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The Russia-Ukraine war, which erupted in February 2022, has become a defining conflict of the 21st century - reshaping global alliances, testing the resilience of democratic institutions, and challenging long-held assumptions about deterrence and preparedness. Page 18

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WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI
WHEN: 17-21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

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News>>Kindiki Urges Youth To Demand Better Governance, Avoid Violence

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Ruto, Raila Saves Sakaja From Impeachment

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Nairobi Governor Sakaja Johnson

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DP Hosts Hundreds Of Youth From Embu County

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki yesterday at his Irunduni home played host to hundreds of young people from Embu county. The over 4500 young people included university, tertiary, college students, young business owners representing SMES, nano and micro businesses, artists, youth in bodaboda, tuk tuk and matatu businesses, as well as those in informal sectors like Mitumba, shoe shine and street vending businesses. The DP updated them on status of various government programs aimed at improving the education system, for support of the creative industry, job an income opportunities in housing, markets and hostels construction programme, digital jobs, the openings in labour mobility overseas job placement programme and the NYOTA programme targeting support for micro and small enterprises across the country. He informed them that the Kazi Mtaani climate works programme will also get jobs for thousands of unskilled and semi skilled. On their part, the youths gave the DP inputs on what the government needs to do to increase job and income opportunities for the youth.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The DCP yesterday officially unveiled its candidate for Purko Ward, Kajiado County in the upcoming November by-election. Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua, alongside other local leaders, introduced Mr. Simon Sanare Saidimu as the party's flag bearer for the seat. In his remarks following the unveiling, Mr. Gachagua described Mr. Sanare as an accomplished leader, a patriot, and a true people's person. He emphasized the party's confidence in his ability to connect with the Mwananchi and to champion the rights of the community. Gachagua assured supporters that the party is committed to doing everything necessary to secure victory for their candidate.



The Public Service Commission has begun training sessions to prepare public institutions under its jurisdiction for the upcoming evaluation on the Status of Compliance with Values and Principles, as outlined in Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution. The forums, which commenced last week at the Social Health Authority auditorium in Nairobi, bring together public officers drawn from diverse sectors, including Ministries, State Departments & Agencies (MDAs); Constitutional Commissions & Independent Offices; State Corporations & SAGAs; Public Universities and TVET institutions. This initiative is part of the Commission's commitment to deepen awareness on the values and principles promotion, evaluation, and reporting processes as set out in Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution, and the Public Service (Values and Principles) Act, 2015.



Transfer of over 7,000 UHC staff to counties pushed to next year to allow for the allocation of resources for their employment in permanent and pensionable terms. The decision was arrived at yesterday during a crisis meeting between the Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and Governors at Council of Governors headquarters over the contentious transfers of the staff from the Ministry of Health.

The Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu was yesterday elected as the Chairperson of the Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices (CCIOs) Caucus. The AG takes over from the National Land Commission (NLC) Chairperson Gershom Otachi.



A delegation from the New Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (New KPCU), led by the Managing Director Timothy Mirugi yesterday paid a courtesy visit to the Cooperative University of Kenya (CUK), where they were hosted by Chris Kathoka, the Registrar for Finance, Planning, and Administration. Their discussions focused on strengthening Kenya's coffee sector through: Enhancing local coffee consumption by establishing modern, student-centered coffee cafés within the university, Training of ward champions on cooperative development to reinforce grassroots cooperative structures and Capacity building in coffee seedlings propagation to promote sustainability and empower coffee farmers. They noted that the partnership reflects New KPCU's commitment to fostering a vibrant coffee culture among the youth, supporting cooperative growth, and securing the future of Kenyan coffee.



The Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE) marked this year's International Primate Day at Ngilai Conservancy in Samburu County. Marking under the theme, "Promoting Sustainable Financing and Community Engagement in Primate Conservation", over 500 community members were engaged on the importance of conserving the nine vulnerable primate species in Kenya, with a special focus on the De Brazza and Percivalli black-and-white colobus monkeys, whose numbers are rapidly declining. Key primate threats such as habitat loss, poaching and limited funding for research and conservation were highlighted, emphasizing the need for collective action and leveraging technology in safeguarding these species. The event brought together partners and stakeholders including Colobus Conservation, Primate Global Foundation, Kenya Wildlife Service, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Loisaba Conservancy, Ngilai Community Conservancy, Kalepo Community Conservancy and Namnyak Conservancy. The Member of Parliament, Samburu East, Lekumontare Lento L. Jackson who graced the event and underscored the link between primate conservation and community livelihood enhancement.

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Go For Visionary Leaders And Not Popular Parties, Limuru Voters Urged

By: George Mugo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Instead of recycling leaders, in the coming elections, they should scrutinise and go for visionary leadership.
- Locals have been electing the incumbent legislator John Kiragu and keep on exchanging him with former MP Peter Mwathi.
- A local resident, Simon Njihia says that Kiragu was elected in 2002 on a Kanu ticket, when former President the late Mwai Kibaki was elected.



Kamau Livondo



Peter Mwathi

As the campaigns for the 2027 General Elections starts, residents of Limuru constituency in Kiambu county have been urged to change the two leaders who they have been electing as members of parliament for close to twenty years.

Instead of recycling leaders, in the coming elections, they should scrutinise and go for visionary leadership.

Locals have been electing the incumbent legislator John Kiragu and keep on exchanging him with former MP Peter Mwathi.

A local resident, Simon Njihia says that Kiragu was elected in 2002 on a Kanu ticket, when former President the late Mwai Kibaki was elected.

Later in 2007, Kiragu lost the seat to Mwathi who contested on a Ford People ticket and ended the Kibaki term but lost the seat again to Kiragu during the 2013 general election when former President Uhuru Kenyatta took over the leadership of this country.

During Uhuru's campaign for the second term, Kiragu lost the seat to Mwathi and later when the incumbent

President William Ruto took over, Kiragu who contested for the seat on a UDA ticket was elected the legislator. Njihia says the time has come for the locals to follow individuals but not the party politics.

"We have been recycling these two leaders because of the party's they have been seeking for elections with. This time round, we are campaigning that this seat does not belong to the two, but other men and women who are ready to serve locals," he said.

He says some politicians like Charles Kamau popularly known as Kamau Livondo have been contesting all years without giving up should be considered.

Speaking at Limuru town yesterday, Livondo said that he started contesting in 2002 and has been seeking for the parliamentary seat in each and every election.

"I believe in myself, I still have the energy to serve the people of this constituency. I have never lost and I have never stopped visiting people and even attending to their different activi-

ties and events" he said.

"I have a lot of work I wanted to do in this constituency, it has never been done and I feel it is still fresh. Once they give me a chance, they will not believe it" Livondo said without giving details.

The politician urged youths to keep peace during the campaigns so that they can learn the promises the politi-

cians will campaign with.

"It is unfortunate that our people have been crying for so many years since politicians have misled them with party politics. Today, locals have learnt a lot of lessons. I'm sure that during the next general election, we will not look at the party, but at a person, that person who will bring change" Livondo added.



John Kiragu.

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Kindiki Urges Youth To Demand Better Governance, Avoid Violence

By: DPCS
 @themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has challenged the youth to continue asking hard questions on the country's governance assuring them of proactive response to their concerns.

As they push for a better country, the DP urged, they should avoid violence and exploitation by those keen to bring the country down.

"Ask us and everyone in leadership the hard questions. Demand better services. If you think we are not handling public affairs correctly, ask the questions but I plead with you not to allow yourself to be taken advantage of to destroy your country because it will defeat the whole purpose of expressing your concerns," DP said.

Prof. Kindiki spoke yesterday when he engaged with youth leaders, artists, content creators and musicians from Embu County at home in Irunduni, Tharaka Nithi County.

The second-in-command highlighted the crucial role the youth play in the nation's wellbeing as the custodians of the country's stature presently and in the future.

"Don't accept to be misused by older folks to destroy your country. You need a peaceful country and a good economy so that when you clear school, you can get a job or start a business in a conducive environment," he noted.

The DP informed them that the Kenya Kwanza administration is deliberately finding solutions to the challenges facing the youth including unemployment which remains a stumbling block to the country's progress.

Other vices such as corruption, misuse of public resources are also being tackled to ascertain the nation's socio-economic growth.

"We have come up with programs to reduce the number of jobless young people as we tackle unemployment head on. This is a historic challenge which we have decided to take on through deliberate interventions," DP stated.

The programs entail the Kazi Kwa Ground initiative that aims to create jobs and opportunities through affordable housing projects, construction of modern markets and hostels, expansion of the education sector through employment of more teachers among others.

The Kazi Mtandaoni is geared at equipping the youth with requisite skills to take advantage of online job opportunities. Kazi Majuu has already seen hundreds of thousands of youth fly to work in foreign countries following inking of bilateral labour agreements with Kenya.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki interacting with the youth yesterday..

"This is how to transform Kenya. You don't just say there is a problem without providing a solution. We are providing real solutions to the jobs challenge, not just lamenting. That is the difference between us and our opponents," DP said.

The DP said in preparation for the job market, the administration has over-

hauled the education system from the bottom in order to align it with the present challenges and needs.

The Competency Based Education and Training (CBET), DP noted, is meant to prepare learners from the lowest level to the highest.

This has seen the rolling out of Competency Based Curriculum at lower,

junior and senior secondary schools and an expansive and relevant learning system at tertiary and university levels.

"We are working hard to make our education system relevant, affordable, accessible and of high quality because it is beneficial to the young people," he added.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki addressing the youth yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- Prof. Kindiki spoke yesterday when he engaged with youth leaders, artists, content creators and musicians from Embu County at home in Irunduni, Tharaka Nithi County.
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- "Don't accept to be misused by older folks to destroy your country. You need a peaceful country and a good economy so that when you clear school, you can get a job or start a business in a conducive environment," he noted.
- The DP informed them that the Kenya Kwanza administration is deliberately finding solutions to the challenges facing the youth including unemployment which remains a stumbling block to the country's progress.

Ruto, Raila Step In As Sakaja's Impeachment Plot Fizzles Out

By: Contributor
 @themkenyatimes

President William Ruto and Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) leader Raila Odinga yesterday moved to defuse tensions surrounding the looming impeachment of Nairobi Governor Sakaja Johnson, urging leaders to put dialogue and service delivery ahead of political brinkmanship.

At State House, President Ruto held a meeting with UDA Members of County Assembly (MCAs) where he cautioned them against pursuing the ouster motion.

Drawing from his own political battles, the President reminded the ward reps that leadership demands resilience, not retaliation.

"I have been the most accused person, but I never allowed that to derail my work. I urge you to put aside differences and drop this motion," President Ruto told the MCAs.

Almost simultaneously, ODM leader

Raila Odinga convened a meeting in Nairobi with party MPs, MCAs, Chaired by veteran politician Fred Gumo, joined later by Sakaja himself.

The deliberations, according to insiders, concluded with a consensus to withdraw support for the impeachment push, framing it as a distraction that risks destabilizing Kenya's capital city.

"Nairobi must not be held hostage by political brinkmanship. Leaders must rise above partisan agendas to deliver for the people," Odinga said.

Sakaja's despite being elected on a UDA ticket, his reliance on ODM's numerical strength in the County Assembly has often drawn fire from his own political backyard.

Last year, then-Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua accused him of "abandoning his community" for the opposition. Sakaja, however, has remained firm in defending his inclusive style.

"Nairobi is a cosmopolitan city. We cannot allow tribal politics here. We must work with both government and opposition to deliver for our people,"



Nairobi Governor Sakaja Johnson

the governor has repeatedly said. That philosophy saw him build bridges with both Ruto and Raila from hosting the President during a five-day development tour to visiting Raila in Bondo. It was no surprise

that when the broad-based government was announced, Sakaja was quick to brand Nairobi its "home." With the impeachment bid now seemingly deflated, sources argue It has become a litmus test for wheth-

er Kenya's broad-based government can withstand partisan tensions and deliver on its promise of stability.

Supreme Court Judge Lenaola Says Political Impunity, Weak Prosecution Derailing Justice

By: Melita Ole Tenges
 @themkenyatimes

Supreme Court Judge Justice Isaac Lenaola has faulted political bigwigs for derailing justice while accusing State agencies of laxity in building solid cases.

The Judge urged the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to work closely with government departments to strengthen prosecutions, warning that weak prosecution continues to deny justice to victims both locally and globally.

Several high-profile cases that landed on the desk of the DPP have collapsed over insufficient evidence, sparking public outrage and branding the State body as the weak link in Kenya's war on graft among other cases.

"The success of prosecutions relies heavily on State cooperation, which is often inconsistent or influenced by political considerations," said

Lenaola.

Lenaola singled out political influence and immunity enjoyed by powerful figures as major barriers to holding leaders accountable.

"The question of immunity for State officials often impedes accountability," he stated.

The Supreme Court Judge warned that political leaders implicated in grave crimes including the 2007 post-election violence have often walked away unpunished, citing sovereignty and immunity as shields against justice.

"Those who were here during the Kenya post-election violence remember the hullabaloo about sovereignty. Yet nobody is talking about the continued impunity and the defence of immunity by state officials," noted Lenaola.

During the 15-year reflection on Kenya's Constitution, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga also piled pressure on the ODPP to sharpen its prosecutorial edge.

"The ODPP has failed to meet Ken-



Supreme Court Judge Justice Isaac Lenaola during a past court session. PHOTO | COURTESY

yans' expectations. What was once said about the Attorney General having impunity now defines the ODPP

today," said Odinga. Justice Lenaola further called for the creation of a dedicated court to try in-

ternational crimes in Kenya.

Indian Bollywood Stars Shoot A KSh19.5B Movie In Kenya

By: Jacob Ng'etich
@themtkenyatimes

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi yesterday hosted Indian Bollywood stars as they completed their two-week shooting of a KSh19 billion movie in Kenya.

Led by S. S. Rajamouli, an Indian Film Director, screenwriter, and storyteller, and one of the most celebrated filmmakers in Indian cinema, known for creating epic, emotionally resonant stories with global appeal, the producers said they had settled on Kenya after an extensive tour of East Africa and other destinations in the continent.

Rajamouli, with a career spanning over two decades, has combined powerful storytelling, groundbreaking visuals, and cultural depth. Earning him, has been in Kenya for the last two weeks for the shooting of a KSh20 billion movie, the SSMB29.

“Kenya, this past fortnight, became the stage for one of the world’s great-



est filmmakers, @ssrajamouli, the visionary Indian director, screenwriter, and storyteller whose works have captured the imagination of audiences across continents,” said Mudavadi.

Dr. Mudavadi said that Rajamouli, with a career spanning over two decades, is renowned for weaving together powerful narratives, groundbreaking visuals, and deep cultural resonance.

“His team of 120 crew members chose Kenya after an extensive scout-

ing tour across East Africa, settling on our nation as the primary filming destination where nearly 95% of the African scenes are being shot,” said Mudavadi

The PCS noted that from the sweeping plains of the Masai Mara to the scenic Naivasha, the rugged Samburu, and the iconic Amboseli, Kenya’s landscapes will now be etched into what is set to become the largest film production in Asia.

“Scheduled for release in over 120



countries, the movie is expected to reach more than a billion viewers worldwide. This landmark decision to film in Kenya is more than a cinematic milestone; it is a powerful statement about our country’s beauty, hospitality, and place on the world stage,” said Mudavadi.

“As the crew departs today for India to continue production, Kenya stands proud, ready to share its story with the world through the lens of SSMB29,” he said.

Mudavadi said that the decision by the producers and director to shoot a significant portion of this film in Kenya was a momentous development for the country, promising to showcase its landscapes, culture, and hospitality to a global audience of over 1 billion viewers.

“The crew leaves today for India to begin a two-month production,” said Mudavadi

The Mt. Kenya Times



Nakuru County Taps Use Of Data And Technology To Enhance Urban Planning

By: Anne Mwale
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- County Director of Urban Development Mr Sammy Ngige, noted that the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI) in urban planning enables real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and optimized resource allocation, leading to better urban planning and more resilient infrastructure.
- He noted that Governor Susan Kihika's administration was working with various state agencies and international entities, to actively establish a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) towards improving resource management for data-driven urban planning and development.
- The initiative, which includes the setting-up of a Geographic Information System (GIS) lab is expected to streamline the administration of development projects and enhance resource allocation based on data analysis.

The County Government of Nakuru is actively pursuing strategies to leverage data-driven urban planning and technology to address rapid urbanization challenges and drive sustainable development.

The devolved unit's administration has indicated that its increased investments in smart city initiatives, such as internet-enabled infrastructure and data-driven urban planning, were also aimed at optimizing resource management, creating efficiencies, enhancing quality of life of residents and promoting economic growth.

County Director of Urban Development Mr Sammy Ngige, noted that the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI) in urban planning enables real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and optimized resource allocation, leading to better urban planning and more resilient infrastructure.

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While observing that the County Government has initiated a comprehensive Urban Profiling Initiative aimed at enhancing the planning, management, and delivery of sustainable urban services in the region, Mr Ngige said data-driven planning reduces waste, and enhances

sustainability in urban systems such as transportation, energy and water among others.

"This Urban Profiling Initiative exercise seeks to collect and analyze key data on urban infrastructure, housing, mobility, demographics, economic activities, social services, and environmental conditions across Nakuru's rapidly growing urban areas. The profiling will cover all the 11 Sub-counties of Nakuru," he disclosed.

Speaking during a meeting with the county's urban planners, the Director described data driven planning as a road map to inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban areas through accurate and community-driven data.

"The urban profiling initiative is part of Governor Kihika's urban Agenda on Urban data that will inform the review of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) among others. The exercise will include Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping, household surveys, citizen engagement and interviews," he elaborated.

In June last year representatives from the World Bank met with officials from the County Lands and Physical Planning Department and the State Department of Housing and Urban Development for an engagement session to assess the Geospatial data needs and potential support areas within the Municipal Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI).

Mr Ngige assured that a regulatory framework is being developed to address data sharing and security concerns related to geospatial information.

Clause 105 (f) of the County Government Act 2012 requires county governments to establish GIS-based database systems for provision of data in the

development of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

The technology is important for decision making during planning and allocation of resources for the Annual Development Plan (ADP).

By adoption of data driven planning, Mr Ngige pointed out that there is increased government-citizens engagement, leading to effective data-driven policy formulation and decision-making for safer communities through digital surveillance, efficient transport and communication system, use of environmentally friendly solutions, increased digital equity, efficient public utilities, improved infrastructure, highly effective workforce and new economic development opportunities.

The Director disclosed that the Spatial Data Infrastructure is being designed to play a crucial role in various sectors, including infrastructure planning, natural resource management and disaster response.

Highlighting the transformative power of the GIS component in the SDI, and its critical role in urban planning, tackling encroachments, and in promoting public feedback, Mr Ngige said he was hopeful that the GIS laboratory system will improve development planning and management.

The GIS lab is expected to provide a platform to store and manage digital footprint of development projects in sectors such as water, education, health, roads, rangelands, environment and natural resources.

He elaborated that the GIS laboratory system will further help local and foreign investors to conveniently access land information.

While noting that setting-up of the

Spatial Data Infrastructure was in line with Governor Kihika's Manifesto to digitize access to some essential services, to shorten the time and reduce the cost of access to services, the Director indicated that the system will help them collect, process and analyze data in digital form.

He pointed out that the initiative aims to address challenges related to data duplication, improve resource management, and facilitate effective governance.

"We aim to provide better access to spatial data, reducing wastage and duplication. By providing a standardized approach to data management, we make more informed decisions. The initiative promotes the production and sharing of spatial data for sustainable development," he elaborated.

The Director noted that in Africa geospatial technology is necessary because the continent still faces numerous challenges such as unplanned settlements, degraded rangelands, inadequate or unplanned infrastructure, low quality of development projects, poor monitoring systems, mushrooming of new settlements and inequitable resource allocation due to lack of appropriate tools for decision making.

"We have resolved to use GIS technology cognizant of these challenges and the need to streamline monitoring of development projects and ensure equitable resource allocations based on evidence," the Director explained.

GIS uses location-based data collected via satellites, paper maps, and directly from the field through mobile positioning devices to map out resources for analysis and decision-making.

Bean You Launches Global Movement to Restore Kenya's Coffee Glory And Empower Farmers

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- At its heart, Bean You is more than coffee. It is a values-driven movement, celebrating authenticity, identity, and purpose.
- The name reflects the idea of "Being You"; staying true to one's beliefs, values, faith, and ideology while inspiring positive change.
- To drive the message, Bean You has appointed its first five global ambassadors; chosen not just for their achievements, but for the values they embody.
- They includes: Dr. Anne Wafula Strike; Harlow-based British/Kenyan Paralympic wheelchair racer and inspirational advocate for inclusion, Grace Neema; Ramtu, current Miss World Kenya, a passionate voice for Kenyan culture and youth empowerment and Kevin Mills, Ghanaian UK rapper and founder of a London streetwear brand, championing creativity and resilience.

Bean You, a bold new initiative founded last year by Quickmart CEO Peter Kang'iri, has officially been launched with a mission to restore Kenya's position as a world leader in coffee while driving real social impact for farmers and communities.

Currently ranked 19th globally, Kenya once stood proudly as a top coffee producer.

Bean You seeks to change that by disintermediating the coffee industry, ensuring farmers capture greater margins from their crops.

The additional value generated will be reinvested in education and health centres, access to modern farming technology and sustainable livelihoods; all funded through the independent not-for-profit Asili Foundation, headquartered in Nairobi.

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Others are; The Day After Yesterday, a rising UK garage band led by Tiffany Huang, representing fresh energy and artistic authenticity and Chandler Guo, Chinese-born US-based tech entrepreneur, leveraging technology for social good.

Additional ambassadors will be announced over the next one year.

Together, this diverse group will amplify the Bean You message through authentic storytelling, social media engagement and real-world connections.

The www.beanyou.com platform makes the concept of impact investing accessible to anyone; with contributions starting from as little as KSh500.

The initiative leverages cutting-edge technologies, including AI, to ensure transparency and measurable impact.

Coffee lovers around the world will also become part of the change.



Dr Anne Wafula Strike

Bean You Cafés are set to launch in Kenya by next year, creating real-life spaces for young people, especially Gen Z, to connect.

There is also a Bean You digital app that offers free education diplomas, gaming, and retailer discounts.

Users earn sustainability points for eco-friendly behaviours, such as using electric buses, which can then be redeemed with local retailers.

"Although I live outside Kenya, this is one way I can give back to the country that made me who I am," said Dr. Anne Wafula Strike, one of the newly appointed ambassadors, adding, "Bean You is not just about coffee – it's about people, purpose, and impact. Together, we are creating a community where values inspire action and where every cup of coffee can change lives."



Youths Call For Sports Sponsorship, Amidst Lack Of Jobs

By: Charles Kinyua
 @themkenyatimes

Harambee stars splendid display in the just concluded CHAN tournament has aroused enthusiasm in youth across the country.

In Mathira constituency, the youth have urged leaders and the corporate world to sponsor various sports disciplines as sports is both an economic activity and a deterrent for crime.

Maina Murage, a volleyball enthusiast in conjunction with other sports lovers, has organised a ward-wide tournament in Magutu ward.

The tournament kicked off over the weekend at Kagochi when six teams received balls from a wellwisher, Peter Githinji alias Tropical.

Githinji is a renowned coffee marketer at the Nairobi Coffee exchange through Alliance Berries Limited.

Through an aide Kariuki Gachai, the coffee dealer undertook to sponsor

a constituency wide tournament when organisers lay out the logistical road map.

“Githinji is a lover of both youth development and sports and will do all that is within his means to uplift them,” stated Gachai.

He further noted that since Githinji was in the coffee sector and the cash crop was a major economic driver in the constituency, he would endeavour to make residents, the youth included reap big.

The youth were further urged to see sports not just as a recreation but an income generating activity that should be pursued vigorously, amidst lack of formal jobs.

The fairytale exploits by the Harambee stars and the subsequent windfall have reawakened the youth on realising that their peers had become overnight millionaires in a span of two weeks.

The national team that started as underdogs, their host status notwithstanding, surprised all not least themselves when they were bundled out at the quarter finals.



Six volleyball teams receive volleyball donated by Nairobi businessman Peter Githinji “Tropical” at the commencement of Magutu Volleyball tournament at Kagochi. Photo/Courtesy.



Peter Githinji Tropical

community to extend their community social responsibility to sports at all levels, starting at the village level.

By this time, they had pocketed KSh5 million each, not to mention that they were further granted an affordable housing each at half the price. The youth also urged the business

Treasury Asked To Release Funds Meant For County Govts

By: KNA
 @themkenyatimes

The National Treasury has been asked to hasten implementation of e-Procurement system so as to release funds meant for county governments.

Governor Irungu Kang’ata backed by Kitui senator Enoch Wambua on Monday said slow implementation of the new procurement system has delayed remittance of funds to devolved administrations, thus hindering delivery of services.

Governor Kang’ata who hosted the senator and a team of MCAs from Kitui, Machakos and Makueni counties warned that the prolonged delay has paralyzed operations in devolved units thus threatening delivery of essential services.

He observed that counties have gone for three consecutive months without receiving their equitable share allocation from the exchequer.

The current situation, He noted, has left the county governments unable to pay staff salaries, settle suppliers, or purchase essential drugs for hospitals. “County government workers are

suffering from delayed salaries, and bursary payments have been stopped. Many students are at home because their parents and guardians cannot afford school fees. In Murang’a we have needy students whose full fees are paid by the county government but now the learners are finding it hard to go back to school for the third term,” Kang’ata decried.

He continued “Hospitals are running out of medicines, and suppliers are pulling out because of unpaid bills. All this is a direct result of the outstanding issue of e-procurement.”

The governor explained that the introduction of the electronic procurement (e-GP) system has disrupted budget processing and disbursement, since funds cannot be released until county budgets are fully integrated into the digital platform.

He urged the relevant government agencies to fast-track completion of the system so that services can return to normal.

Kang’ata added that the lack of funding has stalled key county programmes, ranging from road construction projects to bursary allocations, warning that development gains have already risked being rolled back. On his part, Kitui Senator backed



Murang’a Governor Irungu Kang’ata .

Kang’ata’s sentiments, saying the national treasury has a constitutional duty to release funds to counties not later than the 15th of every month.

He noted that delays not only disrupt service delivery but also undermine the principles of devolution.

“The Treasury should be a completely independent body, free from the influence of the national government, so that it can manage disbursement of funds fairly to both levels of government,” Wambua said.

“The rollout of e-procurement has

also been mishandled. You cannot just stop one system and abruptly start another, it is supposed to be gradual. Implementation of the new system could be done first by piloting,” he added.

14 POEMS

The Best Revenge Is Not To Be Like Your Enemy



Life can teach us many things
How to grow our lovely wings
With full of beautiful feathers;
To fly beyond the sky not to hurt others!

We can face so many obstacles
While flying without any burdens;
who knows it may make someone's heart
hardens
Just try to soften them with your miracles!

Appearances can be deceptive sometimes
We should develop the skill of scrutinizing;
Don't let them know your weakness,

Keep them always thinking of you as Princess!

What's the use of developing grudges? Against
the one who pretends to be your well wisher;
They are not even an important
who judges your plus or minus as your remark!

Be a clown among the clowns;
Be a King among the Kings;
Be a fox among the foxes
But
Be a kind person if they stab at your back!
That will be the best reward they will receive!

N. DEEPALAKSHMI
B.T. ASST IN ENGLISH
GOVERNMENT HIGHER SECONDARY
SCHOOL,
SATHUVACHARI,
VELLORE DISTRICT,
TAMIL NADU
INDIA.

The Story Of Mulan



want my country to win, to stand tall and be
proud,
At any cost, I'll see it through, without a second
thought
My father is too old to go for war, my brother is
too young, what shall I do?
My heart is filled with doubt, my mind is unsure,
too.

The government's call, one from each family must
go for war
No one can disobey
I heard it whispered, as I was washing
My poor father, carving wood, with a heavy
heart,
I knew I had to act, and play my part.

An idea sprouted, like a seed in my mind,
I'll disguise myself, and leave my worries behind,
I'll cut my hair, wear dad's dress
My father has taught me well to be brave,

Martial arts, horse riding, I'll use it all to save the
country

If not me, then who?
If not here, then where?
If not now, then when?
If not for this, then for what?
I'll show my nation that I care,
I'll use my father's armor too,
And step out as a soldier, with a heart that's
true and bold

I'll obey my superiors, and fight with all my might,
My goal is victory, and bringing honor to my
nation
No second thoughts, no turning back, I'll see it
through,
For my country, my family, I'll fight till victory

Wish me luck, dear ones, as I take this noble
stride,
I'll return with victory, and my heart full of pride.

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

Not Yours To Carry



When kindness blooms within the soul,
There's no place hate can take its toll.
Why clutch the coal that burns your hand,
When love can heal and help you stand?

Hate is a fire that scars our skin,
But kindness warms us from within.
The hate of others, let it be,
Don't wear their weight—it isn't free.

Let hearts be light, and smiles be wide,

Let no one pass without some pride.
A gentle word, a caring glance,
Might give a stranger one more chance.

Carry love like it's a flame,
That lights the dark and shuns all shame.
Wherever life may take your feet,
Let kindness bloom in every street.

The world may storm, the winds may fight,
But hold your truth and walk in light.
Let nature be, don't force its change,
Just walk with grace through every range.

V. Durgadevi
BT Assistant
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

Never Tell People What You Are Doing Until It's Done



I used to share my plans with glee
With friends and loved ones, eager to see

But time and again, I faced defeat
My dreams and hopes, crushed beneath my
feet

I thought it was just bad luck, or fate
But then I saw my husband, succeed and
create

He'd work in silence, with a secret grin
And only reveal, when the task was won within

I learned from him, a valuable lesson true
Never tell people, what you're doing, until it's
through

Now I keep my plans, locked deep inside
And only share, when I've reached the other
side

It's not about distrust, or fear of what they'll
say
It's about protecting, my dreams, until they're
here to stay

So I'll follow his lead, and keep my goals
concealed
And only reveal, when my success is revealed.

R. SRIPRIYA
BT English Ghss Kolapakkam Kanchipuram
District Tamilnadu India

We Learn More From Defeat Than Success



Life is a mixture of good and bad.
Nothing will last long whether cheer or sad.
Success gives us pride to say it's me,
But defeat teaches what we're meant to
see.

Success is the throne everyone wants to
meet.
Defeat is the sun nobody likes it's heat.
We all chase success by defeating the
others,
But ignoring defeat though it guides like our
mothers.

We like success so we rush for its touch.
We hate defeat so keep distance to have
it's teach
Success is the reason for our joy and dance,
But defeat gives us courage to rise and
chase.

Success won't come to those who scorn
defeat,
If they don't correct and learn it returns in

repeat.
Each and everyday many records are
created,
At the same time they all are defeated.

Success may spark us to run fast and
strong,
But failure corrects and shape when we go
wrong.

Victory has one and only goal to reach,
But defeat has a lot of treasures to preach.

If you fail to accept and learn from defeat,
Your heart longing success only stays in a
sheet..

Until you cross the finish line you seek,
You will march with defeats to reach it's
peak.

Success is our life's temporary part,
But defeat is life long travelling beating
heart.

We can live happily without the
part(success)
But we can't omit and live without the
heart(failure)

R. BALU
B. T -ASSISTANT (ENGLISH)
GHSS-IVYAPANTHANGAL,
KANCHIPURAM -DISTRICT,
CHENNAI -600056.

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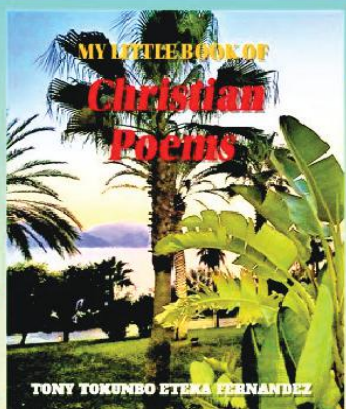
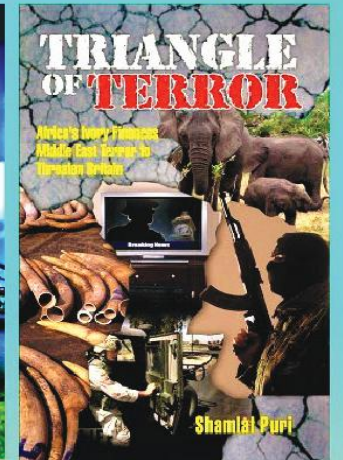
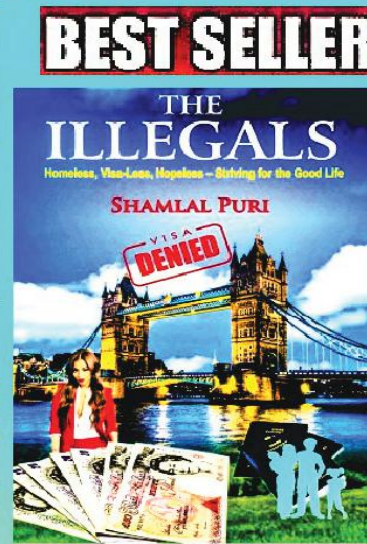
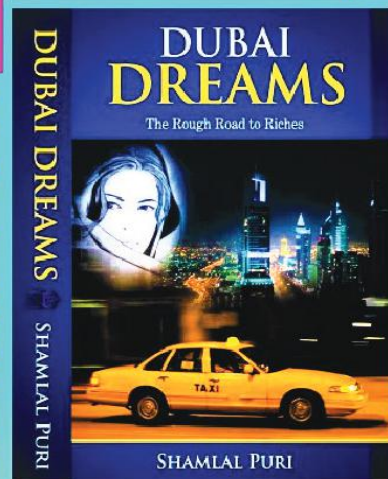
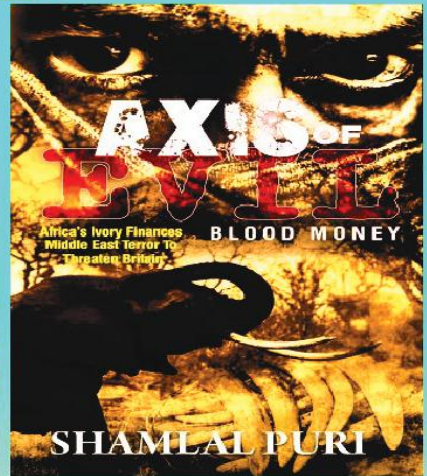
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Gatundu Water Firm, Kiambu County Partners In Market Cleanup

By: Michelle Njeri
@themkenyatimes

Gatundu Water and Sanitation Company (GATWASCO) partnered with the Kiambu County Department of Water, Environment, Energy and Natural Resources to undertake a comprehensive cleanup exercise at Kiganjo Market, reaffirming their joint commitment to promoting hygiene and environmental conservation in the region.

The initiative brought together GATWASCO staff, county officials, and local traders in a unified effort to transform the market into a cleaner and healthier trading facility for all users.

The exercise focused on removing accumulated garbage, clearing drainage tunnels, and organizing solid waste disposal systems within the premises. At the same time, participants received training on proper sanitation practices and waste management techniques to ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

David Muigai, Administrator at GATWASCO, said the sensitization program emphasized the importance of proper waste disposal.

“Traders were encouraged to have designated bins for solid waste, which the county government collects and disposes of properly. For liquid waste, we educated them on safe disposal methods, including diversion to soak pits,” he explained.

He added that the exercise also highlighted the need for proper compound drainage systems connected to county infrastructure, ensuring effective management of wastewater and rainwater within the market.

The collaboration extends beyond Kiganjo, with systems now in place to coordinate similar cleanups across markets in Gatundu North and Gatundu South constituencies. This demonstrates the broad, grassroots nature of the initiative.

Public sensitization also covered water conservation techniques and guidance on accessing and maintaining clean water sources, helping address broader challenges of water and sanitation in the region.



Local traders embraced the exercise, working side by side with officials and water company staff.

“This cleanup has made our market more presentable and hygienic for customers. We appreciate the education on proper waste management and commit to maintaining these

standards so our trading environment remains clean,” said Peter Kamau, a vegetable trader at Kiganjo Market.

According to organizers, the partnership between GATWASCO and the county’s Department of Water, Environment, Energy and Natural

Resources reflects a coordinated approach to tackling environmental challenges. By combining cleanup activities with sensitization, the initiative seeks not only to improve current conditions but also to instill sustainable practices within communities.

Kenya Faces Surge of Corruption Scandals and Public Outcry Ahead of Voter Registration

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

Kenya’s political and governance landscape is roiled by a series of corruption scandals, increasing public frustration, and declining confidence in the ruling regime, opposition leaders have declared in a fiery statement.

The opposition Wiper Patriots Forum (WPF) yesterday led by Kalonzo Musyoka publicly accused the administration of President William Ruto of systemic mismanagement and corruption, especially in critical sectors such as education and healthcare.

The Social Health Authority (SHA), a government health insurance body established less than a year ago, is central to the controversy. The WPF

pointed to an alleged Sh.10.6 billion fraud involving fake hospitals and patients, while legitimate hospitals have gone unpaid, forcing closures. A disputed Sh.104.8 billion contract awarded non-competitively to a consortium has further raised fears of deep-rooted graft and stolen public resources in the healthcare system.

“This is healthcare genocide,” the opposition declared, demanding that perpetrators be treated as criminals against humanity.

The WPF also criticized the government’s E-Citizen platform as opaque and a conduit for public fund misappropriation. Meanwhile, escalating insecurity in Mandera County was condemned as tantamount to occupation by foreign forces, questioning the government’s ability to safeguard Kenya’s sovereignty. The party urged the administration to refrain from interfering in sensitive land conflicts concerning the East

African Portland Cement Company and Karura Forest.

Political intolerance was flagged as rising, with calls for equal security for all citizens irrespective of political affiliation.

In a critical timely notice, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) announced that voter registration for the 2026 General Election will open on September 29. The opposition urged all eligible Kenyans to obtain national ID cards and register to vote, framing the exercise as a pivotal step to “reclaim Kenya from the rotten regime.”

Kenya’s fight against corruption continues amidst several recent high-profile scandals and court convictions related to fake procurement deals, including a Sh550 million scandal at the Kenya Pipeline Company and health sector procurement irregularities. Despite legislative reforms like the Conflict of Interest



Wiper Patriots Front leader Kalonzo Musyoka issuing his address to the media at the party headquarters

Act enacted this year, anti-corruption efforts face hurdles as stolen funds and impunity persist.

As citizens prepare to register to vote in the coming weeks, political tensions and demands for govern-

ment accountability are expected to intensify, with the nation watching closely for signs of meaningful reform or further turmoil.



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The War That Redefined Europe: Strategic Misjudgments, Calculated Moves, And The Battle For Sovereignty



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

Introduction

The Russia-Ukraine war, which erupted in February 2022, has become a defining conflict of the 21st century - reshaping global alliances, testing the resilience of democratic institutions, and challenging long-held assumptions about deterrence and preparedness. Ukraine, though historically vulnerable to Russian aggression, was caught off guard by the scale and intensity of the invasion. Despite years of tension following the annexation of Crimea in 2014, Ukraine's strategic posture remained rooted in the hope that Western powers - particularly the European Union and the United States - would act as a bulwark against Russian expansionism.

Russia, on the other hand, entered the conflict with a calculated resolve. Its military buildup, diplomatic maneuvering, and hybrid warfare tactics suggested a long-term strategy aimed at reasserting influence over Ukraine and challenging the post-Cold War European order. This analysis explores the asymmetry in strategic foresight between Ukraine and Russia, examining how initial expectations, military readiness, and geopolitical assumptions shaped the trajectory of the war. It also assesses the evolving role of Western powers, the limitations of deterrence, and the broader implications for global security.

Ukraine's Strategic Vulnerabilities Historical Context

Ukraine's vulnerability to Russian aggression is deeply rooted in its post-Soviet history. Following independence in 1991, Ukraine struggled to build a cohesive national defense strategy. The 2014 annexation of Crimea and the subsequent conflict in Donbas exposed critical weaknesses in Ukraine's military and intelligence apparatus. While reforms were initiated - such as restructuring the armed forces and increasing defense spending - progress was uneven and often hampered by political instability and corruption.

NATO membership remained a distant aspiration. Despite growing cooperation, Ukraine was not granted full membership or the security guarantees that come with it. This left the country in a strategic limbo: too

Western for Russia's liking, yet not fully integrated into Western defense structures.

Intelligence and Misjudgment

In the months leading up to the invasion, Western intelligence agencies warned of a significant Russian military buildup near Ukraine's borders. Satellite imagery, intercepted communications, and troop movements all pointed to an impending attack. However, Ukrainian leadership hesitated to fully mobilize or alarm the public. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, while acknowledging the threat, sought to maintain economic stability and avoid panic.

This cautious approach stemmed from a belief that Russia would not risk a full-scale invasion, especially given the potential backlash from the international community. Ukrainian officials also hoped that diplomatic engagement and Western pressure would deter Moscow. In retrospect, this misjudgment delayed critical defensive preparations and left key infrastructure vulnerable.

Military Readiness

At the onset of the war, Ukraine's military was significantly outmatched by Russia's in terms of equipment, manpower, and technological sophistication. Much of Ukraine's arsenal consisted of outdated Soviet-era systems, and while reforms had improved training and morale, the armed forces were not prepared for a sustained conventional war.

Air defense capabilities were limited, and Ukraine lacked sufficient long-range artillery and missile systems. The country relied heavily on territorial defense units, volunteer battalions, and civilian mobilization. While these forces demonstrated remarkable resilience, they were not a substitute for a fully modernized military.

Strategic Dependence on the West

Ukraine's strategic doctrine implicitly assumed that Western powers would intervene decisively in the event of a Russian invasion. This belief was rooted in years of diplomatic engagement, military aid, and public statements of support from EU and US leaders. However, the reality proved more complex.

Initial Western responses were cautious and measured. While sanctions were imposed and military aid was pledged, the pace and scale of support did not match Ukraine's immediate needs. Bureaucratic hurdles, political debates, and fears of escalation slowed the delivery of critical weapons and equipment. This exposed the limitations of relying on external deterrence and underscored the need for strategic autonomy.



Russia's Calculated Offensive Strategic Objectives

Russia's invasion of Ukraine was not a spontaneous act of aggression but the culmination of years of strategic planning. Moscow's primary objectives included:

- Preventing Ukraine's integration into NATO and the EU.
- Securing control over Crimea and establishing a land corridor to Donbas.
- Undermining Western unity and demonstrating the limits of US influence.

These goals were framed within a broader narrative of restoring Russian influence and countering perceived encirclement by Western powers. President Vladimir Putin portrayed the war as a defensive measure - protecting Russian-speaking populations and resisting Western hegemony.

Military Preparation

Russia's military buildup began long before the invasion. Over the past decade, the Kremlin invested heavily in modernizing its armed forces, developing advanced missile systems, and enhancing cyber capabilities. Exercises near Ukraine's borders served both as preparation and psychological warfare.

Hybrid tactics played a central role. Cyberattacks targeted Ukrainian infrastructure, disinformation campaigns sowed confusion, and covert operations destabilized regions. The use of irregular forces, such as the Wagner Group, provided flexibility and deniability.

Russia also leveraged its experience in Syria and Georgia, refining tactics for urban warfare, drone deployment, and electronic jamming. These preparations gave Moscow a tactical edge in the early stages of the con-

flict.

Tactical Execution

The invasion was launched with a multi-pronged strategy aimed at overwhelming Ukrainian defenses and achieving rapid regime change. Russian forces advanced from the north toward Kyiv, from the east into Donbas, and from the south through Crimea.

Initial operations focused on shock-and-awe tactics - targeting airfields, command centers, and communication hubs. The goal was to decapitate Ukrainian leadership and force a swift surrender. However, logistical challenges, fierce resistance, and intelligence failures disrupted these plans.

The use of elite units and precision strikes demonstrated Russia's tactical sophistication. Yet, overconfidence and underestimation of Ukrainian resolve led to strategic setbacks, particularly in the battle for Kyiv.

Strategic Messaging

Russia's narrative management was integral to its strategy. The war was labeled a "special military operation," downplaying its scale and framing it as a limited intervention. State media emphasized themes of liberation, anti-Nazism, and historical justice.

Internationally, Russia sought to exploit divisions within the West. Energy dependence, political polarization, and economic interests were leveraged to weaken sanctions and delay military aid. Moscow also cultivated ties with non-Western powers, presenting itself as a counterbalance to US dominance.

This strategic messaging aimed to legitimize the invasion, maintain domestic support, and complicate Western responses.

Western Response and Its Limita-

tions

Political Hesitation

Western governments faced a dilemma: how to support Ukraine without triggering a broader conflict. Initial responses were cautious, reflecting fears of escalation and nuclear confrontation. While condemnations were swift, concrete actions lagged.

Debates over sending lethal aid, imposing full sanctions, and engaging diplomatically revealed divisions within NATO and the EU. Some countries prioritized economic stability, while others advocated for robust intervention. This hesitation allowed Russia to consolidate gains and exposed the fragility of deterrence.

Military Aid Evolution

Over time, Western support became more substantial. The US and EU provided billions in military aid, including advanced systems like Javelin anti-tank missiles, HIMARS rocket launchers, and Patriot air defense batteries. Training programs and intelligence sharing also improved.

However, aid often arrived reactively - responding to battlefield developments rather than anticipating them. Bureaucratic delays, logistical challenges, and political debates slowed delivery. Ukraine's innovative use of drones, mobile units, and decentralized command structures often outpaced Western doctrinal support.

Economic Sanctions

Sanctions targeted Russian banks, oligarchs, and energy exports. While they inflicted economic pain, their ef-



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Message From The Elders And Seers Of Mount Kenya

To His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior, and All Security Agencies of the Nation

We, the Elders and Seers of Mount Kenya keepers of the ancient wisdom and guardians of national unity, speak now with the voice of truth, guided by the spirits of our forefathers and foremothers.

We have heard the recent warning from the Governor of Mandera, who has courageously spoken out about the growing threat facing his county from criminal and terrorist elements.

These are not ordinary lawbreakers they are enemies of peace, enemies of progress, and enemies of Kenya.

This situation is not isolated. It is a national emergency.

We remind the leadership of this country of the sacred agreement handed down by our ancestors. That no Kenyan shall raise a hand to shed the blood of another Kenyan. That we shall walk as one family, diverse but united, strong in our differences, but stronger

in our love for this land.

To His Excellency the President and the Cabinet Secretary for Interior, we respectfully and urgently say.

The time for words has passed. The time for action is now.

We demand the immediate protection of our people from these criminal forces.

We ask that the Kenya Defence Forces, the National Police Service, and all arms of security be fully mobilized to:

Defend innocent citizens in Mandera and all vulnerable regions,

Dismantle and neutralize these terrorist networks,

Confiscate all illegal weapons that empower these criminals.

We will not sit by as the blood of our children is spilled.

And to the world, we say this.

If the State hesitates, Heaven will not.

When the Almighty gives command, His Holy Army will arise to protect the innocent and punish the wicked.

Peace is our desire, but peace must be defended. We have built this nation



with patience, with sacrifice, and with unity. We will not allow fear to destroy what generations have labored to create.

This is not just a local issue. It is a threat to national security and to the peace of the region.

Let the call be answered. Let protec-

tion come. Let justice prevail.

*Signed,
Elders and Seers of Mount Kenya.*

Beyond the Photo-Op: Kenya's Environmental Integrity Crisis



By: Davidson Otieno Omondi

@themkenyatimes

Kenya is a nation of great environmental ambition. From the presidential commitment to planting 15 billion trees to the corporate sustainability reports that fill our newspapers, we are experts in the language of conservation. We have mastered the art of the tree-planting photo-op. But a critical question remains: are we planting trees, or are we actually growing a forest?

The difference is not semantic; it is the very heart of what I call our national environmental integrity crisis.

Planting a tree is a performance. It is a one-day event with a politician, a corporate sponsor, and a camera. It generates good press and allows us to feel a sense of progress. Growing a

forest, however, is a long-term commitment. It requires fencing, watering, community engagement, and a multi-year plan to ensure the saplings survive. One is a headline; the other is a legacy.

Too often, we are choosing the headline. I have personally visited the sites of well-funded, highly publicized tree-planting initiatives years later, only to find a field of dead saplings: a "paper forest" that exists only in an annual report. This is not just a waste of money; it is a betrayal of public trust and a dangerous illusion of progress.

This integrity crisis extends beyond trees. It is present in the flawed Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) that approve destructive projects. It is in the "greenwashing" campaigns that allow companies to distract from their polluting core business with minor conservation projects. It is in the gap between our bold climate pledges on the global stage and the reality of enforcement on the ground.

So, what is the solution?

We must shift our national focus from celebrating promises to auditing results. The government, corporate



sector, and civil society must demand a new standard of radical transparency. We need to celebrate not the number of trees planted, but their five-year survival rate. A report from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) itself emphasizes that "monitoring, reporting, and verification"

are the cornerstones of successful climate action. We must apply this rigor to all our environmental projects.

The challenges we face, from drought in the north to the pollution of Lake Victoria, are too severe for us to continue funding performances. It is time to move beyond the pho-

to-op and begin the real, honest work of building a sustainable future. It is time to start growing our forest.

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

The War That Redefined Europe: Strategic Misjudgments, Calculated Moves, And The Battle For Sovereignty

Contd from page 18

fectiveness was mixed. Russia adapted by deepening ties with China, India, and other non-Western partners. Energy markets adjusted, and global inflation complicated enforcement. Sanctions also had unintended consequences - fueling nationalist sentiment in Russia and straining Western economies. The complexity of global supply chains and financial systems limited the scope and impact of punitive measures.

Strategic Misalignment

Western aid, while substantial, often failed to align with Ukraine's tactical realities. Delays in delivery, mismatched equipment, and lack of coordination hindered effectiveness. Ukraine's battlefield innovation - such as using commercial drones for reconnaissance - highlighted the need for flexible, responsive support. This misalignment reflected broader strategic gaps. Western powers struggled to balance deterrence, escalation management, and long-term planning. Ukraine, meanwhile, had to adapt rapidly, often improvising solutions in the absence of timely aid.

Strategic Balance and War Trajectory

Stalemate and Attrition

By late 2022, the war had settled into a grinding stalemate. Frontlines stabilized, and neither side achieved decisive breakthroughs. The conflict shifted to artillery duels, drone warfare, and trench battles reminiscent of World War I.

Attrition became the dominant dynamic. Both sides suffered heavy casualties, and infrastructure was devastated. The war's duration and intensity exceeded initial expectations, reshaping strategic calculations.

Russia's Minimal Victory Conditions

Russia recalibrated its objectives. Holding Crimea, Donbas, and the land corridor became sufficient for a strategic win. These territories provided geopolitical leverage, economic resources, and symbolic value.

Ukraine, by contrast, faced a higher bar for victory - retaking occupied territories, restoring sovereignty, and rebuilding national infrastructure. This asymmetry complicated negotiations and prolonged the

Russia's Minimal Victory Conditions

Russia recalibrated its objectives as the war dragged on. While the initial goal may have been regime change

in Kyiv, the Kremlin shifted focus toward consolidating control over Crimea, Donbas, and the land corridor connecting them. These territories offered strategic depth, access to the Black Sea, and control over key industrial zones.

For Moscow, holding these areas - even without full occupation of Ukraine - could be framed as a strategic success. It would allow Russia to claim victory domestically, maintain leverage in future negotiations, and permanently alter Ukraine's territorial integrity. This minimalist approach reduced operational strain and allowed Russia to entrench its forces in defensible positions.

Ukraine's Resilience

Despite its initial vulnerabilities, Ukraine demonstrated extraordinary resilience. Civilian mobilization surged, with thousands volunteering for defense units and humanitarian efforts. The government maintained functionality under siege, and President Zelenskyy's leadership galvanized both domestic and international support.

Ukrainian forces adapted rapidly, employing decentralized command structures, leveraging local knowledge, and innovating with limited resources. The use of commercial drones, improvised weapons, and agile tactics allowed Ukraine to punch above its weight. Morale remained high, fueled by a strong sense of national identity and defiance.

Western support, though initially slow, became more robust over time. Military aid, financial assistance, and diplomatic backing helped Ukraine stabilize the frontlines and launch counteroffensives. Yet, the burden of war remained immense, and the path to full territorial recovery was steep.

Long-Term Implications

The war's long-term implications are profound. For Ukraine, the conflict accelerated its integration with Western institutions. EU membership talks gained momentum, and NATO cooperation deepened. However, reconstruction needs, political reforms, and security guarantees remain complex challenges.

For Russia, the war led to global isolation, economic strain, and reputational damage. Yet, internal control remained firm, and the Kremlin continued to shape the narrative domestically. The conflict also pushed Russia closer to China and other non-Western powers, reshaping global alignments.

For the West, the war prompted a reevaluation of defense strategies, energy policies, and geopolitical priorities. NATO expanded, military budgets increased, and the concept of strategic autonomy gained traction. The war became a catalyst for systemic change across Europe and



beyond.

Lessons in Strategic Foresight

The Cost of Assumptions

One of the most striking lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war is the danger of strategic assumptions. Ukraine assumed that Western deterrence would prevent a full-scale invasion. Russia assumed that Ukraine would collapse quickly under pressure. Both assumptions proved flawed.

Ukraine's reliance on external guarantees delayed internal preparations. Russia's overconfidence led to tactical blunders and underestimated Ukrainian resolve. These miscalculations prolonged the conflict and increased its human and economic toll. Strategic foresight requires not only intelligence and planning but also humility and adaptability. The war exposed the limits of predictive models and the importance of contingency planning.

The Nature of Modern Warfare

The conflict also redefined the nature of modern warfare. Traditional doctrines centered on tanks, aircraft, and infantry were supplemented - and in some cases, supplanted - by cyberwarfare, drone technology, and electronic jamming. Ukraine's use of commercial drones for reconnaissance and targeting demonstrated the democratization of military technology. Russia's cyberattacks on infrastructure highlighted the vulnerability of civilian systems. Information warfare became a central battlefield, with narratives shaping perceptions and morale.

Modern warfare is increasingly multi-domain, involving land, air, sea, cyber, and space. Success depends not only on firepower but on agility, innovation, and strategic communication.

Strategic Autonomy vs. Dependence

The war underscored the importance of strategic autonomy. Ukraine's dependence on Western aid, while essential, revealed the risks of external reliance. Delays in weapons delivery, political debates, and logistical challenges hindered responsiveness.

Building self-reliant defense capabilities, investing in domestic production, and developing indigenous technologies are critical for long-term security. Strategic autonomy also involves political cohesion, economic resilience, and institutional strength.

For the EU, the war reignited debates about its own strategic autonomy. Energy dependence on Russia, fragmented defense policies, and reliance on US leadership exposed vulnerabilities. The conflict prompted efforts to harmonize defense strategies and reduce external dependencies.

The Role of Political Will

Ultimately, political will proved decisive. Ukraine's leadership, particularly President Zelenskyy, demonstrated clarity, courage, and adaptability. His decision to remain in Kyiv, communicate directly with citizens, and engage global audiences strengthened national unity and international support.

Western political will evolved over time. Initial hesitation gave way to more assertive action, driven by public pressure, moral imperatives, and strategic interests. The unity of NATO, the expansion of sanctions, and the provision of military aid reflected a growing recognition of the stakes.

Russia's political will remained firm, though increasingly insulated from public scrutiny. The Kremlin maintained control over media, suppressed dissent, and framed the war as existential. This allowed sustained engagement despite mounting costs. Political will is not static - it

is shaped by leadership, public opinion, and strategic context. The war demonstrated that resolve, legitimacy, and communication are as vital as military strength.

Conclusion

The Russia-Ukraine war is a stark reminder of the consequences of strategic misalignment. Ukraine, though courageous and adaptive, entered the conflict with misplaced expectations and limited preparedness. Its reliance on Western deterrence, while understandable, delayed critical defensive measures. Yet, through resilience, innovation, and leadership, Ukraine transformed its vulnerabilities into strengths.

Russia, by contrast, launched a calculated offensive rooted in long-term planning and tactical sophistication. However, its assumptions about Ukrainian weakness and Western disunity proved costly. The war exposed the limits of brute force and the unpredictability of national resistance.

Western powers, initially cautious, eventually rallied behind Ukraine. Their support, though imperfect, became a lifeline. The conflict reshaped global alliances, defense policies, and geopolitical norms. It also highlighted the importance of strategic foresight, autonomy, and political will.

As the war continues, its legacy will be defined not only by territorial outcomes but by the lessons it imparts. For Ukraine, the path forward demands reconstruction, reform, and resilience. For Russia, the war is a gamble with uncertain returns. For the world, it is a call to rethink security, sovereignty, and solidarity.

In the end, the war is not just a clash of armies - it is a test of vision, values, and the capacity to learn from history.

Gaza Students Deprived Of Education Amid Deadly War

By: Xinhua
 @themtkenyentimes

September marks the start of the school year for children in many parts around the world, but for the Palestinian students living in war-torn Gaza, the prospect of returning to school this September continues to be a distant hope -- just like last year. At the entrance of a displacement camp in the central Gaza Strip city of Deir al-Balah, 12-year-old Maram sat quietly, with an old, dust-covered school bag placed beside her.

"Every year I used to go with my mother to buy new notebooks and pencils, but for three years we haven't bought anything," she told Xinhua in a low voice. "I took my school bag with me, but I cannot use it anymore. At this time of year, we used to prepare to return to class, but now I only see the tent. Sometimes I write on old papers, so I don't forget the letters," she said. Next to her, Ahmed, a 15-year-old tenth grader from Deir al-Balah, voiced similar frustration.

"I dreamed of becoming an engineer and building a house for my family, but everything has stopped. Since the beginning of the war, we haven't been able to attend school. Some of my friends were killed, others displaced, and I haven't seen them for months," he told Xinhua. "If more years pass without studying, what will I become? A young man without knowledge or a degree?" he asked.

Nine-year-old Layan Abu Raya, now displaced in a tent in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, said she misses her schoolyard, teachers, and friends. "Here in the tent, we sometimes try to write on the few notebooks charities gave us, but I forget letters and sometimes write them wrong," said the girl, who is supposed to be in the third grade of the school. Including the three children, over 660,000 students in Gaza currently lack access to classrooms and educational materials as the war, now in its 23rd month, continues to devastate infrastructure and turn schools into shelters for displaced families, according to data released by the United Nations.

In a press statement on Monday, Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, warned that the longer the Gaza children "stay out of school with their trauma, the higher the risk they become a lost generation, sowing the seeds for

more hatred and violence."

Figures released by the Ramallah-based Palestinian Ministry of Education illustrate the depth of the crisis. It said in late August that 18,489 students have been killed and 28,854 injured since the start of the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank after the war broke out on Oct. 7, 2023. In al-Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, Abu Mohammed al-Hawwash, a father of five, expressed deep concern. "The war destroyed schools and universities and killed students and teachers," he said. "I fear my children will grow up without knowing how to read or write." Some displaced teachers are trying to fill the gap with improvised lessons, but their efforts remain limited. Suad al-Awadi, a 35-year-old Arabic teacher who now lives in a tent in Khan Younis, told Xinhua that she gathers groups of children in the camp and tries to teach them basic reading and writing.

Sometimes we write letters in the sand or on torn papers, and I repeat the alphabet and simple words with them, so they don't completely forget," she said. Even if they are given some opportunities to attend classes, many children already face significant learning difficulties caused by the war. "Some children cannot



Gaza students in a classroom. Photo/Xinhua/File.

concentrate at all. They have lost relatives or seen their homes destroyed, and when I try to teach them letters, they sometimes cry or talk about what happened to them. Their minds are filled with fear," al-Awadi explained. The teachers are also ex-

periencing tremendous pressure, as many of their colleagues have been killed and numerous others have been displaced. Despite these challenges, al-Awadi remains committed to her work. "When a child learns to write a word or pronounce a letter, I

feel like we are fighting back against hopelessness," she said. "However, everyone here understands that lessons in the sand cannot replace proper education. These children deserve better than this."



Part of destroyed Gaza. Photo/Xinhua/File.

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Sports >> *Kenya's fast-rising striker Ryan Ogam has completed a move from Tusker FC to Austrian Bundesliga side Wolfsberger AC, marking a major milestone in his blossoming career.

Kenya's Ryan Ogam Seals Dream Move To Austria's Wolfsberger AC



Kenya's fast-rising striker Ryan Ogam has completed a move from Tusker FC to Austrian Bundesliga side Wolfsberger AC, marking a major milestone in his blossoming career.

The 20-year-old, born in Nairobi in December 2004, will link up with his new teammates after the international break.

Wolfsberger, who finished fourth in last season's Austrian Bundesliga playoffs, are banking on his sharp finishing and versatility to strengthen their attack.

Ogam shot to prominence during CHAN 2024, where his goals against Morocco and

Zambia powered Kenya into the quarterfinals.

His exploits drew comparisons to national captain Michael Olunga, with Harambee Stars coach Benni McCarthy praising his "natural finishing and clever movement."

Interestingly, Ogam's career began in midfield. But when Tusker faced an injury crisis, he was pushed into attack from the defensive midfield position, a switch that transformed him into one of Kenya's deadliest forwards.

He went on to score 15 goals in just 17 FKF Premier League ap-

pearances last season, cementing his reputation as one of the most dangerous forwards in Kenyan domestic football.

Having honed his game with clubs like Galaxy FC, Sunrise FC, and UEFA Despanol, Rainbow FC, and a brief stint in the UAE with Elite Falcons, Ogam's rapid rise has now landed him on the European stage.

Returning to Kenya in 2024 with Tusker, Ogam's form quickly earned him a national team call-up for the Mapinduzi Cup in January 2025. Since then, his rapid rise has made him one of the country's brightest prospects.

Harambee Stars coach Benni McCarthy has likened him to Olunga, praising his "natural finishing and clever movement."

His move to Austria offers him the chance to test himself against top competition and extend Kenya's tradition of producing elite strikers.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Kenyan international Clarke Sydney Oduor has been thrust into the spotlight after his club, Grimsby Town, was fined Ksh 3.5million

Kenyan Star At Centre Of Grimsby Fine After Shock Win Over Man Utd



Kenyan international Clarke Sydney Oduor has been thrust into the spotlight after his club, Grimsby Town, was fined Ksh 3.5million (£20,000) for fielding him as an ineligible player in their dramatic Carabao Cup win over Manchester United.

The English Football League (EFL) confirmed on Tuesday that Grimsby breached competition rules when they registered Oduor one minute past the deadline ahead of the Round Two tie on 27 August 2025.

Despite the error, Grimsby stunned United with a 12–11 penalty shootout victory at Blundell Park to reach Round Three.

According to the EFL, Oduor’s paperwork was submitted at 12:01 pm, narrowly missing the 12:00 pm cutoff. While the Mariners self-reported the breach, the oversight meant Oduor was technical-

ly ineligible to play.

“The circumstances leading to this transgression are that Grimsby Town submitted the registration of Clarke Oduor at 12:01 pm on the day before the fixture i.e. shortly after the 12:00 pm deadline required in accordance with the 2025/26 competition rules.

“The Club self-reported the breach upon discovery the day after the fixture had been completed. “Following a comprehensive review of all the evidence and considering prior decisions taken in respect of offences in the League Cup, the Board determined that the issuing of a fine followed precedent,” EFL said in a statement.

Half of the fine — £10,000 — has been suspended until the end of the 2025/26 season, provided the club avoids any repeat offences.

The EFL Board stressed that the mistake was not deliberate, noting

there was “no intention to deceive or mislead.” Grimsby has since taken steps to prevent a similar incident in the future.

“The Club will be liable for the suspended sum of £10,000, if they were to again field an ineligible player in any League Competition between now and the end of Season 2025/26.”

For Oduor, 26, the incident comes just days after sealing a loan move to Grimsby from Bradford City on 26 August 2025. The Nairobi-born midfielder and left-back has enjoyed a steady rise through English football.

Starting at Leeds United’s academy, he made his senior debut in 2019 before joining Barnsley, where he famously scored a last-minute goal to secure Championship survival in 2020.

After a loan spell at Hartlepool and a permanent switch to

Bradford City, Oduor’s move to Grimsby was meant to offer him regular playing time. The ineligibility fine, however, briefly overshadowed his arrival.

On the international stage, Oduor committed to Kenya’s Harambee Stars, debuting in a 2–1 win over Zambia in October 2020. His versatility has made him a key prospect for the national team setup.

Despite the setback, Grimsby’s penalty triumph over Manchester United remains intact, and Oduor is expected to feature prominently in their League Two campaign as the club looks to move past the registration blunder.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Rhythm of Resilience The Healing Journey of Rebecca Rylands



By: Anila Bukhari

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Rebecca's experience with trauma had given her a unique perspective on healing. She knew that traditional methods often fell short in addressing the complexities of the human experience. That's when she turned to drumming as a therapeutic tool. The rhythmic beats seemed to tap into a deep well of emotions, allowing her to process her experiences in a way she never thought possible.
- This epiphany led Rebecca to create Heartfelt Drumming, a therapy and wellbeing business that uses drumming circles to support individuals and communities in need. Her programs are carefully designed to foster resilience, belonging, and growth, creating safe spaces for people to connect through the universal language of rhythm.

Rebecca Rylands' life took an unexpected turn following the birth of her first child. What should have been a time of joy became a fight for survival, as a medical emergency after the delivery left her confronting trauma and the fragility of life itself. This experience could have defined her in despair, but instead, it became the catalyst for her remarkable journey of healing and transformation.

Today, as a counsellor, musician, and entrepreneur, Rebecca draws on both her professional expertise and her lived experience to inspire others. Through rhythm and storytelling, she helps people find solace in the beat of life and strength in shared connection. Her work is a testament to the human spirit's capacity for resilience and growth, and a reminder that healing is possible, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Growing up in New Zealand, Rebecca's early years presented challenges that shaped her resilience. With a natural inclination toward music and supporting others, she found comfort in the sound of drums — their vibration echoing her heartbeat and offering a deep sense of grounding. As she grew older, Rebecca's passion for music and helping others only intensified, leading her to pursue a career in counselling.

Rebecca's experience with trauma had given her a unique perspective on healing. She knew that traditional methods often fell short in addressing the complexities of the human experience. That's when she turned to drumming as a therapeutic tool. The rhythmic beats seemed to tap into a deep well of emotions, allowing her to process her experiences in a way she never thought possible.

This epiphany led Rebecca to create Heartfelt Drumming, a therapy and wellbeing business that uses drumming circles to support individuals and communities in need. Her programs are carefully designed to foster resilience, belonging, and growth, creating safe spaces for people to connect through the universal language of rhythm.

Rebecca's work has had a profound impact on the lives of those she touches. She has helped perinatal mothers and children's groups, providing a nurturing environment for them to explore their emotions and connect with others. Her drumming circles become a sanctuary, a place where participants can find solace in the rhythm and support in each other.



Rebecca Ryland

The impact of Rebecca's work has not gone unnoticed. In 2025, she received the prestigious Bronze AusMumpreneur Award for Wellness Services, celebrating her innovation and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. This recognition is a testament to the transformative power of her work and her dedication to her craft.

Through her work with Heartfelt Drumming and her writing, Rebecca continues to inspire others to find the healing power of rhythm and storytelling. Her story is a testament to the human spirit's capacity for

resilience and growth. From a traumatic birth experience to becoming a renowned counsellor, musician, and entrepreneur, Rebecca's journey is a powerful reminder that our experiences can shape us into agents of change.

As we reflect on Rebecca's journey, we are reminded of the importance of community, creativity, and courage in overcoming life's challenges. Her story serves as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path for those who seek to heal and grow. In a world where adversity is inevitable, Rebecca's work offers a powerful

reminder that healing is possible, and that it often happens in the most unexpected ways.

The rhythm of Rebecca's drums continues to echo through the lives of those she touches. Her story is a testament to the transformative power of music, community, and resilience. As we listen to the beat of her drums, we are reminded that healing is a journey, not a destination, and that with the right support and tools, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges.