordable credit through initiatives such as the Hustler Fund, Youth and Women Enterprise Funds, and the Kenya Industrial Estates.
- He added that the **Credit Guarantee Scheme** was cushioning borrowers by lowering interest rates when banks extend loans to small traders.
- The CS also highlighted the importance of digital transformation, noting that Kenya must embrace a cashless economy to remain competitive globally.
- "In countries like Sweden, people don't use cash. Kenya must also adopt digital systems to keep up with the changing world," he noted.
- On infrastructure, the CS pointed out that markets have been built across the country through collaboration between county and national governments to provide safe and accessible trading spaces for small traders.

Co-operatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya, has underscored the government's commitment to empowering small businesses as a backbone of Kenya's economy.

Speaking at the 3rd Public-Private Sector MSMEs Connect Dialogue held at Tononoka Social Hall in Mombasa, Oparanya noted that 90 per cent of Kenyans earn their livelihoods through small businesses, which contribute about 30 per cent of the country's GDP.

"Small businesses are the heart of our economy. If we want to move forward, we must strengthen access to finance, improve infrastructure, and expand markets for MSMEs," he

The CS further stated that the government has prioritised access to affordable credit through initiatives such as the Hustler Fund, Youth and Women Enterprise Funds, and the Kenya Industrial Estates.

He added that the Credit Guarantee Scheme was cushioning borrowers by lowering interest rates when banks extend loans to small traders.

The CS also highlighted the importance of digital transformation, noting that Kenya must embrace a cashless economy to remain competitive globally.

"In countries like Sweden, people don't use cash. Kenya must also adopt digital systems to keep up with the changing world," he noted.

On infrastructure, the CS pointed out that markets have been built across the country through collaboration between county and national governments to provide safe and accessible trading spaces for small traders.

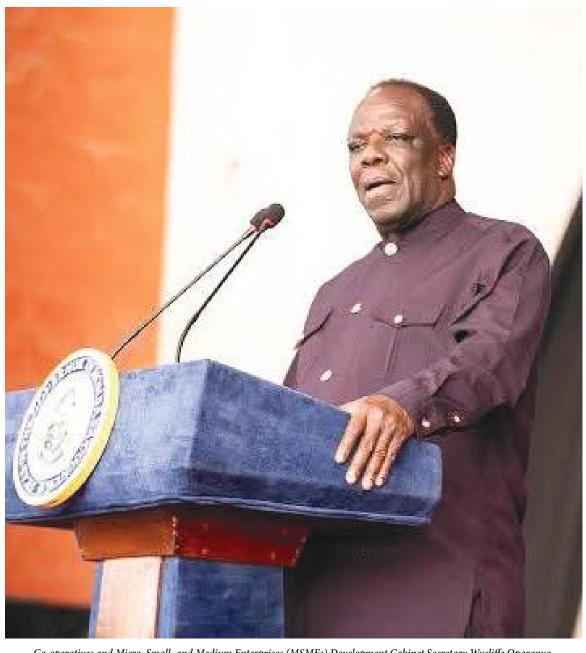
He further stressed the need to link MSMEs to regional and international markets, revealing that Nairobi will host the East African MSMEs Expo in November.

The exhibition is expected to showcase Kenyan products to buyers from across the region, including Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and the DRC.

The CS urged county governments to create friendlier policies for small traders and hawkers, saying many are simply trying to survive.

"Our role as leaders is to create opportunities and policies that help small traders grow into larger enterprises," he said, citing Germany as an example where many global companies began as family-run businesses.

The dialogue brought together MSME stakeholders, including representatives from the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA), Uwezo Fund, Hustler Fund, Kenya



Co-operatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Cabinet Secretary Wycliffe Oparanya.

Industrial Estates (KIE), Safaricom, Equity Bank, the Kenya Bankers Association, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, and the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

CS assured small business owners that the government remains committed to supporting them from startup to international growth. "From a hawker on the street to a global manufacturer, our mission is to walk with you every step of the way."

On his part, Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir reaffirmed his administration's commitment to improving services in the county while acknowledging that more must be done to empower residents direct-

Governor Nassir noted that while Mombasa has improved in areas such as healthcare, education, and social programmes, the county still faces challenges in uplifting its people economically.

"We have been ranked among the

best in the health sector. Our hospitals are equipped with new machines, and I have ensured that each facility reports directly to me. We also became the first county to implement a free school feeding programme and introduced the 'No Child Left Behind' initiative, where every learner receives support directly," he said.

The Governor admitted, however, that despite these achievements, the county has not fully succeeded in empowering its people to stand on their

"It is important we finance our people without favouritism. Just as we give bursaries and healthcare support without discrimination, we must also fund entrepreneurs so they can rise, hire more workers, and move forward," he said.

The Governor revealed that a bill to channel direct financial support to residents is currently before the County Assembly, but challenges remain due to budgetary control processes at the national level.

"The Controller of Budget and the Senate have raised concerns, but we believe in the wisdom and goodwill of our Assembly to pass the law. What matters most is that our people get the chance they deserve," he said. Governor Nassir also announced plans to visit each sub-county to assess ongoing initiatives and explore innovative ideas from local entrepreneurs. His focus, he explained, would be twofold: ensuring county support benefits businesses and creating more jobs for Mombasa residents.

"I want to sit down with MCAs and MPs in every constituency so that we can jointly agree on what we want to achieve. The real question is how we can benefit you, and how we can make sure you employ more people,"

## Central Kenya ASK National Show Kicks Off In Nyeri

By: William Muchiri

@athemtkenyatimes

This year's Central Kenya National ASK Show opened its doors yesterday at Kabiru-ini Showground in Nyeri County, bringing together a diverse range of exhibitors.

•••••

The event provides a platform for knowledge sharing and learning among various sectors, including agriculture, finance, education, health, and trade.

This year's theme is 'Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth'.

This highlights the importance of innovative practices in driving economic progress.

The theme also underscores the urgent need to sustainably enhance agricultural productivity and incomes, strengthen resilience to climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

President William Ruto who is the ASK National Patron is expected to officially open the show tomorrow.

(Today, Nyeri County Governor Mutahi Kahiga will be the Chief Guest in the Show where more than





100 exhibitors from different sectors are participating.

fThe Committee Chairman, Patrick Karinga yesterday encouraged the showgoers to engage with exhibitors, explore the innovative technologies on display, and embrace the solutions that will strengthen food security, build economic resilience, and foster inclusive prosperity for a brighter future





# Kisii County Officer In Court Over Forged Documents In Age Fraud Case

By: ODPP

@themtkenyatimes

The Director of Public Prosecutions arraigned a senior Kisii County Assembly officer over allegations of forging official documents to conceal his true age and extend his Public Service tenure.

••••••

David Geoffrey Ombiro, 58, an Administrative Officer at the Kisii County Assembly, was charged before the Kisii Law Courts on multiple counts of forgery, uttering false documents, and deceiving his employer by misrepresenting his date of birth.

Prosecution, led by Solomon Njeru, Victor Kitoto and Stephen Masaki told the court that Ombiro knowingly provided falsified information when applying for employment.

In his Public Service Commission application forms (PSC.2 Revised

2007) and in the Declaration of Income, Assets and Liabilities under the Public Officer Ethics Act (2003), he declared that he was born on February 15, 1973, despite knowing he had been born in 1967.

The court further heard that on or about December 2, 2015, Ombiro presented forged documents including a national identification card, a birth certificate, a Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) PIN certificate, an NSSF card, and an NHIF card, all indicating 1973 as his year of birth.

These documents, the court heard, were falsified to appear as though they had been legitimately issued by government agencies such as the National Registration Bureau, Civil Registration Service, Kenya Revenue Authority, National Social Security Fund, and the National Health Insurance Fund (now the Social Health Authority).

Prosecution stated that Ombiro's intention was to unlawfully reduce his

official age by six years in order to prolong his service in public office. In addition to forgery, he faces five charges of uttering false documents, contrary to Section 353 of the Penal Code.

Appearing before Senior Principal Magistrate Bernard Omwansa, Ombiro denied all the charges. The court released him on a bond of KSh150,000 or an alternative cash bail of KSh70,000.

The case is scheduled for mention on September 25, 2025.

Prosecution emphasized the seriousness of the allegations, noting that falsifying personal records undermines the integrity of the Public Service.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) intensified efforts to prosecute cases of fraud, corruption, and abuse of office across both national and county governments.

The case marks another step in en-



David Geoffrey Ombiro.

forcing accountability and deterring misconduct among public officers.

#### Pahalgaon Woes



My heart bleeds as gunshots roar, Blood flows red upon the green floor. Tourists lost in sorrow deep, Silent lawns now cold and bleak. Corpses lie in crimson streams, Shattered hopes and broken dreams.

Thunder echoes, bullets fly,
Across the sky!
Tears roll down as children cry.
Hidden close behind the trees,
Mothers weep and sob, hearts do freeze.
Infants scream, their cheerful laughter dies,
Fearand silence now lurks where joy once lies.

Once a gleeful valley and snow clad peaks bright and gay,

Now itsneon light has slipped away.

No more swings, no cheerful calls,
Emptiness and silence lies within its walls.

Shops are shut, no scents remain,
Silence drapes the streets in pain.

Heaven's beauty turned into deathly fears,
For love and merryof the bygone years.

Oh, Kashmir! Oh Pahalgaon!!ParadiseLost!In
dreadful dread,

Dreaming of the life that fled.

May the smiles and cheerfulness return oncemore.

Laughter ringing shore to shore. Echoing across the snowy hills Everywhere shrills and shrills!! Ms. Seema Pathak

MS . SEEMA PATHAK

#### A Real Leader Isn't Just Awake



A real leader isn't just awake, But ever vigilant, for their team's sake, They look after their people with care and love Sacrificing his own interests, for others happiness

He checks the team's effort, unity, and peace, Simply being awake won't be enough A leader's work is never at rest, and beyond that Their eyes and mind always thinking of others They see beyond what others can perceive,
Standing Arst to accept responsibility,
A shield of protection for others,
He is a guiding light for all
Directing their team, through day and night.

They work for people's safety, security, Developing others' talents, day by day Supporting, encouraging, motivating to shine, Their greatest joy lies in others' happiness.

A real leader finds happiness in others' delight,
Their heart beats for their team's success
Their vigilance is hope and care,

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

# What I Am Today Is Only Because My Teachers



What I am today, I owe to you,
My teachers, mentors, guiding light anew.
With patience, care, and knowledge you impart,
Shaping minds, touching hearts.

In classrooms, corridors, and beyond, You helped me grow, to question, to bond. Your lessons went far beyond the page, Teaching life skills, turning a new stage. With every step, with every fall,
You were there to catch, to help me stand tall.
Your encouragement, a beacon of hope,
Inspiring me to reach, to cope.

Today, as I look back on my way, I realize how much I owe each day. To you, dear teachers, I offer my praise, For helping me become the person I am today.

Thank you for being my guiding light,
For shaping my future, making it bright.
I'll carry your lessons, your love, and your care,
Forever in my heart, a debt I'll always share.

R. SRIPRIYA
BT ASSISTANT ENGLISH GHSS
KOLAPAKKAM KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT
TAMILNADU INDIA

## Let Success Speak



Hide your plans, don't let them stray, Words can pull your dream away, Work in silence day by day, Let success speak loud one day.

Edison dreamed of a light so bright, People mocked his endless fight, But when the bulb first shone at night, The world bowed down before his sight. The Wrights built wings though men would sneer, They said, "It's foolish, don't go near," Yet Arst flight rose, the sky was clear, And cheers replaced the doubt and fear.

> Dhoni stayed calm, he spoke no more, He let the bat and gloves explore, From silence came the winning score, His coolness made the crowds adore.

So guard your dream, let actions show, The world may doubt what seeds you sow, When success shines, all doubts will go, Till then stay still, let greatness grow.

> V Durgadevi BT Assistant GHS Nesal Tiruvannamalai District

#### Mechanization In Agriculture: Increasing Efficiency And Sustainability



Agricultural mechanization has become one of the most essential factors in modern farming, as it ensures higher efficiency, reduced labor intensity, and sustainable use of resources. The introduction of machinery such as tractors, harvesters, planters, and irrigation systems has significantly increased productivity in crop cultivation while decreasing dependence on manual labor. Mechanization also helps improve the quality of agricultural products by ensuring timely sowing, precise fertilization, and efficient harvesting.

In addition, the use of modern machines contributes to soil protection, rational water management, and better post-harvest processing, which are vital for long-term ecological balance. For developing countries, including Uzbekistan, agricultural mechanization plays a crucial role in addressing labor shortages, improving food security, and accelerating rural economic growth. The research emphasizes the need to adapt innovative technologies to local conditions, taking into account climate, soil, and crop diversity.

Overall, agricultural mechanization is not only a tool for increasing crop yield but also a strategic direction for sustainable rural development and environmental protection.

Oqmirzayeva Sarvinoz Freshman Gulistan state university. Uzbekistan, Gulistan city

#### KONGO



Kongo ni nchi tajiri, Dunia inatambua, Kama hauna habari, subiri nitachambua, Taifa hili ni zuri, lakini linaungua, Kila wakati ni Vita, wakongo wanateseka.

Taifa lenye Madini, Almasi na Dhahabu, Nashanga ni kwa nini, mbona Kongo ni taabu, Kila wakati huzuni, haya mambo ya ajabu, Kila wakati ni Vita, wakongo wanateseka. Kongo Taifa muhimu, Afrika mashariki, Nchi nyingi zinahamu, kwenda Kongo kila Wiki, Nchi yenye ufahamu, kweli inamarafiki, Kila wakati ni Vita, wakongo wanateseka.

Taifa lenye Msitu, na mkubwa Afrika, Msitu wa kila kitu, fika ufahamu fika, Kule kuna Mbwa mwitu, Wanyama wa Afrika, Kila wakati ni Vita, wakongo wanateseka.

Na tamati nimefika, sina mengi ya kusema, Mimi nina uhakika, vita Kongo vitakoma, Viongozi bila shaka, tunzeni mji wa Goma, Kila wakati ni Vita, wakongo wanateseka.

> Mtunzi: Joseph Abuko Nakuru

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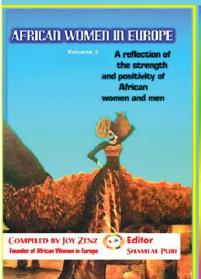
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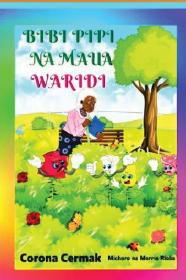
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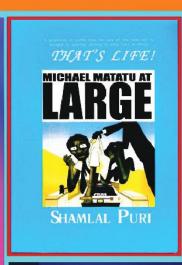
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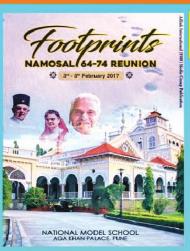
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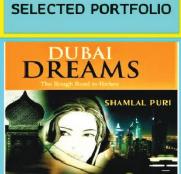
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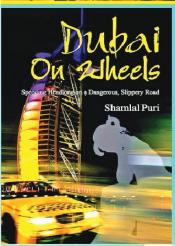


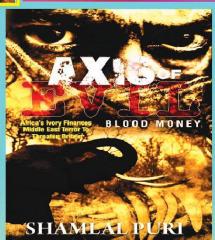


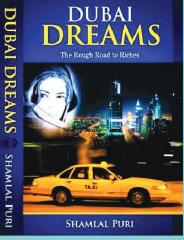


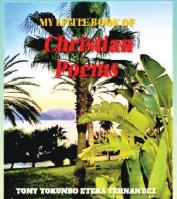




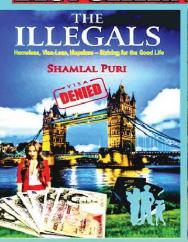


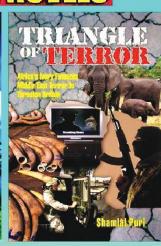


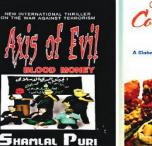




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## **BUSINESS**

## Governor Njuki Makes County In Administrative Leadership To Boost Public Service Delivery

By: Alex Njeru @themtkenyatimes

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#### **Worth Noting:**

- Speaking at a press conference in his satellite office in Chuka town, Governor Njuki emphasized that the reforms are part of a broader strategy to enhance responsiveness in public service.
- He explained that the restructuring would be rolled out in phases, beginning with hospitals to strengthen healthcare management.
- "In an effort to make services better for the people of Tharaka Nithi, we've initiated several changes in government. These changes won't happen all at once, they will roll out gradually. This is just the first batch, and we are starting with hospitals to ensure they function more effectively," the Governor said.



Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki addressing a press conference in Chuka town. With him are other county officials led by his deputy Muisrael Nyaga. Photo/Alex Njeru.

Just hours after issuing a stern warning to county health workers against unethical practices, Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki yesterday announced sweeping changes in the county's administrative and hospital leadership.

The reshuffle, he said, is aimed at boosting efficiency and improving service delivery across all depart-

Speaking at a press conference in his satellite office in Chuka town, Governor Njuki emphasized that the reforms are part of a broader strategy to enhance responsiveness in public

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"In an effort to make services better for the people of Tharaka Nithi, we've initiated several changes in government. These changes won't happen all at once, they will roll out gradually. This is just the first batch, and we are starting with hospitals to ensure they function more effectively," the Governor said.

Among the key appointments in the health sector, Dr. Christine Mbaka will continue serving as Medical Superintendent at Magutuni Hospital, while Dr. Henry Muchiri has been posted to lead Marimanti Hospital. Dr. John Wamwaki will take over as the new Medical Superintendent at Chuka Level 5 Referral Hospital.

In hospital administration, Bonface Murithi Kainga has been named the new administrator for Chuka Level 5 Hospital, and Charles Munene Nyaga has been appointed administrator at Marimanti Hospital. Magutuni Hospital will retain its current adminis-

Njuki said the changes are intended to restore public trust in county hospitals, which have been marred by allegations of malpractice and absenteeism among staff.

Beyond healthcare, the Governor unveiled a raft of administrative changes across county offices and sub-counties. Hilary Mutugi Njagi has been appointed Deputy County Secretary, while Adiel Mutwiri Manyaki will now serve as Director of Administration in the Department of Administration.

Sub-county leadership was also reshuffled, with Alexious Karani taking over Tharaka South, Fred Kiriri heading Tharaka North, and James Kinyua Rwigi appointed to oversee Muthambi Sub-County.

Jack Muchiri was named Town Administrator for Marimanti, while Agarine Mwende will take charge of Chuka Sub-County. Alex Mugendi will lead Igambang'ombe, and Purity Gatwiri has been appointed as the Maara/Mwimbi Sub-County Administrator. Leadership in Chogoria and Chuka Towns remains unchanged.

At the ward level, a fresh team of administrators has been appointed to strengthen grassroots governance. They include Alex Munyua (Muthambi), Caroline Njagi (Mariani), Cosmas Mwaria (Gatunga), Rose Kanini (Chogoria), Fredrick G. Kea (Mitheru), Erastus Kinyua (Mugwe), Lisper Mukami Kirimi (Ganga), Erick Kimathi Nyaga (Mwimbi), Loyd Micheni Murithi (Igambang'ombe), Eric Mugendi Kirimi (Mukothima), John Mutiria Nyaga (Marimanti), Jeremy Murithi (Chiakariga), Loyd

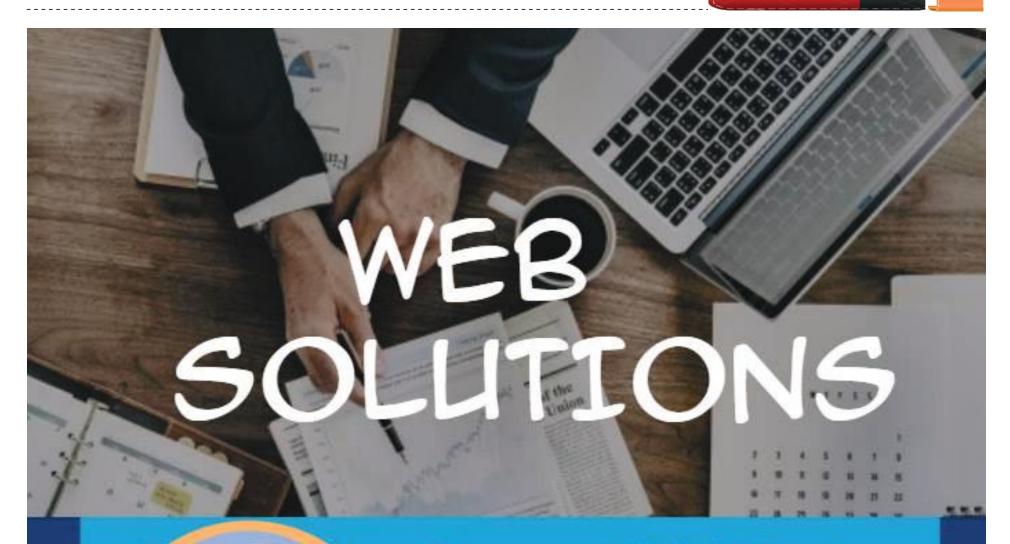
Muthure Muketha (Nkondi), Mercy Kagendo (Magumoni), and Wilson Kinyua (Karingani).

In the Department of Transport, the Governor reassigned Betty Mwende Rwanda to the Directorate of Transport, where she will serve as Assistant Director of Transport Services.

Later in the day, Njuki made an impromptu visit to Chuka Optimal Hospital, just hours after raising alarm over allegations that a group of county doctors were operating there unlawfully.

The Governor vowed to take firm action against health workers engaging in unethical practices, stressing that such misconduct undermines the county's investment in modern, wellequipped public hospitals.

Governor Njuki said the reshuffle marked the beginning of a wider reform program across the county and promised residents that additional changes would follow to entrench accountability and improve service





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# Africa's Farmers To Benefit From Global Push For Low-Methane, Resilient Livestock



- Bezos Earth Fund Director of the Future of Food Andy Jarvis said that reducing methane from cattle is one of the most elegant solutions to slow climate change.
- "Thanks to collaboration with the Global Methane Hub, we are backing an effort that uses age-old selection practices to identify and promote naturally low-emitting cattle locking in climate benefits for generations to come," said Jarvis.
- Livestock in
  Africa account for 18
  percent of global livestock
  methane emissions, with
  cattle alone responsible for
  70 percent of emissions in
  Sub-Saharan Africa. Without intervention, these
  emissions could triple by
  2050.
- By tapping into the genetic diversity of indigenous breeds and applying cutting-edge science, the initiative will help Africa contribute to global climate goals, including the 1.5°C warming target.



African livestock farmers are set to benefit from an initiative geared towards improving indigenous livestock, reduce emissions while strengthening productivity, food security, and climate resilience.

The initiative being spearheaded by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), with support from the Bezos Earth Fund and the Global Methane Hub is anchored on a three-year, US\$3.35 million initiative dubbed Accelerating Reduced Emissions in Indigenous Breeds in Africa. Part of the Global Methane Genetics Initiative, the project will use cutting-edge science to help African countries breed cattle that produce less methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emissions.

Bezos Earth Fund Director of the Future of Food Andy Jarvis said that reducing methane from cattle is one of the most elegant solutions to slow climate change.

"Thanks to collaboration with the Global Methane Hub, we are backing an effort that uses age-old selection practices to identify and promote naturally low-emitting cattle – locking in climate benefits for generations to come," said Jarvis.

Livestock in Africa account for 18 percent of global livestock methane emissions, with cattle alone responsible for 70 percent of emissions in Sub-Saharan Africa. Without intervention, these emissions could triple by 2050.

By tapping into the genetic diversity of indigenous breeds and applying cutting-edge science, the initiative will help Africa contribute to global climate goals, including the 1.5°C warming target.

"This initiative represents an important step towards a more sustainable and productive livestock sector in Africa," said Raphael Mrode, Principal Investigator at ILRI, who will oversee the scientific management of the project.

"By integrating advanced genetics with Africa's indigenous breeds and farmer knowledge, we can achieve meaningful reductions in methane emissions while strengthening rural livelihoods through improved productivity," he said.

Speaking at the ILRI headquarters in Nairobi on Wednesday during the launch of the initiative, Mrode said that in Kenya, they would be working with farmers in the counties of Nandi, Nakuru and Nyandarua where they target to assist the livestock farmers to make more profit without damaging the environment

ILRI Director General Prof Appolinaire Djikeng said that the initiative would include measuring methane from 3,000 cows and production traits in five African countries using advanced laser detectors, and mobile apps, linked to existing data on 9,000 cows.

"We are working on implementing this transformative growth which is aligned with the country's bottom of economic development which will go a long way in supporting what the government is trying to do," said Diikeng. He said they wanted to take a lead in innovation to ensure that they got more money in the pockets of the farmers

Djikeng explained that they were profiling microbial communities in over 1,000 tropical cows, using rumen content to understand links between microbes, productivity, and methane emissions.

"Scientists are using advanced genetic tools to breed cows that can better withstand heat, require fewer resources, and produce less greenhouse gas. These climate-smart cattle are being introduced into national breeding programs across Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Burkina Faso, and Benin—helping farmers adapt to climate change while reducing emissions," he said.

The DG said that they were focusing on build local capacity by recruiting and training technicians, strengthening national breeding centres, and publishing bull and cow rankings accessible to farmers.

"ILRI will coordinate the Africa-wide effort from Nairobi, Kenya and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, working with leading partners including the Agricultural Research Council (South Africa), French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and The International Centre for Research and Development of Livestock in the sub humid zone, (CIRDES Burkina Faso), and Université d' Abomey-Calavi (Benin)," said Djikeng.

Partnerships with organizations such

as URUS and GENUS will ensure dissemination through breeding centers and farmer networks.

"This work brings together the best of science, industry, and the global breeding community to accelerate genetic improvement for methane efficiency worldwide," said Roel Veerkamp, a Professor and leader of the initiative at Wageningen University and Research (WUR). "It fits nicely with our mission at WUR to explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life," he added.

Project is expected to achieve a 12 percent cut in livestock methane over 20 years by an annual 0.6 percent direct methane reduction at the population level using bulls and cows improved for low methane emission.

Other results include improvement in productivity, reduction in methane production per kg milk by about 20-25 percent over a 5-year period, publicly available genomic data to support widespread, low-cost breeding improvements, and increased access to productive, climate-resilient livestock for smallholders, particularly women and youth.

This initiative marks a major step in aligning livestock research with climate action, offering a pathway to permanent and cost-effective methane mitigation while securing the future of African farming communities.

# Wiper Leader Kalonzo Calls For Strengthened Inter-Party Cooperation Among Kenya's Youth

By: Cynthia Masibo

@themtkenyatimes

Wiper Patriotic Front party leader Kalonzo Musyoka has urged young Kenyans to champion unity, dialogue, and principled politics as the foundation for Kenya's democratic future.

Addressing a vibrant gathering of young leaders from across the political spectrum, at Ufungamano house, Nairobi, Kalonzo emphasized the vital role inter-party cooperation plays in safeguarding Kenya's democracy and fostering inclusive governance. He highlighted the long journey Kenya has traveled from a one-party state to a multiparty system marked by spirited debate and coalition politics.

"Democracy flourishes not in the shouting of one voice, but in the chorus of many voices coming together in dialogue, compromise, and cooperation," he said in a keynote address at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Inter Party Youth Forum.

Drawing from his decades in public service, Kalonzo reflected on the significance of alliances such as NARC, CORD, NASA, and Azimio,

describing them as proof that unity across divides is stronger than divisive politics.

The seasoned leader addressed the youth directly with a clarion call to abandon politics based on personality cults and ethnic divisions You are not just the leaders of tomorrow; you are leaders of today," he reminded them., and instead embrace issue-based politics grounded in integrity and service. "

Kalonzo was emphatic on the importance of rejecting corruption, resisting political manipulation, and demanding accountability not only from their leaders but also within themselves. "The future you dream of will not be handed to you; it will be built by you," he stated.

Stressing that inter-party cooperation is not a convenience but a necessity, Kalonzo underscored its role in protecting the rule of law, democratic institutions, and inclusive participation in governance. He warned that democracy without justice, jobs, and opportunities remains an empty promise.

To institutionalize this cooperation among young leaders, Kalonzo called for the establishment of a structured Inter-Party Youth Council. This platform would serve as a forum for dialogue, trust-building,



Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka at the Inter Party Youth Forum at the Ufungamano House.

and leadership development across party lines, securing a foundation for unity, peace, and shared prosperity in Kenya's future.

Highlighting the need to move away from "politics of strongmen," Kalonzo reiterated the importance of building strong institutions, upholding strong values, and nurturing strong young leaders. "If you can walk this path, then the promise of our democracy will outlive us all," he concluded.

The keynote address was warmly received by attendees, signaling a hopeful step towards bridging political divides through youth engagement and cooperation.

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, known for its longstanding support of democratic values globally, facilitated the event to inspire young leaders in strengthening Kenya's multiparty democracy.

Musyoka's address comes at a crucial moment when Kenya's political landscape continues to evolve, and the role of youth in shaping governance and accountability remains more critical than ever.

# The First Theft: The Environmental Poisoning Of Kenya's Children



By: Davidson Otieno Omondi

@themtkenyatimes

A baby is born in Kenya. They are a universe of pure potential, a sacred national promise. But from their very first breath, a silent, violent theft occurs, and its impact will shape their entire life, and our nation's future.

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This is the intimate, brutal reality of our environmental integrity crisis. It is not an abstract problem of carbon parts per million or distant melting glaciers; it is a direct assault on the neurological and physiological development of our children. The theft begins even before birth. When a pregnant mother breathes air thick with particulate matter from traffic or drinks water contaminated with lead, those toxins cross the placental barrier, a biological invasion that can irrevocably alter fetal brain development.

With the first breath, the assault continues. The World Health Organization (WHO) report that a staggering 93% of the world's children under the age of 15 breathe air that is so polluted it poses a serious risk to their health and development. Air pollution is now a leading cause of child mortality, responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths annually from respiratory infections like pneumonia. For those who survive, the damage is insidious. Microscopic pollutants (PM2.5) lodge deep in the lungs, triggering chronic conditions like asthma, while evidence increasingly links this early-life exposure to cognitive deficits and developmental delays.

This is not a distant problem; it is a daily reality in our cities. The air quality in parts of Nairobi regularly exceeds WHO safety limits by several multiples. The endless traffic, the burning of waste in informal settlements, and un-

regulated industrial emissions create a toxic soup that our children are forced to breathe.

The theft continues with the first drink. According to UNICEF, nearly a third of Kenya's population relies on unsafe water sources. This water often carries not just bacterial threats, but the invisible poisons of modern life: nitrates from agricultural fertilizer runoff, which can cause "blue baby syndrome," and heavy metals like lead from unregulated industries. The tragic case of the Owino Uhuru community in Mombasa, where hundreds of children were poisoned by lead from a nearby smelter, is a stark reminder of this crisis. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has confirmed there is no safe level of lead exposure for a child; it robs them of IQ points, damages their nervous system, and diminishes their potential for life.

The cost of this theft is a crippling mortgage on Kenya's future. The healthcare costs of treating chronic childhood asthma and the long-term societal cost of diminished cognitive potential represent a massive, uncal-



culated drag on our economy. A sick generation cannot build a prosperous nation.

We must radically reframe our response. Environmental protection is not a luxury; it is the most fundamental form of preventative public healthcare. Guaranteeing every child's right to clean air and clean water from their first breath is not an activist's dream; it is a core economic and moral imperative. When our National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) fails to enforce air and water quality

standards, it is not a simple regulatory failure; it is an act of generational negligence.

The health of a child's body is a direct reflection of the health of our nation's environment. We must end this theft and start investing in the one asset that truly matters: the pure, untainted potential of our children.

By: Davidson Otieno Omondi Author, The Honesty Audit Student, Rongo University

## Israeli Attack In Qatar Draws International Condemnation

By: Xinhua

@themtkenyatimes



#### **Worth Noting:**

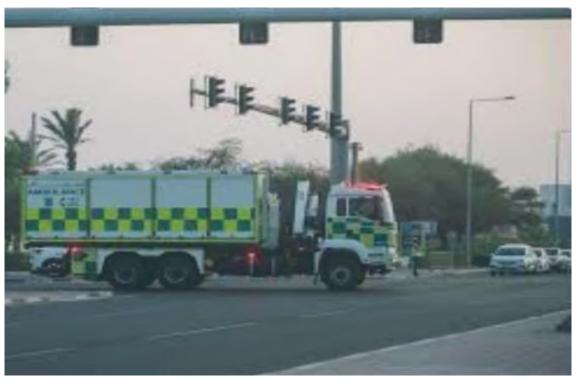
- Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior Palestinian official, echoed the sentiment, denouncing the assault as a "serious violation of international law." Qatar has denied being informed in advance of the Israeli strike, which is believed to be the first of its kind carried out by Israel in the country. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei described Israel's action as "extremely dangerous, criminal," in "flagrant violation of all international laws and regulations, Qatar's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and an attack on Palestinian negotiators."
- "We are closely examining the events that have occurred. However, in any case, from the perspective of international law, all international law regulations have been violated," he added. Tunisia on Wednesday condemned in the strongest terms the "treacherous and vicious attack" committed by Israel in a flagrant violation of all international laws and covenants.

Israel launched an unprecedented airstrike in the Qatari capital of Doha on Tuesday, targeting a building housing senior Hamas officials in what Israeli authorities described as an attempt to assassinate leaders of the group.

Five members of Hamas and a Qatari security officer were killed during the strike, while key members of the negotiating team survived. The attack occurred while its delegation was discussing a new U.S. proposal presented by U.S. President Donald Trump, Hamas said, accusing Israel of attempting to sabotage international mediation. The group condemned the strike as "an assault on the sovereignty of Qatar, which, along with Egypt, has played a central role in ceasefire and prisoner exchange mediation." It held Washington "jointly responsible due to its continued support for Israel." The attack drew swift condemnation from Qatar, a key mediator in the conflict that hosts Hamas's political bureau. The Qatari Foreign Ministry condemned the strike as a "serious threat to the security of Qatari citizens and residents" and a violation of its sovereignty, announcing that an investigation was underway.

Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior Palestinian official, echoed the sentiment, denouncing the assault as a "serious violation of international law." Qatar has denied being informed in advance of the Israeli strike, which is believed to be the first of its kind carried out by Israel in the country. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei described Israel's action as "extremely dangerous, criminal," in "flagrant violation of all international laws and regulations, Qatar's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and an attack on Palestinian negotiators." "We are closely examining the events that have occurred. However, in any case, from the perspective of international law, all international law regulations have been violated," he added. Tunisia on Wednesday condemned in the strongest terms the "treacherous and vicious attack" committed by Israel in a flagrant violation of all international laws and

According to a statement issued by the Tunisian Foreign Ministry on its Facebook page, Tunisia expressed its full solidarity and support for the brotherly state of Qatar and its efforts to defend its sanctity, sovereignty, national security, territorial integrity and citizens, and expressed its sincere condolences to the fami-



lies of the victims of this attack.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned the attack in a readout on social platform X. "I condemn Israel's strikes on Doha, which violate Qatar's sovereignty and risk further escalation across the region," said Starmer. "The priority must be an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, and a huge surge in aid into Gaza." German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul called Israel's attack "unacceptable" and warned that it jeopardizes the negotiations for the release of hostages held by Hamas. The Slovenian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs said on social media that "Slovenia strongly condemns the attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Qatar," expressing solidarity with Qatar, calling it a key mediator for a ceasefire in Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it "a wholly independent Israeli operation." "Israel initiated it, Israel conducted it, and Israel takes full responsibility," he said in a statement released by his office on Tuesday after the attack.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters later in the day that the Trump administration was informed by the U.S. military that Israel was striking Hamas targets, "which very unfortunately, was located in a section of Doha, the capital of Qatar." Leavitt said that Trump "immediately directed Special Envoy Steve Witkoff to inform Qatar of the impending attack, which he did." However, Qatar denied having prior knowledge, calling such claims "baseless." "The call from a U.S. official came during the sound of explosions caused by

the Israeli attack in Doha," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed bin Mohammed Al Ansari said in a post on X. The ministry announced the suspension of ongoing negotiations. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the strike as a "flagrant violation" of Qatar's sovereignty. "We are just learning about the Israeli attacks in Qatar, a country that has been playing a very positive role to achieve a ceasefire and the release of all hostages," he told reporters in New York. "I condemn this flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Qatar. All parties must work towards achieving a permanent ceasefire, not destroying it," he said. Other countries and organizations, including Norway, Jordan, Türkiye, and the Arab League, also condemned the Israeli attack.



# Judiciary, MPs Clash Over Who Regulates Judges' Allowances

By: Prudence Wanza and Muraya Kamunde

@themtkenyatimes



#### **Worth Noting:**

- Legislators argued that while the Judiciary is independent, its autonomy should not extend to unchecked financial decisions that could burden taxpayers.
- "Who, then, regulates these allowances? Who sets the bar? Because an allowance could be as little as two hundred shillings, but if someone decides to peg it at a thousand shillings, who checks that? How are these rates determined?" asked Mathioya MP Dr. Edwin Mugo.
- "Do you benchmark, perhaps with the United Kingdom or other Commonwealth countries? How exactly? Because, you know, the SRC usually conducts surveys—looking at economic conditions and circumstances, including hotel rates—to arrive at a standard allowance. But then, who actually regulates this? Is it the Judicial Service Commission?" added Dr. Mugo warning that unchecked discretion could lead to disparities across state institutions.

Billions in taxpayer-funded allowances for judges have sparked a storm in Parliament, with MPs demanding to know why the Judiciary sets its own rates outside the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

During a heated session of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) at parliament Buildings on Wednesday, the MPs who sit in the committee questioned why the Judiciary continues to set its own allowance rates independently of SRC benchmarks, despite the constitutional mandate that SRC regulates public officers' pay.

Legislators argued that while the Judiciary is independent, its autonomy should not extend to unchecked financial decisions that could burden taxpayers.

"Who, then, regulates these allowances? Who sets the bar? Because an allowance could be as little as two hundred shillings, but if someone decides to peg it at a thousand shillings, who checks that? How are these rates determined?" asked Mathioya MP Dr. Edwin Mugo.

"Do you benchmark, perhaps with the United Kingdom or other Commonwealth countries? How exactly? Because, you know, the SRC usually conducts surveys—looking at economic conditions and circumstances, including hotel rates—to arrive at a standard allowance. But then, who actually regulates this? Is it the Judicial Service Commission?" added Dr. Mugo warning that unchecked discretion could lead to disparities across state institutions.

The contention arose during the committee consideration of the Auditor General's report on the financial statements of the Judiciary for the financial year ended June 30th, 2023.

In her findings, Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu flagged irregular domestic travel and subsistence allowances paid to top judicial officers, including the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, all judges, the Chief Registrar, Deputy Chief Registrar, chief magistrates, and staff in job groups PLS 16 and 17.

"The Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) circular dated February 2, 2022, set out the applicable domestic travel and subsistence rates for all state and public officers. However, the Judiciary has been paying at rates higher than those authorized by the SRC," the report stated in part.

The Auditor-General concluded that, by doing so, the Judiciary's management had breached SRC guidelines, resulting in irregular payments.

In a letter dated July 23, 2019, tabled before the committee in defence of the contested payments, the then Chief Registrar and Secretary



to the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), Anne Amadi, formally communicated a review of daily subsistence allowances commonly known as per diems.

Addressed to the Director of Human Resource Management and Administration, the letter outlined resolutions passed during a JSC meeting held the previous day Monday July 22nd 2019.

"The Judicial Service Commission at its meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2019 considered a proposal to review the subsistence allowance/per diem payable to judges, judicial officers and staff and approved the same noting the following amendments," wrote Ms. Amadi.

The new structure introduced clear bands of entitlement. At the top were the Chief Justice and Deputy Chief Justice, each entitled to a daily local per diem of Ksh. 30,000.

They were followed by all Judges and the Chief Registrar, who were placed in a second tier with an allocation of Ksh. 25,000 per day.

A third band grouped together Chief Magistrates, the Deputy Chief Registrar, the Chief Kadhi, and staff in job groups PLS 16 and 17, with each drawing Ksh. 20,000 daily. For all other officers and staff, the existing rates were left unchanged.

In her directive, Ms. Amadi instructed the Human Resource Director to enforce the revised structure and copied the memo to the Chief Human Resource Officer (Welfare) to ensure immediate implementation.

In her response, Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya, who also serves as the institution's accounting officer, defended the contested allowance structure.

She explained that the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) had pegged the rates on those applied by the Parliamentary Service Commission

(PSC).

"Let me just confirm that the Judicial Service Commission benchmarks particularly with the Parliamentary Service Commission. So the rates we apply are comparable to what obtains in the PSC," Ms. Mokaya told the committee.

Her remarks, however, drew protests from MPs, who dismissed the comparison as misleading.

Legislators argued that the PSC operates under its own internal benchmarks for members' benefits, many of which had already been nullified by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

They insisted that the Judiciary could not act as though it was exempt from the broader public service remuneration framework.

"I would like to know from the Registrar what exactly you based your position on to come up with these rates. Was it that ruling, and if so, what did the ruling say? Or was it solely the Constitution? Initially, were you guided by SRC rates, and at what point did you stop using them, if at all you ever did?" asked Samburu West MP Naisula Lesuuda. Nevertheless, the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary defended the institution, citing Article 172 of the Constitution, which empowers the JSC to "review and make recommendations on the terms and conditions of service of judges and judicial offi-

According to the Registrar, the JSC conducted its own benchmarking exercise before SRC released its rates.

"Let me say we have never used, the SRC rates. The judicial Service Commission (JSC) interpreted their mandate as provided for under article 172 vis-à-vis article 230 of the Constitution that gives the mandate to SRC. So they interpreted their mandate and after benchmarking set

the applicable rates, so it is later that SRC provided the rates," she said.

"So the SRC rates came after the judicial Service Commission had set the rates, and then the issue came up in court, and again, it affirmed the position that the Commission had taken," she added.

During the meeting, the Office of the Auditor-General was also been dragged into the dispute, as MPs pressed it to clarify whether the Judiciary's self-regulated allowances align with constitutional principles of accountability and the prudent use of public resources.

Mr. Philip Cheboiwo, Director of Audit at the Office of the Auditor-General opposed the Judiciary's stance, noting that the institution already nominates a member to the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) to represent its welfare and interests.

Cheboiwo argued that the Judiciary should therefore not appear to grant itself preferential treatment in the allowances paid to its officers, especially when compared to the rates set by SRC for other public servants.

"But again, it begs the question, the Judiciary also sits in the SRC as a member. Could it be that they see themselves as superior to the Public Service Commission? If you are part of such a commission, then fairness should apply across the entire public sector," he held.

The controversy comes against the backdrop of growing scrutiny of state officers' perks, with taxpayers footing hefty bills for allowances ranging from travel to sitting fees.

The committee has now demanded that the Judiciary furnish it with a copy of the Supreme Court ruling cited as the legal basis for its stand, as well as clarity on how benchmarks were arrived at.



Sports >> \*Gor Mahia's highly-rated defender Alphonce Omija has completed a transfer to Tunisian football powerhouse, Étoile Sportive du Sahel (ESS).

## 'Gor Forever My Home', Omija Completes Move To ES Sahel In Tunisia

Gor Mahia's highly-rated defender Alphonce Omija has completed a transfer to Tunisian football powerhouse, Étoile Sportive du Sahel (ESS).

The move marks a major step in the 22-year-old's career, transitioning from domestic dominance in Kenya to the competitive football landscape of North African football.

Shortly after the news broke, Omija, who was among African Nations Championship (CHAN) stand out stars, took to social media to pen an emotional and heartfelt farewell to the club that shaped him for the past one year playing for the senior team.

In his post, the defender expressed his deep connection to the club, writing, "Gor Mahia will forever be my home. Gor Mahono. Damu ni green (in reference to Gor's famous green jersey)."

He reflected on his journey, which began at the club's youth system, stating, "Since at Gor Mahia Youth FC and for the past one year, playing for Gor Mahia has been a true honour..."

Omija also had special words for the passionate fan base, the Green Army: "Thank you for your love and support. You made it more beautiful. Wish I could have said goodbye in a better way, but just know my love for you is endless."

Omija's transfer comes hot on the heels of a series of impressive performances that put him in the continental spotlight.

He was a crucial part of the Gor Mahia squad that secured the 2023/2024 FKF Premier League title, forming a formidable defensive line that was key to the team's success.

His consistent club form earned him a call-up to the Kenyan national team, the Harambee Stars, for the 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN) tournament.



Gor Mahia defender Alphonce Omija after completing his move to Tunisian Giants Étoile Sportive du Sahel on yesterday.

Omija featured prominently in the competition, where he showcased his composure, strength, and tactical awareness against some of the best talent on the continent.

His performances on this continental stage undoubtedly attracted the attention of scouts from across Africa.

Étoile Sportive du Sahel is one of the most decorated clubs in Tunisia and Africa. Based in Sousse, the club has won the Tunisian Ligue Profesionnelle 1 a record ten times and has also clinched the CAF Champions League (2007), the CAF Confederation Cup (2006, 2015), and the CAF Super Cup on multiple occasions.

For Omija, joining ESS represents an opportunity to comficially disclosed by either club.

pete at the highest level, including potential appearances in CAF inter-club competitions, and to develop his game in a highly professional environment.

This transfer is being celebrated as a positive development for Kenyan football. It demonstrates that top-performing players in the local league can earn moves to prestigious clubs in more established footballing nations.

Omija's path, excelling at Gor Mahia, impressing for the national team at a continental tournament, and securing a high-profile transfer, serves as an inspiration for young footballers across Kenya.

The details of the transfer, including the contract length and the fee involved, are yet to be officially disclosed by either club. However, it is expected that Omija will join his new teammates in Tunisia shortly to begin the next chapter of his promising career.

Fans of Gor Mahia and the Harambee Stars will be watching closely, wishing "Biggie" Omija success as he flies the Kenyan flag high in Tunisia.

Citizen Sport

SET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> \*At just 24, Nelly Chikombe's story is one of courage, faith, and a burning desire to chase dreams beyond her small rural home in Khayongo, Mkuyuni Ward, Bungoma County.

## The Girl Who Never Looked Back: Nelly Chikombe's Rise From Bungoma To Kenya Lionesses

At just 24, Nelly Chikombe's story is one of courage, faith, and a burning desire to chase dreams beyond her small rural home in Khayongo, Mkuyuni Ward, Bungoma County.

Born the fifth in a family of seven, sport has always been part of her DNA. Her father was once a footballer, her mother a netball player, while her brother still laces up boots for football.

Naturally, she first found herself on the soccer pitch. But in 2022, fate came calling in a way she could never have imagined.

Coach Mary Ochieng, one of Kenya's most decorated women's rugby coaches, sent player Esther Juma to their village with a mission to find girls willing to try rugby. Nelly was among the three who agreed to travel to Nairobi. That night before the trip, she barely slept.

"It was my first time going to Nairobi," she recalls with a laugh. Stepping onto the lush grass of Impala Grounds, the girls were introduced to an oval ball for the very first time. Confusion and shock turned into curiosity, and slowly, into passion.

The other two girls soon gave up and returned home. Nelly stayed. Under Coach Mary's patient guidance, she learned the basics, simple passes, positioning, and discipline.

Barely two months later, she was thrown into the deep end, making her Kenya Cup debut as a second row against Mwamba.

Then came the life-changing phone call: a national team callup to the Kenya Lionesses. Her passport delays kept her from the Elgon Cup, but in May 2023, her dream became real.

That journey to Madagascar was more than just a rugby trip. It was also Nelly's first time on a plane. She remembers clutching her seat, heart racing as the engines roared, and then smiling in disbelief as



Bungoma's soil gave way to the clouds.

"I just kept telling myself, 'from a small village to flying with the Lionesses,this can only be God," she says.

She pulled on the national jersey in Madagascar, making her debut against South Africa in the WXV qualifiers.

Since then, Nelly has blossomed she remains deeply grateful to her

into a try-scoring machine, 13 tries in just three outings across Christie, Prinsloo, and Kabeberi Sevens. Her speed, power, and determination are now hallmarks of her game.

She dreams of joining the Kenya Defence Forces in the future and looks up to Lionesses winger Sharon Auma. But through it all, she remains deeply grateful to her teammate Esther Juma, Coach Simon Odongo, Camilyn Oyuayo and especially Coach Mary, the woman who opened the door to her destiny.

The fleet-footed winger is now part of the lionesses' squad in camp.

Citizen Sport



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

# Backpage





## Dare To Dream The Regina Martin Story



By: Anila Bukhari

@athemtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Regina's journey is rooted in resilience and determination. Her experiences have fueled her passion for helping others build confidence, overcome challenges, and achieve success. As a motivational coach, Regina provides personalized guidance and support, empowering individuals to reach their goals.
- Regina's authentic storytelling and strategic insights have inspired audiences in various settings, from schools to conferences. Her empowering message, "You Belong Here," resonates deeply, reminding individuals of their rightful place in pursuing their dreams.
- Through her books, workshops, and keynote speeches, Regina continues to impact lives, motivating individuals to set bold goals and lead with confidence.

  As a voice of empowerment and transformation, Regina's legacy inspires future generations to pursue their passions and make a meaningful difference.



Regina Marti

Regina Martin, M.Ed., is a renowned author, motivational coach, and keynote speaker dedicated to empowering individuals to unlock their full potential. With a Master's degree in Education, Regina founded Dare to Dream Motivational Speaking & Coaching LLC, a platform that inspires students, professionals, and entrepreneurs to pursue their passions.

#### A Journey of Resilience and Determination

Regina's journey is rooted in resilience and determination. Her experiences have fueled her passion for helping others build confidence,

overcome challenges, and achieve success. As a motivational coach, Regina provides personalized guidance and support, empowering individuals to reach their goals.

#### **Empowering Others Through Storytelling**

Regina's authentic storytelling and strategic insights have inspired audiences in various settings, from schools to conferences. Her empowering message, "You Belong Here," resonates deeply, reminding individuals of their rightful place in pursuing their dreams.

#### **Impact and Legacy**

Through her books, workshops, and keynote speeches, Regina continues to impact lives, motivating individuals to set bold goals and lead with confidence. As a voice of empowerment and transformation, Regina's legacy inspires future generations to pursue their passions and make a meaningful difference.

#### **Key Achievements**

- Founder of Dare to Dream Motivational Speaking & Coaching
- Accomplished author and keynote speaker
- Master's degree in Education
- Empowering message: "You Be-

long Here"

Regina Martin, M.Ed., is a transformative leader who inspires individuals to dream without limits and pursue their passions with purpose and confidence. Her dedication to empowerment and transformation has made a lasting impact, leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire others for years to come.