



Middle East Peace Remains Distant As U.S. Reaffirms Support For Israel After Doha Strike
An emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Qatar on Monday strongly condemned Israel's Sept. 9 strikes on Doha and pledged full solidarity with the Gulf state, while U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on a regional tour, reiterated strong support for Israel's hardline stance.

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News>>A Murang'a Scholar Cum Philanthropist Leads Drive To End Period Poverty In Rural Schools

P. 8. A Murang'a-born scholar and philanthropist, Dr Kamau Wairuri, has launched an initiative to address period poverty among school-going children in Kangema Sub-County.



News>>Mudavadi Urges Millers To Champion Nutrition As Kenya Pushes For Food Sufficiency

P. 12. Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi has urged millers to scale up their contribution to fortification as Kenya intensifies efforts to guarantee food sufficiency and nutrition security for its citizens.

War Veterans Sue Kenyatta Regime Over Cruelty

A section of former freedom fighters have moved to court over brutality metted on them by the country's first independence government. The Mau Mau War Veterans are seeking compensation over heinous acts carried out by the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta regime. In a petition filed in court last week, the veterans say the Kenyatta government branded them as terrorists despite the fact that they had moved out of the forests had laid down their arms.



Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, his senior government and some war veterans.

STORY ON PAGE 9

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President Graces Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms – Kenya Investment Forum 2025

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto was in Vipingo Ridge, Kilifi County yesterday for a Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms – Kenya Investment Forum 2025.

“We stand firm in positioning Kenya not only as Africa’s premier investment destination, but as a global hub of choice. As Kenya, and as Africa, we must cast aside the smallness of vision. We must raise our ambition to rival the very best in the world within our life-time,” the president said.

The forum brought together investors, policymakers, financial institutions, and industry leaders with a shared mission to unlocking opportunities through Special Economic Zones which are central engines for driving Kenya’s and Africa’s industrialisation and investment agenda.


At the forum, the Head of State witnessed the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry and the Linglong Group for the establishment of a state-of-the-art auto parts industrial park in Kenya, a landmark step in our journey to industrial transformation.

Later, he Inspected ongoing works on the 8KM Dzitsoni-Jaribuni road in Kauma, Kilifi County. The section is part of the 37-Kilometre Dzitsoni-Tezo road.

“We are committed to accelerating the upgrading of roads across the country, modernising our infrastructure to open markets, ease transport, and unleash opportunities for all Kenyans. Roads are the vital arteries of our economy, and every kilometre built opens the gate to prosperity for our people,” said the president who also addressed thousands of local residents where he articulated his administration’s performance.



Editor's Desk

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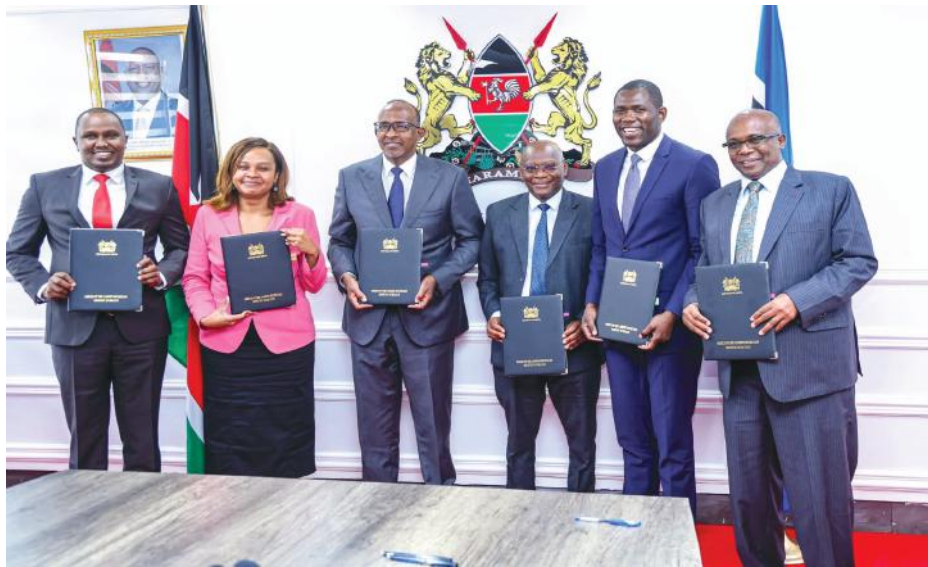
NEWS IN BRIEF



The Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation, Julius Korir yesterday chaired a meeting of the National Steering Committee of the Kenya Towns Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Program (KTSWSSP). The session brought together CEOs and technical officers of all implementing agencies to review progress, unlock bottlenecks, and fast track ongoing projects to ensure they are delivered on time. The Program, jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and the African Development Bank (AfDB), is supporting 51 water supply and sanitation projects across the country. The PS noted that the overall program is now 91% complete in respect to the original scope a significant milestone in expanding access to safe water and sanitation to millions of Kenyans.



The Budget Secretariat of the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards has commenced the preparation of the FY 2026/2027 and Medium-Term Budget. The process is firmly anchored on the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), prioritizing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through strengthened health products and technologies, human resources, health financing, and digitization. It is further aligned with the Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP-IV) and emphasizes climate change adaptation, cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. Program performance reviews and subsector reports will inform resource allocation to reinforce Kenya's public health systems and sustain momentum toward UHC in line with both national and global commitments.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday witnessed the signing of a landmark cooperation agreement on Health Products and Technologies Commodity Security between the Ministry of Health, the Digital Health Agency, the Social Health Authority, the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA), and the National Referral Hospitals. This partnership marks a strong step toward strengthening Kenya's healthcare delivery systems. He underscored the need for KEMSA's strict compliance with national quality standards to ensure consistent availability of essential medicines, reduce turnaround times, and meet the expectations of health facilities across the country — giving Kenya a competitive edge in healthcare delivery. He further urged facility CEOs to embrace an end-to-end automated supply strategy anchored in the Ministry's digital health transformation agenda. The rollout of track-and-trace systems will foster transparency and efficiency in the medical supply chain, supported by real-time data visibility, improved stock management, and streamlined logistics. This approach will strengthen accountability and ensure reliable service delivery. The cooperation agreement is a critical enabler of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by fast-tracking the operationalization of key pillars, including health financing, a comprehensive Integrated Health Information Management System (HMIS), human resources for health, and commodity security.



NEMA officials yesterday joined the World in celebrating the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, themed "40 years of Vienna Convention: from Science to Global Convention." NEMA Director General was represented by the Director Environmental Compliance, Mr. David Ong'are who underscored the need to undertake activities that contribute to protection of ozone layer. The Authority exhibited and showcased its mobile air quality laboratory that monitors the quality of ambient air countrywide. The celebration was graced by the CS Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Deborah Barasa who called for global solidarity while reminding us that all decisions rooted in science can inspire global unity and concrete solutions in reduction of global warming. The event was held at John Michuki Memorial Park. Kenya joined the Vienna Convention and the Montreal protocol in November 1988 and since then has ratified several amendments to show the country's commitment to protect the ozone layer and tackling climate change.

Kenya is advancing its commitment to Universal Health Coverage and global health security by joining regional efforts to strengthen preparedness and response to health emergencies. This week, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Ms Mary Muthoni is representing the government during the Inaugural Bi-Regional Health Emergency Leaders Network Meeting in Rabat, Morocco. Through this network, Kenya stands to gain stronger cross-border collaboration, trusted peer linkages, rapid information sharing, and alignment with the Global Health Emergency Corps (GHEC) that are critical steps in safeguarding national health progress and protecting communities against future threats. She is accompanied by the Acting Director General, Kenya National Public Health Institute, Dr. Maureen Kamene.



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Siaya County And Kakuzi Outline Plans To Boost Avocado And Macadamia Farming

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a familiarisation visit to Kakuzi's orchards in Makuyu, Murang'a County, County Government of Siaya Governor James Orengo said the county will facilitate smallholder farmer delegations to visit Kakuzi for first-hand learning about avocado and macadamia crop husbandry.
- As part of a strategic economic transformation programme targeting agribusiness ventures, the county, he said, will also explore avenues to acquire quality Hass Avocado and Macadamia tree seedlings to jumpstart the farming of the two superfoods.

The County Government of Siaya and listed agribusiness and superfoods producer, Kakuzi have announced plans to foster a technical collaboration partnership to boost avocado and macadamia farming in the county.

The technical collaboration will involve the provision of agricultural extension support services by Kakuzi to Siaya County smallholder farmers venturing into the lucrative avocado and macadamia farming.

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"This visit has been a real eye-opener on the value of both avocado and macadamia farming as poverty eradication options. The delegation from Siaya County is impressed at the transformative social-economic, professional crop husbandry practices and environmental conservation efforts employed by Kakuzi and which we will seek to emulate back home," Governor Orengo said.

The county government, he said, will, as a matter of priority, commence technical capacity building efforts for its Agricultural Extension officers charged with advancing the avocado and macadamia value chain devel-

opment. The County Government's Agricultural Extension officers, Governor Orengo said, will act as frontline workers supporting Siaya smallholder farmers in their avocado and macadamia farming ventures.

On his part, Kakuzi Managing Director Mr Chris Flowers said the firm is dedicated to assisting farmers across the Nation increase their access to technical skills.

As part of the collaboration with the County Government of Siaya, Kakuzi, Mr Flowers said, will also participate in the forthcoming Siaya International Trade and Investment Conference (SITICO), slated for mid-next month.

"We support farmers from many counties and we are honoured to collaborate with Governor Orengo and the County Government of Siaya in these endeavours. Kenya ranks as the fifth-largest producer of high-quality avocados for export, and Kakuzi welcomes partnerships with the County Government of Siaya, as it provides an opportunity to boost the production of quality Hass avocados for the domestic and even export markets," Mr Flowers said.

He added, "In this collaborative partnership, we shall be seeking a win-win solution to advance the production and consumption of quality avocado fruits and macadamia nuts."

At the forthcoming Siaya International Trade and Investment Conference, Kakuzi will also showcase consumer products by the firm, including ready-to-eat Macadamia nuts and cold-pressed Macadamia Cooking oil. The Siaya International Trade and Investment Conference is a groundbreaking platform designed to position Siaya



Kakuzi Managing Director Chris Flowers with Siaya County Governor James Orengo at Kakuzi Headquarters, Murang'a County.

as a premier investment destination. This event marks a pivotal moment in our journey toward socio-economic transformation and sustainable development. The conference aims to bring

together investors, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and development partners to explore diverse investment opportunities within Siaya County.

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A Murang'a Scholar Cum Philanthropist Leads Drive To End Period Poverty In Rural Schools

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyatimes

A Murang'a-born scholar and philanthropist, Dr Kamau Wairuri, has launched an initiative to address period poverty among school-going children in Kangema Sub-County.

On Monday a team from Dr Wairuri Foundation distributed sanitary towels to more than 500 girls; toothpaste and toothbrushes to more than 1,000 boys drawn from 12 secondary schools.

The intervention targeted both girls and boys, with the aim of boosting hygiene and ensuring uninterrupted learning as the learners prepare for their final examinations.

Speaking during the distribution, Dr Wairuri noted that the support was motivated by numerous cases where girls are missing school due to lack of sanitary products. "It's an embarrassment that we're still dealing with this issue of period poverty in this day and age. Girls should never be forced into risky alternatives or miss



Dr Kamau Wairuri being welcomed by women during a past function.

school because they cannot access these products.

"The government has a constitutional duty to ensure that no child is left behind, yet so far this matter has only been paid lip service," he said.

He further emphasized the foundation's commitment to providing school girls with menstrual hygiene products to serve them both during the school term and holidays, while also offering boys essential personal

hygiene items.

At Kanorero Secondary School, Principal David Wainaina expressed gratitude for the support, saying it had lifted a huge burden from many families.

"On behalf of the Kanorero fraternity, I sincerely thank Dr Wairuri and his team for standing with our needy students. These supplies will go a long way in ensuring that our girls remain in school and perform well in



Some of the girls who benefited during Monday's event. Photos/Courtesy.

their exams," he said.

His sentiments were echoed by Robert Muthee, the Principal of Gakira Secondary School, who pointed out the deeper social consequences of period poverty.

"Some girls are being forced into transactional sexual activities just to afford sanitary towels. This exposes them to early pregnancies and infections. This support has given them dignity and restored their focus on education," he remarked.

Teachers across the visited schools

highlighted the urgency of addressing period poverty, describing it as a growing crisis that directly affects academic performance and the future of young girls.

Dr Wairuri called for stronger government intervention, insisting that ending period poverty is not just a charitable act but a matter of children's rights and equal access to education.

Blocked Access Roads Blamed For Delayed Response In Diani Fires

By: Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The South Coast Residents Association has called on the Urban Planning Department to enforce zoning regulations more rigorously and ensure that all development approvals align with existing urban plans.

This follows a devastating inferno that destroyed multiple homes and displaced several families.

According to the Residents Association, most members of the local community have been left shaken, highlighting both human vulnerability and deep-rooted infrastructure failures.

Speaking on behalf of the Association, Chairman George Mokaya Swanya noted that the incident exposed a more alarming issue: obstructed public access roads.

He stated that emergency responders

faced significant delays in reaching the affected areas due to illegal road blockages created by certain private developers.

In a statement, Swanya made an urgent appeal to the Diani Municipality Management to prioritize the identification, mapping, and official marking (beaconing) of all public access roads in the region.

He emphasized that these roads serve as critical emergency lifelines and must be protected accordingly.

"We will continue to advocate for responsible development, transparent planning, and the enforcement of regulations that safeguard our community," Swanya said, urging residents to stay vigilant and report any illegal encroachments.

Swanya also cited the uncontrolled burning of garbage in open spaces as the most pressing fire hazard currently facing the area. He described it as a "singular and avoidable threat" that requires immediate action from both



local authorities and the public. "Let this moment be a turning point—not only in recovery but in reinforcing the infrastructure and gov-

ernance our community deserves," he added.

The Residents Association is expected to hold further consultations with

local authorities and stakeholders in the coming days to address both emergency preparedness and long-term urban planning.

War Veterans Sue Kenyatta Regime Over Cruelty

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themkenyatimes



Some of former freedom fighters surrendering their weapons at Ruring'u stadium

Worth Noting:

- Led by Mzee Mwenda Marunga, they say that their leaders who included Field Marshals Musa Mwari-ama, Baimungi Marete and General Chui suffered arbitrary arrests, detention and killings in the early years of Kenyatta administration, between 1960 and 1965.
- Documents filed in court states that Kenyatta's government continued the repression of after some of the fighters, led by Mwariama and Baimungi, had initially refused to surrender. Mwariama was arrested on charges of holding unlawful meeting and obstructing police. He was sentenced to five years in prison by a white magistrate but was released on Kenyatta's orders after a hunger strike. Court papers indicate he commanded a battalion of about 2,000 fighters in the forest.

A section of former freedom fighters have moved to court over brutality meted on them by the country's first independence government.

The Mau Mau War Veterans are seeking compensation over heinous acts carried out by the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta regime.

In a petition filed in court last week, the veterans say the Kenyatta government branded them as terrorists despite the fact that they had moved out of the forests had laid down their arms.

The independence government, the war veterans from Meru county avers, mistreated and imprisoned them in its bid to play down their demands for fair land distribution.

Led by Mzee Mwenda Marunga, they say that their leaders who included Field Marshals Musa Mwari-ama, Baimungi Marete and General Chui suffered arbitrary arrests, detention and killings in the early years of Kenyatta administration, between 1960 and 1965.

Documents filed in court states that Kenyatta's government continued the repression of after some of the fighters, led by Mwariama and Baimungi, had initially refused to surrender. Mwariama was arrested

on charges of holding unlawful meeting and obstructing police. He was sentenced to five years in prison by a white magistrate but was released on Kenyatta's orders after a hunger strike. Court papers indicate he commanded a battalion of about 2,000 fighters in the forest.

On the other hand, the documents states, Baimungi was killed in 1965 during a dawn raid in the Kirinyaga forest after refusing to collaborate with Kenyatta's Cabinet. They argue that Baimungi's uncompromising stature remained a sign of defiance that the government could not tolerate and that his persistence risked fuelling populist calls for land redistribution. The petitioners allege that Kenyatta's government used security forces including ex-colonial units and local militias to suppress some of the fighters. This reportedly involved aerial bombings in Kirinyaga and the public display of Baimungi's body after his killing. They also claim that General Chui's body was paraded for three days at Kinoru Stadium in Meru, alongside those of Baimungi and M'Kiugu.

"On January 26, 1965, General Chui, M'Kiugu and Baimungi were killed by police in a dawn forest

raid. The president's office later issued a statement justifying the operation on grounds of a fresh wave of intimidation, terrorism and cattle theft in Meru.

The petitioners, through a local organisation; African Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action, representing families of the slain fighters as well as surviving victims, accuse Kenyatta's regime and subsequent governments of torture, brutality, arbitrary arrests, incarceration, killings and property deprivation.

The ex-fighters say tensions rose when Kenyatta, upon his release from detention in 1961, declared that no land would be given for free shocking Mau Mau members who had expected his government to resolve the land issue fairly.

They contend that the repression and silencing of Mau Mau history was a deliberate policy to neutralise claims for land by targeting their leaders. This, they say, sparked resistance in Meru, which was met with dawn curfews, mass arrests and violence.

"The petitioners and those they represent were murdered, tortured, jailed, threatened and stripped of property by the Kenyatta regime,

they state.

They are asking the court to declare that their rights were violated and those they should be awarded for damages. The Attorney-General and the

Kenya National Human Rights and Equality Commission have been named as respondent and are expected to file responses before November 3 when the case will be mentioned before Justice Nyaga Heston.

A section of former freedom fighters through their caucus; Mau Mau War Veterans Association (MMWVA) welcomed the initiative saying it was a way of giving hope to the war veterans that one day, them or their descendants will get their longstanding benefits.

MMWVA Director General James Njuguna Mahuria said former freedom fighters from other parts of the country would follow suit in order to compel the government to settle their overdue claims.

Plans To Revitalize Mt. Kenya’s Chogoria Route Det To Enhance Sustainable Tourism

By: Dickson Mwiti
 @themkenyentimes

Tourism activities into Mount Kenya through the Chogoria route are set to be revamped after Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki through the support of the Ministry of Tourism initiated plans to revitalize it.

On Monday, the MP held a multi-stakeholder meeting that was meant to breathe new life into one of Kenya’s most scenic yet underutilized tourism gems.

This came following a meeting after the approval of funding by the Tourism Promotion Fund to promote sustainable tourism and support livelihoods on the Mt. Kenya – Chogoria route.

Speaking during the meeting, MP Mbiuki said the ambitious project aims to transform the Chogoria route towards Mount Kenya into a world-class eco-tourism destination while uplifting local communities and preserving the environment.

“We have today come together as

key government agencies, county officials, local businesses, and community leaders to chart our way forward towards reclaiming our lost glory. This initiative is a clear indication of a new era of coordinated efforts to harness the vast untapped potential of this spectacular region,” said Mbiuki.

He said the initiative incorporates several transformative projects designed to enhance access, safety, and visitor experiences.

They include modernization of entry gates and expansion of network coverage aimed at improving accessibility and communication for visitors and service providers.

The other project is the refurbishment of Kinondoni Airstrip which is set to reduce travel time for tourists, connecting them directly to the foothills of Mount Kenya.

“A series of new hiking trails including routes from Kinondoni to Nithi Falls and the caves, from Lake Ellis to Lake Alice and Rutundu, and a riverine trail from Kinondoni to Mutonga will open up the previously inaccessible terrain,” said Mbiuki.

For nature lovers and adventure seekers, the introduction of fly-fishing



Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki chairing the meeting.

trails and nature walks along the river Nithi will offer sustainable encounters with the mountain’s clean ecosystems.

There is also a plan for the construction of visitor shelters at lake Ellis to provide safe rest points for hikers, while the digital mapping and global upload of these trails will position the

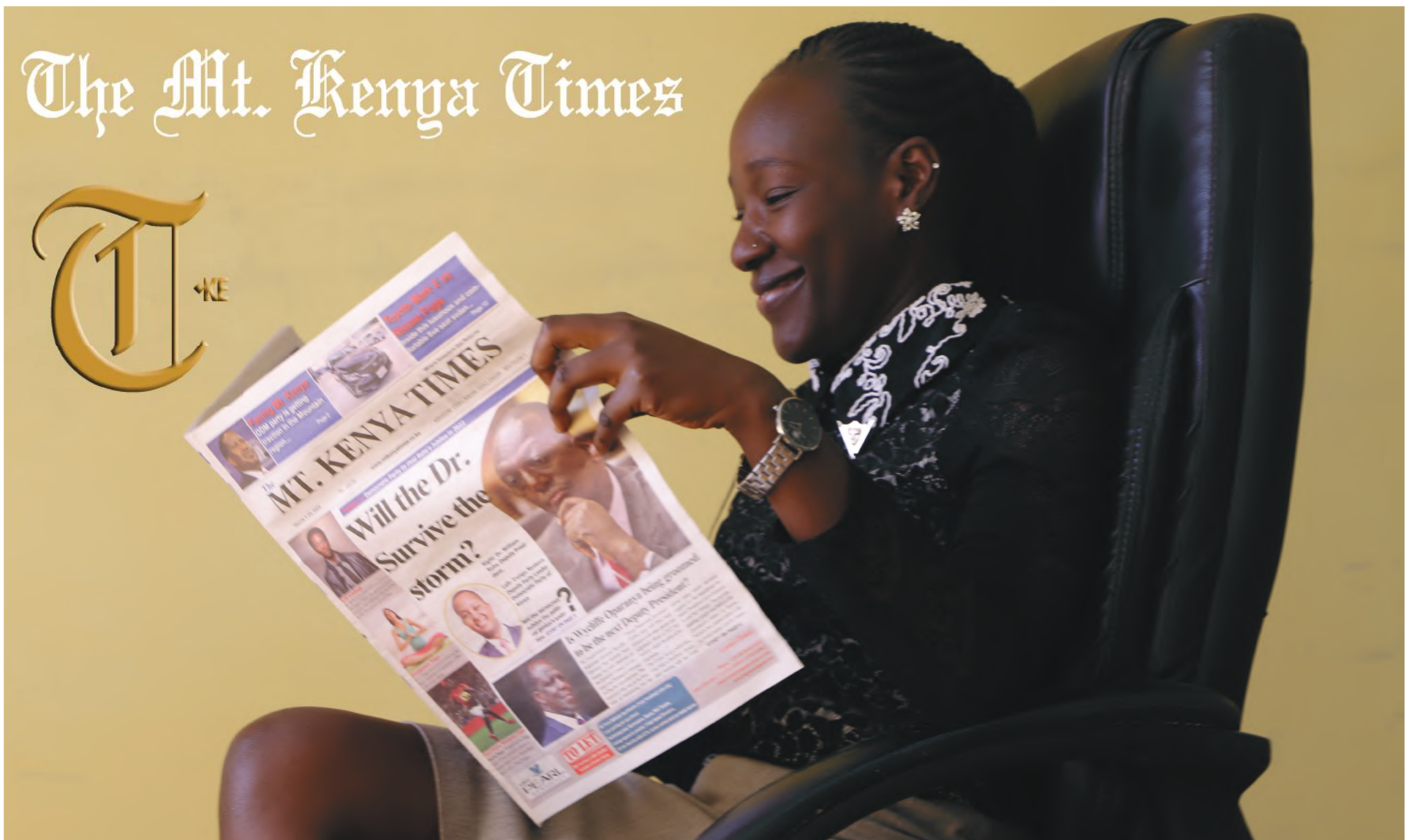
route firmly on the world map of hiking and cycling destinations.

Mbiuki noted that over the next week, the state department of public works will conduct surveys and prepare reports, paving the way for the tendering process.

“This initiative is expected to boost

tourism, create jobs, and improve livelihoods in the region,” said Mbiuki.

Stakeholders are optimistic about the potential impact and are working together to ensure the successful implementation of the projects.



Experts Call For Coordinated Data Use In Conservation

By: Anita Omwenga
 @themtkenyatimes



Some of the delegates attending the meeting.

Worth Noting:

- The forum is advocating for evidence-based policymaking, research collaboration and knowledge sharing to strengthen the sustainable management of Africa's forests, biodiversity and ecosystems.

- Organised under the EU-Africa partnership, the forum is exploring how science, technology and innovation can accelerate Africa's green transition and sustainable development.

- It is also emphasizing the need for African governments, research institutions and development partners to adopt a more integrated and coordinated approach to managing the continent's biodiversity and ecosystems spanning forests, water bodies, vegetation and wildlife.

- Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation in Kenya Mr. Ondrej Simek while speaking during the event in a Nairobi hotel on Monday said that through science, technology and innovation, we can address the most pressing challenges of our time.

The call for coordinated, data-driven and agroecology-informed approaches comes as Africa seeks to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability.

With the right policies and partnerships, countries can unlock opportunities in green jobs, nature-based solutions and sustainable land-use practices that deliver long-term benefits for both people and the planet.

Policymakers, researchers, donors, regional institutions, civil society and private sector representatives from Africa and Europe are gathered in Nairobi Monday to tomorrow for the annual Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX).

The forum is advocating for evidence-based policymaking, research collaboration and knowledge sharing to strengthen the sustainable management of Africa's forests, biodiversity and ecosystems.

Organised under the EU-Africa partnership, the forum is exploring how science, technology and innovation can accelerate Africa's green transition and sustainable development.

It is also emphasizing the need for African governments, research institutions and development partners to adopt a more integrated and coordinated approach to managing the continent's biodiversity and ecosystems spanning forests, water bodies, vegetation and wildlife.

Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation in Kenya Mr. Ondrej Simek while speaking during the event in a Nairobi hotel on Monday said that

through science, technology and innovation, we can address the most pressing challenges of our time.

"We can build stronger connections, foster deeper collaboration and create lasting impact," he said adding that the call for coordinated, data-driven and agroecology-informed approaches comes as Africa seeks to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability.

Director of Science at CIFOR-ICRAF Dr. Robert Nasi said that Africa is losing its forests at an alarming rate and this has severe economic consequences threatening not only forests but also agriculture, which employs a huge proportion of Africa's population.

"The result is rising unemployment, desertification, the loss of habitats for countless species, declining biodiversity and damage to the tourism sector, a major contributor to our economies," said Nasi.

He said that we must move from simply observing to truly acting because the economic cost of inaction is staggering. He noted that we have satellites, observatories, and advanced monitoring tools, yet action still lags behind.

Science & Technology Specialist at the African Union Commission Dr. Mahaman Bachir Saley said that we must harness science, technology and innovation to address challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, food security, energy access, as well as ocean and coastal management.

"Translating scientific research into political action is critical. Too much of our research remains within universities

and fails to reach policymakers" said Saley, adding that it is time to bridge this gap between knowledge and governance, ensuring that scientific evidence informs decisions for Africa's future.

He said that without accurate information on species populations, forest cover, land use and water quality, governments cannot design effective policies or track progress towards commitments such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

He said that the continent's natural resources are undergoing pressure from land degradation, deforestation, pollution, rapid urbanisation, unsustainable agricultural expansion and climate change.

"Science and technology are no longer luxuries; they are essential," he said, adding that Africa is rich in potential and natural resources and yet potential alone is not enough.

On his part, Africa Director for CIFOR-ICRAF Dr. Peter Minang observed that Africa's ecosystems are deeply interconnected and when one part of this system is weakened, the entire network of life is affected.

"Our economies do not depend on a single resource; they rely on all of them working together. If our forests disappear and water resources are lost, then food security, development, and economic growth will all be undermined," he said

He said that the continent is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall, which are affecting

livelihoods and disrupting our economies.

"The only way to address these challenges is through the sustainable management of our forests, ecosystems, biodiversity, and water resources collectively," stated Dr. Minang, emphasizing that credible data, accurate knowledge and effective monitoring systems are essential for evidence-based policymaking.

Participants also stressed that farming systems must work in harmony with nature. Agroecology, which applies ecological principles to agriculture, was highlighted as a critical pathway. In Africa, where farming is the dominant land use, agroecology has the potential to transform agriculture into a driver of both ecosystem health and rural prosperity.

By improving soil health, enhancing water retention and reducing dependence on chemical inputs, practices such as intercropping, agroforestry and the use of native species can restore biodiversity while boosting food production and resilience to climate shocks.

Launched in 2023 and funded by the European Union, the Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX) programme supports regional collaboration across Africa in five priority areas: Agroecology, Biodiversity & Forests, Water, Ocean and Climate.

Mudavadi Urges Millers To Champion Nutrition As Kenya Pushes For Food Sufficiency

By: OPCS Press Service
 @themkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi has urged millers to scale up their contribution to fortification as Kenya intensifies efforts to guarantee food sufficiency and nutrition security for its citizens. Speaking in Nairobi yesterday during the Kenya Millers Fortification Index (KMFI) 2025 Awards Ceremony, Mudavadi said the country must now view food security as an urgent national priority and not as a distant aspiration.

“Food security is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity. Food sufficiency is not merely about the ability to put a meal on the table. It is about family stability, it is about national productivity, and it is about the socio-economic growth that underwrites our future,” said Mudavadi.

He described fortification as one of the most strategic interventions in combating hidden hunger, malnutrition, and stunted growth.

Fortification is the vitamin in our ugali, the iron in our flour, and the promise of healthier children and stronger generations. It is no longer an option but an obligation,” he added.

Mudavadi praised the expansion of the KMFI initiative, noting its remarkable progress since its inception in 2022. What began with only five companies and 41 brands has grown into a platform of 34 companies, 155 brands, and 122 active participants.

He emphasized that the inclusion of the edible oils sector for the first time in 2025 was a sign of greater industry commitment to both reach and impact.

“What makes KMFI remarkable is that it is more than a compliance mechanism. It is a catalyst for continuous improvement, a framework for transparency, and a mechanism for equity across the industry. In this arena, no miller is too small to shine, and no effort goes unseen,” Mudavadi observed.

He linked the industry’s role to the broader reforms in the agriculture sector being implemented under President William Ruto’s administration.

Mudavadi highlighted interventions such as the registration of 6.5 million farmers, distribution of 21 million bags of subsidized fertilizer, dismantling of entrenched cartels, and the expansion of export markets for agricultural produce.

He gave the example of tea, where reforms have seen prices rise from Sh51 to Sh64 per kilo, with earnings growing from Sh138 billion to Sh250 billion, and projections to reach Sh280 billion by 2027.

“These are not abstract figures. They are real stories of farmers whose labour is beginning to yield dignity and prosperity,” he said.

Mudavadi further highlighted the Galana-Kulalu Food Security Proj-



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi presenting an award to one of the stakeholders..

ect, describing it as a flagship of agricultural transformation. He noted that the project is anchored by a 450-million-litre reservoir, electrified irrigation systems, and modern canals that will turn arid lands into productive food baskets.

“This project is set to significantly scale up maize production and fortify our path to self-sufficiency,” he said.

Mudavadi also stressed the importance of partnerships in supporting the food security agenda. He referenced collaborations with the Food and Agriculture Organization on digital land governance and climate-resilient systems, Spain on advanced irrigation technologies, and the Tony Blair Institute on technology-driven efficiency.

“These partnerships complement our domestic efforts and reaffirm Kenya’s commitment to stand on its own feet. We shall not beg for bread; we shall bake it, fortify it, and share it,” he said.

Turning to food safety, Mudavadi said that consistency and rigor in fortification processes remain essential

in addressing threats such as aflatoxin contamination.

“This rigor translates into broader public health triumphs: fewer illnesses, stronger immunity, and a population primed for productivity,” he stated.

He also emphasized equity in the milling industry, saying both small-scale and large-scale millers must be supported to thrive.

“Fair competition breeds excellence. Every miller, whether operating in a village or a major city, has a role to play in delivering safe, fortified, and nutritious food to our people. No effort is too small in the fight against hunger,” said Mudavadi.

He congratulated the award winners, describing the recognition as a collective salute to higher standards.

“These awards are not just framed certificates. They are symbols of the industry’s resolve to elevate standards and deliver a healthier nation,” Mudavadi remarked.

He added that the event itself was a reminder that when an industry unites in pursuit of quality, the benefits ex-

tend to every Kenyan family.

In attendance at the ceremony were Kris Ansin, Country Director of TechnoServe Kenya; Samburu Wa-Shiko, Regional Representative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rizwan Yusufali, Program Director for Millers for Nutrition, James Nyutu, Managing Director of UNGA Group Limited, and Bimal Kantaria, Chairperson of the Agriculture Sector Network and Director at KEPISA, alongside development partners and captains of industries.

The Kenya Millers Fortification Index Awards were established in 2022 as an innovation to monitor, evaluate and encourage compliance with national fortification standards. Designed as a transparent and competitive platform, the awards promote accountability, innovation, and consumer confidence.

The 2025 edition marked a new milestone with the inclusion of the edible oils sector, further broadening the scope and impact of the initiative.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with some of the stakeholders.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking in Nairobi yesterday during the Kenya Millers Fortification Index (KMFI) 2025 Awards Ceremony, Mudavadi said the country must now view food security as an urgent national priority and not as a distant aspiration.
- “Food security is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity. Food sufficiency is not merely about the ability to put a meal on the table. It is about family stability, it is about national productivity, and it is about the socio-economic growth that underwrites our future,” said Mudavadi.
- He described fortification as one of the most strategic interventions in combating hidden hunger, malnutrition, and stunted growth.

Kerugoya Referral hospital Under Probe Over Renal Service Shortfalls

By: David Wandeto
 @themtkenyatimes

Dialysis patients at the Kerugoya County Referral Hospital could soon breathe a sigh of relief after the Kirinyaga County Assembly's Medical Services, Public Health and Sanitation Committee revealed gaps in the facility's renal unit, even as the devolved unit prepares to receive new dialysis machines under the National Equipment Service Programme (NESP).

The committee, led by the chairperson, Isaiah Mbogo, visited the facility on an oversight mission aimed at assessing service delivery, the state of equipment, staffing levels, drug availability, and accountability in the use of national and county health resources.

The oversight visit comes days after County Executive for Health George Karoki announced that Kirinyaga is set to receive 25 new dialysis machines through NESP.

Of these, 10 will be installed at Kerugoya Referral Hospital, while Sagana, Kimbimbi and Kianyaga hospitals will each get five.

But for now, the situation on the

ground remains strained. The committee established that only two dialysis machines are currently operational at Kerugoya's renal unit, after the six earlier supplied under the Managed Equipment Service (MES) programme broke down.

Staff shortages have further compounded the challenge, forcing the few available health workers to work overtime to meet patient needs.

However, the hospital management assured the committee that three new dialysis machines are expected before the end of this week, marking the beginning of a transition that will expand capacity and ease pressure on patients.

At the pharmacy unit, the committee found that the hospital had received a consignment of drugs from KEMSA last Friday, but they were still in the process of redistributing them to the three dispensing points serving outpatients, the special clinic unit, and inpatients.

The management admitted that bureaucratic procurement procedures occasionally delay supplies, though steps are being taken to align stock management with national guidelines.

In cases where prescribed medicines are unavailable, clinicians are provided



ed with updated lists of substitutes to ensure continuity of treatment.

The committee also raised concern over the lack of surveillance cameras at the central drugstore, recommending such installation to guard against pilferage.

Speaking after the inspection, Mbogo, who is also the Kabare ward repre-

sentative, said the County Assembly's aim was not just to identify weaknesses but also to ensure that recent investments in health services directly translate into benefits for patients.

"The oversight visit allows us to see firsthand what is working and what needs urgent attention.

Our goal is to make sure that the re-

sources being delivered under national and county programmes translate into quality, accessible care for our people," he said.

The committee is expected to prepare a report of its findings and table the same before the County Assembly for debate and adoption.

Deployment Of Digital Tools To Roll Out National Emergency Ambulance Underway

By: Rose Wasike
 @themtkenyatimes

The government is set to roll out a National Emergency Ambulance Dispatch Service under the Social Health Authority (SHA) to strengthen emergency response across the country.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, speaking in Vihiga during county assessment tours, said the service will enable patients to be evacuated promptly, with payments determined by distance covered.

Subsequently, the Social Health Authority (SHA) will cover that cost in addition to all the medical expenses to be incurred at the hospital in the first 24 hours.

Under the package, ambulance charges will be standardized at Sh4,500 for the first 25 kilometers and Sh75 for every additional kilo-

meter.

The CS said the SHA system is designed to be powerful and efficient, positioning Kenya as a model for other African countries.

Duale was emphatic that the centralized dispatch system will address gaps caused by fragmented emergency responses, aimed at improving tracking and guaranteed availability of ambulances, even in remote areas.

The service will be integrated into the government's Taifa Care model as part of efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

SHA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mercy Mwangangi said the initiative will be anchored on digital tools to ensure timely response and efficiency, adding that Kenyans will access the service by dialing 999

Meanwhile, training of emergency response staff and deployment of digital infrastructure across the country was already underway.



CS Health Adan Duale

Butterflies And Me



A butterfly in love,
He is so elegant that an example is the
Gazal.
The best wish in the net of our hearts:
Never knows grief never heart.

Butterfly, fly, and is a peaceful prosper,
You see your dance and enjoy fun.
It doesn't have my dreams to fall,
Every heart is every heart to dwelled from
my poems written.

The lifespan of butterfly is really really
really,
My poems will be the raiders.
I don't know if I know, it's big,
My life does not go down.

Nodira Jo'rayeva

My Heroes



I long for Cho'Ipun as I read his works,
Sometimes I turn the pages of Night and Day.
Hamid Olimjon's poet heart,
Lutfiy's ghazals—my soul's comfort.

Call Ahmad Yassawi to join us,
Let me hear Babur's divans for a while.
Abdulla Qodiriy's Bygone Days,
And "Scorpion from the Pulpit"—let's recite
them aloud.

The sorrowful cries of Zaynab and Kumush
Still echo for Otabek's fate.
That song of love, unfinished by destiny,
Still burns as an ember in the heart.

Alisher Navoi—none can equal him,
Reading his five epics lifts my soul.
Farhod and Shirin, Layli and Majnun,
And Saadi's Iskandariy adventures.

Without you, there is no world, great poets!
No one could truly live without you.
Each line of yours brings light to the heart,
Your noble words shine like stars.

Without you, there's a pain within my soul,
Without you, this bright world falls silent.
Your verses that gave life its meaning
Play on my lips like music every day.

Hamidova Zarbegim
Uzbekistan

I could never find a poet like Muhammad
Yusuf,
No one could ever be like dear Zulfiya.
Abdulla Oripov, Usmon Nosir...
Their feelings remain—yet I could not
explain them.

O'tkir Hoshimov, his heartfelt words,
Every line his graceful pen has spoken.
Shuhrat, the breath of G'afur G'ulom,
Truth and honesty—the voice of the
righteous.

Bring me Halimaxon's poems,
Each verse will shower light upon the soul.
Return Erkin Vohidov to us again!
Let him sing aloud his "O'zbekim."

It's Better To Hold Your Tongue Many A Time



It's better to hold your tongue many a time
Keep your mouth shut, to avoid landing in
trouble
It's wise to stay silent, and save yourself from
problem
For words once spoken, can't come back
It will cut like a knife.

Fish get trapped, by opening their mouth wide,
Desiring to take food
Humans too, get caught, by words
To stay safe, it's best to be silent and still,
speak only when necessary.

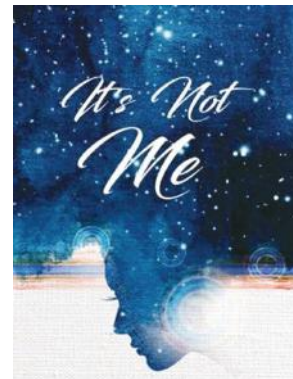
think before you speak

Spilt words can't be taken back,
Some words can ignite flames,
They make situations cold and worse
Only silence can bring calm, and peace
Silence is golden, it is a golden proverb

So be cautious, and watch your words with
care,
Think before you speak, and show you are wise
For silence can save you, from trouble and pain,
And bring peace and happiness

Brinda. D
GRADUATE TEACHER,
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,
MELPATTAMPAKKAM
CUDDALORE,
Tamilnadu India
creativewritersmag@gmail.com

It's Not Me



Their time to be passed,
Call me when picking,
The bag from the market,
Call me when make a fun,
A fun of once dream,
Call me when crack,
A joke of me,
But when it's time to loved,
It's not me,
Important to them...

Some stories are sad,
Some are good,
But in case of mine,
It's full of worst chapters,
As i help everyone,
That they want from me,
Every emotions i gave,
When thuy ask from me,
But when i really need,
It's never me that's,
Important to them...

As today me, you and all,
Know this everyday,
Everywhure there is only money,
Rules in every family,
Morethan any blood,
So yes, i know me here,
It's not me always,
Important to them...

-Lakshay Kansal

Important to them..

Looking truth but not,
Having lies with sugar coats,
It's the world i know,
But still known by you,
As it's not me that's,
Really important to them..

Friends have childhood friendships,
Sister have non-blooded brothers,
Parents have it's daughter,
Relatives have their mean to talk,
And this world have money to gave love,
So it's not me anywhure,
Important to them..

Call me for helping them,
Call me to be with them,
Call me when need,

Guard Your Smile



Your joy is yours, don't give away,
Keep it safe by night and day,
Hold the key, come what may,
It's your own light to guide your way.

Your wins are yours, your falls are too,
No one can live your life but you,
Choose what feels both bright and true,
Your heart will show what you must do.

When people cheer, you may feel tall,
When they blame, you may feel small,
But their words are not your wall,
You can still be strong through all.

As time will change, so thoughts will bend,
Praise or blame will never end,
So on yourself you must depend,
Your joy is something you defend.

Hold your key and guard it tight,
It is yours by perfect right,
Keep your heart in steady light,
And your world will shine so bright.

V Durgadevi
BT Assistant
GHS Nesar
Tiruvannamalai District

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

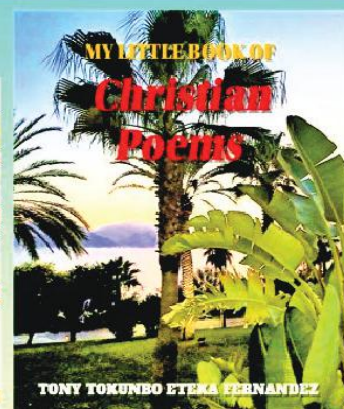
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IGAD

42 Million People In Six IGAD Member States Face High Levels Of Acute Hunger In 2025

The IGAD Regional Focus of the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises sounds the alarm on widespread food insecurity and malnutrition in the region

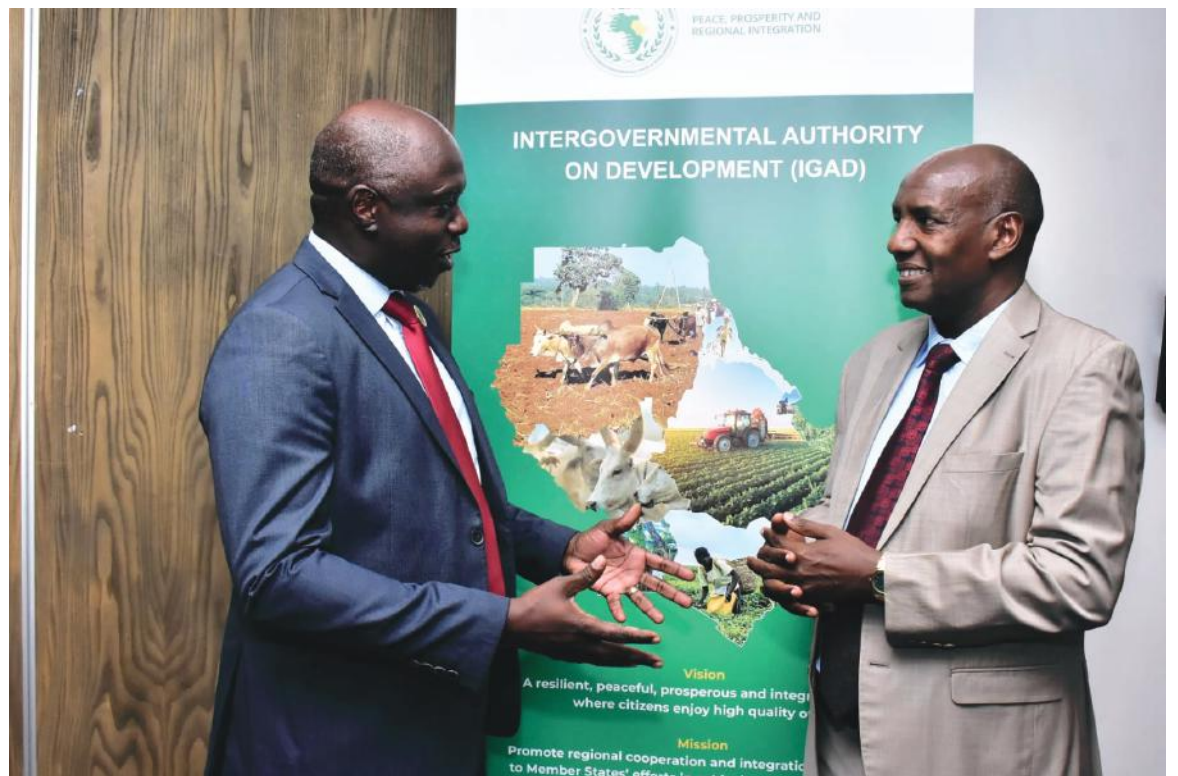
42 million people face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above*) this year across six IGAD member states (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda), according to the IGAD Regional Focus of the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises released today.

In five countries with comparable data since 2016 (Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda), the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity has tripled over recent years – from 13.9 million in 2016 during the first edition of the Global Report on Food Crises to 41.7 million in 2025.

The Sudan and South Sudan are the largest and most severe food crises in the region. The Sudan currently has the largest highly food-insecure population in the region, at 24.6 million, with Famine and risk of Famine in multiple areas. Meanwhile, South Sudan continues to have the largest share of people (57 per cent) in IPC Phase 3 and above in the region, with two of its counties at risk of Famine.

From conflict to economic challenges and climate extremes, the drivers of acute food insecurity in the IGAD region are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, increasing vulnerabilities, undermining resilience and reversing development gains. The situation is expected to deteriorate further, as the latest forecast by IGAD's Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) points to drier-than-usual conditions in parts of the region, including southern Ethiopia, eastern Kenya and much of Somalia. Some of these areas, particularly central and northern Somalia, have already experienced at least one below-average rainy season, and drought conditions already persist. Another below-average season risks driving further deteriorations in food insecurity and malnutrition.

Acute malnutrition remains at alarming levels across the region, with 11.4 million children aged 6–59 months acutely malnourished in seven member states. Among them, 3.1 million urgently need lifesaving treatment for severe acute malnutrition. However, due to significant funding cuts, an estimated 1 million people could be left without access to this treatment.



Furthermore, the IGAD region continues to have more forcibly displaced people in the world. As of the end of June, 23.2 million people were living in forced displacement, including 17.8 million internally displaced (IDPs) and 5.4 million refugees and asylum seekers. The Sudan remains the world's largest internal displacement crisis with about 10 million IDPs. Meanwhile, Uganda continues to host the largest refugee population on the continent, with over 1.9 million. Displaced populations face some of the worst food security and nutritional outcomes due to a loss of livelihoods and social support networks, and a heavy reliance on humanitarian assistance at a time of reduced funding.

IGAD's Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, stated: "The food crisis in our region is more than just hunger; it's a stark reminder of the interconnected challenges we face, conflict, the severe effects of climate change, economic shocks, and displacement. As IGAD, we strive to bring countries together, strengthen cooperation, and promote resilience, peace, and security. No single institution can tackle these crises on its own. Through collective action, working across governments, regional institutions, and partners, we

can address the root causes of vulnerability and create lasting solutions for our people."

FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa ad-interim, Farayi Zimudzi, noted, "As this report shows, the IGAD region continues to face severe food insecurity, and the situation is worsening. Rural agricultural communities are among the worst affected. With another poor rainy season expected in some parts of the region, we must act now to protect rural livelihoods with anticipatory actions. However, anticipatory action alone won't break the cycle. They must be paired with long-term resilience building and investment in sustainable agriculture to ensure no one is left behind."

WFP's Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Eric Perdison, said, "The scale of the hunger crisis across the region is deeply alarming, with more people affected than the entire population of many countries elsewhere. In Sudan, famine is already unfolding, and the situation could worsen. While working together to save lives is an immediate priority, we must also build resilience and support communities in standing on their own feet and not being forced to depend on humanitarian assistance for survival."

The seventh edition of the IGAD Regional Focus of the Global Report on Food Crises continues to provide essential information, analyses and insights to collectively address the causes and consequences of escalating acute food insecurity and malnutrition in the region.

It is a by-product of the annual Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC 2025), which is the result of a complex, multi-partner, consensus-based process involving commitment and contributions from a multitude of agencies and individuals. It is facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) in the framework of the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC).

Worth Noting:

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HEALTH

Kenya Bolsters Polio And Measles Surveillance With Cutting-Edge KEMRI Laboratory



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The facility, which was handed over yesterday marks a significant leap forward in Kenya's ability to detect and respond to poliovirus and other epidemic-prone diseases swiftly and effectively.
- Supported by a strategic partnership involving WHO and a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the upgraded laboratory is part of the African their Polio Laboratory Network, which includes 16 WHO-accredited labs spread across the continent. This network plays an indispensable role in ensuring that stool and environmental samples are promptly tested for polioviruses, an effort critical to guiding immunization campaigns and outbreak responses in affected areas.



Kenya bolsters polio and measles surveillance with cutting-edge KEMRI laboratory. Minister of Health DG, Dr Patrick Amoth. The Leadership of KEMRI led by the Board Chairman, Dr Abdullahi Ali and CS For Health Aden Duale.

In a major boost to the country's public health defenses, Kenya has officially inaugurated a newly upgraded, World Health Organization (WHO)-accredited polio laboratory at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).

The facility, which was handed over yesterday marks a significant leap forward in Kenya's ability to detect and respond to poliovirus and other epidemic-prone diseases swiftly and effectively.

Supported by a strategic partnership involving WHO and a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the upgraded laboratory is part of the African their Polio Laboratory Network, which includes 16 WHO-accredited labs spread across the continent. This network plays an indispensable role in ensuring that stool and environmental samples are promptly tested for polioviruses, an effort critical to guiding immunization campaigns and outbreak responses in affected areas.

Located within KEMRI's Centre for Virus Research, the newly equipped laboratory boasts cutting-edge molecular diagnostic platforms alongside expanded sample storage ca-

capacity. The facility also features upgraded biosafety protocols, ensuring that health workers can perform tests quickly and safely, while delivering highly accurate results. These enhancements come at a crucial time as countries, including Kenya, intensify their efforts to halt the circulation of variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), a highly contagious strain that has recently caused outbreaks in parts of Africa.

In 2024, more than 5,000 samples were processed across the African network, enabling the rapid detection of poliovirus and timely interventions in countries such as Madagascar and Mozambique, where outbreaks were successfully contained. The KEMRI laboratory will now serve as a cornerstone for Kenya's surveillance activities—supporting not only polio efforts but also expanding to cover measles, rubella, and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

"This laboratory is a cornerstone for protecting children from the devastating effects of polio. It strengthens our surveillance capacity, not only for polio but also for measles, rubella, and other vaccine-preventable

diseases. With this facility, Kenya is better prepared to detect outbreaks early and respond decisively," said Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo, WHO Representative in Kenya, during the inauguration.

Beyond Kenya's borders, the upgraded laboratory plays a vital role in cross-border surveillance within the Horn of Africa—a region highly vulnerable to the spread of poliovirus due to population movements across porous borders. Coordinated immunization campaigns and synchronized laboratory support in these border areas are crucial for protecting children who are often hard to reach due to nomadic lifestyles or geographic isolation.

The formal handover ceremony was attended by Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Health, alongside representatives from KEMRI, WHO, the Gates Foundation, eHealth, and other key partners. Their presence highlighted the collaborative partnerships that underpin this achievement.

The laboratory's upgrade aligns with broader efforts by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), which

continues to drive progress in immunization and surveillance across Africa. In 2024 alone, GPEI supported the training of over 800 health professionals in vital skills such as geographic information system (GIS) mapping, outbreak investigation, and laboratory practices. In Kenya specifically, vaccination and surveillance programs have effectively reached children in nomadic, peri-urban, and cross-border communities. The latest vaccination round against polio alone protected nearly one million children. Kenya's enhanced laboratory infrastructure will be crucial in sustaining the country's hard-won gains. The nation has not reported any circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases in the past 15 months, an encouraging sign that continued vigilance and strengthened capacity can keep polio at bay.

As Kenya advances its health security through innovations like the KEMRI polio laboratory, the country and its neighbors stand better equipped to detect, prevent, and respond to disease outbreaks, safeguarding the health and future of children across the region.

Middle East Peace Remains Distant As U.S. Reaffirms Support For Israel After Doha Strike

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Israel's strikes on Qatar, a key U.S. ally hosting a major American air base, marked the first on a Gulf state since the Gaza conflict began in October 2023. In its final communique, the Arab-Islamic summit, chaired by Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, condemned the Doha strikes on Hamas leaders as a "flagrant act of aggression" that violated international law and posed a grave threat to regional and global peace.
- In his opening speech at the summit, which was attended by Arab and Islamic heads of state, senior officials and representatives of regional and international organizations, the Qatari emir described the Israeli assault as a "blatant violation of sovereignty" and an attempt to sabotage mediation efforts.

An emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Qatar on Monday strongly condemned Israel's Sept. 9 strikes on Doha and pledged full solidarity with the Gulf state, while U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on a regional tour, reiterated strong support for Israel's hardline stance.

As Washington continues to provide unconditional support to Israel, peace in the Middle East now remains a distant goal, analysts say.

Israel's strikes on Qatar, a key U.S. ally hosting a major American air base, marked the first on a Gulf state since the Gaza conflict began in October 2023. In its final communique, the Arab-Islamic summit, chaired by Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, condemned the Doha strikes on Hamas leaders as a "flagrant act of aggression" that violated international law and posed a grave threat to regional and global peace. In his opening speech at the summit, which was attended by Arab and Islamic heads of state, senior officials and representatives of regional and international organizations, the Qatari emir described the Israeli assault as a "blatant violation of sovereignty" and an attempt to sabotage mediation efforts. He said that the attack targeted Hamas negotiators in Doha who were reviewing a U.S. proposal, accusing Israel of undermining peace talks.

Arab and Islamic leaders reaffirmed absolute support for Qatar's sovereignty, security and stability at the summit, and backed all measures it may take in response to the attack. They also stressed that targeting Qatar, a neutral mediator, undermined ongoing ceasefire talks on Gaza and broader peace efforts. The leaders also called for urgent international action to hold Israel accountable, including sanctions, halting arms supplies, and reviewing diplomatic and economic ties with Israel. The summit further urged the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to coordinate efforts to suspend Israel's UN membership, citing its persistent "violations" of international law and UN resolutions. In a post on X, the Qatari emir said that the outcomes of the summit would intensify collective action and coordination, strengthen unity and promote a consolidated front.

US Support For Israel

As the summit convened in Doha on Monday, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio was in Israel, the first stop of a regional tour that will take him to Qatar on Tuesday. At a joint press conference with Israeli Prime



Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, he voiced clear support for Israel. "Hamas needs to cease to exist as an armed element that can threaten the peace and security of the region," Rubio said, echoing Israel's hardline stance. He added that the international efforts to recognize a Palestinian state will make Hamas feel "more emboldened," referring to plans by an increasing number of Western states, including Britain, France and Canada, to recognize a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly later this month. Bahraini political analyst Abdullah Al-Huwaihi said that Rubio's visit to Israel was meant to warn the summit against taking meaningful action while reassuring Israel of U.S. support for its strike on Qatar.

Nimrod Goren, president of Mitvim, the Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies, said Rubio's visit comes at a critical moment, with Israel conducting a major offensive in Gaza City, weighing its response to the recognition of a Palestinian state by more Western states, and seeking to contain regional and international backlash over its strike on Doha. "U.S. support is important for the Israeli government on each of these

issues, and the visit can enhance coordination and clarity regarding next steps," he said, adding that Rubio's trip largely reflects "U.S. support for Netanyahu's policies and legitimizes the next military steps by the Israeli government." "It seems unlikely for the visit to advance a ceasefire. On the contrary, it may produce a go-ahead signal for excessive Israeli operations in Gaza," he noted.

Peace Out Of Reach

The escalation raised doubts about Washington's security commitment to its Arab partners and Israel's willingness to pursue diplomacy in ending the war, given Qatar's role as a mediator in the two-year conflict. Peace in the Middle East remains out of reach as long as Washington continues to offer unconditional support to Israel, analysts said. Since the Gaza conflict erupted in October 2023, they noted, the United States has repeatedly shielded Israel at the United Nations by vetoing ceasefire resolutions and continued supplying arms, further fueling the conflict. They added that since the current U.S. administration took office in January, Gaza's crisis

has worsened: famine has been declared, Israel has launched a major offensive in Gaza City, and, for the first time, struck Qatar, a Gulf ally of Washington.

"The current context is one in which the Israeli government does not seem interested in a ceasefire, and the U.S. administration is not putting pressure towards this goal," said Nimrod Goren. Mokhtar Ghobashy, secretary-general of the Cairo-based El-Faraby Center for Political Studies, believed that the United States was a "partner and co-perpetrator" in Israel's strike on Doha, the fourth attack on an Arab capital after Lebanon's Beirut, Yemen's Sanaa and Syria's Damascus. "This is because Qatar hosts an American base with air defense platforms and weapons. These were put on high alert during a previous Iranian strike on the base, yet they stood completely silent during the Israeli strike on Qatar," he said. Ghobashy said he hopes Gulf and Arab states will realize the imbalance in their relations with the United States compared with Israel.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Smart Solution To Kenya's Plastic Bottle Crisis



By: Davidson Otieno Omondi
 @themkenyatomes

In 2017, Kenya gained global attention with a bold nationwide ban on single-use plastic bags. It was a proud moment and a clear sign that Kenya could lead on environmental issues. But as we enter 2025, that victory feels incomplete. A new plastic problem has emerged, one that is flooding our streets, rivers, parks, and coastlines.

The culprit is the PET plastic bottle. Kenyans use over 700 million of these bottles every year. Yet our recycling system is broken. A UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report shows that Kenya recycles less than 10% of all plastic. This leaves mountains of waste with nowhere to go.

The effects are serious. Plastic bottles

block urban drainage, causing floods that damage property and spread disease. They pollute beaches and national parks, threatening tourism. Over time, broken-down bottles become microplastics, entering soil, water, and our food chain, with long-term health risks scientists are only beginning to understand.

This is a global problem requiring strong local action. At the 2022 UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya backed a historic treaty to end plastic pollution. To match that commitment, we must fix the crisis at home.

The solution is proven: a Deposit-Return Scheme (DRS). In Germany and Norway, this system recycles over 90% of bottles. Consumers pay a small deposit, 5 or 10 shillings, when buying a drink. Returning the empty bottle gives the deposit back. This turns waste into value, cleans the environment, and creates jobs in recycling and waste collection.

Kenya already has the legal framework. The Sustainable Waste Management Act of 2022 allows Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which makes companies responsible for the



waste they create. But enforcement is slow and incomplete, leaving bottles to pile up.

We have proven we can lead—our bag ban showed that. Now it is time to

finish the job. By introducing a Deposit-Return Scheme and enforcing EPR laws, Kenya can once again become a global example in tackling plastic pollution.

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

How Kenyan Businesses Can Profit By Empowering Women



By: Davidson Otieno Omondi
 @themkenyatomes

For years, many Kenyan companies have treated gender equality as charity. We often see photos of big cheques for girls' scholarships or branded T-shirts at Women's Day events. While these actions are good, they treat gender equality as a side project, something done with extra profits.

This is a costly mistake. Around the world, leading companies now see gender equality not as charity, but as a smart business strategy called Creating Shared Value (CSV).

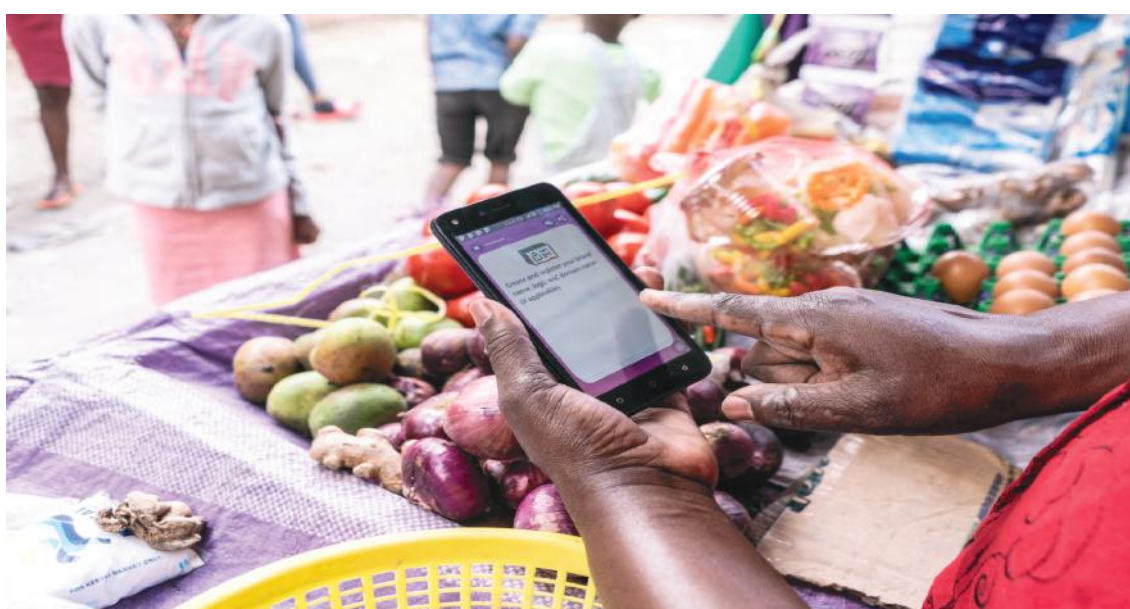
CSV, introduced by Harvard Busi-

ness School, is about solving social problems through a company's main business, not just through donations. It's not about giving away money; it's about creating long-term growth by meeting real needs.

In Kenya, one of the biggest social problems is clear: women remain an underserved economic group. This is also one of the biggest business opportunities.

Take the banking sector as an example. The African Development Bank reports a \$42 billion financing gap for women entrepreneurs in Africa. A bank focused only on CSR might donate to a women's NGO. But a bank using CSV will design new loan products for women—using tools like alternative credit scoring—to serve this market and make a profit.

The same idea works in other industries. Tech firms that include more women in design teams create products that work better for half the population, boosting sales. Manufacturers that support female suppliers often build stronger and more effi-



cient supply chains. Research also shows that companies with at least 30% women in leadership earn higher profits.

The message to Kenyan CEOs is simple: stop treating gender programmes as expenses. Instead, see

them as opportunities for innovation and growth. Ask this: What big challenge facing women—whether customers, employees, or suppliers—can our business solve profitably?

The companies that answer this question will not only make Kenya

fairer, but also lead their industries. That is the real power of creating shared value.

*By: Davidson Otieno Omondi
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Rethinking Procurement In Namibia: Why Cutting Out Middlemen Is A Strategic Imperative. Part 1



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
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Introduction: The Procurement Paradox

In Namibia's ongoing struggle to balance fiscal discipline with developmental urgency, public procurement remains one of the most contested terrains. Recent debates - such as those sparked by the article "Middlemen Disease Is a Misdiagnosis" - have reignited questions about the role of intermediaries in government contracting. While some argue that middlemen are necessary for efficiency and delivery, this article contends that such a view is not only misguided but economically detrimental.

Namibia possesses the institutional capacity to manage its own procurement. The continued reliance on intermediaries inflates costs, reduces transparency, and diverts critical resources away from hospitals, schools, and infrastructure. This article presents a counter-argument grounded in legal frameworks, fiscal data, and comparative analysis - demonstrating that cutting out middlemen is not just possible, but essential.

1. Ministries Have Procurement Capacity: A Legal and Operational Overview

Contrary to the notion that ministries are ill-equipped to manage procurement, Namibia has invested significantly in building institutional capacity:

Legal Framework: The Public Procurement Act of 2015

Namibia's journey towards modernizing its public sector is fundamentally tied to the reform of its procurement system. This transformation was cemented with the enactment of the Public Procurement Act (Act No. 15 of 2015), a landmark piece of legislation that dismantled the outdated Tender Board of Namibia and ushered in a new era of transparency, accountability, and efficiency. This wasn't merely a change in name; it was a complete restructuring of the nation's procurement landscape. At its core, the Act established a tiered system designed to decentralize authority while maintaining strict oversight. The Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) was created as a central, independent body with the singular mandate to handle high-value, complex contracts that often attract international bidders and significant public scrutiny. Meanwhile, the Act mandated that every ministry, regional council, and



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public enterprise establish its own Internal Procurement Committees. This crucial shift empowered individual entities to manage low- to medium-value acquisitions, a move that reduced bureaucratic bottlenecks and allowed for quicker, more responsive decision-making at the local level.

Beyond its structural reforms, the Act's most profound impact lies in its emphasis on transparency. It mandates the public disclosure of all awarded contracts, transforming a previously opaque process into one that is open to public scrutiny. It enforces strict competitive bidding procedures and requires all participants to declare any potential conflicts of interest, thereby laying a foundation to combat corruption and favoritism. This legal framework, with its dual-layered approach and unwavering commitment to openness, provides a strong and stable environment for all forms of procurement, including direct acquisitions.

Human Capital and Training

A legal framework, no matter how robust, is only as effective as the people who operate within it. Recognizing this, Namibia has made significant investments in developing its human capital to meet the demands of the new procurement

system. Over the past decade, a concerted effort has been made to professionalize the public service, with hundreds of procurement officers undergoing specialized training. Institutions like the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) have become cornerstones of this effort, providing tailored training programs that equip civil servants with the practical skills needed for modern procurement.

Additionally, Namibia's leading tertiary institutions, the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), have integrated public administration and supply chain management into their curricula. These academic programs ensure a continuous pipeline of new talent, graduates who are not only theoretically sound but also prepared to tackle real-world challenges. These trained professionals are the unsung heroes of the procurement landscape, capable of handling everything from initial planning and meticulous tender evaluation to complex contract management and crucial supplier vetting. Their expertise is what transforms the legal mandates of the Public Procurement Act into a functional reality, providing the government with the internal

capacity needed to make informed and efficient procurement decisions, including those that may bypass traditional bidding processes when the law allows.

Digital Infrastructure

The modernization of Namibia's procurement system extends beyond legal and human reforms to embrace the power of technology. The nation has embarked on an ambitious journey to digitize its procurement processes, with the phased rollout of a comprehensive e-procurement platform. This initiative, inspired by the successes of regional leaders like Rwanda and Kenya, aims to move away from mountains of physical paperwork and the human errors that often accompany them. The transition to a digital system is a strategic move that streamlines workflows, from bid submission to contract award, thereby dramatically reducing administrative burdens and transaction times.

The platform creates an immutable digital audit trail, ensuring that every step of a procurement process is transparently recorded and easily

Worth Noting:

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verifiable. This not only enhances accountability but also significantly deters fraudulent activities. By moving all procurement activities onto a single, secure platform, Namibia is creating a more level playing field for suppliers and strengthening the trust between the public and its government. This digital leap is a key enabler for a more agile and transparent procurement environment, making it easier for ministries to conduct and justify all forms of procurement, including direct ones, with a clear record of due diligence.

Case Studies of Direct Procurement
While the Public Procurement Act emphasizes competitive bidding as the default, it also provides for exceptions, such as direct procurement, under specific and justifiable circumstances. Far from being an anomaly, this procurement method is already in use by key government bodies, demonstrating both its practicality and the existing internal capacity to execute it. For instance, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has successfully utilized direct procurement to acquire essential textbooks and school furniture directly from trusted manufacturers. This approach cuts out intermediaries, ensuring better value for money and a quicker delivery of critical learning materials to schools.

Similarly, the Ministry of Works and Transport regularly engages in direct procurement with local firms for vital road maintenance projects. This practice not only expedites the repair of essential infrastructure but also supports domestic businesses, stimulating the local economy. These examples are not just isolated incidents; they are tangible proof that ministries within the Namibian government possess the institutional knowledge and professional expertise to navigate the procurement landscape with confidence. They illustrate that ministries are not merely passive participants but active and capable agents already engaged in executing direct procurement to meet the nation's urgent needs effectively and responsibly.

2. Middlemen Inflate Costs and Drain Public Funds

The economic argument against the use of middlemen in public procurement is compelling and, in the context of Namibia, has become a matter of national urgency. Intermediaries, while sometimes necessary, often introduce significant inefficiencies into the supply chain,



University of Namibia (UNAM)

artificially inflate prices, and create a veil of secrecy that obstructs accountability. This practice has not only drained the public coffers but has also eroded trust in government institutions. The most direct impact of this practice is felt in the form of price markups and overpayments. A stark illustration of this was revealed in a 2021 audit by the Office of the Auditor-General. The report found that the Ministry of Health and Social Services was paying up to 40% more for critical medical equipment when sourcing it through third-party suppliers. In one particularly egregious case, a middleman charged the government N\$1.2million for hospital beds that were readily available directly from the manufacturer for a far lower price of N\$700,000. Such blatant overspending diverts essential funds away from core public services and directly compromises the government's ability to serve its citizens.

Opaque Contracts and Reduced Accountability

Beyond the immediate financial cost, the use of middlemen fosters a culture of opacity. These intermediaries often operate through complex networks of shell companies or are linked to politically connected entities, which makes it incredibly difficult to trace ownership and enforce performance guarantees. This lack of transparency undermines contract enforcement, making it nearly impossible to hold the responsible party accountable for poor performance or non-delivery. It also jeopardizes quality assurance, as the final con-

sumer - in this case, the Namibian public - has no direct link to the original manufacturer to verify the standard of goods received. Finally, the convoluted chain of command created by middlemen frequently leads to delays, compromising the timely delivery of essential goods and services.

Global Evidence of Inefficiency
Namibia's experience with middlemen is not unique; it is a pattern that has been documented globally. A 2020 report, the Global Health Supply Chain Audit by USAID, provided a comprehensive analysis of procurement models in sub-Saharan Africa. The findings were unambiguous: governments that implemented direct procurement strategies consistently saved between 15% and 30% compared to those that relied on outsourced, middleman-heavy models. The audit also revealed that intermediaries were far more likely to deliver substandard goods and cause significant shipment delays, directly impacting the effectiveness of public services. This global evidence reinforces the argument that bypassing middlemen is a proven strategy for achieving greater efficiency and value in public spending.

Namibian Scandals Involving Middlemen

The use of middlemen in public procurement has, unfortunately, been at the center of some of Namibia's most notorious corruption scandals, serving as a powerful illustration of how these intermediaries can become vehicles for corruption

and waste. These cases highlight the urgent need for a more transparent and direct approach to government spending.

The Kora Awards Scandal
Perhaps one of the most infamous examples is the Kora Awards Scandal. The Namibian government, through the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport, and Culture, made a significant payment of millions of Namibian dollars to a middleman for hosting the Kora All-Africa Music Awards. The event was intended to be a major international affair, showcasing African talent and boosting Namibia's global profile. However, the event never materialized. The funds, which were meant to cover logistical and organizational costs, vanished into a complex web of transactions, leaving the government with no event and no recourse. The middleman, acting as the sole point of contact, essentially disappeared with the public funds, leaving a trail of broken promises. This case starkly exposed the dangers of entrusting large sums of money to an intermediary with a vague mandate and no clear oversight. It demonstrated how the lack of a direct contractual relationship with the service provider can create a perfect environment for fraud and a complete breakdown of accountability.



Worth Noting:

- A legal framework, no matter how robust, is only as effective as the people who operate within it. Recognizing this, Namibia has made significant investments in developing its human capital to meet the demands of the new procurement system. Over the past decade, a concerted effort has been made to professionalize the public service, with hundreds of procurement officers undergoing specialized training.
- Institutions like the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) have become cornerstones of this effort, providing tailored training programs that equip civil servants with the practical skills needed for modern procurement.
- Additionally, Namibia's leading tertiary institutions, the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), have integrated public administration and supply chain management into their curricula.

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Sports >> *Faith Kipyegon stamped her authority as the Greatest of All Time in the women's middle distance after successfully defending her 1500m title and winning third gold for Kenya at the Tokyo World Championships yesterday.

G.O.A.T Faith Kipyegon Storms To Fourth World Title In Tokyo To Give Kenya Third Gold



Faith Kipyegon celebrating after storming to her fourth World Title in Tokyo. Photo/IOC

Faith Kipyegon stamped her authority as the Greatest of All Time in the women's middle distance after successfully defending her 1500m title and winning third gold for Kenya at the Tokyo World Championships yesterday. Kipyegon led compatriot Dorcus Ewoi to a 1-2 finish, condemning Olympic silver medalist Jessica Hull of Australia to bronze.

Kipyegon, the world record holder, lived up to the expectations after controlling the race from gun to tape, crossing the

line first in 3:52.15, ahead of American-based Ewoi, who overtook Hull to bag silver in a season's best of 3:54.92.

Another Kenyan in the race, Diamond League winner Nelly Chepchirchir, came fourth in a personal best of 3:55.25.

"After setting the world record in Eugene, I said to myself: 'I have to go to Tokyo and defend my title'. I knew I could run it under control," said Kipyegon, who became only the second woman to win four world titles in the same track event after

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who has won five 100m titles.

"This sport drives me. I won here in 2021 (at the Olympics) just after becoming a mother, so being back here, winning again, means I can show a new gold medal to my daughter. I am taking it one race at a time, and the 1500m medal is now in the pocket. I will focus now on the 5000m and try to win it."

Kipyegon moved to the front from the off and was never passed, despite Chepchirchir attempting to do so on the last lap

but getting nudged out of the way by Hull in the process.

The Australian was the only one capable of going with the world record-holder initially, but by the time she entered the home straight, the race had already been won.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League has received a massive financial boost after the organizers yesterday announced that the prize money for the 2025/26 season has been increased to Ksh 20 million.

FKF Premier League Champions To Pocket Ksh 15 Million As Prize Purse Triples



FKF President Hussein Mohammed and Sportpesa CEO Ronald Karauri unveils Premier League Logo. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

The Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League has received a massive financial boost after the organizers yesterday announced that the prize money for the 2025/26 season has been increased to Ksh 20 million. The winner will now pocket Ksh 15 million, the runners-up will walk away with Ksh 3 million, and Ksh 2 million will go to the third-place finisher. Speaking while launching the new season in Nairobi, FKF boss, Hussein Mohammed, described

the increase as a significant step towards making the league more competitive and rewarding clubs for their performances on the pitch. "This move will motivate players and clubs to give their very best. It also shows that investment in Kenyan football is beginning to grow," said Hussein. With the new rewards in place, the 25/26 season that kicks off Friday promises heightened competition as clubs battle not only for glory but also for a much-im-

proved financial incentive. Tusker FC gets the season underway on Friday evening, when they take on KCB in the first floodlit match in almost seven years. Kenya Police FC are the defending champions and will play Mara Sugar in their opening fixture. In other first-round matches, AFC Leopards welcome Sofapaka, Kariobangi Sharks square it out with Bandari FC, newly promoted Nairobi United travel to Kakamega Homeboyz, Shabana hosts another newcomer APS Bomet,

while Mathare United and Posta Rangers face off.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Naomi Wafula: Inspiring A New Generation Of Female Golfers To Dream Bigger



By: Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyatimes

Naom Angela Wafula, is breaking barriers on Kenya's fairways as the first female golfer in Kenya to be selected to join the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK).

Already, she's made history, but for her, turning pro was just the beginning. Now, she's aiming even higher, and dreaming bigger than ever before.

Her focus has now shifted to the international tours, where she hopes to not only compete with the world's best but also elevate Kenyan golf. Her eyes are on global events, and she is determined to fly the Kenyan flag high.

"I want to play on the international tours. I want to play on the Ladies European Tour. Go to Q-School. So, for me, achieving my first goal and dream of being the first woman professional on the PGK is just a path," said Naomi.

At just 27 years old, Naomi is not just Kenya's second-ever female professional golfer, but also the first woman to join the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK), and she is redefining the course of women's golf in East Africa.

Already, she has made a significant milestone in her golfing career. Currently, she is in Rwanda for her first international, where she is showcasing her talent on the global level.

This being her first international tournament as a professional golfer, her participation not only marks a personal achievement but also a proud moment for Kenyan golf as a whole.

Back at home, in August, she made her debut in the women's field in the Sunshine Development Tour, East Africa Swing, which resumed with a double-header in Mombasa.

She was the only professional woman on the start list, and she was the highlight in the tournament dominated by men. The tour staged its third leg between August 4 – 6, 2025, at the Nyali Golf & Country Club, which was followed by the fourth leg from August 9 – 11, at

the Diamonds Leisure on the South Coast.

The Sunshine Development Tour is the only golf tour in East Africa that offers Official World Golf Ranking points, which are mandatory for Olympic qualification and a clear pathway to one of the world's top golf tours, the Sunshine Tour.

"With these two tours ongoing right here, my goal is to participate in as many as I can and hopefully earn the opportunity to play on the Sunshine Tour in South Africa or go to Q-School in Europe," she continued to say.

Her journey began far from the pristine greens of Vipingo Ridge. Raised in Kitale, Naomi was introduced to the sport by her aunt Rose Naliaka at the age of six. Rose was a pioneering golfer herself.

"My aunt Rose Naliaka took me from the village and brought me to Nairobi," Naomi recalls. "Auntie Rose taught me tennis, swimming, and eventually golf. I would follow her to tournaments, and that's how it all started," she added.

She says life in Kitale was not easy, as her mother was a seamstress and at times, she couldn't take care of all four children at the same time. She points out that why her aunt Rose brought her to Nairobi and raised her.

At school, Naomi was an all-round athlete, but she chose to stick with golf after graduating. However, her rise was far from smooth. At one point, she stood on the streets of Kitale cooking and selling chips to make ends meet.

"Along my golf journey, I've had amazing people support me. I could not have done this alone, and I just thank God for sending all the people he has sent to me to be able to help me – those who paid my school fees, those who have supported me in travelling for tournaments," explained Naomi

At one point, she went back to Kitale and started cooking and selling chips. "I was also very business-minded, and I wanted to have my own business," she recalls.

One day, while in Kitale, she got a call from a senior official from a betting company who offered to start sponsoring her golf career. This changed things, and she moved back to Nairobi.

"From there, I started playing golf again. My game was still good. One day I got invited to play in the Magical Kenya Ladies Open, part of the

Ladies European Tour, at Vipingo Ridge," she recalled.

After her performance at the event, the team at Vipingo Ridge recognised her potential and offered her the opportunity to stay there, giving her free access to training facilities so she could pursue her dream of turning professional.

After joining Vipingo Ridge, she received significant support for her golfing career, including free access to training facilities.

Since 2022, she has been training at Vipingo Ridge, which has helped her improve her game. In 2023, she became the first female Kenyan to make the cut at the Ladies European Tour, which led to more invitations to play in Europe.

She spent three months in Europe, which had a big impact on her career and solidified her goal to turn professional and play on tour. She then returned to Kenya, and she has been training at Vipingo Ridge.

At Vipingo Ridge, Naomi has been training intensively to improve her golf game. At Vipingo, she has free access to the training range and golf course and is using advanced equipment like the G-squad machine to analyse her performance data.

She has been receiving coaching from PGA Pro David Marsh, who helps her with her swing and provides drills.

Additionally, she also follows a rigorous gym routine five days a week to build strength and maintain her fitness. According to her, the support and facilities at Vipingo Ridge have played a significant role in her development as a professional golfer.

"This has a very big impact on my golfing career at the moment, as now I'm competing with the best at the highest level," she added.

Nothing comes on a silver platter, and for Naomi, she is facing challenges which include the high costs associated with travelling for golf tournaments and the difficulty of securing sponsorships. This is because she joined the professional tour later than others who already had sponsors.

However, she has been able to manoeuvre these challenges by maintaining a strong mentality and a positive outlook and always looking at things positively despite difficulties. She says she believes that if she continues playing and performing well, sponsors will eventually come.

Despite these challenges, Naomi



Naom Angela Wafula, as the first female golfer in Kenya to be selected to join the Professional Golfers of Kenya (PGK).

finds joy in travelling, meeting new people, and experiencing different cultures, which helps her stay motivated.

"Now that I have joined the tour, the PGK Tour, I believe that sponsors will come in, because I have just joined after the other professionals. They had already gotten their sponsors, but I joined later than that. So, I believe if I continue playing, I'll have sponsors coming in. Otherwise, we're travelling all the time to different places, and it's quite expensive," she continued to explain.

To her, what she has been through all along is amazing.

"My golf journey has been amazing, full of wins, full of challenges, and just like any other work, the challenges will always be there. But for me, the strongest strength I have,

I'll say, is my mentality. I have a very strong mentality, and I always look at things positively, despite any challenges," Naomi added.

Her advice to young people is to keep dreaming, maintain a positive mindset, appreciate what they have, and enjoy the process of working toward their goals.

"There are so many girls out there with talent, and I will just tell them to keep dreaming, keep having a positive mindset. You might not have everything you need to make you what you want to be, but for now, work with what you have. Appreciate everything that you have, take it there at a time and always enjoy the process of working towards your goal. Enjoy the process. And that's where the magic happens," she concluded.