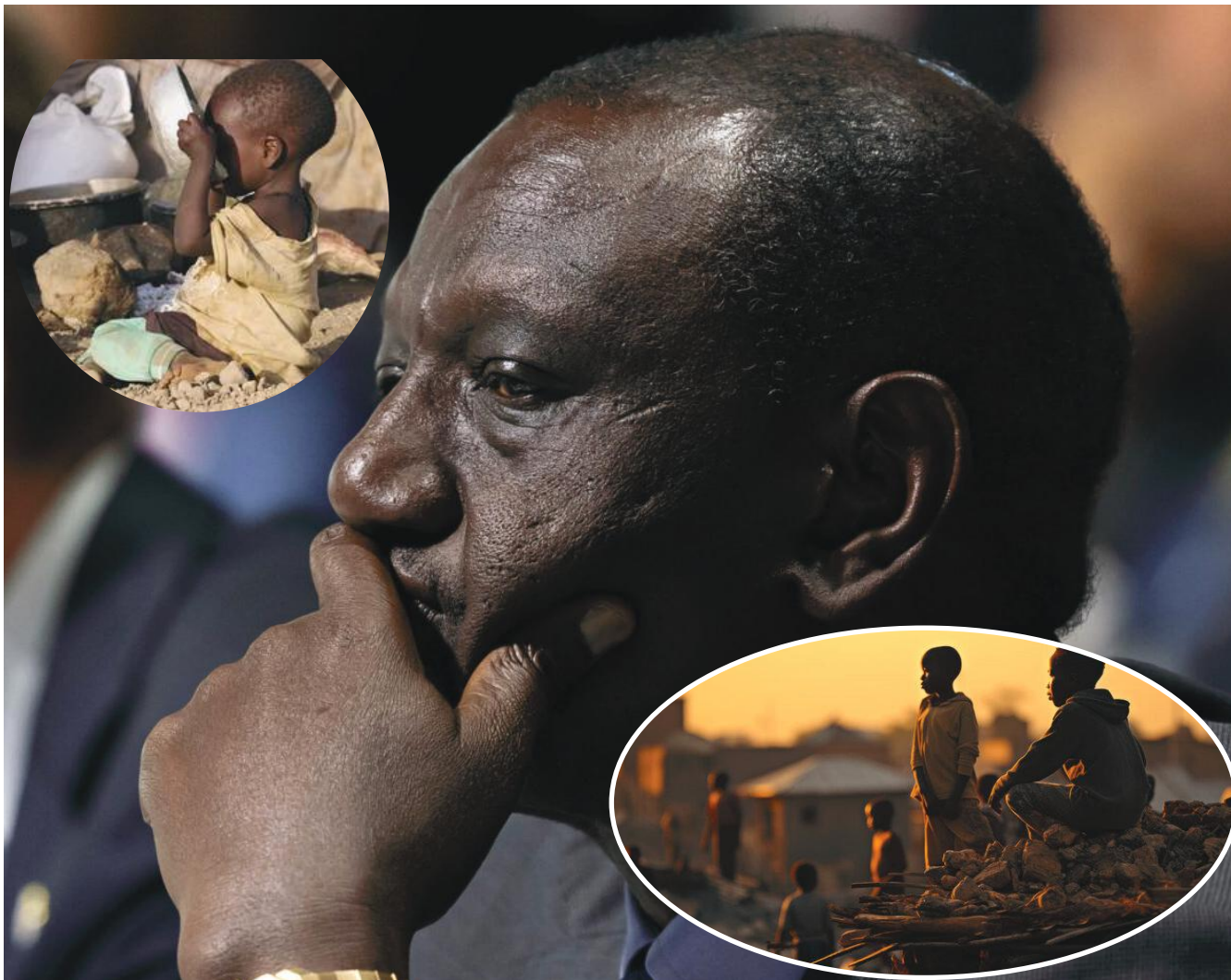


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President Ruto Hosts Murang'a Leaders

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto on Friday hosted a group of leaders from Murang'a County where he highlighted what his administration had done in the area.

“There is no longer any room in Kenya for tribalistic and retrogressive politics that enrich a few at the expense of the many. We are charting a new course; one of bold, visionary leadership that transforms lives and unites our nation,” said

He noted that his government has allocated Sh23 billion for the construction of 10,300 affordable houses, Sh3.5 billion to upgrade roads, Sh2.3 billion for the development of 23 modern markets, and Sh3 billion for new student hostels.

“To accelerate entrepreneurship and inclusive growth, more than 10,000 households will be connected to electricity by December through our ambitious Sh850 million electrification project,” said the president who was accompanied by among others, his deputy Kithure Kindiki. Further, he said, the government has also committed to build two modern stadiums worth over Sh1.5 billion and to connect Kangema, Mathioya, Kiharu, and Kandara to clean water under a Sh2.4 billion water project.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary for Health, Aden Duale on Friday held discussions with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Kenya Coalition of Nutrition, led by Dr. David Miliband, to advance stronger partnerships in eliminating malnutrition a critical pillar of the Taifa Care Model and Kenya's healthcare transformation agenda. The meeting explored joint resource mobilization through alternative financing, reducing the national burden of malnutrition currently at 4% and as high as 15% in arid and semi-arid areas and strengthening the Community Health Strategy by leveraging Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and the electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) for real-time data, improved service delivery, and performance tracking. Participants committed to reviewing progress every six months, safeguarding the continuity of life-saving nutrition programmes, and co-investing in proven models that build resilient supply chains, enhance health worker capacity, and promote stronger data sharing. They emphasized the importance of a multi-sectoral approach in mobilizing resources and tracking results, placing nutrition at the heart of Primary Healthcare and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The CS was joined by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni; Director-General for Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth; Mr. Gilbert Kamanga of World Vision; Ms. Janet Micheni of Action Against Hunger; and other senior Ministry of Health officials.



Cabinet Secretary Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eng. Eric Mugaa on Friday joined a group of enthusiastic young farmers to visit Charles Mutwiri, widely known as Mukarimu, at his demonstration farm in Imenti North Constituency. The group, including leaders from local coffee factories and farmers' representatives, was eager to learn from his expertise. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for the CS to witness the potential of modern coffee farming firsthand. Our government's Bottom-Up Economic Model has driven transformative agricultural reforms, significantly boosting earnings from coffee farming. These reforms equip farmers with modern techniques, quality inputs, and better market access, resulting into increased incomes and sparking renewed interest in agriculture, particularly among the youth.

Lawyers across the country on Friday held the 'Purple Ribbon March' in honour of their colleague Kyalo Mbohu who was killed on Wednesday in an apparent assassination. The advocates affiliated to the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) poured into the streets to protest Mbohu's murder. In Nairobi, the procession started from Milimani Law Courts towards the city center where members converged at the Supreme court before presenting a petition to the inspector General of police Douglas Kanja seeking speedy investigations to the killing of Kyallo.



Makueni county governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr has commissioned the Yumbuni Borehole Water project in Nguu/Masumba Ward, Nzau sub county. The project, funded by Charity Water, was implemented by Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH) for the past one year and is expected to benefit 8,889 households in the area, with clean water for domestic use. While commissioning the borehole, Mutula lauded WHH for introducing concepts that have helped water governance, saying people will get water as per the amount of money paid.



About 13, 000 squatters living at the expansive 5,800 acres of land belonging to former Provincial Commissioner (PC) Isaiah Cheluguet in Sagamian ward, Narok County can breathe a sigh of relief as the government completes the process of title deeds issuance. Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu assured the residents that the land negotiations with the family of the late Cheluguet had been completed and currently, officials from the Land's office are camping in the area to get records of the individual's land ownership. Ntutu, who spoke at Lower Sagamian Secondary School during a development tour in the area, asked the residents to be patient as the government completes the process, promising that no genuine beneficiary would be left out. He thanked the Cheluguet family for agreeing to sell the land to the government, saying they had held several meetings with the Land Principal Secretary (PS), Director for Settlement and the Cheluguet family before they came to a common stand.





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My Focus Is To Uplift Residents' Lives, Says Waiguru As She Delivers Basket Of Development Goodies

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- The governor crisscrossed Tebere, Wamumu, Mutithi, and Kariti wards in the densely populated region, where she presided over groundbreaking and site handovers for two upcoming mega market projects in Kiumbu and Wamumu.
- In Kariti Ward, Ndia Constituency, she also handed over the site for the construction of over 400 affordable housing units.

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru on Thursday toured the vote-rich Mwea Constituency and Ndia with a basket of development projects, promising to fulfill her campaign pledges and hand over a model county at the end of her two terms.

Waiguru reiterated that her focus is to leave behind legacy projects that will impact generations, even after her tenure as county chief.

Speaking at Tebere Ward in Mwea during the groundbreaking ceremony for two-storey modern markets, the governor was categorical that she would not wish to hand over leadership to non-performers who could reverse the gains achieved during her administration.

The governor crisscrossed Tebere, Wamumu, Mutithi, and Kariti wards in the densely populated region, where she presided over groundbreakings and site handovers for two upcoming mega market projects in Kiumbu and Wamumu.

In Kariti Ward, Ndia Constituency, she also handed over the site for the construction of over 400 affordable housing units.

Waiguru said the two-storey modern markets will go a long way in creating jobs for residents both directly and indirectly.

Speaking at Kiumbu village in Tebere Ward, Mwea Constituency, Waiguru emphasized her commitment to fulfilling her campaign pledges and handing over the county in top form at the end of her constitutional two terms.

"Today we are in Mwea to pave the way for two state-of-the-art, two-storey modern markets that will completely transform these trading centers and create thousands of jobs for res-



Kirinyaga County Governor Ann Waiguru and other officials overseeing groundbreaking ceremony

idents, both directly and indirectly," she said.

The governor explained that the markets are being implemented through a partnership between the national and county governments.

"My administration enjoys a cordial development relationship with the national government and partners to ensure that residents reap maximum benefits despite our constrained county allocation," Waiguru noted.

She reiterated that her administration has implemented transformative initiatives across social and economic sectors.

In trade, she pointed out that the county has modernized towns through

the impactful cabro paving program.

In agriculture, she highlighted the Wezesha Kirinyaga program, which has rolled out life-changing projects to boost household incomes.

In the health sector, Waiguru said her administration has launched ambitious projects to improve access to affordable healthcare.

"In line with Universal Health Coverage (UHC), we have deliberately upgraded hospital infrastructure and improved medical services to save lives," she said.

She added that her administration had turned Kirinyaga into a "health city" through major health investments.

"When I assumed office, Kerugoya

Hospital lacked critical facilities such as a renal unit, ICU, HDU, and accident theatre. Through our efforts, we have upgraded the hospital from Level 4 to Level 5, equipping it with all essential facilities," Waiguru said.

She revealed that plans are underway to extend renal services to sub-county hospitals, ensuring dialysis patients are able to access treatment closer to home.

"We are also establishing renal units in our upcoming sub-county medical complexes to reduce transport costs for kidney patients currently traveling to Kerugoya for services. This will also ease congestion at our Level 5 hospital," she added.

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Balozi Sacco Marks 50 Years of Stability, Opportunity And Growth

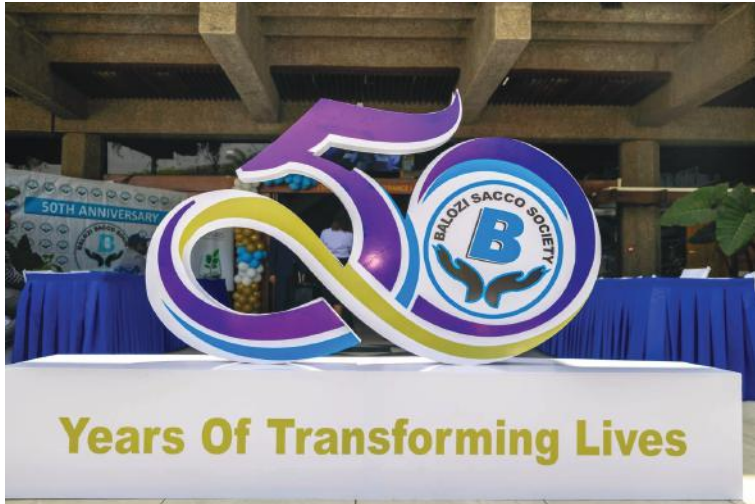
By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Balozi Sacco on Friday celebrated its 50th Golden Jubilee Anniversary in a colourful ceremony held at KICC and attended by hundreds of members and dozens of guests.

The Sacco was established in 1975 by employees of the American Embassy but later opened its membership to other reputable organizations as well as spouses and children of its members. Although started by about 50 members, the Sacco now prides itself with more than 5,000 members and an asset base of Ksh.6B.

The Sacco chairman George Mimba and Chief Executive Officer Jorim Oyago said the Sacco was among the first non-deposit taking Saccos that were licensed by SASRA in 2021 and acquired Tier 1 status.

During the ceremony where the Commissioner for Cooperatives David Obonyo represented Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives Development



Balozi Sacco Marks 50 Years of Stability

Wycliffe Oparanya saw the Sacco unveil the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. In his address, Obonyo noted that the Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for growth, sustainability, and improved service delivery and is built on the achievements and lessons learned from the 2020-2024 strategic planning period while setting ambitious yet attainable goals.

The plan, he further observed, is structured around six key strategic pillars that will guide the Sacco's operations over the next five years.

The draws its membership the from among others; Embassy, USAID, US Peace Corps, KEMRI and its affiliates (WRP, CDC, Usamru Embassy, Canadian Embassy, Garda World KK B.B.C., Chemonics, D.A.I.,



Balozi Sacco officials assist guests led by Commissioner for Cooperatives David Obonyo to cut, marking 50 years since it was formed and unveiling of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. Photos/Courtesy.

Israel Embassy, Gardaworld Security (formerly KK Security), Land O'Lakes Inc, H.J.F., G.I.S., Ampath Plus, VIBRI, Washington State University Affiliates, ABT Associates Inc as well as spouses and children of current members.

Farmers Earn KSh 847 Million From Coffee Auction

By: Kenya News Agency
@themtkenyatimes

Trading at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) this week remained strong with 12,762 bags of coffee fetching Sh847 million.

In the weekly auction conducted at Ukulima House, Nairobi, the average price stood at Sh53,206.7 per 50-kilo bag of cherry.

Gakuyuini factory, which is part of Thirikwa Farmers' Cooperative Society (FCS), fetched the best price after selling 10 bags of grade AA at Sh66,219 per bag.

According to the reports of NCE, a total of 186 bags equivalent to 1.5 percent of all volumes traded, fetched Sh64,415 and above per bag.

Also the NCE report on the Sale 39 of the current coffee year, which is ending this month showed 752 bags of grade AA that were bought for Sh59.6 million and 5,042 bags of grade AB for Sh346 million

In the category of brokers, Alliance Berries Ltd led the pack in both price and volume, selling a total of 4,929 bags at an average of Sh54,624 per bag.

New KPCU PLC held the second-largest market share with 1,679 bags translating to 13.6 percent of total volume traded and attaining 13.7 percent of value, maintaining a competitive average price of Sh53,437 with their highest price reaching Sh65,574.

KCCE Marketing Agency Limited captured 12.4 percent of both bags and value with 1,526 bags traded at an average price of Sh52,949.

The NCE reports further indicated that Kipkelion Broker Company Ltd stood out for achieving the second-highest average price at Sh53,593 despite controlling only 6.6 percent (817 bags) of traded volume in the market.

Minnesota Coffee Marketers Limited held 6.3 percent of the auctioned bags, but had the lowest average price at Sh50,501 and the widest price range from Sh5,560 to Sh59,777,



indicating they dealt with a broader spectrum of coffee qualities from premium to lower-grade offerings.

In the dealer category, Ibero Kenya Ltd emerged as the clear market leader, purchasing 5,187 bags representing an impressive 41 percent of the total volume traded at Sh340.4 million.

C. Dormans SEZ Ltd secured the

second-largest position after spending Sh156.3 million to purchase 2,244 bags, accounting for 17.6 percent of the total purchases.

Taylor Winch (Coffee) Limited followed with 1,908 bags, capturing 15 percent of the market and Kenyacof Limited acquired 1,456 bags representing 11.4 percent of total volume. Louis Dreyfus Company rounded

out the top five after purchasing 663 bags, comprising 5.2 percent of purchases.

The five major dealers controlled 89.8 percent of the entire auction volume, while Rockbern Coffee Group Ltd was the smallest participant, purchasing only 3 bags, representing just 0.02 percent of total volume.

First Lady Rachel Ruto Launches Second Phase Of Initiative To Curb HIV, Teenage Pregnancy

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

First Lady Rachel Ruto has launched the second phase of an initiative aimed at combating HIV, teenage pregnancy, sexual and gender-based violence in the country

The threats dubbed “The Triple Threat” are on the rise especially among the under age in different parts of the country.

Four counties which are set to benefit starting this month includes, Samburu, West Pokot, Homa Bay, and Uasin Gishu.

The key driver of this initiative is the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD), an organization she serves as a member of the steering committee.

“OAFLAD unites African First Ladies to champion issues that affect Women, Youth and Children, through partners, it has provided funding to implement targeted interventions which address these pressing concerns,” she said.

Speaking during the event at Statehouse, the First lady said the HIV prevalence is escalating at an alarming rate

with over 1.3 million Kenyans living with HIV translating to 3 percent of the entire population.

“But what should trigger us into action is this; in 2024 alone, we recorded almost 20,000 new HIV infections; a staggering 19 percent increase from the previous year, this is a reversal of years of progress,” she said.

Mrs Ruto urged leaders and stakeholders to come out and speak about the future of the children who are currently at a risk.

“Our adolescents are bearing the heaviest burden. Right now, over 80,000 young people between 10 and 19 years old are living with HIV, requiring life-long treatment,” she said.

The goal of this initiative is to close existing gaps by accelerating ongoing programs, strengthening current infrastructure, and leveraging the expertise of trained community health promoters.

“Today, I invite all of us, as we partner with the Ministry of Health, through National AIDS and STIs Control Program (NAS COP) to implement this initiative in the four counties,” she said.

The first phase involved Meru and Narok counties and report indicates that significant progress has been made in combating the triple threats.

“This program will only succeed if we

commit more resources to expand our footprint. The investment by OAFLAD must be matched by the National and County government resources as well as Private sector partnerships,” she added

She urged the county governments to continue providing the local leadership, resources, and community engagement necessary to make this intervention successful, while co-creating with the national poor government on activities aimed at addressing the triple threat in our counties.

Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture, the Arts, and Heritage Hannah Cheptumo called for parents called for reinstatement of family values in the country.

“Let us speak out, Kenyans children are not protected and they are suffering by being exposed to things they should not know, things they should wait until they are out of age,” she said

“The First lady is doing a good job and to our legislators, help us in this cause and reinstate where the state of nation where it was before these evils came,” she said.

Present were Governors and MPs from the area who included Gladys Wanga (Homabay), Simon Kachapin (West Pokot), Dr Jonathan Bii (Uasin Gishu)

Mr. Kachapin thanked the First lady for



First Lady Rachel Ruto.

choosing the four counties adding that they were hard hit by the vices

He said the initiative will reduce and eliminate the three threats in areas with high prevalences.

Mr. Bii said counties like Uasin Gishu were experiencing rises occasioned by nightlife in towns like Eldoret with high students’ population.

Governor Wanga said the initiative will be sustained once the leadership, government and stakeholders come together.

“We commit to working together, these issues are a big threat to our communities,” she said.

62% Of Kenyans Feel Country Heading In Wrong Direction - TIFA Poll

By: Seth Olale
 @themkenyatimes

The latest opinion poll released by TIFA shows a declining optimism about the country’s trajectory between 2023 and 2025.

62 percent of Kenyans feel the country is moving in the wrong direction in 2025 compared to 48 percent who felt so in 2023.

That sentiment is highest in the Mt. Kenya region at 79%, followed by Lower Eastern at 73%, South Rift at 70%, Nyanza at 67% and Nairobi at 64%.

Those interviewed expressed dissatisfaction with governance, economic performance, and recent policy impacts such the Finance Bill and cost of living.

The percentage of Kenyans opposing the broad-based government increased from 54% in May 2025 to 64% currently.

On average, 70% of Kenyans polled, say their economic situation has gotten worse since 2022.

Mt. Kenya region leads with 85%, Nairobi with 74% comes second while the South Rift has 72% and Nyanza 71%.

The poll further shows that 64% of Kenyans interviewed between August and September overwhelmingly feel that their personal and family economic conditions have deteriorated since the last general election compared to 54% who were interviewed in May.

The Finance Bill is perceived as having negatively affected the cost of living and eroding personal finances for most Kenyans, with 82% saying it led to increased cost of basic goods and services such as food, transport and utilities.

31% say it has increased taxes on their salaries or income. 21% say the most recent finance bill has reduced their disposable income or savings.

The report further highlights that every one in four Kenyans is jobless with 17 percent either unemployed or job hunting. 25 percent are working full time, 23 percent self-employed and with 15 percent working part time

73% of Kenyans polled do not think that the government is doing enough to investigate and stop extra-judicial killings and abductions.



The national survey was conducted between August 23, 2025 and September 3, 2025 from total of 2023 randomly selected Kenyan adults aged 18 and above across all 47 counties.

Government Backs Local Vehicle Manufacturers, Pushes Transition To Electric Buses

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local vehicle manufacturers as it accelerates the country's transition to electric mobility in a bid to build a sustainable transport system.

Investment, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui said the transition will cut the over reliance on petroleum imports noting that petroleum remains the single largest import at the national level.

Speaking in Thika during the signing of a strategic partnership between Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers (KVM) and electric mobility firm BasiGo, Kinyanjui said the government has rolled out an automotive policy that gives preferential treatment to locally assembled vehicles.

He added that fully imported vehicles will attract higher taxes, while locally assembled ones will benefit from incentives to spur subsidiary industries that can produce components cheaply and reliably, while creating jobs

across the manufacturing value chain. "Companies that manufacture vehicle parts, such as wheels, seats, and glass will get incentives. The plan is to encourage local content in vehicle production so that we build a strong automotive ecosystem," said Kinyanjui. "This will not only support assemblers but also help small and medium enterprises enter the supply chain."

He also highlighted President William Ruto's recent visit to Japan, where Kenya secured a Sh13.1 billion concessional loan to support local companies in vehicle parts manufacturing.

"It's now an opportunity for vehicle manufacturers to embark on the manufacture of vehicle body parts including glasses, wheels, main body among other parts. The loan facility will enable entrepreneurs with the capacity for body building and component production to access affordable credit and become key suppliers in the industry."

The KVM-BasiGo partnership will see the local assembly of King Long electric buses at KVM's Thika facility, leveraging KVM's decades of assembly expertise and BasiGo's innovation in e-mobility. The initiative is expected to create jobs, enhance



Cabinet Secretary Lee Kinyanjui flagging off an electric bus with Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers officials

skills, and strengthen Kenya's position as a regional automotive hub.

CFAO Mobility Kenya, which acquired a 99 percent stake in KVM last year through a Sh2.3 billion investment, pledged to expand capacity with new assembly lines, a 15,000 square meter logistics warehouse, and a world-class training school, according to Deputy Managing Director,

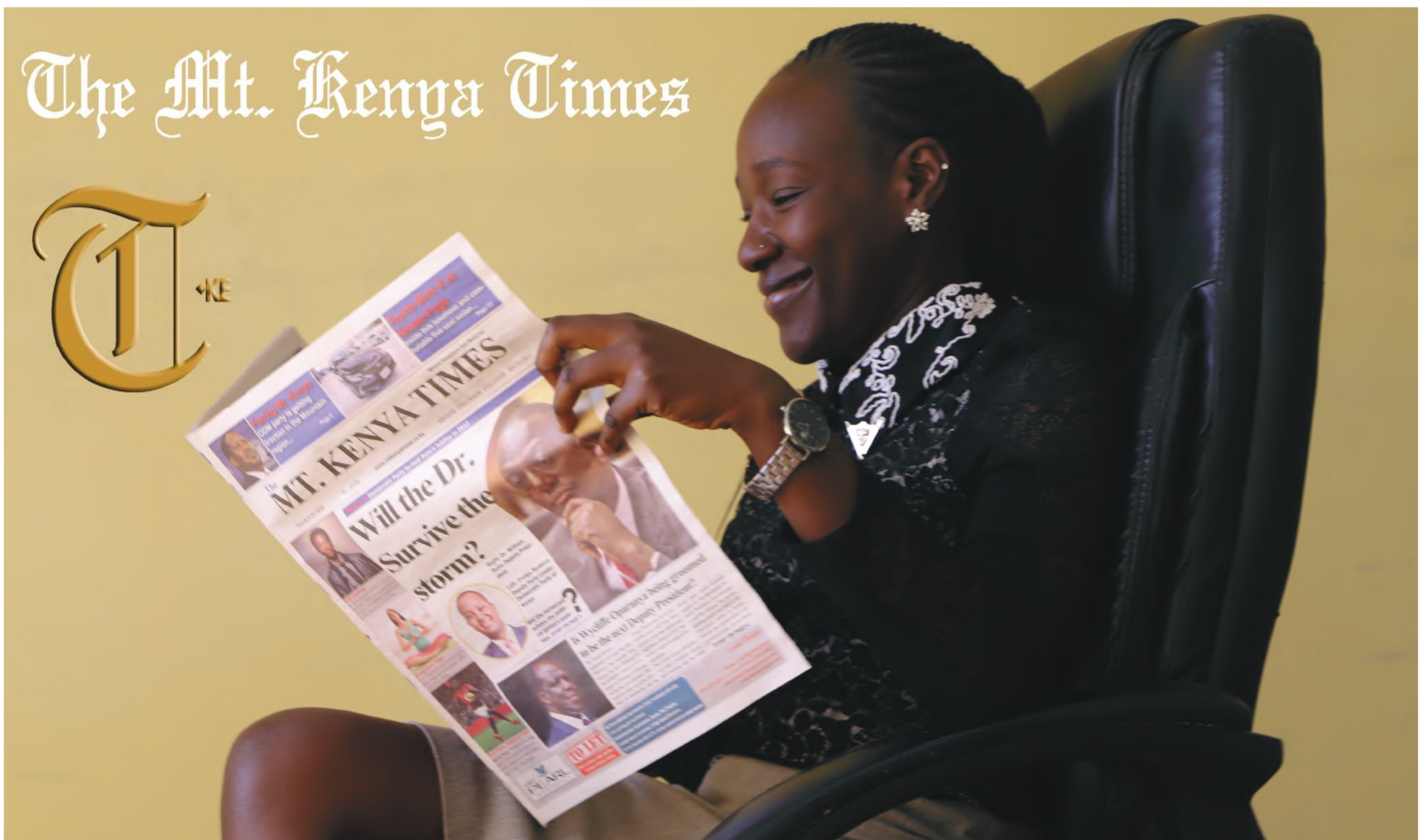
Joshua Anya.

BasiGo Managing Director, Moses Nderitu, said local assembly would lower costs for operators while delivering sustainable economic impact.

Matatu sector players welcomed the partnership, though CitiHopa CEO Judy Thuo raised concerns about high electricity costs that make operations expensive.

"The government should now be working towards reducing the cost of power, if it is to effectively oversee the transition because the cost of operating these electric buses is expensive," said Ms Thuo.

CS Kinyanjui assured that his ministry is working with that of Energy to address the power issue to ensure a smooth transition.



Gachagua Criticises State House Meetings, Terms Them Corruption Haven

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Democracy for the Citizens Party (DCP) party leader Rigathi Gachagua has sharply condemned the ongoing meetings at State House, describing them as a haven for corruption.

He accused President William Ruto of enabling corruption to thrive under the guise of mobilization, stating that such forums were nothing but platforms for illicit dealings rather than genuine dialogue, beneficial to citizens.

Speaking at his Karen residence where he hosted a section of the Murang'a County Assembly members, the former Deputy President hit out at President Ruto for misappropriating public funds running into billions of shillings to bribe Kenyans for support of his presidency during the



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his spouse, Pastor Dorcas receiving a gift from Murang'a leaders. Photos/Courtesy.

forthcoming General Elections.

"Instead of allocating resources towards critical sectors like education and healthcare, such as school capitation and public hospital funding the president is allegedly channeling funds into corrupt schemes," Gachagua observed during a press briefing.

This, Gachagua argued, is why the State House meetings continue, with attendees parting with money to pledge allegiance.

He further condemned the lack of tangible development under Presi-



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua during a press briefing on Friday.

dent Ruto's leadership, asserting that the president has done little in terms of actual progress and has no right to boast about achievements that do not exist.

Gachagua also warned of a scheme aimed at dividing Mount Kenya, urging the people of the region to remain resilient.

He called on residents to be vigilant and to identify leaders who are selfish and working with distractors to undermine the region's unity and progress.

Former Freedom Fighters To Embark On Auditing Membership

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Former freedom fighters are initiating a scheme to audit their membership in preparation for the long awaited compensation.

Mau Mau War Veterans Association (MMWVA) officials say the move is aimed at ensuring only genuine members will benefit from the initiative

Through the organisation Director General, James Njuguna Mahuria, MMWVA said a trial and benchmarking of the exercise will start in counties of Trans Nzoia, West Pokot and Bungoma.

Mahuria told their members to remain patient as the exercise was being carried out.

The issue comes in the wake of a notice that appeared in one of the dailies on Friday stating that a programme of issuing Title Deeds to former freedom fighters had been suspended.

The notice that had no undersigned



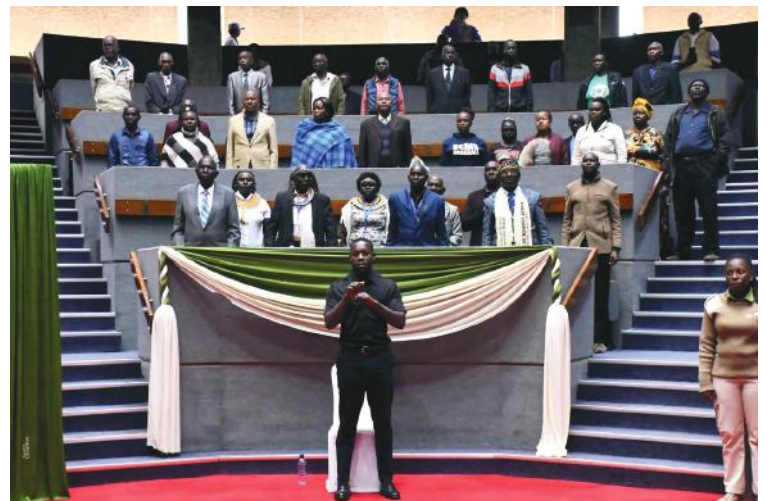
A section of former freedom fighters who were part of the Murang'a County delegation that visited State House on Friday. Photos/Courtesy..

individual or organisation read; "This is to inform the general public that the process of issuing Mau Mau Land Title Deeds that has been ongoing at Njambini has temporarily been adjourned/suspended until further notice due to the discovery of certain irregularities. The intended purpose was to compensate the descendants of

Mau Mau freedom fighters and vulnerable people in the society.

The relevant authorities are undertaking a thorough review to ensure that the issuance process is accurate, transparent, and fully compliant with legal requirements before it can resume.

Members of the public are therefore



Some of the former freedom fighters and their descendants who attended the KWS regulations validation forum at KICC on Thursday..

advised to remain patient as corrective measures are being implemented. Updates on the resumption of the title deeds issuance exercise will be communicated through official channels in due course."

At the same time, Mahuria told the former freedom fighters as well as their descendants to prepare and

come out with modalities of utilising, for their own good, the plans to have those more than 70 years of age have free access to national parks across the country.

Govt To Restock Food Reserves As Maize Harvest Hits Record 70M Bags

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Our national food security has remained stable, with improved availability and reduced prices for staple foods. By replenishing the reserves, we are ensuring farmers benefit from their hard work while shielding Kenyans from future crises,” he said.
- The bumper harvest has been credited to the fertilizer subsidy programme, which has so far delivered 21.3 million bags worth Sh53.25 billion, saving farmers an estimated Sh105 billion. Prices of fertilizer have dropped by up to 67 percent per 50kg bag, spurring production.
- For the 2025 long rains season, 6.9 million bags of fertilizer were distributed. The government targets to scale this up to 12.5 million bags in 2026, covering all 1,450 wards.



Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe presenting a milk jerrycan to Mukurwe-ini's based Wakulima Dairy Society chairman Muhika Mutahi yesterday. Behind the CS is Central Kenya ASK National Show chairman Patrick Karinga.

Kenya is set for a historic maize harvest of 70 million bags in 2025, the biggest in the country's history, up from 67 million last year and more than double the 34.3 million bags recorded in 2022.

To secure food security and stabilize prices, the government will restock the National Strategic Food Reserve by buying directly from farmers.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the move will cushion farmers with a guaranteed market while protecting households from future food shocks.

“Our national food security has remained stable, with improved availability and reduced prices for staple foods. By replenishing the reserves, we are ensuring farmers benefit from their hard work while shielding Kenyans from future crises,” he said.

The bumper harvest has been credited to the fertilizer subsidy programme, which has so far delivered 21.3 million bags worth Sh53.25 billion, saving farmers an estimated Sh105 billion. Prices of fertilizer have dropped by up to 67 percent per 50kg bag, spurring production.

For the 2025 long rains season, 6.9 million bags of fertilizer were distributed. The government targets to scale this up to 12.5 million bags in 2026, covering all 1,450 wards.

Speaking at the official opening of the 2025 A.S.K. Central Kenya National Show at Kabiruini Showgrounds in Nyeri, Kagwe said the government is committed to climate-smart farming to boost production sustainably.

He urged farmers to plant trees on steep slopes to curb soil erosion, protect rivers from pollution, and use only approved pesticides to safeguard water quality.

Kagwe added that Kenya will also

comply with the European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) to keep its produce competitive in global markets.

The CS represented President William Ruto, the A.S.K. Patron, who had been scheduled to open the show.

The CS and ASK officials were hosted by the regional ASK team led by the show chairman Patrick Karinga.



Mutahi Kagwe in Nyeri yesterday.



KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge (left) explaining a point to CS Mutahi Kagwe (centre) and ASK CEO Bratam Muthoka (right) at Kabiruini Showground, Nyeri yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

No County will be Marginalised by Government, DP Kindiki Assures

By: DPCS
@themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has affirmed the government's unwavering quest to ensure marginalised regions benefit from national resources. Prof. Kindiki said the government will serve all Kenyans equally without discriminating against any area because of political, tribal, religious affiliation.

The DP spoke on Friday when he hosted Tana River leaders and elders at the Official Residence in Karen, Nairobi for consultations on ongoing development activities in the County. "The President has given a firm assurance that no county will be left behind on development," he affirmed.

Also, the Second in Command assured them that the government is fully committed to doing away with extra vetting procedures before acquisition of national identity cards for residents in border counties including Tana River.

He said President Ruto's proclamation on the issue is being implemented fully.

"No Kenyan child should be denied national documents because of their religion, where they were born, or



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with Tana River Senator Danstan Mungatana

their community. Every child of Kenyan parents is a Kenyan," he emphasized.

He outlined several projects being undertaken by the government in the County top among them infrastructure development, water expansion, electricity connection rallying residents to ensure quicker realisation of the projects by remaining united and peaceful.

So far, the government has spent

Sh1.5 billion for rehabilitation of Bura Irrigation Scheme, Sh260 million for construction of six fresh produce markets, affordable housing projects worth 15 billion shillings and student accommodation units worth Sh2 billion

Last Mile Electricity Connectivity projects worth 432 million shillings are currently ongoing across the three Constituencies of Bura, Galole and Garsen to connect an additional 2,700



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki addressing delegates from Tana River county

households.

"Tana River County is sitting well with other counties in terms of development in the country," DP assured.

Underscoring the call for unity, he noted that politics should be about competition of ideas, not dividing people along tribal or religious lines.

He asked the elders to be at the forefront in preaching peace and unity.

"You are the pillars of our communities providing guidance and helping preserve peace and morality," he noted.

The Deputy President also cautioned Kenyans to stop heeding political

leaders using clannism and ethnicity to divide citizens with the aim of winning elections.

He castigated a section of politicians in the country who he said are fuelling ethnicity using their tribe and region they come from saying they are endangering innocent Kenyans living across the country irrespective of the language they speak.

"We must have healthy competition devoid of using tribal card, religious differences and wars that cause havoc and deaths," Prof. Kindiki said.

MPs Kibagendi And Nyakundi Clash At Funeral Over President Ruto And Matiang'i

By: Rosemary Onchari
@themtkenyatimes

Legislators Anthony Kibagendi and Japhet Nyakundi left mourns embarrassed after they almost exchanged blows at the burial service of former Governor James Ongwae's mother.

The scuffle occurred when Kibagendi was making his remarks in support of former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i's potential presidential bid.

"I am asking our people to stand with Matiang'i — both as a community and as a nation," said Kibagendi during his address.

The moment took a turn for the worst when Kibagendi criticized President William Ruto, prompting MP Nyakundi — who was standing nearby — to approach him aggres-

sively in an apparent attempt to grab the microphone from him and eject him from the podium.

Security officers and supporters of the two MPs rushed up the podium to separate the two who were now shoving each other. At one point it looked like Nyakundi was going to push Kibagendi off the ledge of the podium.

The funeral briefly came to a standstill as members of the political class walked out, though proceedings later resumed.

Speaking to the media after the incident, Kibagendi claimed he received cheers from mourners because he is not affiliated with the current administration.

"When I criticized the President, he [Nyakundi] was embarrassed because the crowd was cheering me on. That's when he grabbed the microphone from me and tried to



provoke a physical altercation," said Kibagendi.

He added that they would not allow President Ruto's allies to divide the

Abagusii community.

"We are united behind Matiang'i. We are not intimidated. We will continue to speak out against bad gover-

nance, and we will not allow anyone to come here and insult Matiang'i in his own backyard," Kibagendi stated.

Never Forget Grateful People



Never forget u
grateful people, but forget ungrateful ones
They're not worth your life, no matter who
ever it may be
They take and forget, without a care,
They are fair-weather friends,
who are there to share joy, but absent in
pain.

Talking behind your back, with wrong words

Praising to your face, but mocking at back
Suggesting wrong paths, with intentions

Don't trust such friends, who can't say
thanks,
Don't waste your time, on people like this,
Let them move away from good souls

Focus on those, who appreciate and cheer,
Who motivate and inspire,
Every day, year after year,
Be with them who stand by you, through
joy and sorrows
Who offer guidance, and do their best.

Value those, who are grateful and kind,
Be it son, daughter, family, or friends,
They're the ones, who make your life
worthwhile,
Enjoy with them, and go the extra mile.

Brinda. D

Your Degree Is Just A Piece Of Paper



Your Degree Is Just A Piece Of Paper,
your education is seen in your behavior

Psychology says, Education is the desirable
behavioural modification
It's not just a mere transmission of knowledge

Indeed a customized propagation of values and
ethics

The morality exposes your proficiency
The broadmindedness telecasts your insight
Education empowers you to become a better
version

Also prohibits to fall victim to societal issues
Failing to abide, your degree will just be a piece
of paper.

Mrs. Maragatham Mohan
B.T Assistant,
Sri Saraswathi Patasala Govt. Aided
GHSS, Kumbakonam,
Thanjavur Dt.
Tamilnadu, India.

Roots Always Strong



Roots always strong, unseen yet deep,
they hold our life, the dreams we keep.
Parents sow love, a guiding light,
their care protects through darkest night.

Teachers shape with wisdom's fire,
they lift us high, they help inspire.
Friends bring laughter, hearts that share,
a bond of trust, beyond compare.

Relations weave a circle wide,
where warmth and comfort always hide.
Each root sustains, each root belongs,
together they make the spirit strong.

Storms may rage and winds may sway,
but roots hold firm, they never betray.
From love and guidance life is drawn,
with roots so strong, we grow, move on.

Dr. Meera T
Erode

Don't Iffy Your Future, Be Blithe To Move On Further



We need to live in the present,
Not always in the past sentiment,
Just come out of the sorrowful past,
To get your life a glow so fast.
Once we step out of the blue,
We ourselves will feel the sense of coming out of
the sticky dirty glue.
When we are in the present, there's no thinking
of the future,

Why should we think unnecessarily and let
ourselves torture.
Let's think of our future plans,
To get further improved to meet the victory.
But not as panicking by thinking what next
happens,
Let's think of overcoming not getting worried to
get the glory.

GJEEVITHA SRI
CLASS X
SCHOOL-VELAMMAL VIDYALAYA
KARAMBAKKAM
CHENNAI
TAMIL NADU
INDIA

Broken But Beautiful



Broken pieces, joined just right,
Turn to art, a lovely sight.
Like glass in a mosaic, shining bright,
They tell a tale in color and light.

Sometimes curry, cold and plain,
With guests, turns rich again.
Add some spice, a magic blend—
It tastes better than we intend!

Broken bangles, once thrown away,
Now on walls in bright display.

They jingle softly in the breeze,
Like tiny stars among the trees.

A cracked old vase with flowers inside,
Has more charm than one with pride.
Its flaws bring grace, its age is kind,
New beauty in its cracks we find.

And hearts once hurt, lost in pain,
Can learn to hope and love again.
With kind souls coming at the right hour,
Even broken hearts regain their power.

So don't fear cracks or days gone wrong—
They might just make you twice as strong.
With time, love, and a helping hand,
You'll rise again, and proudly stand.

V Durgadevi
BT Assistant
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

Focus On One Thing And Do It With Perfection



Ants march with unity in a single line,
Following food trail without any whine.
They keep laboring till the task is done,
A lesson of focus for everyone.

Spiders weave their nest with care,
Strand by strand with focus so rare.
They pause not till the work is complete,
A craft of perfection none can beat.

Focus on one thing, Let not your mind stray,
For wandering minds may lose the way.
Steady your mind when it starts to scatter,
And strike the goal, that's what really matters.

Raddhika. M,
Creative Writers,
Content writer,
Sivakasi, Tamilnadu,
India

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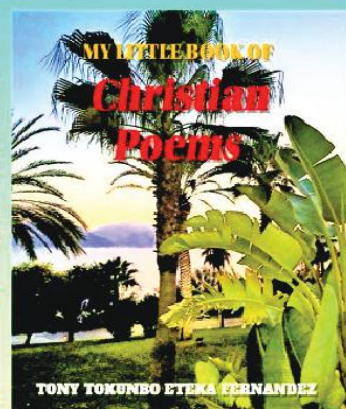
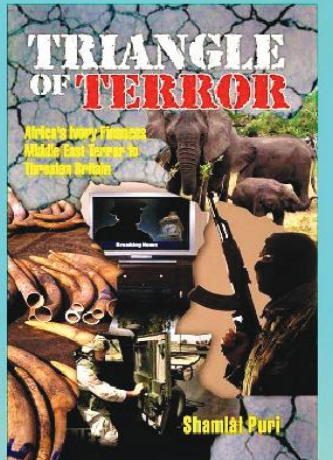
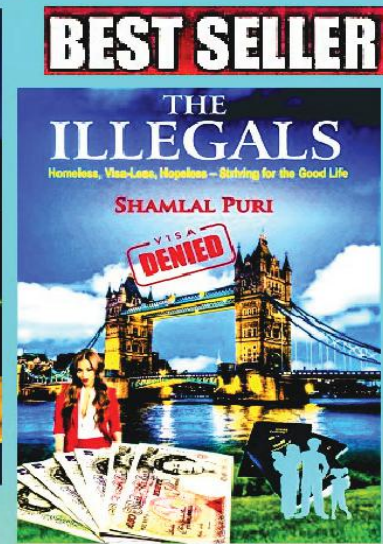
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BUSINESS

National Data Governance Policy Formulation Kicks Off

By: Rachael Kilonzo
 @themtkenyatimes



Stakeholders led by Principal Secretary, Economic Planning, Boniface Makokha and his ICT and Digital Economy counterpart John Tanui in a group photo during the forum..

Worth Noting:

- In his keynote address, Dr. Makokha noted the Data Governance Policy will shape how Kenya treats data as a foundation of the country's social-economic transformation in the 21st century by driving growth, inclusion and innovation.
- "Data is the lifeblood of modern planning and decision making. In the State Department for Economic Planning, we see this daily in data-driven policies. Unlike other resources that are sector specific, data is cross-cutting, it flows between national and county governments, between Ministries and Agencies, and across public and private sector," said Dr. Makokha.
- He noted that with good data governance, Kenya will be able to forecast economic trends, identify risks early and seize opportunities faster; empower counties to plan development projects that respond directly to the needs of citizens in addition to protecting citizen's rights and building public trust.

The government, through the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy has embarked on the drafting of the National Data Governance Policy.

The policy is being developed in partnership with the European Union (EU) and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation of Germany through the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) Digital Transformation Center (DTC).

The draft process was officially launched by the Principal Secretary, Economic Planning, Dr. Boniface Makokha and ICT and Digital Economy Principal Secretary, Eng. John Tanui among other representatives from government institutions, development partners, the private sector, academia and civil society during a one-day workshop held at the Ole Sereni Hotel.

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ting, it flows between national and county governments, between Ministries and Agencies, and across public and private sector," said Dr. Makokha.

He noted that with good data governance, Kenya will be able to forecast economic trends, identify risks early and seize opportunities faster; empower counties to plan development projects that respond directly to the needs of citizens in addition to protecting citizen's rights and building public trust.

Further called on the ministry to appoint a multi stakeholder steering committee that ensures inclusivity; promotes accountability and one that will draft a policy that reflects the aspirations of all Kenyans.

In his remarks, PS Tanui noted that globally, nations that thrive are those that treat data not merely as information but as a strategic national asset which fuels innovation, drives economies, enhances governance and touches every aspect of our lives.

The PS highlighted that Kenya boasts one of the most mature data protection environments on the continent—anchored by the Data Protection Act (2019) and the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC).

He further noted that the launch of the National Artificial Intelligence

Strategy 2025–2030 among other frameworks have positioned Kenya as a pioneer in Africa's digital transformation and a trusted player in the global data economy.

"At the core of all these initiatives is data. We must not only protect it, we must unlock its value. The vast amounts of data we generate, collect and store must become engines of inclusive growth, innovation and improved public service delivery.

We eagerly anticipate the insightful deliberations that will take place during this forum and in subsequent engagements. As a government, we are keen to receive actionable recommendations that will guide our policy formulation efforts," added Eng. Tanui.

In her remarks, the German Embassy Deputy Head of Cooperation, Ms. Friederike Hemker noted that Germany, through GIZ, is proud to support this initiative as part of its longstanding development cooperation.

Ms. Hemker commended the Kenyan government for taking this decisive and ultimately transformational step in defining its data governance regime and for being a key player in shaping digital realities as evidenced by the considerable contribution and consistent participation in the development of an EAC Data Governance Policy Framework.

"As Germany, we firmly believe in a future where the use of data is done fairly, inclusively and securely. We recognise the transformative potential of responsible data use, and it has become imperative to establish clear guidelines and ethical standards on handling data,

We remain committed to Kenya in its efforts to build a resilient and prosperous data governance ecosystem harmonized with the African Union Data Policy Framework and International best practices," added Hemker.

The objective of the workshop was to launch the process of developing the policy, seek stakeholder commitment to participate in the process; make initial presentation on the terms of reference, methodology, timelines, initial stakeholder analysis and emerging data governance policy gaps; obtain initial inputs from stakeholders in addition to communicating the next steps and opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process.



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Youth Reading Culture And Information Technologies



By: Nilufar Mo'ydinova
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The traditional form of reading—printed books—remains a reliable source of deep learning and comprehension. Research shows that students who read printed materials tend to retain information better and develop a deeper understanding of complex subjects (Wolf, 2018). Nevertheless, e-books and audiobooks are becoming increasingly popular among young people.

- E-books offer portability, search convenience, and multilingual opportunities, while audiobooks allow learners to access knowledge even while engaged in other activities. This flexibility aligns well with the dynamic lifestyle of today's youth (Mangen & Kuiken, 2014).



Abstract

This article examines the relationship between youth reading culture and information technologies. Reading plays an essential role in the intellectual and moral development of young people, while digital technologies make the learning process more convenient and interactive, thereby increasing interest in reading. The paper discusses the advantages of printed books, e-books, and audiobooks, as well as their influence on young readers' habits. It also highlights practical approaches to promoting reading culture among youth, including the integration of educational institutions, libraries, and modern digital platforms. The findings suggest that a balanced integration of traditional reading and technological resources is vital for fostering youth reading culture in the modern world.

Keywords

Reading culture, youth, information technologies, e-books, audiobooks, education

INTRODUCTION

Reading culture is one of the fundamental indicators of the intellectual and moral development of any society. Books are not only a source of knowledge but also a tool for shaping ideas, broadening horizons, and developing cultural consciousness among young people. In recent years, the rapid spread of information technologies into all spheres of life has

significantly influenced the reading habits of youth. Mobile devices, online resources, and digital libraries have transformed the way young people engage with books, giving rise to new formats of reading and learning. In this context, analyzing the relationship between youth reading practices and information technologies has become a highly relevant topic.

Main Part

The traditional form of reading—printed books—remains a reliable source of deep learning and comprehension. Research shows that students who read printed materials tend to retain information better and develop a deeper understanding of complex subjects (Wolf, 2018). Nevertheless, e-books and audiobooks are becoming increasingly popular among young people. E-books offer portability, search convenience, and multilingual opportunities, while audiobooks allow learners to access knowledge even while engaged in other activities. This flexibility aligns well with the dynamic lifestyle of today's youth (Mangen & Kuiken, 2014).

The widespread use of digital technologies has also influenced students' motivation to read. Social networks, video platforms, and mobile applications can make the learning process more interactive and engaging, encouraging young people to turn to books (Koltay, 2011). However, the frequent use of digital devices

may negatively affect concentration, reduce the duration of reading, and encourage superficial engagement with texts. Therefore, it is essential to establish a balance between reading practices and technology use.

Promoting reading culture requires active involvement of schools, universities, libraries, and mobile applications. In Uzbekistan, for example, the "Electronic Library" project and interactive platforms in school libraries are playing an important role in increasing young people's interest in reading. Online book clubs and audiobook platforms also help sustain attention to texts and foster a community of readers. In this sense, traditional reading and digital technologies should not be viewed as opposing forces but as complementary tools that together enrich youth culture and learning practices.

Furthermore, studies indicate that parents, educators, and the wider community also play a crucial role in cultivating reading habits among youth. Interactive approaches such as online quizzes, book discussions, and multimedia resources have proven to be effective in stimulating critical thinking and creativity, thereby reinforcing interest in books (OECD, 2020). Such approaches show that the integration of technology into the reading process can serve as an opportunity rather than a threat, provided that it is carefully guided.

CONCLUSION

The relationship between youth reading culture and information technologies is one of the most pressing issues in modern society. Reading contributes significantly to the intellectual development of young people, shaping their thinking abilities and moral maturity. At the same time, information technologies provide opportunities for easier access to knowledge and diversified resources. Future strategies for promoting reading culture should focus on creating an integrated educational system where printed books, digital resources, and audiobooks coexist harmoniously. In this way, both traditional and modern formats can enrich young people's cultural and intellectual development, strengthening the overall intellectual potential of society.

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Her articles have been published in the

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She is also a holder of international certificates.

Kenya Should Stop Celebrating School Enrolment Figures, It Is Not Victory For Women



By: Davidson Otieno Omondi

@themkenyatomes

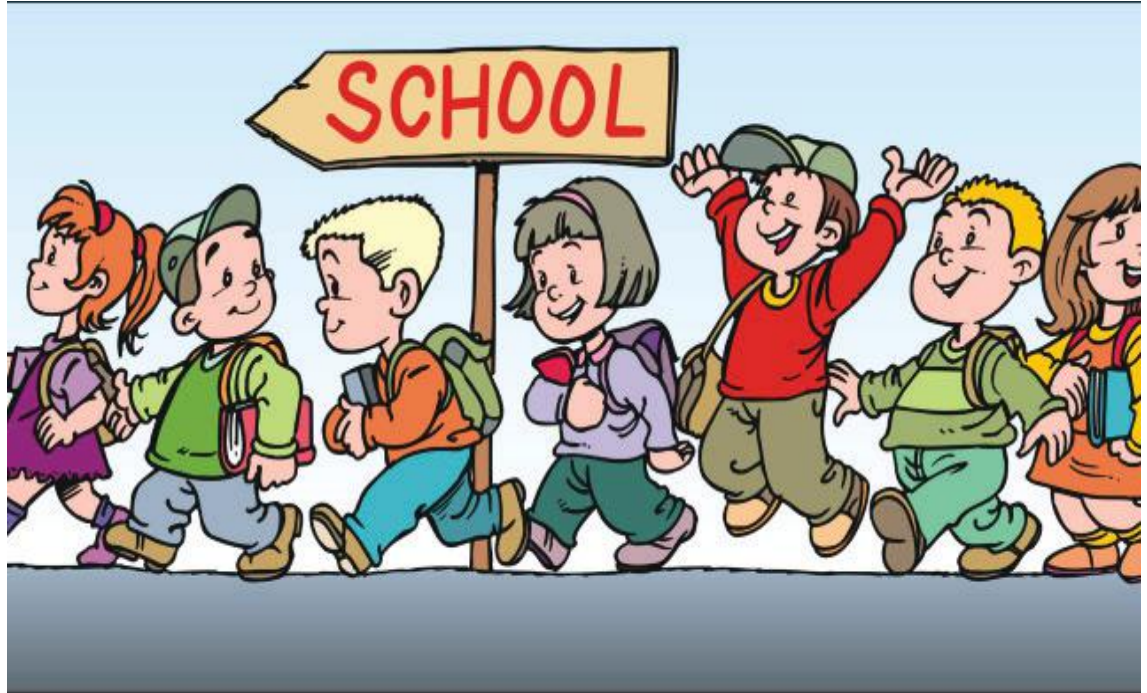
As at September 2025, Kenya stands at a frustrating and costly paradox. We have successfully engineered one of the most vital inputs for a modern economy: a vast pool of highly educated women. The latest Ministry of Education data shows we have achieved near-complete gender parity in primary and secondary school enrolment. Even more telling, women now make up the majority of university graduates in Kenya.

We have the talent. But this success vanishes at the doors of power. The gap is not in our schools, but in the boardrooms and in Parliament, and

the data exposes a national failure. After the 2022 elections, women hold a mere 29% of seats in the National Assembly and only 18% in the Senate. The corporate world is no better. The latest Board Diversity and Inclusion Report from the Nairobi Securities Exchange reveals that women occupy just 23.5% of board seats in Kenya's listed companies.

This is the catastrophic leak in our national pipeline. We are investing billions to educate a generation of women, only to watch them hit an invisible ceiling. The root of this disparity is not a lack of ambition; it is the hidden curriculum in our classrooms. From a young age, we condition our girls to be diligent helpers and our boys to be confident leaders. We praise compliance in girls while celebrating assertiveness in boys.

The economic cost of this self-sabotage is staggering. A 2024 analysis by the World Economic Forum continues to draw a hard line between gender-diverse leadership and increased profitability and national competitiveness. By failing to trans-



late educational parity into leadership parity, we are actively choosing to be a poorer and less innovative nation.

We must stop celebrating school enrolment figures as a final victory. They are merely the starting point. The real work is to dismantle the

subtle biases within our education system that teach our daughters to be quiet. Our future prosperity depends not just on getting girls into the classroom, but on ensuring their voices are the loudest ones in the boardroom.

By: Davidson Otieno Omondi
Author, *The Unfinished Revolution*
Student, Rongo University

Disposable Diapers Are Creating A Toxic Legacy, Let's Shift To Reusable Ones



By: Davidson Otieno Omondi

@themkenyatomes

Every single day, Kenyan parents use an estimated 3.4 million disposable diapers. This is not a guess; it is a stark calculation based on the latest 2025 population projections from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics for children under the age of three. This daily act of care is fueling an environmental crisis of almost unimaginable scale.

The data reveals a ticking time bomb. The daily stream of diapers becomes an annual avalanche: over 1.2 billion units, representing approximately 300,000 tonnes of plas-

tic-rich, non-biodegradable waste added to our environment every year. This single product category now accounts for a significant and growing percentage of our municipal solid waste.

This plastic mountain is being added to a system already in collapse. A 2023 UNEP report on Kenya confirms our national recycling rate for plastic remains below 10%. The gap is glaring: we have a massive, ever-increasing input of complex plastic waste with almost no infrastructure to manage it. The remaining 90%, including nearly all of those 1.2 billion diapers, is trucked to overflowing landfills like Dandora or illegally dumped in our rivers and open spaces.

The toxic legacy is measurable. Diapers in landfills release methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. A study referenced by Kenya's Ministry of Environment shows that as these diapers decompose, they create a poisonous liquid called leachate, a chemical



cocktail of pathogens from human waste and plastics that contaminates our groundwater—the same water used for drinking and farming by our most vulnerable communities.

The policy gap is our most critical failure. The government's own Sustainable Waste Management Act of 2022 provides the legal framework for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), a system that would hold corporations accountable. Yet, as of early 2025, its full implementation for single-use products like diapers lags dangerously behind. The corporations that make billions in profit from this model bear no financial responsibility for the toxic legacy they create. That debt is being passed on to our children. It's time we change

to reusable diapers as concerned individual. It's better we labour than we swim in ease but endanger tomorrow's life.

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

Kenya Seeks Support For IMO Category C Seat

By: Bernadette Khaduli

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- These are key ingredients in promoting national maritime interests like seafarer welfare and ship registries which are essential in job creation in the maritime space.
- Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Hassan Ali Joho, has affirmed that Kenya's candidacy represents an opportunity to contribute significantly to global maritime governance by amplifying the voice of Africa, the Indian Ocean region and the Global South.
- "Kenya's candidature for the IMO Council is anchored on four key pillars that align with IMO's mission of enhancing maritime safety and security, environmental stewardship, capacity building for developing states and blue economy advancement," Joho stated.

Kenya has reached out to the global community for support as it seeks election to Category C of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council for the 2026-2027 biennium slated for December 2025.

The benefits to a country elected to Category C of the IMO Council include ensuring the country's voice is heard on the formulation of rules that affect its maritime industry and allows for improved participation in advancing global maritime safety, sustainability, and environmental protection.

These are key ingredients in promoting national maritime interests like seafarer welfare and ship registries which are essential in job creation in the maritime space.

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riety, environmental stewardship, capacity building for developing states and blue economy advancement," Joho stated.

CS Joho was speaking on Friday at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi during a meeting with members of the diplomatic corps where he officially launched Kenya's candidacy for the election to the IMO Council. The event was attended by Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Kenya from 21 countries.

He pointed out that Kenya is advantaged due to its maritime heritage which is supported by its strategic location along the Indian Ocean trade routes, making it a gateway to Eastern and Central Africa.

"The Port of Mombasa is one of Africa's busiest ports, serving several land-locked countries, including Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo," he added.

The CS emphasized that Kenya has been a proactive and reliable member of the IMO for decades, citing the leadership roles it has played of chairing committees and hosting high-level events while addressing emerging maritime threats like pira-

cy, cyber risks and climate change.

"If elected to the Council, Kenya will focus on advocating for representation of developing maritime states, promote maritime digitization to enhance efficiency and safety, as well as support equitable energy transitions in shipping," he assured.

The CS told the high-level delegation, if they give Kenya the seat, their action will have endorsed a partner committed to multilateralism and consensus building and a maritime nation that bridges the interest of coastal Islands and land locked states.

He added that if Kenya is elected, it will not only serve its interests but also ensure that there is a voice from the Indian Ocean region that understands the balance between maritime trade facilitation and environmental responsibility in all the maritime nations.

CS Joho furthermore, noted that the endorsement by the partners will not only strengthen Kenya's position but also reaffirm their shared commitment to safe, secure and sustainable shipping.

The Kenyan government has made significant investments in maritime infrastructure by modernizing the

Port of Mombasa and expanding Lamu Port under the LAPSET corridor, it has developed Special Economic Zones to attract ship repair, shipbuilding and the blue economy enterprises.

It has also strengthened its maritime training institutions, which includes the Bandari Maritime Academy, to meet IMO's standards and to produce world class seafarers.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Secretaries Eng. Aden Millah (Shipping and Maritime Affairs), Ms. Betsy Njagi (Fisheries and Blue Economy) and Mr. Harry Kimtai (Mining) as well as State Department for Foreign Affairs' Political and Diplomatic Affairs Director General Amb. Josphat Maikara among other senior government officials.

MKU Sets A New Standard With Alumni Awards Offering Up To KSh6.4 Million In Prizes

In a region where alumni engagement is still finding its footing, the institution is standing as a trailblazer, leading not just with vision, but with action

By: James Wakahiu
@themkenyatimes



Mrs. Virginia Musawa Director, Alumni Relations at MKU addressing alumni in a recently concluded alumni champions reunion held on 2nd August, 2025 at Hotel, Sirikwa in Eldoret..

Worth Noting:

- Ms Virginia Musawa, MKU's Director of Alumni Relations, says these awards are more than just accolades. "They are a celebration of the spirit of possibility that this institution instills in its students from day one," she said.

- The university is already accepting nominations for these awards. While many institutions are just beginning to tap into the power of their alumni networks, the MKU has taken a bold and holistic approach. By combining strategic engagement with tangible recognition and support, it has created a model that others in the region are now seeking to emulate.

- "We believe that alumni are not just our past — they are our present and our future," said the Director. "Every initiative, every reunion, every award, every webinar is designed to honor that truth. Together, we are unlocking infinite possibilities," she added.

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has launched its Annual Alumni Awards, aimed at recognizing outstanding alumni making exceptional contributions in their fields and communities.

With a top prize of up to USD 50,000 (Sh6.4 million), the flagship initiative underscores the university's commitment to celebrating success, amplifying impact, and inspiring the next generation of changemakers. Categories for the awards include: professional excellence, public service and leadership, community service, global impact, innovation and entrepreneurship

Ms Virginia Musawa, MKU's Director of Alumni Relations, says these awards are more than just accolades. "They are a celebration of the spirit of possibility that this institution instills in its students from day one," she said.

The university is already accepting nominations for these awards. While many institutions are just beginning to tap into the power of their alumni networks, the MKU has taken a bold and holistic approach. By combining strategic engagement with tangible recognition and support, it has created a model that others in the region are now seeking to emulate.

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future," said the Director. "Every initiative, every reunion, every award, every webinar is designed to honor that truth. Together, we are unlocking infinite possibilities," she added.

The University has emerged as a pacesetter in alumni engagement, setting an example for peer institutions through an ambitious and innovative approach that lives up to its motto: Unlocking Infinite Possibilities. "As alumni continue to rise across industries, governments, and communities, the university's commitment to their journey ensures that their impact will be felt for generations to come," Ms Musawa added.

She said that from the boardrooms of multinationals to the grassroots of community-led initiatives, MKU's alumni are driving change across the globe. Recognizing this potential, the university has redoubled its efforts to engage its graduates in meaningful, empowering, and future-forward ways.

A hallmark of the university's alumni engagement strategy has been its dynamic series of webinars tailored for personal and professional empowerment. These sessions — led by industry leaders, faculty experts, and accomplished alumni — provide ongoing learning, networking, and mentorship opportunities. From leadership in the

digital age to wellness in high-performance careers, the webinar topics reflect the evolving needs of today's global alumni community.

"True to the alumni motto, Engage, Empower, Evolve, these webinars are more than just talks — they are launchpads for growth, collaboration, and life-long connection," noted the Director.

Early last month, MKU held a top-drawer Champions Region Alumni Reunion in Eldoret City, bringing together its former students from the Eldoret Campus and Kitale Centre.

Congratulating the former students, MKU vice-chancellor, Prof Deogratius Jaganyi said it marked the inaugural physical reunion of a community that has always been strong, but is now becoming intentional—formally connected, deeply committed and future-focused. "You are champions of your fields. Champions of change. Champions of the values MKU holds dear: integrity, responsibility, excellence, teamwork, inclusivity an innovation," he said.

The VC said that with over 100,000 alumni around the world, the MKU Alumni community represents an extraordinary resource of diverse talents, experiences and stories that can inspire and support each other in countless

ways. He appreciated the MKU Alumni Directorate, whose dedicated work, he said, has created a stable and supportive bridge connecting you to the university.

Prof Jaganyi urged the alumni to give back to the institution by offering to mentor current students, offering internships and job opportunities that open doors for the next generation, and contributing to scholarships, research, and campus development. "Volunteer your time in events, advisory roles, and alumni activities. By giving back, you empower others to succeed and ensure that our university continues to grow as a place of innovation, learning and opportunity," he said.

Dr. Emily Kirwok, Director of MKU Eldoret Campus and Chair of the Champions Cluster, emphasized the reunion's core goals—reflecting on the past, reconnecting and inspiring alumni to support current students. She called on alumni to actively contribute through mentorship, internships and employment opportunities.

Keynote speaker, Ms Mercy Wanjiru, Regional Coordinator of the Kenya Private Schools Association (North Rift) and an alumnus of MKU's MBA and BBM programmes appreciated the university's sustained support of alumni engagement. "This is not just an event; it is a coming home, a celebration of who we were, who we've become, and who we're yet to be," she said.

Wanjiru honoured the visionary leadership, administration and various faculties of MKU. "We belong to a powerful network of professionals, leaders, and visionaries with one thing in common—MKU. You gave us grit, courage, and a reason to dream bigger," she said.

She pleaded with the alumni to support mentorship programmes, and help place students in internships and industry spaces. "We appreciate the commitment of MKU leadership that has enabled impactful programs that benefit both alumni and the broader MKU community. We are happy to be associated with our alma mater, and we promise to give back through mentorship and other forums," she said.

The reunion was attended by, among others Uasin Gishu Governor Hon. Dr. Jonathan Bii, who was represented by County Attorney Mr. Silvester Metto, former MKU council chairman Prof. David Serem, university leaders, and alumni representatives. In their addresses, the dignitaries expressed gratitude for the alumni's continued loyalty and recognized the pivotal role they play as ambassadors of the university.

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Sports >> *Tusker FC head coach Charles Okere has expressed satisfaction with the performance and integration of the club's new signings, praising their contribution in recent friendly matches.

Tusker Coach Okere Elated With New Signings' Impact

Tusker FC head coach Charles Okere has expressed satisfaction with the performance and integration of the club's new signings, praising their contribution in recent friendly matches.

Okere spoke on Thursday evening following a 1-1 draw against TBM Health Services in Kisumu, a build-up match in which several new players were handed opportunities to showcase their abilities.

"Today we just wanted to give more minutes to the new signings and see what they have on board. I am impressed by how they are playing, and they are giving us what we want," Okere told media.

Starting his second season at the helm, Okere fielded a largely changed lineup compared to the side that edged APs Bomet 1-0 earlier in the week. Only defender Alex Onchwari and forward David Polepole retained their places in the starting XI from Tuesday's friendly.

Among the new faces who featured were defenders Eugene Ikutwa and Francis Oduor, along with midfielders Vincent Otieno, Cliff Oruko and Curtis Wekesa.

"Against APs, I saw good cohesion in the midfield from players like Ronney, Issa Lumumba, and Kapaito. And, today, I have seen defenders Eugene Ikutwa and Francis Oduor, and midfielders Vincent Otieno, Cliff Oruko, and Curtis Wekesa doing great. This is a good sign for the team," Okere observed.

Despite his satisfaction with the attacking build-up and individual performances, Okere emphasised the need for improvement in defensive organisation.

"We need to start defending as a team. Right now, we are making good attacks, but we are not defending well collectively. We'll be working on that, especially because we're heading into a very tough season. Many teams have made significant signings and are well prepared for the



Tusker FC tatician Charles Okere [L] instructs his player during a past training session. Photo/Handout.

challenge ahead," he noted.

The former Tusker Youth tactician is keen on sharpening both ends of the pitch as the team builds up to the new campaign.

This comes barely two days after his assistant George Maina admitted that despite the narrow win against APS Bomet, there is still work to be done defensively.

"That friendly match [against APs Bomet] helped us know that we are not defending as a team, and that is a weakness we are going to work on before our season opener."

Tusker have lost defender Mike Kibwage to Gor Mahia, while last season's top scorer Ryan-Wesley Ogam completed a high-profile move to Austrian Bundesliga side Wolfsberger AC.

To reinforce the squad, Tusker have already captured the signatures of several new faces including goalkeeper Brandon Obiero, defenders: Eugene Ikutwa, Francis Oduor, and George Odhiambo (promoted from Tusker Youth). Midfielders: Issa Rashid Lumumba, Vincent Otie-

no, Dennis Oalo, Cliff Oruko and forwards Ronny Otieno, Vincent Muteheli, Amos Wekesa, Douglas Nyaosi, David Polepole (promoted from Tusker Youth), and Eric Kapaito (returned from Tanzanian side Namungo FC)

Tusker will launch their title chase with a home match against Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) on 20th September, before hitting the road for back-to-back away fixtures against Posta Rangers and Mathare United.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *The Kenya Under-20 Women's National Team, the Rising Starlets, is banking on the confidence and determination of their young stars as they prepare for their FIFA U20 Women's World Cup qualifier against Ethiopia later this month.

Rising Starlets Spoiling For A Row Ahead Of Ethiopia Showdown



Jacqueline Juma (C) in a past training session. Photo courtesy of FKF Media..

The Kenya Under-20 Women's National Team, the Rising Starlets, is banking on the confidence and determination of their young stars as they prepare for their FIFA U20 Women's World Cup qualifier against Ethiopia later this month. The double-header, scheduled for September 19-21 in Addis Ababa and September 26-28 in Nairobi, will determine who advances to the third qualification round. For the players, it is more than just another tie—it's a chance to cement Kenya's rising status in women's football. Talanta Ladies midfielder Susan Akoth, who has previously faced Ethiopia at U17 level, knows exactly what lies ahead. "It won't be easy because Ethi-

opia is a tough opponent," she admitted. "But we are preparing well, and as a team we are determined to be ready for the challenge." Leading the line will be striker Valerie Nekesa, already a national hero after scoring Kenya's first-ever goal at a FIFA World Cup during last year's U17 tournament in the Dominican Republic. Nekesa, who joined the training camp later than most, insists she has quickly settled in. "The mood in camp is alright," she said. "I came in a bit late, but I've caught up fast, and the energy among the girls is very positive." At the back, Ulinzi Starlets defender Lorin Ilavonga is expected

to play a key role in containing Ethiopia's attacking threat. For her, discipline and execution will be decisive. "This will be a tactical battle," Ilavonga explained. "Whichever side follows the coach's instructions best will come out on top." Coach Jacqueline Juma's squad blends promise and experience, with many players promoted from the Junior Starlets U17 side that impressed on the world stage last year. Among them are Velma Abwire, Scovia Awuor, Rebecca Odat, and Halima Imbachi. They are joined by more experienced figures like Fasila Adhiambo and Emily Moranga, adding balance to the team. As the Rising Starlets continue

fine-tuning their preparations in Nairobi, their focus remains clear: to overcome Ethiopia and take another giant step toward achieving their World Cup dream.

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The Life And Legacy Of Grażyna Gładki-Giel A Pioneer In Early Childhood Education



By: Anila Bukhari
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For over four decades, Grażyna Gładki-Giel has been a beacon of inspiration in the world of early childhood education. With a career spanning 40 years, she has dedicated her life to nurturing the minds and hearts of young children, shaping the foundation of learning for generations of students. As a certified teacher with a Master's degree in Primary Education and Preschool Education, Grażyna has established herself as a mentor, role model, and leader in the educational community.

Early Career and Academic Background

Grażyna's journey in education began with a deep passion for understanding how children learn, grow, and interact with the world around them. She recognized early on that the first years of life are not just about academic instruction but about fostering curiosity, creativity, and confidence. This understanding has guided her approach to education throughout her career. Her academic path reflects her dedication to equipping herself with the knowledge and skills to meet the diverse needs of her students. In addition to her master's studies, she completed postgraduate training focused on supporting individuals on the autism spectrum.

A Champion of Inclusive Education

Grażyna's specialization in supporting children on the autism spectrum has allowed her to provide inclusive, personalized support to children with developmental differences. She has been a strong advocate for inclusive education, demonstrating that diversity within

the classroom enriches both learning and community. Her commitment to inclusivity has created a safe, welcoming environment for all students, regardless of their abilities.

Organizing Competitions and Fostering Global Citizenship

Grażyna's contributions have extended far beyond the classroom walls. She has been deeply involved in organizing national, international, and local competitions for students, providing them with opportunities to showcase their talents, develop teamwork skills, and experience the excitement of healthy competition. Through these events, Grażyna has instilled in her students the confidence to share their ideas and celebrate their achievements while learning the importance of perseverance, fairness, and respect for others.

Embracing Modern Educational Opportunities

Grażyna has also been a pioneer in embracing modern educational opportunities through the e-Twinning and Erasmus+ platforms. These programs have enabled her to connect her students with peers from other countries, creating rich opportunities for cross-cultural exchange. Through collaborative projects, children have learned not only about academic subjects but also about empathy, tolerance, and global citizenship.

Leadership and Professional Development

Grażyna's professional life is characterized by her active involvement in international conferences on education, pedagogy, and human rights. By engaging with educators and researchers from around the world, she has ensured that her teaching practice reflects the latest methodologies, innovations, and insights. Her participation in human rights-focused gatherings demonstrates her belief that education is not only about imparting knowledge

but also about cultivating values of dignity, equality, and respect.

Teaching Philosophy and Practice

Grażyna's teaching philosophy is rooted in the conviction that every child has untapped potential. She believes that teachers serve as guides and mentors, providing children with the tools, encouragement, and support they need to discover their own abilities. Her classroom practices reflect this philosophy, with learning being active, playful, and collaborative. She integrates music, art, and storytelling into her lessons, recognizing that children learn best when their imagination is engaged.

Mentoring and Legacy

Throughout her career, Grażyna has also mentored younger teachers, sharing her experience and encouraging them to see teaching as both a profession and a calling. She has modeled the importance of lifelong learning, demonstrating through her own example that educators must continually seek out new knowledge and adapt to changing circumstances. Her legacy is not only measured in the number of years she has taught or the students she has guided but also in the values she has upheld: inclusivity, empathy, collaboration, and the pursuit of excellence.

A Lasting Impact

Grażyna's dedication has been widely recognized, not only by her peers but also by the families whose children she has taught. Parents often remark on her warmth, patience, and ability to bring out the best in their children. Her classrooms are remembered as safe, joyful, and stimulating environments where every child feels welcomed and supported. Many of her former students—now adults—recall the foundational role she played in their early lives, and her influence is reflected in their confidence, curiosity, and love of learning.



Grażyna Gładki-Giel

Conclusion

In summary, Grażyna Gładki-Giel's 40-year career stands as a testament to the transformative power of dedicated educators. With a strong academic foundation, specialized training in supporting children on the autism spectrum, and a wealth of experience in fostering both local and international educational initiatives, she has made a profound impact on countless lives. Her work in organizing competitions, guiding

international projects, and participating in global conferences underscores her commitment to building bridges—between students, cultures, and ideas. Above all, her life's work reflects an enduring belief in the potential of every child and the role of education in shaping a brighter, more compassionate