



Asset Tokenization In Kenya: Unlocking Digital Wealth Amid Evolving Horizons

As of September 2025, Kenya stands at the forefront of Africa's blockchain revolution, with the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) poised to launch the Kenya Digital Exchange (KDX) by Q4 2025, a regulated platform for tokenizing and trading real-world assets like equities, debt, and commodities.

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The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Creative Rewards
Daily ePAPER

Monday, September 22, 2025

No. 01393 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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News>> Mudavadi: AI Elevates Terrorism Threats In Kenya

P. 8. The Prime Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi stated that AI has elevated threats of terrorism by adding a new layer of complexity to the existing challenges facing Kenya.



News>> Seventh Ura Gate Festival Closes In Style With Call To Safeguard Heritage

P. 12. The curtains fell on the successful seventh edition of the Ura Gate Tharaka-Nithi Cultural Festival on Saturday, with leaders and residents hailing the event as a beacon of unity, cultural preservation, and economic growth.

Gachagua Hits Out Ruto For Disrespecting Ukambani

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DCP Party leader Rigathi Gachagua, Wiper Leader Kalonzo Musyoka, DAP Leader Eugene Wamalwa, and Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti

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Ura Gate Tharaka-Nithi Cultural Festival Ends With Call To Preserve Culture

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

A four-day cultural festival celebration, held at Ura Gate in Tharaka Constituency ended on Saturday with a call for preservation of cultural practices. Held under the theme “Embracing Culture as a Tool for Wildlife Conservation & Socio-Economic Development”, the colourful event was officially opened by Cabinet Secretary Tourism Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, accompanied by Kenya Wildlife Service Director General Prof. Erastus Kanga and Deputy Governor Muisrael. On Friday, Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki attended the fete where he underscored the event’s dual role in celebrating traditions and promoting tourism, especially through the Meru National Park via the Ura Gate entrance. On Saturday, Dr. Kiprop Lagat, the Director of Culture, who represented Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture, the Arts and Heritage, Hon. Hanna Wendot Cheptumo in officially closing the celebrations. Apart from residents of the host county, delegations from Meru, Isiolo, Kitui, and Tana River counties also joined the festival, which was praised as a sign of strengthening regional unity and cultural exchange.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Government has stepped up its campaign against drug and substance abuse through a coordinated multi-agency approach that brings together the Ministry of Health, NAC-ADA, law enforcement agencies, county governments, and faith-based organizations. Speaking in Kirinyaga, the Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, called on clergy and community leaders to take an active role in combating the menace. She underscored the importance of collective responsibility, urging them to guide young people, expose hidden drug dens, and mobilize communities towards healthy and productive living. The PS also used the platform to emphasise the need for Social Health Authority (SHA) registration. She noted that under the new Sponsorship Programme, the government will fully cover contributions for more than 2.2 million vulnerable Kenyans, ensuring access to essential healthcare services.



Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa together with the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ng'eno, chaired a meeting at the Kenya Consulate in New York to prepare for the 80th UN General Assembly. The meeting focused on the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), as well as Kenya's planned side events and bilateral engagements. These initiatives are intended to advance Kenya's foreign policy priorities globally, in line with the UNGA theme, "80 years and more for peace, development and human rights." The session also served to brief and prepare Kenya's delegation for engagements with various international partners during the conference. The meeting was also attended by, Director Climate Change Dr. Pacifica Ogola and Director for Multilateral Environmental Agreements Ms. Linda Kosgei.



Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eng. Eric Mugaa accompanied by the Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation, Mr. Julius Korir, Water Secretary Sam Alima, and Tana Water Works Development Agency CEO Eng. Philip Gichuki, joined the residents of Imenti Central for a series of public participation forums focused on key water projects in the region. Hosted by Moses Kirima, Member of Parliament for Imenti Central, and joined by Meru Deputy Governor Linda Gakii Kiome and Nominated MP Dorothy Muthoni, the delegation engaged directly with the community to receive vital input and project proposals. Among the proposed projects were: Baraka Water Project, Mukongoro Water Project and Kaari Water Project. Once implemented, these transformative projects will provide reliable water supply to over 20,000 residents supporting both domestic use and small-scale irrigation, boosting livelihoods and promoting food security.



Kisumu County Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, and peace advocates join an interdenominational prayer service to mark the 2025 International Day of Peace at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Complex in Kisumu yesterday. This year's celebration, themed "Act Now for a Peaceful World," emphasizes inter-ethnic and intergenerational dialogue to strengthen national unity and build community capacity for non-violent conflict resolution.



Schools in Narok West Sub County have benefited from twenty mobile digital laboratories that were purchased by the government through the National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF). While commissioning the equipment for use, the area Member of Parliament Gabriel Tongoyo, underscored the importance of equipping the Junior Secondary School (JSS) learners with the crucial digital skills. Among the schools that benefited are: Oldany, Ngiito, Olchoro, Kuto, Koi-tamugul, Kipsongol, Agaanga, Oltepesi, and Kiptendet primary schools. The MP also commissioned four classrooms at Keneti primary school and two classrooms at Oldany Primary School that were built and equipped by the NG-CDF. Also launched for construction is Mulot ICT hub that is expected to boost digital literacy and foster innovation, as it will provide essential digital skills vital in the modern job market. Tongoyo, who is also the Chairman of the Security Committee in the National Assembly stated that the hub will foster government services as the residents will easily access online government services at no cost.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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KenGen Olkaria EV Plant To Create 3,000 Jobs

By: KNA

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

Speaking at the close of the three-day Sustainable Energy Conference in Olkaria, Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, Opiyo Wandayi, announced that the EV company will break ground next week for the new facility, which is expected to create over 3,000 direct jobs and an additional 10,000 indirect jobs.

“An Electric Vehicle (EV) company will next week break ground for a manufacturing plant that will create 3,000 direct jobs and 10,000 indirect ones for our local youth,” said CS Wandayi.

The Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) has received a significant boost in its plan to attract green investments at its Olkaria Green Energy Park, with an Electric Vehicle (EV) company set to establish a manufacturing plant at the site.

KenGen has designated 342 hectares of land within its geothermal-rich fields in Naivasha to host investors looking to leverage its reliable and affordable geothermal energy.

The move marks a key step in transforming the Olkaria Green Energy Park into a hub for sustainable industrial development.

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He noted that by utilizing clean and renewable geothermal energy, investors are advancing the government’s sustainable development goals, particularly through Special Economic Zones that encourage climate-smart industrialization.

This announcement follows the recent signing of a USD 1 billion deal between the government, Microsoft, and G42 to build a state-of-the-art data center at the Green Energy Park, underlining Kenya’s growing appeal as a green investment destination.

Wandayi reiterated Kenya’s role in the Vision 300 initiative, which aims to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030, through a USD 90 billion funding program.



He revealed plans by the government in finalizing its Energy Compact Policy, a blueprint designed to prioritize and drive the country’s transition to sustainable energy.

“We are calling on global partners to support Kenya’s ambition of achieving 100% transition to clean energy by 2030,” said Wandayi.

The CS said the government is pursuing a diversified renewable energy portfolio including geothermal, wind, and solar through public-private partnerships, regional cooperation, and adoption of innovative technologies.

He added the plans include the integration of smart grids, efficient energy

storage systems, and affordable clean energy solutions they will ensure steady power supply to consumers.

KenGen Managing Director Eng. Peter Njenga reaffirmed the company’s commitment to expanding geothermal power generation, with a goal to add 1,500 MW of clean energy by 2034.

“KenGen is committed to being a catalyst for a just and inclusive energy transition that prioritizes green growth over fossil fuel dependence,” said Njenga.

KenGen Board Chairman Alfred Agoi called for increased partnerships in clean energy financing noting that sustainable development is deeply tied

to access to clean, reliable energy.

“Clean energy is the lifeblood of sustainable development,” he said, adding that KenGen is heavily investing in research and advanced technologies to guide future renewable energy expansion initiatives.

According to KenGen’s official data, the company has an installed capacity of 1,786 MW, capturing 60% of the national market share.

The current country energy mix includes hydro (826 MW), geothermal (754 MW), thermal (180 MW), and wind (26 MW) with over 90% of KenGen’s power generation coming from renewable sources.

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Mudavadi: AI Elevates Terrorism Threats In Kenya

By: OPCS
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a high-level meeting with the Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), Natalia Gherman, Dr. Mudavadi stated that Kenya continues to confront persistent terrorist threats, with Al-Shabaab remaining the most significant challenge to national and regional security.
- “The group exploits porous borders and instability in Somalia to launch cross-border incursions, using asymmetric tactics such as improvised explosive devices, targeted assassinations, and ambushes against security personnel and civilians”, stated Dr. Mudavadi.
- The bilateral meeting was a sideline event at the United National General Assembly (UNGA. It was held at the Kenyan Mission in New York, USA.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi stated that AI has elevated threats of terrorism by adding a new layer of complexity to the existing challenges facing Kenya.

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Dr Mudavadi noted that the emerging trend in terrorism is the potential exploitation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by terrorist and violent extremist actors.

“AI tools could be used to generate propaganda, manipulate information through deepfakes, automate recruitment messaging, or support cyber-enabled crimes such as phishing and financial fraud,” stated Dr Mudavadi

He emphasized that extremist groups are increasingly turning to online platforms for recruitment and radicalization, targeting vulnerable youth. Dr Mudavadi noted that the situation is compounded by the return and movement of foreign terrorist fighters across the Horn of Africa.

While recognizing the role played by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in supporting Member States, Dr Mudavadi pointed out that Kenya has adopted a multi-dimensional approach to combating terrorism.

“At the legislative and institutional level, the Prevention of Terrorism Act and specialized units such as the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit provide a framework for robust counter-terrorism action; Border surveillance has been reinforced through multi-agency operations and intelligence-led interventions,” noted Dr. Mudavadi.

Dr Mudavadi stated that Kenya is implementing the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE), which empowers county-level forums to lead in prevention, deradicalization, and rehabilitation efforts.

He also pointed out that Kenya continues to engage actively in regional security mechanisms, including



IGAD, the Djibouti Code of Conduct, and the African Union’s peace and security frameworks, while investing in counter-IED capacity, cyber-security, and intelligence cooperation with international partners.

Dr Mudavadi acknowledged that CTED country assessments and follow-up engagements are instrumental in identifying capacity gaps and facilitating targeted technical assistance.

“Kenya also acknowledges CTED’s contribution in mobilizing expertise and partners for counter-IED programming, which is critical to frontline states like Kenya. Beyond technical assistance, CTED plays a vital role in ensuring coordination across the UN system and among

donor partners, thereby enhancing coherence in global counter-terrorism efforts,” noted Dr. Mudavadi

Dr Mudavadi reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment to deepening cooperation with CTED and other partners to strengthen national and regional resilience against terrorism and violent extremism.

He underscored the importance of enhanced CTED engagement in technology transfer, sustainable financing, and greater inclusion of African perspectives in shaping global counter-terrorism priorities.

Ms Gherman said the last time CTED did an assessment on Kenya was in 2016. She said that if Kenya allows, they are willing to conduct

this exercise this year.

“It is about time to conduct an assessments for Kenya. ICT is a useful tool in the counterterrorism. In the hands of a terrorist, ICT is a terrorism weapon,” stated Ms Gherman.

Having been victims of terrorism, Dr Mudavadi assured Ms Gherman that Kenya will support the exercise.

“We have been victims and continue being victims. As a result, are constantly staying threats of people coming to harm us in Kenya. The tech space is moving very fast and the legal framework needs constant review. Even in our education sector, we need to have a basic awareness at an early stage; even if it is not an examinable subject,” stated Mudavadi.



Gachagua Hits Out Ruto For Disrespecting Ukambani

By: MKT Correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

DCP Party leader Rigathi Gachagua has openly criticized President William Ruto over what he perceives as a display of disrespect towards the people of Ukambani.

Gachagua pointed out the recent sacking of former Ketraco CEO John Mudivo, a prominent figure from Ukambani and the President's swift visit to Machakos County immediately afterward.

Gachagua described the move as disrespectful and indicative of a contemptuous attitude towards the Ukambani community, emphasizing that dismissing one of their own and replacing him with tribesmen from Ruto's community underscores a form of tribal bias that undermines national unity.

"It is very disrespectful for the President to sack a competent leader from Ukambani and replace him with his tribesmen. Such actions show out-

right disrespect and despising of the community," Gachagua stated.

He further criticized President Ruto's stance on tribalism, highlighting what he called "the irony" of the President speaking against tribalism while practicing it himself.

Gachagua argued that such contradictions undermine efforts to foster inclusivity and unity among Kenyans.

Addressing the ongoing development issues in Ukambani, Gachagua challenged Ruto to take responsibility for the region's progress.

"It is the President's duty to develop Ukambani. Who is blocking him from delivering development to the people? The community only asks for fair treatment and equitable distribution of resources," he asserted.

Gachagua made the remarks at Calvary Church in Mutituni, Machakos Town Constituency, during the ordination of 21 pastors.

In response to Ruto's recent comment suggesting that the opposition lacks the brains to do development, Gachagua fired back, "Yes, they may lack the brains for theft, corruption,



DCP Party leader Rigathi Gachagua, Wiper Leader Kalonzo Musyoka, DAP Leader Eugene Wamalwa, and Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti at rally

lies, and extrajudicial killings.

But they are the ones fighting for the rights of the people and standing against the misuse of power."

His sentiments were echoed by Wiper Leader Kalonzo Musyoka and other opposition leaders, who condemned the President's approach

and called for respect and fairness towards Ukambani and its people.

Other leaders present included Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) party leader Justin Muturi, Machakos county governor Wavinya Ndeti and several current and former lawmakers.

After the church event, the leaders addressed several public meetings where they urged Kenyans to support their bid to oust the Kenya Kwanza administration from power during the 2027 General Elections

Kenya And Uzbekistan Sign Cooperation Agreement

By: OPCS Team

@themtkenyatimes

Kenya signed bilateral cooperation agreement with the republic of Uzbekistan during the sideline event at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, USA.

The historic agreement was signed by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi and Bakhhtiyor Saidov, Minister of Foreign affairs of Uzbekistan at the Kenyan Mission in New York.

During the event, Dr Mudavadi noted that the signing of the agreement will enhance relations between the two countries.

"The co-operation agreement gives us an opportunity of working together on issues around mining, oil and gas; agriculture and tourism, trade and investments," stated Dr Mudavadi.

Uzbekistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia, bordering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan. The Kenyan



Embassy in Tehran, Iran, oversees Kenya's diplomatic relations with Uzbekistan.

The joint communique released after the event stated among others: "the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uzbekistan has decided to establish diplomatic relations, in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic re-

lations of 18th April 1961, with effect from the date of signing of this joint Communique".

Currently, there is no Uzbek Embassy in Kenya; the nearest Uzbek mission is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which handles visa applications and consular services for Kenyans. However, the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman is accred-



ited to Kenya.

Previously, Kenya and Uzbekistan have engaged through multilateral forums, particularly the United Nations, supporting shared goals in peace, development, and human rights.

In July 2025, the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan requested for Kenya's support for hosting the 79th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2028) in the historic city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

In December 2024, the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan requested for support for observer status of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the African Union. The Government of

Uzbekistan in October of 2010 wrote to inform their decision to support the Kenyan candidature in the position of the member of Radio-regulation Committee and also to the membership in the Council of the International Union of Electro Communication.

Kenya supported a 2023 UN General Assembly resolution, led by the European Union, urging Uzbekistan to continue labor reforms and protect human rights. Kenya's climate initiatives, such as the Climate Change Act 2016 and National Climate Change Framework Policy, align with Uzbekistan's efforts to address environmental challenges, including water scarcity in the Aral Sea region.

Kenyans Urged To Deal With Registered Recruitment Agencies Only

By: Moses Wekesa
@themkenyatimes

Kenyans seeking to work abroad have been urged to only deal with registered recruitment agencies to ensure their safety.

Speaking during a diaspora job recruitment drive at Sigalagala National Polytechnic, the National Domestic chair of the Association of Skilled Migrant Agencies of Kenya (ASMAK), Josphine Muriuki said registered recruitment agencies place job seekers to the right employers who have been vetted.

She noted that they also work with the government to ensure that in case of a distress call from an employee abroad, they quickly intervene and initiate the rescue process adding that those who encounter problems are individuals who use rogue recruitment agencies.

Muriuki urged Kenyans to seek legit

agencies either through the Ministry of Labour and Social protection website, or, visit any National Polytechnic, where they will be assisted and linked up to the right agencies.

The Chair added that they currently accept job seekers who are able to read and write for jobs abroad, who can understand contract forms and any other required documentation before they sign up.

Muriuki said the agencies also ensure all job seekers who are recruited have the necessary skills and qualifications for the jobs they are applying for and those who fall short of the skills are referred to training institutions to polish up, before they can be offered the opportunities.

She urged Kenyans who are unemployed to utilize the opportunities, thanking the government for partnering with recruitment agencies to open up space for youth to get jobs.

The Labor Migration Training Coordinator at the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Japheth



Sakwa said they have ensured that only accredited recruitment agencies participate in the recruitment exercise.

The Agencies must be recognized and approved by both the National Employment Authority (NEA) and

NITA.

He said that NITA ensures that job seekers are given enough time and opportunity to express themselves, noting that those who feel dissatisfied are given a second chance.

Sakwa also urged job seekers who have skills and lack certificates to register with NITA for recognition of prior learning through which they will be awarded certificates to help them secure jobs.

The Mt. Kenya Times



“But She Is A Woman”: Legal Loopholes, Social Immunity, And The Crisis Of Gendered Accountability



By: Maina Wahome
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Slander and libel are seldom punished if they come from women. The law of tort, designed to protect individuals from defamation and reputational harm, is conveniently ignored when the accused is male and the accuser is female.
- In a society that increasingly confuses victimhood with virtue, false sexual allegations have become one of the most devastating weapons, swift, and socially protected. Kara King's *The Power of the Pussy*, once intended as a bold celebration of feminine influence, now reads, in this context, like a blueprint for unchecked manipulation.
- A single accusation, no evidence, no corroboration, is all it takes to bring a man's world crumbling down. Livelihoods vanish.

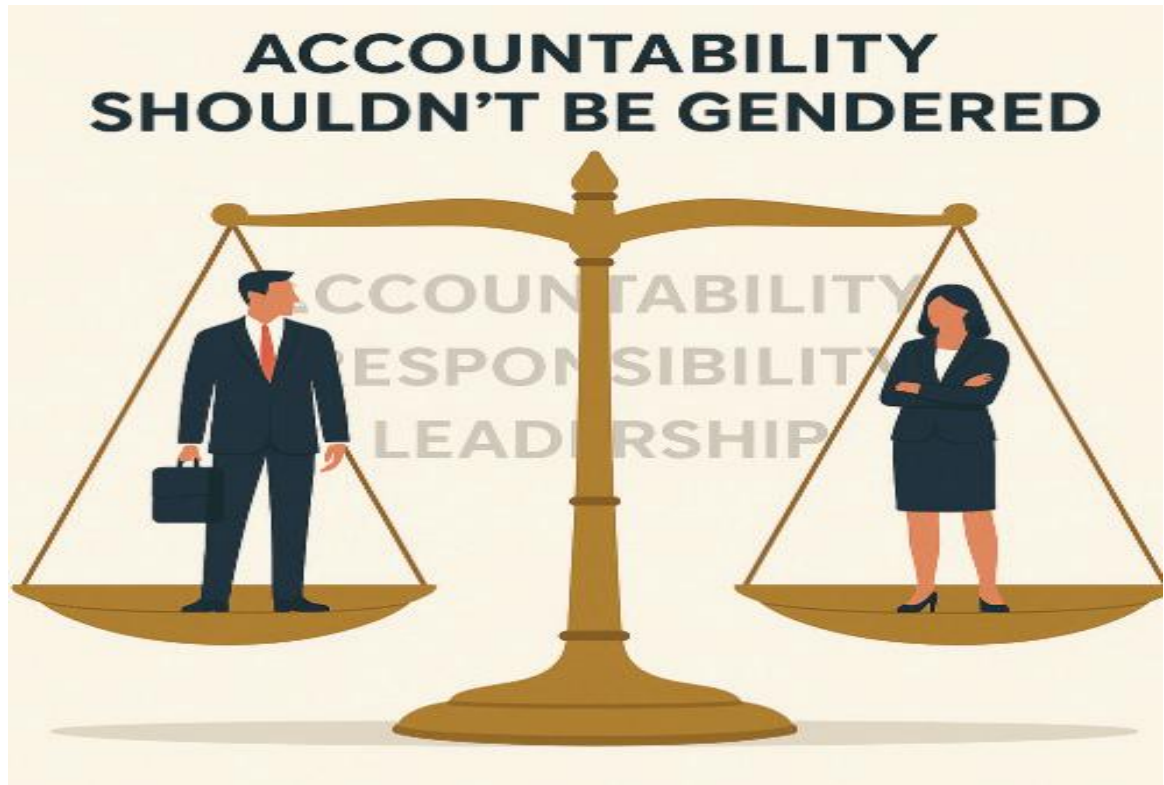
Police are hesitant. The media is sympathetic. Courts are lenient. The silence is systemic. Womanhood itself has become a shield, a ticket to sympathy and protection. Nobody dares ask, “What did you do, because you cannot be flawless?” The answer is always the same: she is a woman.

She can ruin a man's life with a single allegation, break his spirit with a single tear, and weaponize public sympathy with a single post. Society sees her as fragile by default, emotional by nature, and harmless by assumption. We're told to protect her, believe her, excuse her, and never question her choices because she was so broken. Oh, come on. She could be the perpetrator, hiding behind tears and fabricated stories. But few dare say it aloud.

We are losing a generation. We are burying our morals. The phrase “but she is a woman” has evolved into a cultural shield, no longer a simple statement, but a strategy. It echoes in courtrooms, whispers through Human Resources corridors, and dances on the set of daytime talk shows. When she lies, she's “confused.” When she cheats, it's because she was “neglected.” When she destroys, she's simply “healing.” Accountability is rarely demanded. Her version of events is accepted, even when the evidence is flimsy, flippant, or even when logic begs for scrutiny.

There was a female Kikuyu radio presenter who, after an altercation with a women representative, flooded social media with obscenities and expletives, insults so vile even a pig would blush. Did any media house censure her? Suspend her? Demand decency from someone entrusted with the national airwaves? Of course not. Because she's a woman “in the process of healing,” which apparently gives her license to say anything, no matter how vulgar, even while broadcasting to millions of Kenyans: our mothers, siblings, fathers, aunts, and uncles. Instead of condemnation, all they said was, “Don't be like that woman.” Laughable. But this is where we are.

Slander and libel are seldom punished if they come from women. The law of tort, designed to protect individuals from defamation and reputational harm, is conveniently ignored when the accused is male and the accuser is female. In a society that increasingly confuses victimhood with virtue, false sexual allegations have become one of the most devastating weapons, swift, and socially protected. Kara King's *The Power of the Pussy*, once intended as a bold cele-



bration of feminine influence, now reads, in this context, like a blueprint for unchecked manipulation.

A single accusation, no evidence, no corroboration, is all it takes to bring a man's world crumbling down. Livelihoods vanish. Reputations burn. Families fracture. Even when the truth comes out, when it is clear that the allegations were false, there is no consequence. No prosecution. No public apology. Just silence. She walks away, shielded by cultural sympathy and never held accountable for the damage inflicted. Meanwhile, he remains stained by suspicion, forced to live under a shadow society no longer bothers to lift because, after all, she was hurting, she was healing, and who dares to question her story?

Men are forced to defend themselves in a system already rigged against them. When falsely accused, they are expected to prove their innocence. When exonerated, they are expected to forgive and move on. Meanwhile, the accuser, proven wrong, continues her life without consequence. Because she “must have had her reasons anyway, and she is a woman.”

Even within relationships, the imbalance is glaring. Her outbursts are explained as emotional trauma. Her neglect is rebranded as burnout. Her infidelity is reframed as a reaction to unmet needs. However, when a man makes one mistake or simply refuses to tolerate chaos, he's immediately cast as the villain. If the father of her children left, people assume he abandoned them. No one asks what kind of woman she was, simply because she can afford a forged dossier and a sweet, lying tongue.

Watch the endless interviews, listen to the curated heartbreaks on podcasts and social media. The stories rarely include self-reflection. Women cry. They accuse. They say they were not seen, not heard, not loved enough. Out of ten divorce filings, eight come from women. Genuine pain? Maybe. But there's also performance. Victimhood has become a survival tactic, and society claps for it without checking the script.

A woman can enter court without sufficient evidence and walk out with custody, alimony, and a man's reputation in ruins. Meanwhile, a man may present evidence and exhibits, eyewitness accounts, detailed timelines, even forensic clarity; however, he is still met with skepticism. Today's courts don't always function on justice; they operate on brown envelope justice. It comes down to who pays better, performs pain better, appears more broken, and who can summon the loudest social media storm. The narrative outweighs the truth. Counter-suits, no matter how strong, rarely see the light of day.

Behind the scenes, a brigade of bitter online feminists, many burdened with personal failures, no families, and no financial independence, seems obsessed with ensuring that no man finds peace. They operate on hashtags, demonizing men in a blanket of accusation. Their happiness blooms not in fairness but in watching a man fall. Their sympathy flows more readily toward theatrical suffering than toward hard evidence, and they cling to victimhood narratives more tightly than to facts.

Domestic violence discourse is hell-

bent and lopsided. That's why I say marriage is neither heaven nor hell; it is purgatory. I have seen men beaten to a pulp, and the applause on social media is chilling. When a purported wife turns violent, slaps him, shreds his academic documents, smashes his belongings, or threatens to ruin his life, the go-to excuse is: “He must've done something.” But if he dares to defend himself, or even chooses to walk away, he's painted as cold, abusive, or weak. “You cease to be a man the moment you raise your hand against a woman,” they say, even as he shields himself from the fury of a purported wife brandishing hot pans and emotional insults. The rules are rigged; the verdict is rushed; and the sympathy, as always, flows her way because she is a woman: delicate, emotional, misunderstood, and too naïve, they say, to know that a hot pan burns.

She can abandon her children and be described as overwhelmed. She can cheat and still claim she was the one betrayed. She can take the stage as a victim and walk away with applause, event promotions, and brand ambassador deals.

Meanwhile, the man, silent, vilified, and stripped of sympathy, carries the weight alone, often with no support system and even less understanding. Consider the case of some modern-day turban-wearing women in Kikuyu land, who have turned tears into tactics and manipulation into

Seventh Ura Gate Festival Closes In Style With Call To Safeguard Heritage

By: Alex Njeru
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Ministry is committed to supporting such initiatives that uplift communities and preserve our national heritage," said Dr. Lagat.
- On Friday, Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki underscored the event's dual role in celebrating traditions and promoting tourism, especially through the Meru National Park via the Ura Gate entrance.
- "The Ura Gate Cultural Festival is not just a celebration of tradition but also a platform to promote the Meru National Park. Tourism brings a lot of income to this country and through this festival, we are opening more opportunities for Tharaka-Nithi residents," Njuki said.
- The governor assured residents that the Department of Tourism would complete the fencing of unfenced park sections to curb human-wildlife conflict.



Dr Kiprop Lagat

The curtains fell on the successful seventh edition of the Ura Gate Tharaka-Nithi Cultural Festival on Saturday, with leaders and residents hailing the event as a beacon of unity, cultural preservation, and economic growth.

The four-day celebration, held at Ura Gate in Tharaka Constituency under the theme "Embracing Culture as a Tool for Wildlife Conservation & Socio-Economic Development", was officially closed by Dr. Kiprop Lagat, the Director of Culture, who represented Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture, the Arts and Heritage, Hanna Wendot Cheptumo.

Dr. Lagat praised Tharaka-Nithi residents for safeguarding their cultural values, noting that the festival had become a model of how heritage can drive both conservation and development.

"This festival has shown us that culture is not only about entertainment, but it is also a foundation for unity, tourism, and economic empowerment.

The Ministry is committed to supporting such initiatives that uplift communities and preserve our national heritage," said Dr. Lagat.

On Friday, Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki underscored the event's dual role in celebrating traditions and promoting tourism, especially through the Meru National Park via the Ura Gate entrance.

"The Ura Gate Cultural Festival is not just a celebration of tradition but also a platform to promote the Meru

National Park. Tourism brings a lot of income to this country and through this festival, we are opening more opportunities for Tharaka-Nithi residents," Njuki said.

The governor assured residents that the Department of Tourism would complete the fencing of unfenced park sections to curb human-wildlife conflict.

He also urged the national government to fulfill earlier pledges, including the tarmacking of the Gatunga-Ura Gate road and the construction of a cultural arena, first promised by former Tourism CS Najib Balala and reinforced by President William Ruto in 2018 when he was Deputy President.

Njuki further warned against politicizing the cultural event, insisting it should remain a unifying celebration. He called on MCAs to pass a law protecting the festival from "rogue politicians intoxicated with politics" and proposed the creation of a permanent organizing committee chaired by Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael.

The governor also emphasized the revival of traditional foods, cautioning that overreliance on processed meals was weakening community health.

He announced that the county would finance smaller ward-level festivals across Tharaka, Chuka/Igam-bang'ombe, and Maara, which would culminate in the main Ura Gate celebrations.

"This festival is season seven, and it has already achieved a lot. We want

to see it grow further, to become a national and regional cultural brand," Njuki affirmed.

Delegations from Meru, Isiolo, Kitui, and Tana River counties joined the festival, which Njuki praised as a sign of strengthening regional unity and cultural exchange.

The event had earlier been officially opened by Tourism Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, accompanied by Kenya Wildlife Service Director General Prof. Erastus Kanga and Deputy Governor Muisrael.

Miano pledged to support the construction of a modern cultural arena at Ura Gate, drilling of boreholes, and the establishment of a cultural centre within two years.

Over four days, the festival showcased traditional dances, cuisine, fashion, art, and music, drawing thousands of visitors and cementing its place as one of Kenya's most vibrant cultural gatherings.

Residents praised the event as the only consistent platform promoting their heritage and unity. "This festival has not only promoted our culture but also strengthened our resolve to protect the Meru National Park through Ura Gate and advance tourism as a pillar of economic growth for our community," said one participant.

The Special Advisor to the Secretary General, Sabastian Mwangangi, represented UDA Secretary General Sen. Hassan Omar Hassan during the closing ceremony. He lauded the festival's role in fostering unity and aligning with the UDA Bottom-Up

Transformation Agenda, which supports small business ventures, tourism promotion, and sustainable environmental practices.

Also in attendance were senior Secretariat staff, including Head of Protocol Gladys Chebet, Communications Officer John Mwaura, and Head of Security Erick Bett.

In a related development, more than 50 tourism industry stakeholders yesterday launched the inaugural County Tour of Unseen Kenya, an initiative to map and showcase Kenya's hidden gems across all 47 counties.

The campaign highlighted the Ura Gate Cultural Festival and the biodiversity of Meru National Park, which is home to the Big Five, 427 bird species, and the rare pancake tortoise.

From the rhythms of the Ura Gate Cultural Festival to the breathtaking landscapes of Meru and Kora National Parks, the movement positions Kenya as a living mosaic of untold stories, vibrant cultures, and natural wonders.

Through immersive cultural experiences, community-led tourism ventures, and sustainable practices, stakeholders hope to place Tharaka-Nithi and Kenya as a whole on the global tourism map.

The seventh edition closed on a high note, with leaders and residents expressing optimism that the Ura Gate Cultural Festival would continue to grow into a national and regional cultural brand.

Kindiki Roots For Women Economic Empowerment

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has reaffirmed the government's commitment to uplifting women and grassroots communities through targeted investments in infrastructure, financial inclusion and social empowerment programmes.

Speaking during a Women Economic Empowerment Forum in Mashuuru, Kajiado East, the Deputy President said the Kenya Kwanza administration is prioritizing road development, modern market facilities, electricity connectivity and affordable housing to boost small-scale businesses and improve livelihoods.

Kindiki announced that 12 fresh produce markets are under construction across Kajiado County at a cost of Sh1.4 billion, alongside affordable housing projects worth Sh10 billion, which are expected to improve living standards and create jobs.

He added that the housing programme has already created employment for over 4,000 youth in the country, engaging them as masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and

painters.

The DP further disclosed that Sh705 million is being used to fund last-mile electricity connections targeting 3,500 households and rural institutions across all constituencies in the county. Plans are in place to scale up this investment to support more businesses such as tailoring, agribusiness and food processing.

"We are deliberately investing in infrastructure and financial empowerment to create a supportive environment for women entrepreneurs to grow and prosper," Kindiki said.

Kajiado Woman Representative Leah Sankaire urged the government to prioritize the re-carpeting of the 63-kilometre Isara (Emali Junction)-Mashuuru-Imaroro road, saying its poor state continues to cause losses for women transporting milk and fresh produce.

"Women transporting milk and fresh produce are incurring huge losses because of the poor state of this road. Fixing it will safeguard their livelihoods," Sankaire said.

In response, Kindiki assured residents that the road has been factored into government infrastructure plans, adding that repairs will begin soon. He noted that the road will ease traffic



congestion along the Mombasa-Nairobi highway and connect with the recently completed Isinya-Ngong-Suswa road, enhancing trade between Kajiado, Narok and other neighboring counties.

The Deputy President also participated in a resource mobilization drive for 70 women enterprises and groups from Kajiado East, urging beneficiaries to invest the funds collectively for growth instead of dividing them among individuals.

"Use these resources strategically to grow your businesses and transform your communities for sustainable development," he advised.

The event was attended by Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku, Former Governor David Nkedianye, Kajiado East MP Kakuta Maimai, Garissa Township MP Major Dekow, Taveta MP John Bwire, Kisii Woman Representative Dorice Donya, Trans Nzoia Woman Representative Lilian Siyoi, Nairobi Woman Representative Es-

ther Passaris, MCAs, grassroots leaders and residents.

Women groups welcomed the government's initiatives, saying improved infrastructure, electricity access and modern market facilities will go a long way in strengthening their enterprises. They pledged to work closely with the government to advance economic empowerment across the county.

"But She Is A Woman": Legal Loopholes, Social Immunity, And The Crisis Of Gendered Accountability

Contd from page 11

marketing.

These women masterfully exploit social media's emotionally charged audiences, painting their husbands as villains while building personal brands out of domestic chaos. As Robert Greene wrote in *The 48 Laws of Power*, "Reputation is the cornerstone of power. Protect it with your life." However, in these gendered theatrics, men's reputations are disposable, while women's narratives are shielded, sold, and sanctified. The society is feminized, and so is the brain of many.

Men must stop settling for wives who stress them more than they respect them. This emotional erosion has driven many into silence, drunkenness, and utter disillusionment with marriage. In today's lopsided

society, men are burdened with the role of not just providers, but emotional tutors expected to teach grown women how to be decent spouses, how to communicate, how to behave, how to love.

That's not companionship; it's babysitting disguised as duty. To the men still bending over backwards to prove their worth in a system that rewards female fragility and punishes male endurance, stop. You are not failing because you're broken. You are exhausted because you're carrying the emotional debt of someone who won't grow. You are not weak for walking away. You are wise for protecting your sanity. You owe no one, not your uncles, not your parents, not a bishop, a sheikh, a reverend, or even your family, an explanation for choosing peace over punishment.

Justice is meant to be impartial, to serve anyone who deserves it, regardless of gender, wealth, or

status. However, in today's world, justice no longer wears the blindfold. It peeks. It sees her tears, her trembling lips, her performance, and turns its back on the facts. Perjury is ignored if she's emotional. Prosecutorial misconduct is tolerated if she's "traumatized." The scales are tipped by sentiment, not substance. Equality looks noble in law books; however, in reality, it kneels at the altar of unchallenged emotion, social media outrage, social status, and gendered expectations. This distorted version of justice mirrors the tragedy of Ron Williamson in John Grisham's *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town*. Williamson was wrongfully convicted, betrayed by a legal system more concerned with soothing public outrage than uncovering the truth. Today, countless men find themselves in similar situations: accused without evidence, tried in the court of public opinion, and sacrificed to a system that too often



chooses emotion over evidence.

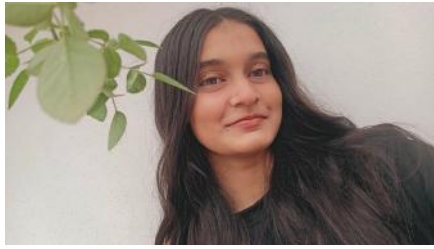
She lies. She cries. She manipulates. She breaks. When the dust settles, she's still hailed as brave, a survivor, a phoenix, a misunderstood strong woman. You, the man? You're simply told to be strong. To endure. To absorb the chaos in silence because you're a man, expected to tolerate her inadequacies, her cruelty, even her madness, without complaint. If

it breaks you, if it kills you slowly from the inside out, society will still whisper that you failed, not because you were weak, but because she is a woman.

Short Bio

Maina Wahome is a linguistics researcher at Diponegoro University in Semarang, Indonesia.

Echoes Of Her Tears



Her day begins with taunts she never sought.

She cared for the family, she carried the weight,
But when she broke down, none stayed to relate.
Men roam freely beneath the night sky,
While women live caged, and no one asks why.

When a boy is born, the house fills with cheer,
But for a girl, they hang their heads in fear.
As if she would burn the home to ash,
Not knowing she's the flame that makes it flash.

In this world, where women whisper, "I wish I were a boy,"
Men, why do you rob them of their joy?
Don't they deserve the freedom you claim,
It is your behavior that fuels this shame.

Now even relatives can't be believed,
For pain too often comes from those received.
Every woman's tear, every young girl's cry,
We demand justice, and don't ask why.

Saniya Kumari

A woman, a homemaker, a babysitter, a husband's toy,
Used for pleasure, stripped of joy.
Someone's maid, yet someone's queen,
Her endless efforts are seldom seen.

A world without women, what would remain?
No love, no care, no comfort to sustain.
No stability, no family, no sweetness in sight,
A hollow earth with no warmth, no light.

Men call her fragile, as gentle as a flower,
Yet ignore her strength, her pain, her power.
The one who gives life, endures the strife,
Sacrificing herself to gift the world life.

She skips her meals, her health, her joy,
Only to be told, "For me, you're just a toy."
Some may respect her, but many will not,

Beyond Filters: The Beauty Within



"Mirror, Mirror, on the wall,
Who is the prettiest of all?"
"Hmm... There are a few,
But surely, it's not you."

I smirked and turned towards filters,
Made my nose sharper and skin lighter,

My hair longer and my glow brighter,
And saw a beautiful face that could flatter.

"Hey Mirror, What say you NOW?"
It grinned, "You are surely a WOW".

It filled pride but stirred my inner mind.
So, I stand with the same face and heart so kind.
Telling myself firmly, "I am beautiful inside,
I need no filters to create a fake me outside."

Raddhika.M,
Creative Writers,
Content Writer,
Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu,
India.

Your Degree Is Just A Piece Of Paper, Your Education Is Seen In Your Behavior



Psychology says, Education is the desirable behavioural modification
It's not just a mere transmission of knowledge
Indeed a customized propagation of values and ethics

The morality exposes your proficiency
The broadmindedness telecasts your insight
Education empowers you to become a better version
Also prohibits to fall victim to societal issues
Failing to abide, your degree will just be a piece of paper.

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

Smile And Relax



Negativity vanishes, as smiles shine bright,
Like radiant glow, from the morning light,
Worries dissolve, like mist in the sun's rays,
A smile works wonders, in its own way.

With a smile, magic and miracles will happen
It's powerful, and worth more than gold,
So smile and relax, and let your heart be light,
And watch your world, transform with happiness

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

Smile and relax, they kill all negativity,
All burdens become light, as positivity resides
Don't take life heavy, let all worries fade away
Relax, and let your spirit be cool

There's no time or energy to waste in fear,
Crying won't change, but smiling brings cheer,
Smile, and great things will happen, you'll see,
A smile is a tonic, for all

My Father



Thinking of me, you forgot yourself,
When I was in sorrow, you caressed my head.
If I made mistakes, you corrected them,
Because of you, I lack nothing today.
My father, the blessing given by God.

You prayed to God for my happiness,

No matter what happened, you believed in me.
Like a mountain, strong and unshakable – my father,

Without you, I am no one in this world,
You are the king of my paradise, my father.

Sometimes my refuge, my stronghold,
I have no brother – you are my protector.
Five angels – your five daughters,
In this world, your five trusts.
My father, the trust given by God.

When you call me "my daughter,"
I would lay down my life at your feet.
Say, "My dear daughter, my life's joy."
Your words are golden, your face shining with light,
My father, you are the soul given to me by God.

Odayaveva Madinabonu Ulugbekovna, born on September 7, 2005, in Kashkadarya region, is a 3rd-year student at the Dehqonobod Abu Ali ibn Sino Public Health Technical School.

A Letter To A Selfless Heart



It's not possible by all the hearts
It happened only by (Brinda madam) you
No one deny my words as not true

Selfless heart works for others
Finds happiness from other's smiles

My heart felt gratitude to you
Always I am grateful for you

R. Gayathri
Bt Asst Teacher
PUMS Elumichanahalli
Dharmapuri Dt
Tamil Nadu, India

Born somewhere in the world
Living in a new world of words

Connected everyone by their thoughts
Everyone turned as writers

Gradually grown into authors and editors

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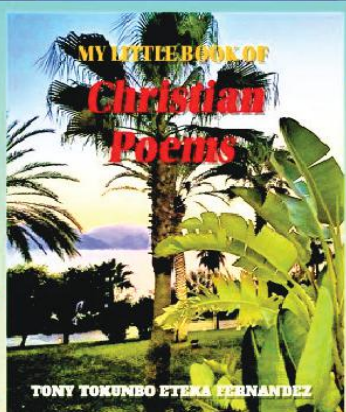
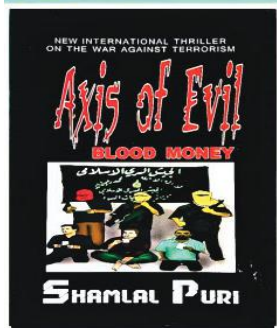
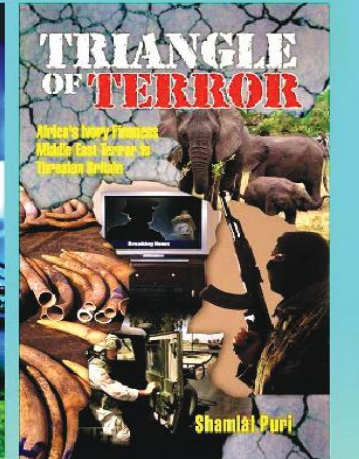
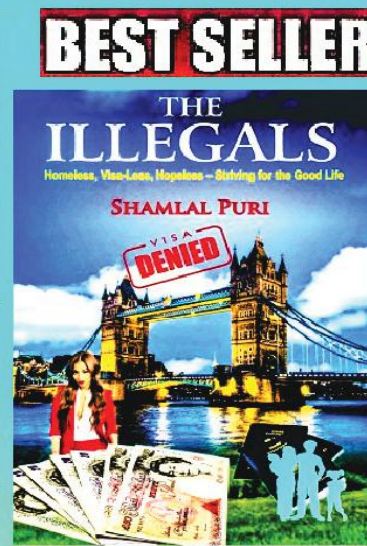
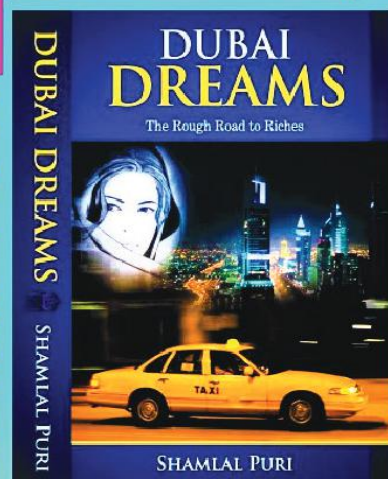
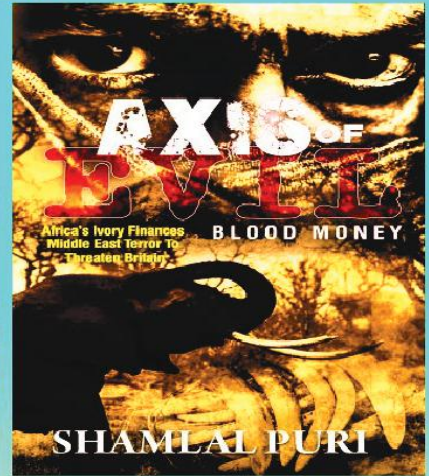
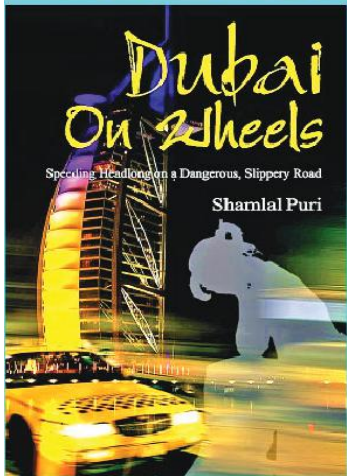
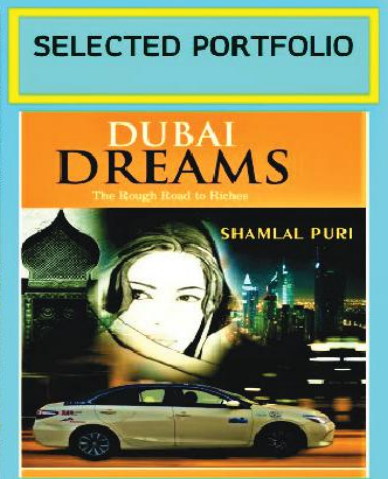
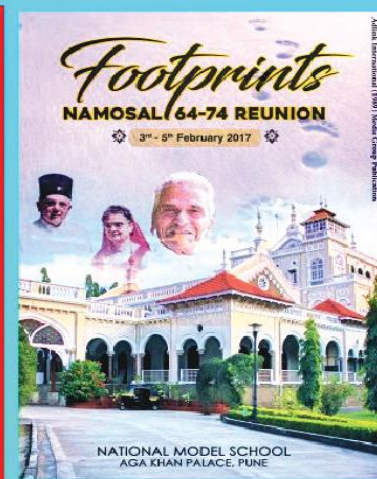
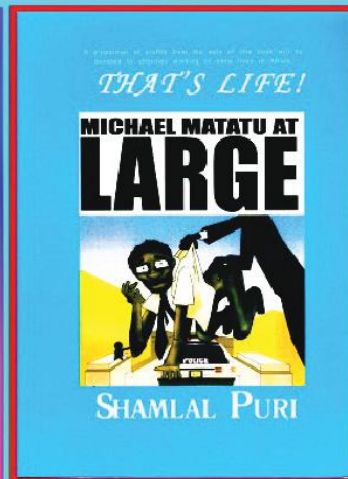
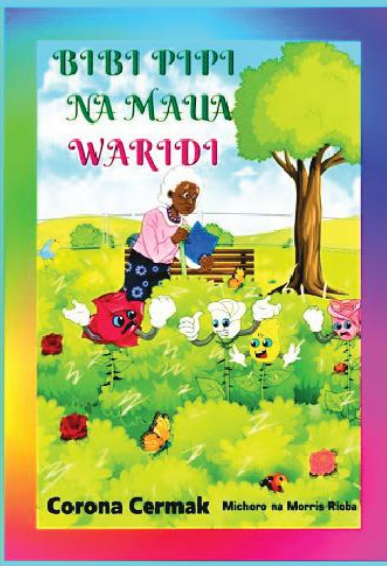
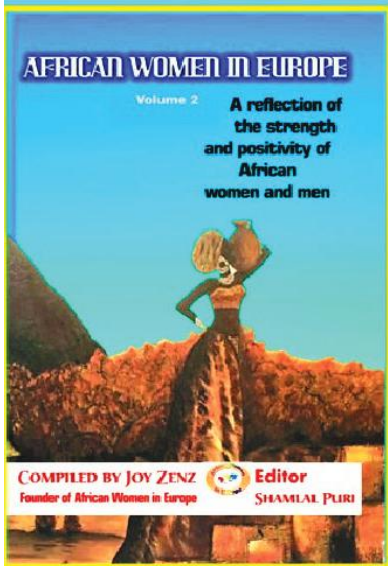
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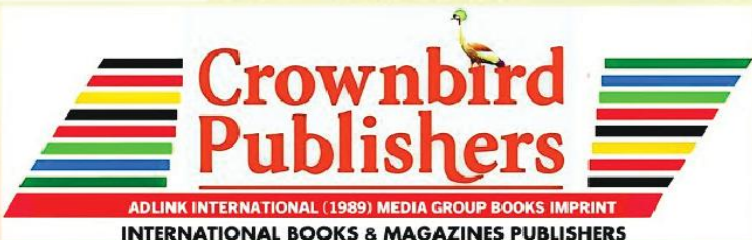
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POLITICS

Court Ruling Strengthens Matiang'i's Resolve To Face Ruto In 2027



By: Elizabeth Angira

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a thanksgiving Sabbath service at Nyamache Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kisii County, Dr. Matiang'i dismissed his critics, declaring that he would be on the 2027 presidential ballot.
- "Those who have been celebrating in bars that I will not be at the ballot in 2027 should now brace for the real duel, because I will be there as a candidate," he said, adding that the court victory had strengthened his resolve to vie for the top seat.
- With his eyes set firmly on the presidency, Matiang'i assured supporters of his determination.
- "I am working towards that seat with a lion's heart. That is what I am out for, and by God's grace, we will achieve it," he said.



Former CS Interior Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Kisii Governor Simba Arati during thanksgiving Sabbath at Nyamache. Photo /Elizabeth Angira

Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred Matiang'i has reaffirmed his presidential ambitions; just a day after the Court of Appeal cleared him in the long-running contempt of court case.

Speaking during a thanksgiving Sabbath service at Nyamache Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kisii County, Dr. Matiang'i dismissed his critics, declaring that he would be on the 2027 presidential ballot.

"Those who have been celebrating in bars that I will not be at the ballot in 2027 should now brace for the real duel, because I will be there as a candidate," he said, adding that the court victory had strengthened his resolve to vie for the top seat.

With his eyes set firmly on the presidency, Matiang'i assured supporters of his determination.

"I am working towards that seat with a lion's heart. That is what I am out for, and by God's grace, we will achieve it," he said.

The former CS, who was previously fined alongside ex-Immigration PS Gordon Kihalangwa and former Inspector General of Police Joseph Boinet for failing to release exiled lawyer Miguna Miguna, welcomed the Court of Appeal's ruling quashing the fines. Justices Wanjiru Karanja, Lydia Achode, and Joel Ngugi faulted the High Court's earlier decision, ruling that due process had not been followed.

"It is now clear that I was working for the good of our people, there was no ill motive," Matiang'i said, stressing that the ruling vindicated his service in government.

The thanksgiving service also marked an unexpected reunion, as Kisii Governor Simba Arati and former Borabu MP Ben Momanyi both of whom had appeared to drift from Matiang'i's camp joined him publicly.

Arati, who has recently aligned himself with President William Ruto, admitted he had shifted focus temporarily to attract development projects for

the county.

"While I am fully conscious that we have two years to the next elections, I found it convenient to join government so that the President can extend development projects to us. But be assured, I will lead your campaign team across the country," Arati said.

Momanyi, on his part, rallied Gusii leaders to unite behind Matiang'i, describing him as the only formidable candidate capable of unseating President Ruto.

"We have been taken for granted as a community for far too long. It is time to rally together behind Dr. Matiang'i," he urged.

Matiang'i echoed their calls for unity, warning against what he termed deliberate attempts to divide the Abagusii.

"We want to avoid the curse of hatred and disunity. Some have been sent with money bags to sow division among us, but we will bring them home," he said, adding that leaders

could serve government interests without betraying their community.

He also criticized the current administration's performance, citing widespread looting and a failing education sector.

"Parents are suffering, and every day we wake up to news of public funds being looted. This country is headed south, but God willing, we will fix the mess," Matiang'i said.

Mocking the recent delegations to State House, he likened it to a new hotel in Nairobi.

"There is a restaurant that has opened, as Governor Arati said. Go, eat well, finish the food, but when the time comes, cast your votes in favor of Dr. Matiang'i so that we can move forward," he remarked.

The thanksgiving service was also attended by governorship aspirant Dr. Enock Ondari, alongside several local leaders and congregants.

Love And Stages Of A Relationship



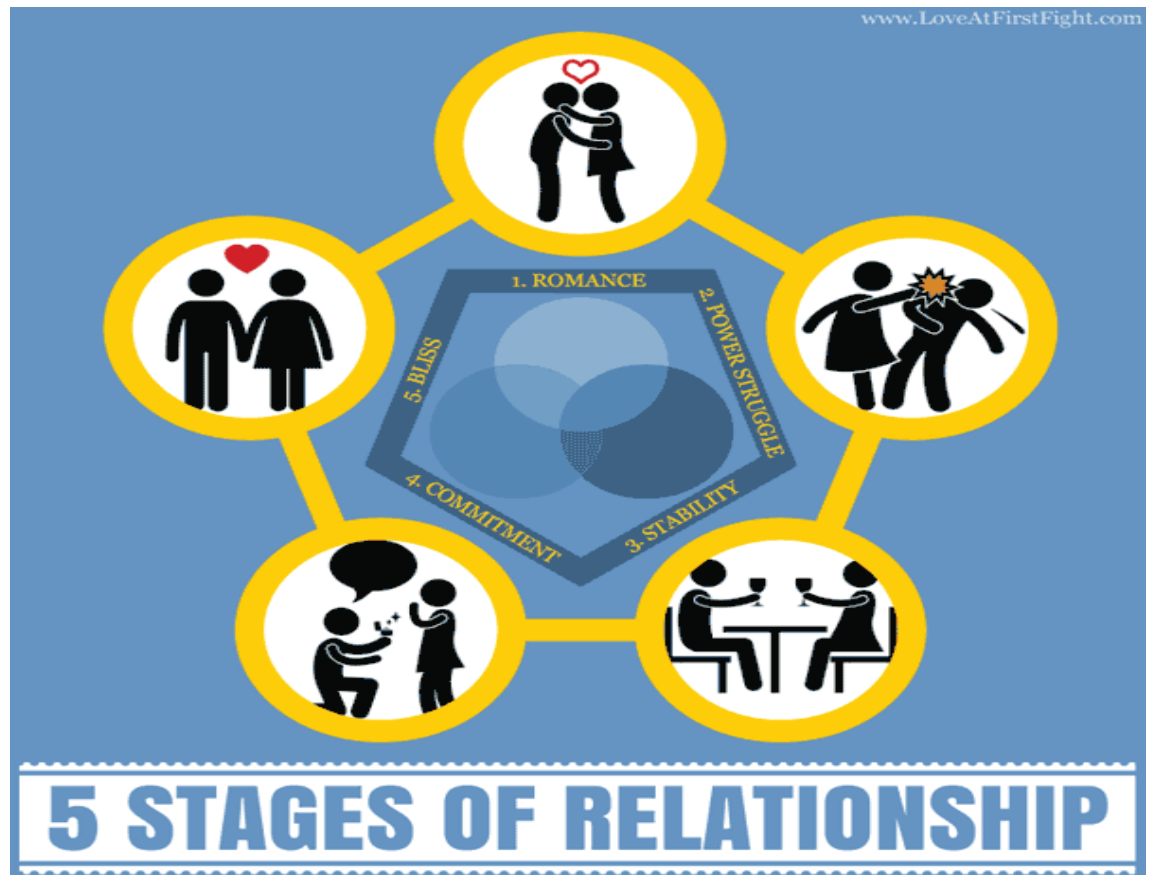
By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyentimes

The word relationship has been used all over to represent a love circle. But have you ever thought about Real life Relationships and how they are. Real life relationships are not necessarily as straightforward. Romantic relationships have different stages, the first of which is falling in love. Everything begins from two people seeing something interesting in each other and finding, to their joy, that the feeling is mutual. When the feeling is mutual there is always something that is built up. Let us use the 'WE' pronoun. We see a lot of similarities to ourselves in the person we love, and this resemblance that we experience brings a couple who are in love closer. A couple who have just fallen in love see each other in a strongly positive light and can see no faults in each other even when there are many faults in them, only an outright fulfilment of their dreams.

After the first flush has faded, the differences between the lovers begin to emerge. The falling in love stage ends when you start noticing differences as well as similarities in the person you love. This phase is followed by the adjustment stage, during which the lovers find that the loved one doesn't look at life the same way as they do and that some of the differences between them cause friction. An intercultural couple's life together is affected both by their personalities and cultural backgrounds. Couples awaken to the differences in personalities and cultural backgrounds during the adjustment stage, and sometimes the very thing that made the loved one so special and wonderful at first becomes annoying. The idea of changing the loved one sneaks into one's mind: "Couldn't you be a little less yourself and more like me?"

During the adjustment stage, a couple seeks ways to combine the things that they have in common and reconcile the things that are different about them. A couple may then go through an "international match" in their relationship during which the different cultural customs and values are weighed. During the adjustment stage, a couple gets used to their life together. Spouses may experience feelings of disappointment and may ask themselves: "Is this the wrong person for me after all? Are we too different?"

Moving beyond the complications of the adjustment stage is easiest if the spouses can deal with their differences in such a way that they both feel that they are being understood.



Worth Noting:

- Moving beyond the complications of the adjustment stage is easiest if the spouses can deal with their differences in such a way that they both feel that they are being understood.
- This requires flexibility and the ability to find compromises that don't require either partner to give up their basic needs or, in other words, that which is felt to be essential to life and a romantic relationship. If a couple gets through the pitfalls of the adjustment phase, they move on to the next stage: love.
- Love shows as commitment to the relationship, and in both spouses feeling that they are being listened to and accepted as who they are.

This requires flexibility and the ability to find compromises that don't require either partner to give up their basic needs or, in other words, that which is felt to be essential to life and a romantic relationship. If a couple gets through the pitfalls of the adjustment phase, they move on to the next stage: love.

Love shows as commitment to the relationship, and in both spouses feeling that they are being listened to and accepted as who they are. The couple have accepted that the relationship, as well as both parties involved in it, will change over the course of time and that they won't always agree about everything. The spouses also understand that they can't take the relationship for granted and that it takes work to keep the relationship a happy one. Fortunately, it's possible to re-experience the first flush and fall in love with the spouse again and again.

A good relationship is one where there is enough room for the feelings and needs of both partners. The fulfilment of needs is in direct proportion to how satisfied— or dissatisfied—the spouses are in their relationship. That's why it's important to share your wishes and needs with your spouse; neither partner can be a mind-reader. Open discussion is the key to understanding your partner, and both spouses carry the responsibility for having effective conversations. The skills of talking and listening are worth their weight in gold in a relationship.

Functional communication is the foundation of a happy romantic relationship, but it isn't always simple – especially if both spouses speak a language together that isn't the native language of either. It's worthwhile for couples to make sure that they have at least one strong shared language and to learn each other's mother tongue, at least a little. In addition to verbal communication, interaction skills are composed of non-verbal communication, and these skills can be learned and are well worth learning. The golden rules of interaction are:

- Organise your words so that it's possible for your spouse to understand you and so that misunderstandings are avoided. Speak with respect for your spouse.
- When you're listening, try to put yourself in your spouse's position and understand his or her experiences, even if you have a conflicting opinion on the matter.

Culture contains all the information that is passed on from one generation to the next, for example, in the form of language, habits and customs. People consider the values that are characteristic of their own cultures important and define through these ideas what is "normal" and "abnormal", wanted and not wanted. Our ways of expressing ourselves and our feelings – happiness and sorrow, satisfaction and irritation – are also influenced by our cultural background. In other words, everyone of us is, to some extent, the product of

the culture we grew up in. Culture also affects the way we perceive the world and interpret our experiences. People can interpret the same situation in many different ways and, although the interpretations are different, they are all correct in their own way. Differences in cultures bring their own challenges to an intercultural romantic relationship, but dissimilarities in personalities and world views don't always cause problems. Many people would even find a relationship with someone who was exactly the same boring and too predictable. Opposites may complement each other and make a relationship more balanced and harmonious. For example, a thoughtful and quiet spouse may find it helpful when their partner takes responsibility for tending to social relationships, and a spouse who is used to speaking before thinking may learn a lot from one who thinks things over first. Similarly, a person from a culture that emphasises individuality may appreciate their spouse's broader idea of what constitutes a family, and a person from a communal culture the possibility for more independent decision-making. People have their assumptions and preconceived ideas about cultures and sometimes these are misleading. Outsiders, as well as spouses themselves, have preconceived ideas about cultures. Assumptions about cultures may be positive or negative, and stereotypes are common.

Asset Tokenization In Kenya: Unlocking Digital Wealth Amid Evolving Horizons



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

As of September 2025, Kenya stands at the forefront of Africa's blockchain revolution, with the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) poised to launch the Kenya Digital Exchange (KDX) by Q4 2025, a regulated platform for tokenizing and trading real-world assets like equities, debt, and commodities. This initiative, backed by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and developed in partnership with DeFi Technologies, SovFi, and Valour, aims to integrate blockchain infrastructure with national ID systems for seamless investor access. Concurrently, the Virtual Assets Service Provider (VASP) Bill, tabled in Parliament in April 2025, establishes formal oversight for stablecoin issuers and tokenization platforms, marking a shift from the Central Bank of Kenya's earlier cautions to a structured framework that promotes innovation while curbing financial crimes. These verifiable milestones underscore Kenya's rapid pivot toward a digital asset ecosystem, where the global tokenization market is projected to reach \$1,244.18 billion this year, with real estate alone tokenized to \$20 billion in value.

Asset tokenization refers to the process of converting ownership rights of physical or intangible assets into digital tokens on a blockchain. This presents a paradigm shift for Kenya's financial landscape. By fractionalizing high-value assets like real estate or land titles into tradable tokens, it democratizes investment opportunities in a country where the real estate sector contributes about 10% to GDP but remains plagued by illiquidity and high entry barriers. Platforms like My Shamba Digital and Kenya Security Tokenization (KST) are already pioneering this, using blockchain to create tamper-proof digital ledgers for land deeds, enabling fractional ownership and automated transfers via smart contracts. This aligns with Kenya Vision 2030's goals of capital market deepening, as tokenized assets can be issued, traded, and settled in seconds, bypassing traditional intermediaries and re-



ducing costs by up to 50% through efficiency gains. In essence, tokenization transforms static assets into programmable, liquid instruments, fostering a more inclusive economy where a Nairobi teacher could own a sliver of rural farmland and earn passive rental yields in stablecoins.

One of the most compelling opportunities lies in financial inclusion, particularly for Kenya's underserved youth and rural populations. With over 55 million citizens targeted for digital economy onboarding via initiatives like the government-endorsed Kenya Digital Token (SKDT) on Solana, tokenization could channel micro-investments into real-world assets, generating yields from tokenized agriculture or housing. For instance, a farmer in Kitui could tokenize crop futures or land parcels, attracting global buyers via the KDX and earning in XLM or stablecoins, as seen in early Stellar network pilots. This not only diversifies revenue streams projected to boost NSE trading fees and staking rewards; but also aligns with the CMA's regulatory sandbox, which has tested tokenized real estate products since 2023, proving a 20x potential growth in real-world asset (RWA) markets over five years. By lowering minimum investments from millions to thousands of shillings, tokenization empowers the 70% unbanked demographic, turning passive savers into active stakeholders and accelerating economic dignity.

Beyond inclusion, tokenization

promises enhanced liquidity and market diversification, positioning Kenya as Africa's fintech hub. Illiquid assets like property, which often take months to sell, become tradable 24/7 on blockchain platforms, potentially unlocking \$800 billion in untapped real estate value continent-wide. The NSE's phased KDX rollout, culminating in Q2 2026, will list exchange-traded products (ETPs) from Valour by Q3 2025, drawing international capital while integrating with M-Pesa for seamless fiat ramps. This could diversify Kenya's capital markets, introducing RWAs as a new class alongside stocks, and foster cross-border trade; imagine tokenized Kenyan coffee commodities swapped with Brazilian soy via Chainlink interoperability. Early adopters like IMBA, leveraging the VASP Bill for compliant land-backed tokens, highlight how this could reduce fraud losses, which currently drain billions annually from property mismanagement, while attracting institutional players like BlackRock eyeing African RWAs.

Yet, regulatory ambiguity remains a formidable challenge, tempering tokenization's momentum. While the VASP Bill and IMF-backed policy drafts outline licensing for VASPs and risk assessments, key gaps persist: tokenized assets' classification as securities triggers CMA oversight, but cross-border enforcement is murky, with tokens legal in Europe potentially unenforceable in Kenya. The 3% Digital Asset Tax (DAT)

from the 2023 Finance Bill adds fiscal uncertainty, as it ambiguously covers security tokens, deterring issuers amid fears of double taxation on yields. Moreover, the Central Bank of Kenya's historical wariness evident in 2015 warnings, has evolved but not fully resolved inter-agency silos; without harmonized AML/CFT standards across CMA, CBK, and KRA, platforms risk compliance whiplash. As the draft National Policy on Virtual Assets seeks public input until January 2025, stakeholders must prioritize clear definitions for "controllable electronic records" to enable tokenized collateral in loans, lest innovation stalls in bureaucratic limbo.

Technological and infrastructural hurdles further complicate adoption, particularly in a nation where internet penetration hovers at 40% and rural bandwidth lags. Blockchain's energy demands clash with Kenya's renewable-heavy grid, while integrating legacy systems like land registries with decentralized ledgers requires massive overhauls, as seen in KST's ongoing pilots. Cybersecurity risks loom large: with 49% of institutional investors citing hacks as a top barrier globally, Kenya's nascent ecosystem faces amplified threats from phishing or smart contract vulnerabilities, exacerbated by low digital literacy only 30% of adults grasp basic crypto concepts. Scalability issues, such as Hedera's 40% price dip despite RWA partnerships, underscore the "cold start" problem: without criti-

cal mass users, liquidity evaporates, trapping early tokenized projects in low-volume trades. Addressing these demands public-private investments in education and hybrid infrastructure, like Solana's AI frameworks for SKDT, to bridge urban-rural divides.

Finally, the dual-edged sword of opportunities and challenges in Kenya's tokenization journey hinges on balanced governance and inclusive growth. On one hand, it could catalyze Vision 2030 by injecting liquidity into affordable housing tokenizing units to crowdfund deficits of 2 million low-income homes while curbing fraud through immutable ledgers. On the other, unchecked proliferation risks widening inequalities if high-net-worth urbanites dominate early platforms, or if volatility from global crypto winters erodes trust. Success demands adaptive policies: expanding the CMA sandbox for RWA testing, fostering youth grants via SKDT proceeds, and international collaborations like ChainUp's August 2025 webinar on African tokenization. If navigated astutely, tokenization won't just digitize assets; it will redefine prosperity, turning Kenya's blockchain bets into a continental blueprint for equitable wealth creation. As NSE CEO Frank Mwitii envisions, this is no longer hype; it's programmable infrastructure for a bolder economic future.

The writer is a legal researcher and writer

U.S. California Bans Masks For Immigration Agents During Operations

By: Xinhua News Agency
 @themtkenyatimes

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced Saturday that he had signed a package of laws aimed at protecting immigrants in the U.S. state, with the No Secret Police Act being a first-in-the-nation measure that prohibits officers from wearing masks.

Speaking at a high school in Los Angeles, Newsom said he signed five bills into law. The No Secret Police Act broadly bars federal and local law enforcement officers from wearing face masks while performing their duties. Newsom also signed a bill requiring state and federal law enforcement officers to identify themselves by displaying their badge numbers or names while on duty, unless working undercover. The other three bills signed Saturday restrict Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) access to schools and daycare facilities, ban hospitals and health care providers from shar-

ing sensitive information or allowing agents to enter emergency rooms without a warrant, and require family notification when agents appear on school campuses. "It's like a dystopian sci-fi movie," Newsom said at the event. "Unmarked cars, people in masks, people quite literally disappearing." "No due process, no rights. Immigrants have rights and we have the right to stand up and push back," he added.

This law package was signed during U.S. President Donald Trump's wide-ranging deportation program. The governor later posted on X that the new laws were "a direct response" to Trump's "lawless immigration raids and arrests in California." "California Democrats began drafting the immigration-related bills soon after Trump took office this January. Their efforts intensified after aggressive immigration crackdowns in Southern California sparked weeks of protests in Los Angeles and led to a National Guard deployment." All of this legislative resistance is to protect Angelenos from their own federal government. That is profound," Los Angeles Mayor

Karen Bass said at Saturday's event, where she joined Newsom and other local Democratic leaders. ICE has faced criticism from residents and communities in California for allowing agents to wear face-covering masks and plain clothes, citing threats to officers and their families.

In a statement Saturday, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Tricia McLaughlin denounced the new laws signed by Newsom as "despicable" and "a flagrant attempt to endanger our officers." Legal experts said the measures may offer limited protection to immigrants and will likely face constitutional challenges from the federal government. Kevin Johnson, an immigration law professor and former dean of the UC Davis School of Law, stated that the legislation may have a marginal impact on federal enforcement operations. He noted that a 2018 California law restricting immigration arrests at superior court buildings did not stop the Trump administration from detaining people at courts this year. "The federal government is going to continue doing what it's doing, in one form or another," Johnson said.



California Governor Gavin Newsom.

"I do think the legislation gives some hope and optimism to communities that feel under fire, vulnerable and basically hated by the federal government."

Sudan Accuses Paramilitary Forces Of Mosque Bombing In El Fasher That Killed Over 70

By: Xinhua
 @themtkenyatimes

Sudan's government on Friday accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of bombing a mosque in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, killing more than 70 civilians during dawn prayers.

The Foreign Ministry condemned a "heinous terrorist aggression" against the Al-Daraja neighbourhood mosque, saying the strike wounded several worshippers and partially destroyed the building. It said the attack was a "flagrant violation of religious norms and international conventions" protecting civilians and places of worship. The ministry blamed the RSF for systematic abuses against civilians and

infrastructure, and urged the international communities to act against "terrorism targeting unarmed civilians." Volunteer groups in El Fasher said earlier on Friday that more than 75 people were killed, including 20 displaced residents of Abu Shouk camp. They said a drone operated by the RSF hit the mosque during dawn prayers. The RSF has not commented. Clashes between the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and their allies have raged in El Fasher since May. Nationwide, the war between the SAF and RSF has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions since it erupted in April 2023, deepening Sudan's humanitarian crisis.



Reframing The Narrative: Why Deficit-Based Terminology Harms And What We Should Say Instead



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
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Worth Noting:

- Consider the term “marginalized.” While intended to highlight exclusion, it also reinforces the idea that certain groups exist on the periphery of society, inherently distant from the center. It rarely interrogates who created the margins or how power operates to maintain them. Similarly, “underprivileged” and “disadvantaged” suggest a static condition of lack, often without acknowledging systemic causes or the lived agency of those affected.
- In most African countries and Namibia, where post-colonial reconstruction and democratic development are ongoing, such language risks replicating colonial hierarchies under the guise of benevolence. It undermines the very principles of cooperative reform and youth empowerment that leaders champion.

Introduction

Language is not neutral. It shapes perception, influences policy, and constructs social realities. In the realm of education, governance, and civic discourse, the words we use to describe individuals and communities carry profound implications. Terms like “marginalized,” “underprivileged,” “minority,” and “at-risk” are commonplace in policy documents, media narratives, and institutional frameworks, mostly in Africa. Yet, these words often encode deficit-based assumptions, reinforce stereotypes, and perpetuate exclusion. This essay argues that such terminology is not only unsuitable but actively harmful to the goals of equity, empowerment, and democratic inclusion. Drawing from global discourse, Africa and Namibian realities, it proposes alternative language that affirms dignity, agency, and contextual nuance.

The Problem with Deficit-Based Language

Deficit-based language frames individuals and communities by what they lack - resources, power, education, health, or social capital - rather than by their strengths, resilience, or potential. This framing subtly reinforces hierarchies and justifies paternalistic interventions. It positions the speaker (often institutions or policymakers) as the empowered agent and the subject as passive, needy, or broken.

Consider the term “marginalized.” While intended to highlight exclusion, it also reinforces the idea that certain groups exist on the periphery of society, inherently distant from the center. It rarely interrogates who created the margins or how power operates to maintain them. Similarly, “underprivileged” and “disadvantaged” suggest a static condition of lack, often without acknowledging systemic causes or the lived agency of those affected.

In most African countries and Namibia, where post-colonial reconstruction and democratic development are ongoing, such language risks replicating colonial hierarchies under the guise of benevolence. It undermines the very principles of cooperative reform and youth empowerment that leaders champion.

Problematic Terms and Their Impacts

Let us examine key terms commonly used in social discourse, their problematic implications, and more suitable alternatives.

1. Marginalized

Why It’s Problematic:

Implies that certain groups naturally or socially exist on the margins, rather than being actively excluded by systems of power. It can normalize exclusion and obscure responsibility.

Better Alternatives:

- “Historically excluded”
- “Systemically underserved”
- “Communities facing structural barriers”

Contextual Note:

In Namibian education, replacing “marginalized learners” with “learners from historically underserved communities” shifts the focus from deficit to systemic accountability.

2. Minority

Why It’s Problematic:

Often used to describe ethnic, religious, or cultural groups, regardless of actual population size. It implies inferiority or lack of legitimacy.

Better Alternatives:

- “Non-dominant groups”
- “Culturally distinct communities”
- “Ethnolinguistic groups”

Contextual Note:

In Namibia, where ethnic diversity is rich, using “non-dominant” avoids the colonial legacy of ranking cultures by proximity to European norms.

3. Underprivileged / Disadvantaged

Why It’s Problematic:

Frames people by what they lack, reinforcing a narrative of helplessness. It often invites pity rather than solidarity.

Better Alternatives:

- “Resource-constrained”
- “Communities with limited access”
- “Equity-seeking groups”

Contextual Note:

In policy documents, describing schools as “resource-constrained” rather than “underprivileged” invites investment without stigma.

4. At-risk youth

Why It’s Problematic:

Focuses on potential failure (crime, dropout, addiction) rather than potential success. It pathologizes youth rather than empowering them.

Better Alternatives:

- “Youth navigating systemic challenges”
- “Youth with untapped potential”
- “Emerging leaders from underserved contexts”

Contextual Note:

Namibia’s youth leadership programs should avoid “at-risk” and instead affirm the transformative capacity of young people.

5. Vulnerable populations

Why It’s Problematic:

Suggests passivity and fragility. It can justify top-down interventions and obscure resilience.

Better Alternatives:

- “Populations facing compounded risks”
- “Communities with heightened exposure to systemic barriers”
- “Groups requiring targeted support”

Contextual Note:

In disaster response or health policy, framing people as “facing compounded risks” invites strategic support without infantilization.

6. Disabled / Handicapped

Why It’s Problematic:

“Handicapped” is outdated and offensive. “Disabled” can be stigmatizing if not framed within a rights-based approach.

Better Alternatives:

- “Persons with disabilities” (UN Convention language)
- “Differently abled” (used in some inclusive frameworks)
- “People with access needs”

Contextual Note:

African countries and other global states should adopt “persons with disabilities” in line with international human rights standards.

7. Uneducated

Why It’s Problematic:

Dismisses informal, indigenous, or experiential knowledge. It reinforces elitism.

Better Alternatives:

- “Individuals without formal schooling”
- “Knowledge holders outside formal systems”
- “Learners with diverse educational backgrounds”

Contextual Note:

In rural Namibia and other African countries, elders may lack formal education but possess deep cultural and ecological knowledge.

8. Third World / Developing World

Why It’s Problematic:

Outdated and derogatory. Implies backwardness and a linear model of progress.

Better Alternatives:

- “Global South”
- “Low- and middle-income countries” (LMICs)
- “Post-colonial nations”

Contextual Note:

Africa and Namibia’s positioning in global discourse should reflect dignity and complexity, not hierarchy.

9. Illegal immigrant

Why It’s Problematic:

Criminalizes identity rather than describing legal status. It fuels xenophobia.

Better Alternatives:

- “Undocumented migrant”
- “Person without regularized status”
- “Migrant in irregular circumstances”

Contextual Note:

In Southern Africa’s migration debates, language must uphold human dignity.

10. Ghetto / Slum (Shack) dwellers

Why It’s Problematic:

Dehumanizing and pejorative. Reduces people to their living conditions.

Better Alternatives:

- “Residents of informal settlements”
- “Urban low-income communities”

Reframing The Narrative: Why Deficit-Based Terminology Harms And What We Should Say Instead

Contd from page 20

- “Communities in transitional housing”

Contextual Note:

Urban planning in Namibia and other African countries must avoid stigmatizing language in housing policy.

The Role of Language in Policy and Education

In education and governance, language is not merely descriptive - it is performative. It shapes how problems are defined, how solutions are imagined, and how people are treated. When policy documents refer to “underprivileged learners,” they risk framing students as burdens rather than assets. When civic education materials speak of “minorities,” they may unintentionally reinforce exclusion rather than promote pluralism.

Educational leaders and policy reformists working within institutions like schools, churches, universities, health sector, and others, are uniquely positioned to lead a transformative linguistic shift. By embracing affirming, context-sensitive terminology, they can reshape how communities are represented and understood across educational and civic platforms. This shift not only enhances institutional communication but also fosters a culture of dignity, inclusion, and democratic engagement rooted in Namibia’s values and realities.

Toward a Namibian Lexicon of Empowerment

Namibia’s post-independence journey is marked by efforts to build a democratic society rooted in dignity, cooperation, and cultural integrity. Language must reflect these values. A Namibian lexicon of empowerment would:

- Prioritize agency over deficiency
- Reflect historical and systemic context
- Affirm cultural diversity and indigenous knowledge
- Promote intergenerational dialogue and youth leadership

Such a lexicon would replace “at-risk youth” with “emerging leaders,” “marginalized communities” with “historically excluded groups,” and “uneducated” with “holders of infor-

mal knowledge.”

Implementation Tips

- **Policy Documents:** Use inclusive alternatives consistently in strategic plans, reports, and official correspondence.
- **Educational Materials:** Train teachers and curriculum developers to adopt affirming language in lesson plans and assessments.
- **Community Engagement:** Frame outreach and development programs using terms that respect dignity and agency.
- **Youth Programs:** Replace “at-risk” framing with leadership-oriented language to empower young participants.

Conclusion

Words matter - not merely as tools of communication, but as instruments of power, perception, and possibility. The language we choose to describe individuals and communities carries weight far beyond semantics; it influences how policies are crafted, how institutions respond, and how people internalize their place in society. When we refer to someone as “underprivileged” or “at-risk,” we may intend to highlight inequality, but we often end up reinforcing a narrative of deficiency. These terms, though common in development and education discourse, subtly imply that the individuals they describe are defined by what they lack rather than by their potential, resilience, or contributions.

In Namibia, where the legacy of colonialism and apartheid continues to shape social and institutional structures, the stakes of language are particularly high. Deficit-based terminology can inadvertently replicate the very hierarchies that democratic reform seeks to dismantle. For example, calling rural learners “disadvantaged” may draw attention to resource gaps, but it also risks portraying them as passive recipients of aid rather than active participants in their own development. Such language can obscure the systemic forces that produce inequality and shift focus away from the need for structural change. Leaders, educators, and policymakers must therefore be intentional in adopting language that affirms dignity, acknowledges historical context, and fosters inclusive participation.

Reframing our vocabulary is not a cosmetic exercise - it is a foundational act of democratic renewal. When we replace “marginalized”

Glossary of Inclusive Terms for Africa and Namibian Institutions

Problematic Term	Inclusive Alternatives	Rationale / Contextual Note
Marginalized communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically excluded groups Systemically underserved Communities facing structural barriers 	Highlights systemic exclusion rather than inherent deficiency
Minority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-dominant cultural groups Culturally distinct communities Ethnolinguistic groups 	Avoids numerical or hierarchical framing; affirms cultural legitimacy
Underprivileged learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners from resource-constrained environments Communities with limited access Equity-seeking groups 	Focuses on structural conditions, not personal deficiency
Disadvantaged youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth navigating systemic barriers Youth from underserved contexts Youth with constrained opportunities 	Emphasizes resilience and context rather than helplessness
At-risk youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging leaders from underserved communities Youth with untapped potential Youth facing systemic hurdles 	Affirms potential and leadership capacity
Vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities facing compounded risks Groups requiring targeted support Populations with heightened exposure 	Recognizes structural exposure without infantilizing
Disabled / Handicapped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons with disabilities People with access needs Differently abled individuals 	Rights-based language aligned with UNCRPD and Namibian disability policy
Uneducated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals without formal schooling Holders of informal or indigenous knowledge Learners with diverse educational backgrounds 	Respects indigenous, experiential, and non-formal learning traditions
Slum/Shack dwellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents of informal settlements Communities in transitional housing Urban low-income residents 	Humanizes and respects dignity in housing discourse
Third World / Developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global South Post-colonial nations Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) 	Avoids colonial hierarchy; affirms geopolitical complexity
Illegal immigrant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undocumented migrant Person without regularized status 	Decriminalizes identity; promotes human rights framing

Problematic Term	Inclusive Alternatives	Rationale / Contextual Note
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrant in irregular circumstances 	
Informal workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers in non-formal economic sectors Independent livelihood earners Community-based entrepreneurs 	Recognizes legitimacy and contribution of informal labor
Primitive / Backward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culturally distinct Traditionally rooted Indigenous knowledge holders 	Avoids colonial derogation; affirms indigenous heritage
Feminazi / Angry Black woman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assertive advocate Vocal leader Passionate change agent 	Reframes gendered and racialized stereotypes
Dropout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learner who exited formal education Learner on a non-traditional path Education re-entry candidate 	Neutral phrasing that allows for re-entry and lifelong learning
Poor people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People living in poverty Income-constrained households Economically underserved communities 	Humanizes and avoids reduction to economic status
Illiterate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals with limited literacy Emerging readers Literacy learners 	Encourages growth mindset and avoids stigma
Ghetto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban low-income community Densely populated informal area Economically underserved neighborhood 	Avoids pejorative connotations
Special needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners with diverse learning needs Inclusive education learners Learners requiring adaptive support 	Promotes inclusive education without euphemism
Tribal people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous communities Ethnolinguistic groups Culturally rooted populations 	Affirms cultural identity and avoids colonial framing

with “historically excluded,” or “dropout” with “learner who exited formal education,” we shift the narrative from blame to understanding, from stigma to solidarity. This linguistic shift enables institutions to design policies that are not only

more humane but also more effective, because they are rooted in respect and reality. In doing so, we begin to build a society where every individual is seen not through the lens of limitation, but through the promise of their humanity. Lan-

guage, then, becomes a tool not just for describing the world, but for transforming it.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Kenyans Sabastian Sawe and Rosemary Wanjiru won the men's and women's editions of the Berlin Marathon on Sunday, both breaking through for the first time in the German capital.

Kenyan Duo Sawe And Wanjiru Triumph At Berlin Marathon



FILE: Sabastian Sawe celebrates after winning the Valencia Marathon on December 1, 2024.

AFP

Additional Reporting by Frankline Kipruto

Kenyans Sabastian Sawe and Rosemary Wanjiru won the men's and women's editions of the Berlin Marathon on Sunday, both breaking through for the first time in the German capital. Sawe finished in 2hr 02min 16sec in just his third marathon attempt, 11 seconds slower than his personal best set on his debut in Valencia in 2024.

"It was hard but I gave my best. I'm happy about my performance," Sawe told Germany's RTL network.

Sawe's time is equal ninth fastest in history, but fell outside the late Kelvin Kiptum's world record time of 2:00:35 and Eliud Kipchoge's course record of 2:01:09, set in 2022.

The 30-year-old, who had been tipped to challenge both of those records, declined to blame the warmer than usual conditions, with temperatures of 25 degrees celsius and high humidity, while promising to return to Berlin

next year.

"I felt good. You can't change the weather of course. I was well prepared and I'm just pleased.

"I enjoyed the atmosphere in Berlin. I'm happy to be here and want to be back next year. I hope I can go a bit better."

Japan's Akira Akasaki finished second in a time of 2:06:15 and Ethiopia's Chimdessa Debele completed the podium with 2:06:57.

Recording the best performance by a Japanese man since 1999, Akasaki said the warm conditions "reminded me" of racing in Japan.

Wanjiru, who finished second in Berlin in 2022, is the first Kenyan woman to win the race since 2018.

The 30-year-old surged ahead after 25 kilometres. She was 36 seconds in front at the 40-kilometre mark but slowed slightly, allowing the chasers to cut the margin.

As Ethiopia's Dera Dida closed in with the Brandenburg Gate in sight, Wanjiru dug deep, pushing on to finish just three seconds

ahead of her rival in a time of time of 2:21:05.

Dida said she "didn't realise how close it was, but it wasn't to be."

Fellow Ethiopian Azmera Geburu was third, coming in 24 seconds behind the winner.

Wanjiru's time was 12 minutes slower than Kenyan Ruth Chepngetich's world record time of 2:09:56, set in Chicago in 2024, and also well outside Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa's course record set in 2023.

- Hot Berlin -

Wanjiru collapsed after crossing the finish line before receiving help from a marathon attendant.

Germany's Sportschau reported the heat led to a delay in the women's award ceremony as the finishers needed additional time to take in fluids and recover.

The men started quickly despite the heat, recording the fastest opening kilometre in the race's history.

Sawe and the leading pack including 2024 winner Milkesa Mengesha and Gabriel Geay

kept up the record pace early and were on track for the world mark inside the first 10 kilometres.

Sawe then separated himself from the leaders with 15 kilometres run, opening up an 11-second gap over Mengesha, while staying on world record pace at the half-way mark with a time of 60:16.

Sawe had run negative splits in both of his previous marathons but fell off the pace slightly in the second half of the race as the mercury climbed in Berlin.

Mengesha dropped out before the 30-kilometre mark.

Despite missing a personal best or challenging the course record of his mentor Kipchoge, Sawe's time is the best in the world for 2025, bettering his own previous mark set in London in April by 11 seconds.

Sawe committed to a voluntary doping testing procedure in the lead-up to the race, completing an extra 25 tests in addition to the mandatory protocols, roughly one every three days.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Four-time World champion Faith Kipyegon believes she has a bright future in the women's 10,000m as well as road races.

Kip-Ye-Going! Faith Kipyegon's Long Distance Dream On Course After Making History At World Championships

Four-time World champion Faith Kipyegon believes she has a bright future in the women's 10,000m as well as road races.

Kipyegon says competing in the long distance races is a challenge that excites her and is looking forward to testing herself in a number of competitions.

"I like challenging myself...I have to learn to run in the longer races...5000m, 10,000m and eventually the marathon because I am not going to stay forever in the 1500m. I am so happy to know that I am progressing well and there is a bright future for me in the long distance races," the double world record holder.

However, Kipyegon remains guarded on her next plans or a definite date for her changeover to the long distance races.

"I don't know what I am going to do next year but hopefully, to still dream big. I want to extend the boundaries and see what happens," she said.

Kipyegon has long hinted at eventually transitioning to the long distance races, following in the footsteps in her peers such as two-time world champion Hellen Obiri and Olympic champion Sifan Hassan.

The 31-year-old boasts a success-laden career in the women's 1500m, becoming the only female athlete to clinch three consecutive Olympic titles in the history of the competition.

She continued writing history with her feet at this year's edition of the world championships, winning her fourth crown in the same race to establish herself as the greatest to ever grace the three-and-three-quarter lap race.

She has already proven a force to reckon with in the women's 5000m in which she boasts a world record, world title, Olympic silver and world silver medal.

Kipyegon clocked 14:05.20 to set a new world record at the Paris Diamond League in June 2023.



Faith Kipyegon celebrating after winning world silver in 5000m Tokyo. Photo/WORLD ATHLETICS

She then went on to clinch the world title at that year's competition in Budapest.

Unbeatable Bestie

However, for all her dominance in the 12-and-a-half lap race, Kipyegon is having to play second fiddle to fellow countrywoman Beatrice Chebet who has cemented herself as the queen of the distance.

The 25-year-old already boasts the Olympic, Commonwealth and world crowns to her name, to add to a world record of 13:58.06 at the Prefontaine Classic in May.

Cebet was at it again on Saturday when she clocked 14:54.36 to win the world title for the women's 5000m in Tokyo.

Kipyegon had to be content with silver after clocking 14:55.07 in second place as Italian Nadia Battocletti bagged bronze in 14:55.42. Kipyegon admitted running against Chebet is not for the faint-hearted.

"Congratulations to Beatrice... my friend. I knew it was going to be very hard to beat her...knowing that she is the world record holder. I knew she is very strong and I am very happy for her," the Olympic 5000m silver medalist said.

She added: "It feels very special knowing that I was going to race against the world record holder for this year. Trying to run the mile in under four minutes really motivated me ahead of the World Championships. Going home with

a gold and silver...this is really special. I am happy to finish the World Championships in a beautiful way."

She was also proud of herself for clocking a season's best (SB) in what was her second race of the year in the women's 5000m.

"I thank God that I have been to go home with silver today. I was praying to God that I would get on the podium. This is my second race in the women's 5000m, this year. I have run in a lot of 1500m races this year than the women's 5000m so I am really grateful to go home with silver," Kipyegon said.

Capital Sport

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Karina Reitebuch A Life Of Adventure And Self-Discovery



By: Anila Bukhari

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Worth Noting:

For Karina, modeling isn't just about posing in front of a camera; it's about discovering herself and building confidence. With each photoshoot, she learns more about her strengths and weaknesses, and she's determined to keep pushing herself to new heights.

But Karina's aspirations don't stop at modeling. She's got a bucket list a mile long, filled with thrilling adventures like shooting, swimming with dolphins, paragliding, and traveling the world. She's always been fascinated by different cultures and landscapes, and she can't wait to explore destinations like Canada, Wyoming, Norway, and Alaska.

Karina Reitebuch's life is a beautiful blend of adventure, self-discovery, and passion. Growing up in the breathtaking Allgäu region, she's always been drawn to the great outdoors and the thrill of exploring new experiences.

It all started three years ago when a photographer approached Karina with an unexpected question: "Have you ever thought about modeling?" At first, she was taken aback, but her curiosity soon got the better of her. She began to explore the world of modeling, and eight months ago, she took the plunge and applied to several agencies.

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When she's not in front of the camera, Karina loves to dance. She finds it therapeutic and joyful, and it's a great way for her to express herself. She's also a nature lover at heart, and she adores hiking in the mountains and exploring the great outdoors.

Karina's ultimate goal is to inspire others, especially women, to build their confidence and pursue their passions. She believes in the importance of perseverance and self-motivation, and she lives by the motto "Everything you do, you do for yourself. Accept challenges, work on yourself every day, and never give up."

As Karina continues to grow and explore new opportunities, her story serves as a reminder that with determination and hard work, anything is possible. She's a shining example of what it means to live life to the fullest and pursue your dreams with passion and purpose.



Karina Reitebuch