



Tharaka Nithi and Laikipia Counties Hosts NGE Commission for Consultative Talks On Girls' Education

Tharaka-Nithi and Laikipia counties yesterday played host to National Gender and Equality Commission where they held consultative meetings on girl child education. In Tharaka-Nithi, the NGE team was led by Chief Executive Officer Dr Purity Ngina while in Laikipia by one of the Commissioners, Dr Margaret Karungaru.

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NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE,

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

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News>>Hustler Fund Announces Appointment of New CEO

P. 8. The Board of the Financial Inclusion Fund (Hustler Fund) has announced the appointment of Mr. Henry K. Tanui as the Chief Executive Officer for a renewable term of three years.



News>>Hope As MPs Pledge Revival Of Stalled Roads After Fuel Levy Securitization

P. 12. In the wake of mounting concerns over dilapidated and stalled road projects across the country, the national assembly committee on roads has assured Kenyans that the government has rolled out a clear plan to revive construction works.

Who Is Fooling Who In Mandera Invasion?

Kenya Kwanza-allied MPs and interior Cabinet Secretary have defended the State over the continued silence on the invasion by Juba Land forces in Mandera County. Speaking in Busia at the beginning of his Jukwaa La Usalama tour of Western Kenya, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen refuted the claims, adding that the government will find criminal elements and treat them as per international laws, warning against politicising the issue.



Interior CS Kipchumba Murkomen, inset Mandera Senator Ali Roba

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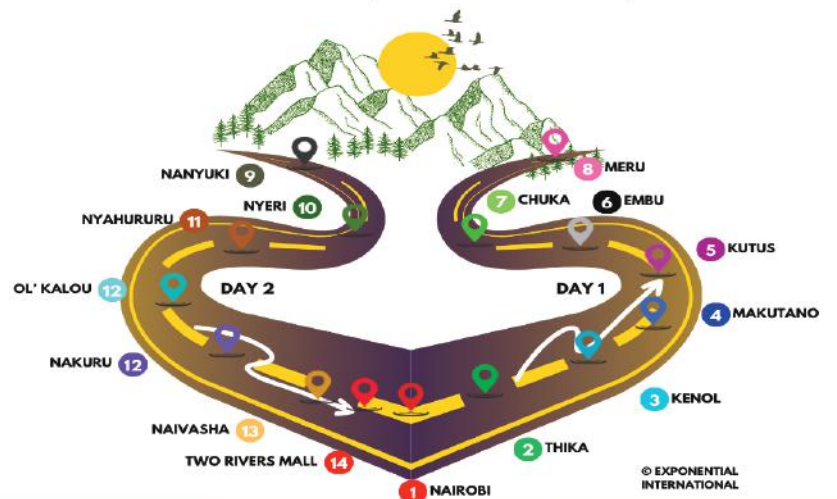
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NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



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Just Like Footballers, Athletes Promised Millions By President Ruto

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

The 2025 World Athletics Championship team is poised to become instant millionaires if they perform superbly in the forthcoming competitions.

President William Ruto yesterday promised them enhanced awards for every win. Further, the government more than tripled their daily allowances for the period they will be in Tokyo, Japan where the competition will be taking place.

“Kenya is a nation of champions; a country where talent, discipline, and resilience have produced legends who inspire the world. To sustain this proud tradition and secure our rightful place among the greats, we are investing heavily in modern infrastructure and availing the necessary resources for our athletes to thrive on the global stage,” the President said at State House, Nairobi while flagging them off.

Gold medal winners will now earn Sh3 million, up from Sh750,000; silver medalists Sh2 million, up from Sh500,000; and bronze medalists Sh1 million, up from Sh350,000. We have also raised their daily allowances from USD 60 to USD 200.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Ministry of Health has made significant progress in advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). To date, 106,542 Community Health Promoters, representing 99.6 percent, have been trained and kitted to deliver essential health services at the community level. 8.8 million households out of the targeted 12.5 million have already been registered on the Electronic Community Health Information System, with the exercise ongoing to ensure every household in Kenya is captured. The milestones were yesterday highlighted during the Principal Secretaries' Monthly Meeting chaired by the Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, where Principal Secretaries Dr. Ouma Oluga (Medical Services) and Mary Muthoni (Public Health and Professional Standards) presented on the progress made in implementing BETA commitments in healthcare financing, human resources, and the digitisation of the health ecosystem.



A total of 14,319 bags of coffee drawn from various cooperative societies and estates traded at Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) auction on Tuesday netted KSh938 million. The earnings at Sale 38 of the current coffee year saw a 45 percent increase compared to the earnings obtained during last week's auction. The volume of coffee presented by brokerage companies for auctioning was higher than last week's auction, which saw 9,886 bags of coffee traded. Moreover, the average price across all grades rose to Sh52,957 per 50-kilogramme bag, equivalent to Sh163 per kilogram of cherry (gross), marking a 2 percent increase from Sale 37.



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday kicked off a mission in the United States aimed at opening new markets for Kenyan agricultural products. Hosted by Kenya's Ambassador to the U.S., David Kerich, Kagwe held a meeting in South Carolina with Milo's Tea Company, the country's leading manufacturer of iced tea with a \$200 million investment footprint. The meeting was attended by the firm's Commodity Manager, Chris Kidenda. The CS was accompanied by Phylis Kandie, Advisor to the President on Commodities Market Development, the KTDA Holdings Limited Chairperson Geoffrey Kirundi and CEO Wilson Muthaura, the CEO Ketepa Ltd, and Andrew Soi who is the Chairperson Kipchimchim group of companies. The delegation is pursuing avenues to raise Kenya's tea exports to the U.S., which currently account for just 2% of shipments.



The United Opposition has appointed former minister in the late President Mwai Kibaki's administration Dr Mukhisa Kituyi as its spokesperson and the head of the Opposition Secretariat.



The Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) and Media Council of Kenya have renewed their partnership through a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on enhancing journalist safety and professionalism, with a special emphasis on protecting women journalists. The collaboration will involve advocating for better protection for media professionals, monitoring and documenting threats against them, and reviewing existing media policies.



Police in Kirinyaga have seized 100 cartons of contraband cigarettes at a suspect's homestead in Kiangai village, Kirinyaga West sub county. The consignment, containing 10,000 pieces of cigarettes worth millions of shillings, was intercepted during a security operation. Confirming the incident, County Commissioner Husain Allasow said one suspect was arrested during the police raid and is being held at Kerugoya police station.

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Strategy Of Easing Traffic Jam At Congestion Prone Areas Along Nairobi-Nakuru Highway

By: George Mugo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- KeNHA officials disclosed that they have been receiving reports of motorists spending nights at traffic jams at areas such as Gichiengo, Kijabe, Kinale, Flyover, Kinungi up to Nakuru.

- It added that the highway serves travellers moving to Nairobi and Mombasa from Rift Valley, Western and Nyanza as well as neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

- Yesterday, KeNHA Deputy Director Julia Ondeyo disclosed that the 175-Kilometres project of expansion will start at Kamandura and end at Mau Summit.



Rukuma trading center Curio shops chairman Laban Ng'ang'a addressing participants at a Kenya National Highways Authority at Gituamba chief's offices in Lari constituency.

The government has embarked on a strategy of expanding the Nairobi Nakuru highway as a way of eradicating traffic jams, Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) has said.

KeNHA officials disclosed that they have been receiving reports of motorists spending nights at traffic jams at areas such as Gichiengo, Kijabe, Kinale, Flyover, Kinungi up to Nakuru.

It added that the highway serves travellers moving to Nairobi and Mombasa from Rift Valley, Western and Nyanza as well as neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Yesterday, KeNHA Deputy Director Julia Ondeyo disclosed that the

175-Kilometres project of expansion will start at Kamandura and end at Mau Summit.

"The project will start at Kamandura and pass through Ngarariga, Kimende, Naivasha, Nakuru and end at Mau Summit. Another stretch on the project will start at Kamandura and pass at Maai Mahiu and later join the main at Naivasha," she explained.

She was speaking at a public participation of the project at Gituamba Chief's office in Lari constituency.

She said this was one of the major projects the government was doing, aimed at improving businesses by easing trade and movement.

Business owners of Curio shops and view points at Rukuma area in Lari



KeNHA Deputy Director Julia Ondeyo greets Lari Kirenga MCA Joshat Kinyanjui (right) as Kijabe MCA Nyutu Wamwere (centre) looks on.

led by Laban Ng'ang'a welcomed the move saying they hope tourists will be attracted to the region so much.

"When there are traffic jams, some tourists are affected too. However, they still come. I feel once the road is expanded, more tourists will visit this place and leave with ease" Ng'ang'a said.

The director clarified that the dual carriageway will also have a service road, underpasses, bridges so as to ensure that there will be no traffic jam.

"We have heard and recorded all the locals' prayers. We shall document all the issues we have discussed with you. We want to be aware of what we are doing here because the road is aimed at serving as many people and motor-

ists as possible with ease" she added.

Also present at the event were acting Deputy County Commissioner Kimani Mbogo, Lari Kirenga Assistant County Commissioner Evelyn Moraa and other ACCs, Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs.

Others leaders were MCA's Joshat Kinyanjui (Lari Kirenga), Nyutu Wamwere (Kijabe), Lari municipality chairperson Njuguna Kiburi, traders, farmers, church leaders and locals.

Lari Kirenga MCA urged KeNHA to ensure they put into consideration all the locals' prayers and views.

Wamwere also said he will be following up on the project so that locals can benefit.

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President Ruto Receives Credentials From Nine Newly Appointed Envoys To Kenya

By: Presidential Communication Service

@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto yesterday received and accepted the credentials of nine envoys beginning their tour of duty in Kenya at State House, Nairobi.

The new ambassadors pledged to deepen ties between Kenya and their respective nations for the mutual benefit of their peoples. President Ruto assured them of his government's commitment to work together in advancing cooperation across priority areas.

The envoys are Ambassadors Tyas Baskoro Her Witjaksono Adji (Indonesia), Jaime Alejandro (Spain), Riina-Riikka Heikka (Finland), Maroš Mitrik (Slovak Republic), Dzmitry Krasouski (Belarus), Leon Francois

Yandouma (Congo), Håkan Åkesson (Sweden), Gideon Behar (Israel), and Joshua Brebner Tabah, the High Commissioner of Canada.

Adji, with more than three decades of experience in international affairs, is concurrently accredited to Uganda, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat in Nairobi. He said he looks forward to advancing cooperation in sectors including the blue economy, transport, defence, and mining.

Alejandro, a Spanish career diplomat since 2006, has previously served in Chile, Israel, South Africa, and Mozambique. He said he is keen to build on the existing bilateral relations.

Heikka, Finland's former envoy to Nepal, said ties between Kenya and Finland are "excellent, active, comprehensive and ambitious" and

pledged to strengthen them further.

Mitrik, a Slovak diplomat with experience in Uzbekistan and Belarus, said his focus will be on pragmatic and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Tabah, who has served in Colombia, Geneva, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, said Canada is eager to boost collaboration in economic and humanitarian fields, with a strong emphasis on private sector cooperation.

Krasouski, an economist from Belarus, previously headed the country's National Agency for Investment and Privatisation. He said he will prioritise trade, investment, education, and cultural exchange with Kenya.

Yandouma of Congo, a long-serving military officer, was most recently defence attaché in South Africa. He underscored his commitment to building stronger defence and bilateral ties.

Åkesson of Sweden, formerly en-



voy to France, reaffirmed the close friendship between Kenya and Sweden, which spans over six decades, and pledged continued partnership in multilateral forums to promote peace and prosperity.

Behar of Israel, a seasoned diplomat and former Special Envoy for

Climate Change and Sustainability, said he will prioritise cooperation in addressing climate change and environmental challenges, alongside strengthening existing bilateral ties.

Hustler Fund Announces Appointment of New CEO

By: MKT Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

The Board of the Financial Inclusion Fund (Hustler Fund) has announced the appointment of Mr. Henry K. Tanui as the Chief Executive Officer for a renewable term of three years.

Mr. Tanui takes over from Ms. Elizabeth Nkukuu, who has been heading the Fund since its inception. The Board acknowledges Ms. Nkukuu's dedicated service and pioneering leadership, which established a strong foundation for the Fund.

Mr. Tanui is an experienced financial services professional with over 24 years in the industry. He has broad expertise in Risk Management, MSME Lending, Business Lending, Personal Lending, Mortgages, and International Trade Finance.

He has held senior roles at Ecobank, Consolidated Bank of Kenya, and the Industrial and Commercial Development Bank of Kenya. His extensive background has given him a deep understanding of Kenya's economic development and the vital part that financial services play in promoting inclusive growth.

Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives & MSME Development, Wycliffe Oparanya, commended the role of the Fund in the country's socio-economic agenda.



Elizabeth Nkukuu

nomi agenda.

"The Financial Inclusion Fund has already provided affordable credit to more than 26 million Kenyans. As we look ahead, I encourage the Hustler Fund team to enhance their efforts in promoting timely repayments to improve credit scores and to expand financial literacy programmes that support Kenyans in succeeding."

Principal Secretary for MSME Development, Ms. Susan Mange-

ni, highlighted the Fund's impact in enhancing financial inclusion. "Through the Hustler Fund, over 9 million Kenyans now have improved credit histories and are more capable of accessing financing from mainstream financial institutions. We extend our gratitude to Ms. Elizabeth Nkukuu for her steady leadership in establishing the Fund and guiding it through its early stages."

Speaking on his appointment, Mr.



Henry Tanui

Tanui expressed optimism about the Fund's future.

"The Hustler Fund has already proven to be catalytic in supporting livelihoods and economic growth. My focus will be on reengineering our collection processes, strengthening financial literacy, and building ecosystem lending channels that expand our reach and deepen our impact."

The outgoing CEO expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve

and congratulated her successor.

"It has been a privilege to serve Kenyans by establishing and launching the Hustler Fund. I am proud of the progress we have made in reaching millions of households and MSMEs. I warmly congratulate Mr. Tanui and wish him every success in expanding the Fund's impact in the years ahead."

Kenya Kwanza Defend Government Over Silence On Jubaland Forces Invasion In Mandera

By: hn Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The MPs include Elijah Njoroge (Gatundu North), John Njuguna Kawanjiku (Kiambaa), Simon King'ara (Ruiru), Mburu Kahangara (Lari), Alice Ng'ang'a (Thika) and Githua Wamacukuru (Kabete).
- Earlier, Mandera Senator Ali Roba said the situation poses a risk to residents and could undermine Kenya's territorial sovereignty.
- "Jubaland forces are now inside Mandera town. Schools have been shut down, businesses paralysed and families displaced in fear of stray bullets, RPGs and unexploded ordnance," Roba said.
- He added that an atmosphere of fear had engulfed the town. The Senator warned that unless urgent action is taken, the consequences could be serious.

The lawmakers who spoke during a sensitization forum at Kanjuku in Gatundu North constituency affirmed that there is no cause for alarm over the matter claiming that the government is fully aware and in control.

The MPs include Elijah Njoroge (Gatundu North), John Njuguna Kawanjiku (Kiambaa), Simon King'ara (Ruiru), Mburu Kahangara (Lari), Alice Ng'ang'a (Thika) and Githua Wamacukuru (Kabete).

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"Jubaland forces are now inside Mandera town. Schools have been shut down, businesses paralysed and families displaced in fear of stray bullets, RPGs and unexploded ordnance," Roba said.

He added that an atmosphere of fear had engulfed the town. The Senator warned that unless urgent action is taken, the consequences could be serious.

Roba also questioned the legal and constitutional basis for the alleged presence of foreign forces in Mandera, arguing that hosting an armed group from a neighbouring country without formal authorisation undermines Kenya's sovereignty.

"The absurdity of a regional state government fighting its federal government is akin to Mandera County Government declaring war against the Republic of Kenya," Roba said.

Also, residents in Mandera's Border One Post (BP1) location on Tuesday took to the streets to protest the continued presence of Jubaland forces in their village.

The demonstrators claimed that their children have been unable to attend school for fear of abduction and forced recruitment by the foreign troops.

The protesters accused the national government of neglecting their plight, warning that the alleged "illegal occupation" by Jubaland forces was fuelling insecurity in the region. They demanded immediate intervention to restore safety and safeguard Kenya's territorial integrity.

However, the lawmakers led by Kawanjiku asserted that national security matters are handled with utmost precision and that no foreign military forces would be in the country without the knowledge of the country's security apparatus.

"The government is much aware of the situation. The Jubaland forces might be here for training through collaboration with our government. There's nothing to worry about because the matter is being handled by the State," Kawanjiku said.

The MP however noted that Defence Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuyu has already been summoned to



MPs Elijah Njoroge Kururia, John Njuguna Kawanjiku and Alice Ng'ang'a during the empowerment forum in Gatundu North.

Parliament to shed more light on the matter.

Meanwhile, the parliamentarians quipped that the country's development is on an upwards trajectory under the stewardship of President William Ruto.

They also reiterated their support for the William Ruto-led administration for the sake of developments in their respective regions.

"We want better roads, good services and other development projects that will benefit our people. This is why we will not be swayed or coerced to leave the government. We are in government to lobby projects for our people," said MP Kururia.

They also hailed government's programmes that are geared towards elevating Kenyans' economic status and especially the ongoing empowerment programme noting that it will trigger economic growth at the grassroot levels and improve residents' living standards.

MP Alice Ng'ang'a encouraged the government to continue extending the empowerment programme through the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) in all regions across the country. Ng'ang'a also scoffed at the opposition leaders saying that they are inexperienced and unpatriotic, saying the government will not be drawn into divisive rhetoric and retrogressive politics but service delivery and development.

"At the right time, we will make a decision over those who thrive in the politics of poverty and those who thrive in the politics of empowerment and it is very clear who is where right now," she stated.

Kururia defended the empowerment program saying it is meant to complement ongoing government initiatives geared at boosting mama mboga, boda boda hustles and other small-scale traders.

"There are leaders peddling lies that the government is doing nothing, we will confront them head-on



Njuguna Kawanjiku addressing the forum.



Senator Ali Roba

very soon. There are multiple projects and programs geared at improving the lives of the people, be it youth, women, or small-scale traders. On top of these, as leaders we are boosting their capital and stock," he said.

Kawanjiku and Wamacukuru reiterated that the government is spear-

heading a myriad of development projects across Kiambu County adding that residents should give the state time to deliver and implement these projects.

Kenya Kwanza-allied MPs and interior Cabinet Secretary have defended the State over the continued silence on the invasion by Juba Land forces in Mandera County.

Speaking in Busia at the beginning of his Jukwaa La Usalama tour of Western Kenya, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen refuted the claims, adding that the government will find criminal elements and treat them as per international laws, warning against politicising the issue.

Murkomen, however, said that those seeking refuge will be assisted in collaboration with the Somalia government, which has a good relationship with Kenya.

KISM Backs Rollout Of Electronic Government Procurement System To Boost Transparency And Efficiency

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themkenyatimes

The Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM), the statutory body responsible for regulating and professionalizing supply chain management practitioners in Kenya, has publicly expressed strong support for the government's rollout of the end-to-end Electronic Government Procurement System (E-GP). The initiative aims to digitize public procurement processes nationwide, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and accountability.

KISM, established under the Supplies Practitioners Management Act No.17 of 2007, oversees over 28,000 registered supply chain professionals across the country. These practitioners are considered critical to the smooth adoption and operation of the E-GP platform. KISM's leadership has applauded the commitment shown by its members to embrace and support the transition from manual to electronic procurement.

Speaking about the rollout, KISM

officials highlighted the resolutions made during the recent Heads of Procurement Forums held in Mombasa in August 2024 and 2025. At these key industry gatherings, public procurement professionals pledged to actively participate in learning and supporting the new system, motivated by the desire to uphold professional integrity and combat negative stereotypes associated with manual procurement processes.

"The rollout of E-GP is a welcome boost to accountability and responsibility within the profession," said KISM. The Institute further emphasized that digital procurement will significantly reduce loopholes and minimize external interference that have long plagued manual systems.

KISM has also been proactive in addressing the challenges of the transition. In partnership with the National Treasury, it has trained 1,317 supply chain professionals to increase E-GP platform awareness and practical skills. Additionally, KISM has nominated over 30 members for a Trainer of Trainers (ToT) program, currently underway at the Kenya School of

Government, to scale capacity building efforts across public entities nationwide.

This comprehensive ToT training covers key aspects such as supplier registration, procuring entity registration, e-requisitions, e-tender preparation, bid security management, tender evaluation, and contract management. Graduates from this program are expected to play a pivotal role in ensuring institutions and practitioners can fully adopt and comply with the new system.

Ensuring only licensed professionals access the E-GP platform is also a priority. KISM has recommended to the National Treasury that system configuration restrict usage to verified members duly licensed by the Institute. This initiative aligns with the Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Circular (Ref No. SH/GM/3 III (10) of August 23, 2023), which mandates public entities to verify the credentials of supply chain officers.

KISM urges all supply chain practitioners to engage actively in ongoing training, support their institutions with registration on the E-GP platform, fa-



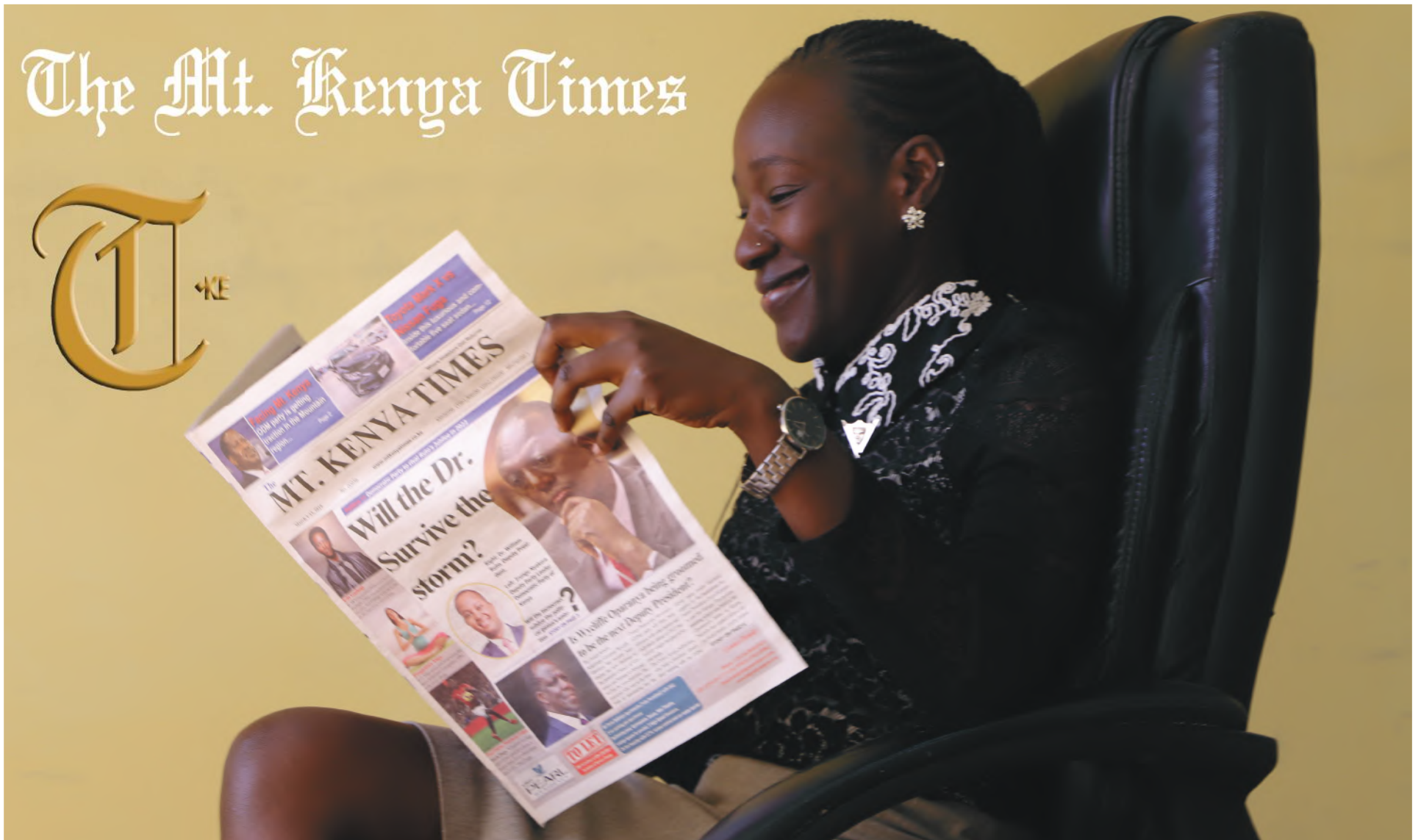
The Chairman of Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM) John Karani alongside KISM officials issuing a statement to the media

Facilitate user role activation, report capacity gaps, and provide feedback to enhance governance standards during the transition.

Globally, e-GP adoption has been successful in many countries, delivering cost savings and improved transparency. Studies by the World Bank show governments have cut procurement expenses by 10-15% within the first year of implementation. Examples include Portugal, which achieved a 20% price reduction, and other benchmarking countries such as

Germany, India, Singapore, Rwanda, and Chile.

In closing, KISM expressed confidence that Kenya's move toward fully digitized procurement will bring significant benefits to the public sector and the nation's economy. The Institute pledged ongoing collaboration with the National Treasury, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), and other stakeholders to address emerging challenges and ensure a smooth rollout.



Evangelical Leaders, Government Unite To Curb Rising Suicide Cases In Nyeri

By: Rodgers Wagura
 @themtkenyentimes

Nyeri County is grappling with a disturbing rise in suicide cases, with local church leaders now joining forces with the national government in efforts to stem the tide of despair that has gripped many households.

The Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), through its Nyeri County chairman Bishop Paul Wanjohi, convened a meeting of evangelical representatives drawn from all the sub-counties.

The gathering, which also included a prayer walk, sought to raise awareness and offer spiritual guidance as part of a broader strategy to restore hope among residents.

Bishop Wanjohi emphasized that clergy have a responsibility to be “messengers of hope,” especially to the most vulnerable.

He assured that unlike in Shakahola, where a banned cult claimed lives, all open churches in Nyeri are legitimate and are working to support communities. “Our mission is to stand with families, strengthen social ties, and offer hope where there is despair,” he said.

Statistics from the office of Nyeri County Commissioner Leonard Mwiwawi underscore the gravity of the problem. In the last ten months, the county has recorded 90 suicide cases, 68 of them men and 22 women.

The youngest victim was just 11 years old while the oldest was 89. Most cases are concentrated in the 40 to 65 age bracket, a segment of the population struggling with economic pressures, family stress, and social disconnection.

“This is a matter of urgency. One life lost is too many,” said Commissioner Mwiwawi. “We must combine efforts from psychological, social, and spiritual angles to provide solutions. Suicide has become a silent epidemic in our county.”

Mwiwawi identified several triggers behind the cases, including financial struggles, strained family relations, and substance abuse. He singled out widespread consumption of marijuana and adulterated bottled liquor as major contributors.

Unlike in some regions where chang’aa is common, Nyeri faces the menace of spurious alcohol disguised in commercial packaging.

He lauded the growing number of volunteer counsellors who are stepping forward to work with his office in supporting affected families. “The response from counsellors is encouraging. Together with the church, they are offering the much-needed psychological and emotional support,” he noted.

Kepha Nyandega, the General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, pointed out that Nyeri’s experience mirrors a wider national trend. Suicide cases are on the rise across the country, he said, warning that urgent and coordinated interventions are needed before the situation worsens.

“The church must move beyond the pulpit,” said Nyandega. “We are rolling out programs that combine counselling, economic empowerment, and



Bishop Paul Wanjohi of Abundant Life Church briefing journalists after the forum. On the left is Nyeri County Commissioner Ronald Mwiwawi (left). Photos/Joseph King'ori.



Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK) Secretary General Kepha Nyandega addressing journalists at Abundant New life church in Nyeri town yesterday.

community training. The aim is to uplift lives both spiritually and economically.”

The Evangelical Alliance plans to establish prayer and counselling meetings in every sub-county. Clergy leaders say the initiatives will not only address spiritual needs but also provide platforms for people to discuss their struggles openly.

Both government and church leaders stressed the importance of strong family ties as the first line of defence against despair. They called on the community to break the silence around suicide and to work collectively to make Nyeri a safe space for all residents.

“With unity of purpose, Nyeri can be a beacon of resilience,” Bishop Wanjohi concluded. “We must ensure that no one feels so hopeless that they see death as the only way out.”



Bishops and Pastors follow the sermon at Abundant New Life Church near Nyeri town.

Worth Noting:

- Bishop Wanjohi emphasized that clergy have a responsibility to be “messengers of hope,” especially to the most vulnerable.
- He assured that unlike in Shakahola, where a banned cult claimed lives, all open churches in Nyeri are legitimate and are working to support communities. “Our mission is to stand with families, strengthen social ties, and offer hope where there is despair,” he said.
- Statistics from the office of Nyeri County Commissioner Leonard Mwiwawi underscore the gravity of the problem. In the last ten months, the county has recorded 90 suicide cases, 68 of them men and 22 women.
- The youngest victim was just 11 years old while the oldest was 89. Most cases are concentrated in the 40 to 65 age bracket, a segment of the population struggling with economic pressures, family stress, and social disconnection.

Hope As MPs Pledge Revival Of Stalled Roads After Fuel Levy Securitization

By: John Kamau
 @themkenyatimes

In the wake of mounting concerns over dilapidated and stalled road projects across the country, the national assembly committee on roads has assured Kenyans that the government has rolled out a clear plan to revive construction works.

For many residents, the state of roads has remained a daily burden. From delayed travel to higher transport costs, the frustrations have been piling up.

“We are spending double on transport because vehicles break down frequently on these roads. Farmers here cannot get their produce to the market on time,” lamented Mary Wanjiru, a trader from Gatundu North.

Another resident, Peter Mwangi, said the abandoned projects had left communities feeling forgotten.

“Some of these roads were launched with fanfare but nothing has been done for years. During rainy seasons, school children and boda boda riders are the most affected,” stated Mwangi.

With similar frustrations echoed across the country, leaders are now under pressure to offer practical solutions.

Ndia MP George Kariuki, who chairs the committee, said the government has successfully securitized the fuel levy, a move that has unlocked upfront financing from financial institutions.

The move, he said, has enabled the Ministry of Roads to clear a substantial portion of contractors’ arrears, allowing many of them to resume work.

“We have already settled a large share of contractors’ debts, and most have now gone back to their sites. At the same time, budgetary allocations have been provided for new certificates that contractors will raise, ensuring continuity of works,” Kariuki explained.

He said the government, under President William Ruto, has drawn an elaborate plan to expand accessibility and improve road infrastructure, a move he described as critical for economic transformation.

“What the president assured on matters of roads is true. We now have a clear, sustainable framework to ensure projects do not stall midway. Roads are the lifeline of trade and connectivity, and we are determined to make them accessible across the country,” Kariuki said.

Gatundu North MP Elijah Njoroge Kururia, however, used the occasion to remind the committee chairperson of stalled road projects in his constituency.



MPs Elijah Njoroge Kururia (2nd right) and his Ndia counterpart George Kariuki (in a hat) during the event in Gatundu North.

Among them are the Mang’u-Kang’oo road, the Thika-Magumu highway, the Kairi-Mataara road, the Gatukuyu-Makwa-Igamba road, and over 40 kilometers of roads in Githobokoni Ward that had been earmarked under the Mau Mau roads project.

“These projects remain incomplete, and they continue to inconvenience residents and businesses. The revival of roads in Gatundu North is urgent because they will not only open up the region but also support economic activity and access to markets,” Kururia noted.

Kururia spoke during the handover of a new school bus to Mutuma Secondary School, which he lauded for consistently performing well in national examinations.

During the event, MP Kariuki urged Mt Kenya residents to focus on tangible development rather than political emotions, stressing that progress can only be achieved through unity and respect.

“The only leader who can transform Kenya and Mt Kenya should be respectful, visionary, and focused on service delivery. Development should take precedence over insults

and violence,” Kariuki said.

Kururia also asked fellow politicians to shelve divisive politics and instead concentrate on service delivery, while reiterating that Kiambu County deserves special attention in national development plans due to its large population.

“Kiambu has always carried the weight of high population numbers, yet it continues to get a raw deal in matters of development. It is time the county is considered separately within the Mt Kenya framework,” he insisted.



The bus that was delivered to Mutuma secondary school. It was bought through Gatundu North NGCDF.

Worth Noting:

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Kihika Delivers On Health Promise As Bondeni Hospital Records First Caesarean In 70 Years

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyatimes

At 12.45pm, Josephine Wangari was wheeled out of the theatre at Bondeni Sub-County Hospital, tired but smiling. Moments earlier, she had made history by becoming the first mother to undergo a caesarean section at the 70-year-old facility.

For decades, women in Bondeni, Kivumbini and Kaloleni and other low-income neighborhoods knew that if complications arose during childbirth, they would have to be rushed through Nakuru's congested streets to the Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital. For some, the delays meant tragedy.

Wangari's safe delivery marked a turning point. She was relieved that she, and her baby were safe. She could not imagine that such a delicate procedure could be done at a small facility on the periphery of Bondeni Slums.

Her surgery was performed in a newly equipped theatre, set up at a cost of Sh7 million. The procedure was led by Dr John Murima, the Chief Officer for Health and a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology.

"Mothers who previously had to go to Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital for maternity services can now receive care right here in Bondeni," he said, adding that it was more than a medical milestone.

He noted that maternity surgeries will be offered free to patients registered under the Social Health Authority (SHA) and promised that the county will replicate the Bondeni model in other Level Four hospitals.

County Health Executive Roselyn Mungai said the breakthrough followed deliberate staffing decisions earlier this year, when the county permanently deployed a medical officer and an anesthetist to the hospital.

"These are qualified specialists. We want the community to build confidence in them and in this hospital," she said.



Bondeni Maternity records about 100 deliveries each month, with nearly half previously referred elsewhere. The new theatre now means mothers can give birth safely in their neighbourhood, while reducing congestion at the referral hospital.

Governor Susan Kihika, who had promised to improve healthcare in her 2022 manifesto and the 2023-2027 County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), described the opening as proof of her administration's commitment.

"We have today operationalized the theatre built in 1985 but left unused until now. Reviving stalled projects is part of our broader initiative to strengthen healthcare," she said.

Mpox: Tharaka Nithi Steps Up Disease Surveillance To Protect Citizens

By: Alex Njeru

@themkenyatimes

Tharaka Nithi County has intensified its fight against emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases such as Mpox by rolling out a comprehensive training programme on Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Surveillance.

The County Department of Public Health, Medical Services and ICT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), has launched a countywide training targeting County and Sub-County Health Management Teams (CHMTs and SCHMTs) as well as healthcare workers in local health facilities.

Speaking during the launch, County Public Health Chief Officer Ms. Rose Micheni said the initiative seeks to strengthen the capacity of

health managers and service providers in early detection, reporting, and coordinated response to VPDs such as Measles, Polio, Rubella, Diphtheria and Mpox.

The training will be implemented in two phases. The first phase involves equipping County and Sub-County health managers with advanced knowledge and tools for surveillance, data management, and case investigation.

In the second phase, the programme will be cascaded down to health facilities, where frontline workers will be trained in disease surveillance, early case identification, and timely reporting through the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system.

According to Ms. Micheni, the approach is expected to boost the sensitivity and timeliness of the surveillance system, improve preparedness, and enhance rapid response to outbreaks.



Tharaka-Nithi County Public Health team. Photo/Alex Njeru.

"This will not only safeguard community health but also contribute significantly towards strengthening immunisation coverage and advancing Universal Health Coverage

(UHC) goals in Tharaka Nithi," she said.

Health experts say that disease surveillance acts as the "intelligence eye" of public health, making it vital

in detecting and responding quickly to threats such as Mpox. With the county's renewed commitment, residents are assured of stronger protection against future outbreaks.

We Learn More From Defeat Than From Victory



We learn more from defeat, than from victory
For in failure, we find, the lessons that make us rise

We discover our flaws, and the areas we lack,
And knowing these, we can improve a lot

Plenty of lessons are hidden, in each failure we face,
But it's in defeat, that we find the strength to rise high

We rise again, with a new found energy
We gain the courage, to shine with new light.

Let's not take victory, as the ultimate goal,
For it's in defeat, that we find many lessons that make us whole,
We rise stronger, and taller, with each fall,
And learn to face challenges, with a brave heart

So let's not fear defeat, but learn from its might,
For in failure we find the path to a new way
And though victory it makes us wise,
And teaches us the lessons, that help us rise.

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

Advice To The Chosen Ones:



They don't listen to your words
They don't value your love
You help them even they don't help you
You take risks for them who don't take even a step for you
You forgive them again when they repeat it
You care for them what they never did

You give advice to the ones who hate you for it
You stay soft even when they behave to you harshly
You say the truth even when they lie

Being soft is not weakness
It's a powerful weapon
It attacks mentally
It cuts without a blade and blood
It's a light that never burns but still brightens

Some don't understand this weapon
They attack it because they can't use it
They hate it because they can't love it

But their hate is not your burden, it's theirs
Because they lost the only person
Who even cares for them

Stay kind to the one who reflects
Your care back like a mirror
And leave the one who only reflects pain
Let them realize
Let them remember
Let them regret

You're not weak
You're the strongest
You just didn't show it
Through anger and physically
You showed it
Through heart and mentally

By, SuFyan
XI biomaths
Thiruvalluvar matric hr sec school, cuddalore district

Born To Win:



From the darkness with slippery wet skin
You are born to win
Indicating your initial victory Exhilarating the Mother in glory.

Being a sprout, spring up
With hope & courage to develop
Appealing with positivity to win
Thrashing away the negatives therein.
As shooting out the leaflets let your hard work
Be motivating your goal without shriek
To bloom your dreams fragrant
With your admirers blessings.
Let your faith & gratitude;
With the will power be the magnitude
To immerse the root deep
Strongly to bear the successful fruit to reap.

G.Sarala.
Creative writers
Chennai
India

Teddy Bear And Me In The Rain



Raindrops tapped and danced on our heads,
While puddles giggled beneath our feet,
Raindrops smiled and kissed our faces,
I held my teddy close to my heart,
His fur soaking, his stitched smile brimming with happiness.

"How do you feel?" I asked,
"Until you leave me down,
I'll be happy." Said Teddy,
Teddy continued, "My friend, I'm so delighted in your arms,
I feel warmth in your palms,
If I weren't just fur, I would be your soulmate."
As my tears blended with droplets of drizzles,
I hugged him tightly and swirled,
Beneath the unfathomable sky,
Two small souls wrapped and soaked in this wet

planet.
Cars, buses, vans rushed by,
Many colorful umbrellas turned and smiled at us,
Yet, we stayed still,
Laughing and enjoying every second,
The rain washed away all the lingering worries of the mind,
It was me and teddy, drenched with joy.

His button eyes caught little drops,
Like tiny stars gliding down his cheeks,
I kissed his damp nose,
And he leaned into my hug,
It felt as though,
The whole universe had softened,
tender to our weary souls.

The planet blurred our vision,
But our joy and laughter never ended,
Sometimes the truest magic in life isn't found in sunshine,
But in getting drenched and holding the hands of a soulful one,
For rain can never drown the true happiness of two entwined souls.

Kavitha Arivalagan
Dharmapuri.

Victories Melody



Victory is a song to be sung.
With high spirit and aspirations,

Never let your setbacks weigh you up.
With a smile, pass through the defeats that pull you down.
Navigate the failures with strong faith in you,
Enlighten knowledge with the power of luminescent.

By Viji. T
Nkl
Tamilnadu
India

Lessons From Nature



Learn from the sky so wide and blue,
To treat each one the same as you.
Learn from the rain that gently falls,
To give your help when someone calls.
Learn from the stars that shine at night,
To glow with joy and spread your light.
Learn from the wind that softly blows,
To calm the pain that no one shows.
Learn from the fire with glowing flame,
To burn what's dark and not give name.
Learn from the waves that rise and go,
To start again and let strength grow.

Learn from the land that bears it all,
To heal in time and stand up tall.
Learn from the trees through storm and sun,
To stay strong till the work is done.
Learn from the grass that bends so low,
To rise again and gently grow.
Learn from reptiles, slow and small,
That moving forward beats not at all.
Learn from the birds that sing with cheer,
To find small joy when it is near.
Learn from the hills that never shout,
True strength is calm, without a doubt.
Learn from the beasts, both wild and tame,
To live with less, and not blame.
Nature shows us how to be—
Kind, strong, and always free.

V Durgadevi
BT Assistant
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai district

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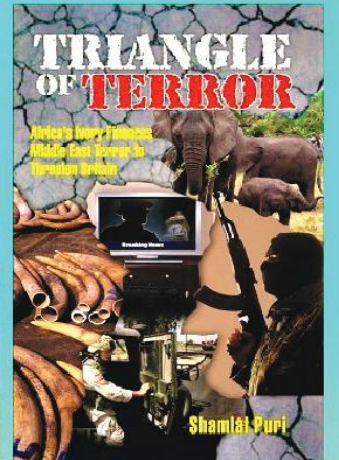
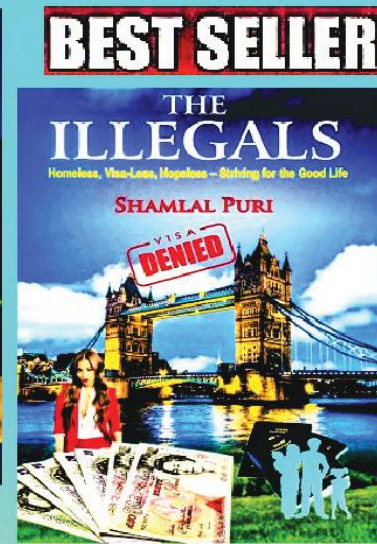
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COUNTIES

Relief For Residents As Kiambu Pledges KSh200 Million To Construct Abandoned Kimbo-Matangi Road

By: John Kamau
 @themtkenyatimes



Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi.

Worth Noting:

- Motorists say driving along the stretch has become a nightmare, especially during the rainy season when massive potholes are submerged in water, making them invisible and increasing the risk of accidents.
- “This area is very populous and we love ferrying people from the interior parts to the highway, but it has come at a very high cost. We have been forced to hike our fares to meet the increased maintenance costs of our vehicles,” lamented Duncan Wambugu, a driver operating along the route.
- James Maina, a local tailor, said the road had been reduced to a bushy path.

For over a decade, residents of Kimbo and Matangini villages in Juja, Kiambu County have endured daily frustrations along their main road, a six-kilometer stretch that has long been riddled with potholes, mud, and choking dust.

What should be a simple connection to the Thika Superhighway has instead become a dangerous and costly ordeal for the more than 25,000 people who depend on it.

Motorists say driving along the stretch has become a nightmare, especially during the rainy season when massive potholes are submerged in water, making them invisible and increasing the risk of accidents.

“This area is very populous and we love ferrying people from the interior parts to the highway, but it has come at a very high cost. We have been forced to hike our fares to meet the increased maintenance costs of our vehicles,” lamented Duncan Wambugu, a driver operating along the route.

James Maina, a local tailor, said the road had been reduced to a bushy path.

“The road is in a pathetic state and as

you have seen, its sorry condition has become a breeding ground for Guinea Grass among other plantations which are mushrooming. We have been crying for the remedy of this situation in futility,” he said.

The road was initially tarmacked during the tenure of former governor Ferdinand Waititu, but locals claim the contractor delivered shoddy work. Barely a few months after completion, cracks began to appear, and within a short time, the road had worn out completely.

Residents cited hurried compacting, low-grade materials, and poor drainage as the main causes of its rapid deterioration.

Since then, the situation has worsened with pregnant women reportedly delivering by the roadside while businesses have closed down due to poor accessibility, and stagnant water has fueled the spread of waterborne diseases.

Public service vehicles operating in the area have been forced to hike fares to cushion themselves against the rising costs of constant repairs.

“We charge more because the cost of

maintaining our vehicles is also high. We are also consuming more in terms of fuel because we have to go slow,” John Mwaniki, another driver told Mt Kenya Times.

The locals have however received a glimmer of hope after Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi announced that his administration has set aside KSh200 million to reconstruct the infamous road.

Speaking during a tour of Theta Ward, Wamatangi revealed that the contractor had already been sought and work would begin with the installation of proper drainage systems before fresh tarmacking.

“The Kimbo–Matangi–Ini road, which has been in deplorable condition, will be reconstructed to proper standards. We will begin with drainage to ensure durability, and solar lights will also be installed along the stretch to improve security for both motorists and pedestrians,” Wamatangi pledged during a church service at Deliverance church in the area.

He assured residents that the project would be delivered to the quality standards stipulated in its original de-

sign, emphasizing that it was critical in opening up the interior villages and spurring social and economic development.

“This road is a vital lifeline for this community. It will make movement of farm produce, construction materials, and office workers efficient while boosting trade and business growth in the area,” he added.

The governor was accompanied by Kiambu County Assembly Majority Leader Godfrey Mucheke, area MCA Moses Muiruri, and other leaders, who pledged to rally behind the project to ensure it is completed without delay.

Indigenous Scholars Urged To Lead Research For Policy Change

By: Lamech Willy
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The three-day conference, which also marked the inaugural Africa and Local Communities Dialogue Strategy under the Forests and People Climate Program of CLUA, brought together policymakers, researchers, indigenous professors, and development partners.
- Discussions focused on policies supporting indigenous-led research and education, pathways for access to biodiversity and climate finance, the role of media in amplifying indigenous voices, and working groups on well-being indicators and education.
- Prof. Sarone Ole Sena, who has been researching education in Narok since 1995, stressed the importance of anchoring studies in local realities.
- “We are intending to transform villages in Africa through research and education. Despite academia opposing researchers from working in their home ground, we use the anthropological EMIC approach, beginning research in the village and the community’s development,” he explained.

Indigenous leaders, academicians, and policymakers have called for a stronger focus on indigenous-led research to influence policies that directly impact on local communities.

Speaking during the opening of the PACT 4th International Conference on Indigenous-Led Research in Narok town, Kimaren Riamet, Executive Director of the Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), urged indigenous scholars to take the lead in shaping research agendas.

“We need indigenous research by indigenous scholars and academicians in order to come up with policies that resonate with indigenous communities on the ground,” Riamet said.

He added that access to research resources on traditional knowledge systems remains limited, creating a gap in policy and practice.

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“We are intending to transform villages in Africa through research and education. Despite academia opposing researchers from working in their home ground, we use the anthropological EMIC approach, beginning research in the village and the community’s development,” he explained.

Prof. Sena emphasized that indigenous research should be “community-centric and policy-related,” noting its value in solving everyday social and human challenges.

The role of long-established indigenous organizations also came into focus. KIPUK NGO, which has conducted research on animals, birds, wildlife, and cattle since 1995 in Oleporos- Ololulunga, was cited as a model of how indigenous research can contribute to conservation, education, politics, and capacity building.

Simon Kirempe, a researcher in the Mau Complex, argues conservation cannot succeed without indigenous knowledge.

“The Mau has been a political contestation issue for decades. Policy makers should come up with indigenous research in this field,” he said, calling for grassroots-driven solu-

tions that governments can adopt.

Dr. Daniel Naikuni, a senior lecturer at Maasai Mara University, urged researchers to align their work with policymaking.

“We must conduct research that resonates with policy making and serves indigenous communities. It should provide problem-solving insights that both levels of government in Kenya can relate to,” he argued.

The government has prioritized safeguarding minorities and marginalized communities through the newly established unit in the executive office of the president.

Addressing the indigenous communities, Lowoi Lodeya, Secretary for Minorities and Marginalized Affairs, pointed to constitutional provisions that protect minority communities and intervention policies are being developed for the same.

“The Constitution of Kenya, Article 100, has clearly identified marginalized communities. The government is working on policies for indigenous people, and by December, the minority policy will be launched, followed by the enactment of the law next year during the celebration of the National Indigenous Day,” he announced.

On the global research stage, Prof. Koisaba Ben, a Kenyan academician and an adjunct professor in the United States and a multibillion-dollar international grant reviewer, chal-

lenged Kenyan scholars to be more proactive in seeking grants.

“The grants are there, but it’s up to scholars to seize these fluid opportunities from donors,” he said.

Prof. Koisaba lamented the lack of submission of papers for grants from Kenyan academics. “For the last three years, I have been reviewing grants for the African Academy of Science, and I haven’t seen a grant seeker or paper from Kenyan scholars. Money is in grants, let’s come up with papers to be published. Yes, the process takes about three years, but it’s worth it. Unfortunately, many Kenyan scholars prefer paying for quick publishing in paid journals instead,” he remarked.

The 4th PACT conference acted as a networking session, reaffirming the commitment of indigenous peoples, local communities, states, academia, development partners, donors and youth to advancing indigenous-led research and climate solutions across the global South.

Tharaka Nithi and Laikipia Counties Hosts NGECC Commission for Consultative Talks On Girls' Education

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- The session focused on strengthening strategies to address barriers limiting girls' access to quality education.
- At the heart of the meeting was the Commission's ongoing research study aimed at generating evidence on school-level factors that influence learning opportunities for girls, particularly in minority and marginalised communities.
- The study is expected to inform practical and transformative solutions to existing challenges.
- During the deliberations, the Commission highlighted a number of obstacles affecting girls in the county, including socioeconomic hardships, entrenched cultural practices, and inadequate inclusion of girls with special needs in the education system.
- The County Government outlined interventions it has already rolled out, such as bursary programmes, mentorship initiatives, and infrastructural support to schools.

Tharaka-Nithi and Laikipia counties yesterday played host to National Gender and Equality Commission where they held consultative meetings on girl child education.

In Tharaka-Nithi, the NGECC team was led by Chief Executive Officer Dr Purity Ngina while in Laikipia by one of the Commissioners, Dr Margaret Karungaru.

In a meeting chaired by the County Secretary Mr. Alex Muratha and briefly attended by area Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael, the county government reaffirmed its commitment to advancing girls' education.

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The County Government outlined interventions it has already rolled out, such as bursary programmes, mentorship initiatives, and infrastructural support to schools.

The County Secretary emphasized that the county would continue to partner with the Commission and other



NGECC Commissioner Dr Margaret Karungaru (3rd left), Laikipia County Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri (3rd right) and other officials after the consultative meeting. Photos/ Courtesy.

er stakeholders to ensure no girl is left behind in the pursuit of education.

"We are committed to breaking down every barrier that hinders girls from accessing quality education. Together with our partners, we will continue working to create opportunities for a brighter and equal future," said Mr. Muratha.

Dr. Ngina lauded the county for its efforts and pledged the Commission's support in ensuring evidence-based policies and initiatives are implemented to address the identified gaps.

The meeting marked a significant step towards reinforcing collaboration in promoting inclusive education

and empowering girls across Tharaka Nithi.

In Laikipia, Dr. Karungaru who was accompanied by senior officials including the Deputy Director, Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit, Executive Office of the President, and other senior NGECC officers similarly briefed the Deputy Governor and his team on a research study on the status of girls' education in minority and marginalized communities.

The study, which is being conducted in 19 counties including Laikipia, seeks to generate evidence on school-level factors that affect girls' access, retention, and transition in

education.

Through the deputy governor, Laikipia County Government welcomed the initiative and pledged full support, recognizing the importance of data-driven interventions to address barriers such as early marriages, FGM, and poverty that hinder girls from achieving their full potential.

Dr Karungaru noted that the collaboration will strengthen advocacy, enhance capacity building, and support resource mobilization efforts towards achieving equitable and inclusive education for all.



NGECC Chief Executive Officer Dr Purity Ngina (4th left), Tharaka-Nithi Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael (5th left) County Secretary Alex Muratha and other officials before the start of the consultative meeting.

Government Reaffirms Commitment To Early Warning Systems Ahead Of Short Rains

By: Naif Rashid
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- “The government of Kenya has demonstrated leadership through the launch of the Early Warnings for All initiative, the development of the Disaster Risk Management Strategy and the ongoing work on the Disaster Risk Management Bill,” she said, adding that these efforts are geared towards ensuring that every Kenyan is protected from hazardous weather, water or climate events through life-saving early warning systems.
- Kosgei highlighted Kenya’s participation in global climate resilience platforms and reaffirmed the country’s bid to host the 9th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2028, describing it as proof of the government’s dedication to safeguarding communities from climate risks.

Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening early warning systems to mitigate the effects of climate change, with the government pledging to scale up investments in disaster preparedness and resilience.

Director of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Linda Kosgei, said the government remains determined to close the early warning gap through policy reforms, partnerships and the use of science-based information.

She lauded the convening of the 11th National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF-11) in Nairobi, terming it a crucial platform for bridging the gap between producers and users of climate information.

“The government of Kenya has demonstrated leadership through the launch of the Early Warnings for All initiative, the development of the Disaster Risk Management Strategy and the ongoing work on the Disaster Risk Management Bill,” she said, adding that these efforts are geared towards ensuring that every Kenyan is protected from hazardous weather, water or climate events through life-saving early warning systems.

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She noted that according to the 2024 Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Report, countries with advanced early warning systems record significantly lower disaster mortality rates, yet

half of the world’s nations still lack such mechanisms.

“This disparity is unacceptable, especially for countries like Kenya that have experienced recurring droughts and devastating floods,” said Kosgei, while calling for stronger international partnerships to close the gap.

Deputy Chief of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Africa, Huw Beynon, said Kenya’s efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness are commendable and demonstrate leadership in Africa.

He noted that the UNDRR, working with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), has committed EUR 1.5 million in Kenya to enhance institutional capacities, strengthen governance frameworks and enable anticipatory action.

“Countries with robust early warning systems experience fewer casualties during disasters, but the reality is that half of the world still lacks such systems,” Beynon said.

“Community engagement is central to closing this gap. Early warning must be people-designed, people-delivered and people-owned,” he added.

He outlined five priority actions to accelerate progress in Kenya, including strengthening risk knowledge, enhancing governance, scaling up impact-based forecasting, advancing community driven approaches and increasing investment in early warning systems.

“We are here to support Kenya in walking this journey towards a future where no one is left behind in the face of disaster risk,” Beynon said.

Acting Director of the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), Edward Muriuki, emphasized that early warnings must be simplified and made more accessible to the public.

“We were previously accused of being too scientific, but today we are speaking in a language that everyone can understand. There will be no point of producing this information if it doesn’t get to the grassroots. Our objective is to ensure actionable advisories reach end users,” he said.

Muriuki added that forecast accuracy had significantly improved in recent years, with location-specific advisories, now possible through enhanced regional collaboration.

He also underscored the importance of indigenous knowledge in complementing scientific forecasts, though official advisories remain evidence based.

Muriuki expressed appreciation to sponsors of the forum, including UNDRR, UNDP, WFP, ICPAC and AICS, for supporting Kenya’s efforts to strengthen early warning systems.

“The recommendations from this workshop will provide support to planning and Naif Rashid decision-making in critical social and economic sectors. We appreciate your time and participation, and I declare this forum officially open,” he said.

Kenya Red Cross Society Secretary General (SG) Dr. Ahmed Idris, defended the reliability of KMD forecasts, particularly for the October–December season.

“Our history with Kenya Met has been very precise. The October–December short rains forecasts have been consistently accurate,” he said.

“Forecasting is a probabilistic science that becomes more precise as the season approaches, and this should not be mistaken for inaccuracy,” said Dr. Idris.

The SG explained that the forum would allow experts to downscale regional forecasts to national and county levels, providing actionable information for agriculture, health, disaster management and other sectors.

He also linked the discussions to the forthcoming Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa, warning that Africa continues to suffer the worst impacts of climate change despite contributing least to global emissions.

“We must push for stronger conversations on adaptation and mitigation resources, and urge developed countries to honour climate finance pledges,” he said.

The Director of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Fabio Minniti, urged Kenya to embrace anticipatory action rather than crisis response.

“Kenya is in transition from disaster management to risk management, and from crisis response to anticipatory action. This platform is critical because it involves all stakeholders in planning before the season starts,” he said.

Italy, through AICS, is supporting Kenya in strengthening early warning and anticipatory action systems including funding under the Strengthening Early Warning and Early Action Programme.

The official forecast for the October–December 2025 short rains provides critical guidance for planning in agriculture, water, health, infrastructure and disaster preparedness.

China Holds Massive Parade To Mark 80th Anniversary Of World War II Victory

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

China held a massive military parade in central Beijing yesterday to mark the 80th anniversary of its victory in World War II, pledging the country's commitment to peaceful development in a world still fraught with turbulence and uncertainties.

Towering structures shaped like the Great Wall stood in Tian'anmen Square, symbolizing the Chinese nation's courage and solidarity in resisting foreign aggression. President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, oversaw the parade and reviewed the troops. Standing beside Xi on Tian'anmen Rostrum were Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, along with more than 20 other foreign leaders. Representatives of people who had supported China's WWII fight, or their family members -- from countries such as Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Canada -- were invited to the event. This was the second time since 2015 that China has held a military parade to commemorate the hard-won victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Helicopters flew over Tian'anmen Square carrying banners that read "Justice Prevails," "Peace Prevails," and "The People Prevail." The troops marched in tight, powerful formations, their faces lit with confidence and pride. Columns of new tanks, artillery and other military equipment rumbled through the square. Xi delivered a speech before the parade. Highlighting the significance of the victory 80 years ago, Xi said it marks China's first complete victory against foreign aggression in modern times. Xi noted that the Chinese people made a major contribution to the salvation of human civilization and the defense of world peace with immense sacrifice in the war. He called on nations to "eliminate the root cause of war and prevent historical tragedies from recurring." Japan officially surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945, by signing the Instrument of Surrender. China designated Sept. 3 as Victory Day.

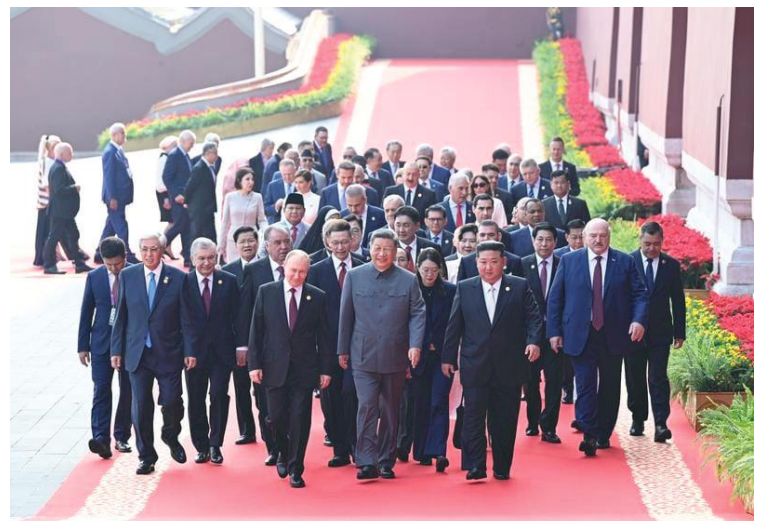
An 80-banner formation honoring heroic military units from the war marched past Tian'anmen Square, highlighting China's position as the first country to rise against fascist aggression with the longest-lasting resistance that began in 1931. The

country tied down and struck over half of Japan's overseas forces, at the cost of 35 million military and civilian casualties -- accounting for around one-third of all WWII casualties worldwide. More than 10,000 military personnel, along with over 100 aircraft and hundreds of ground armaments, were arranged into formations according to a wartime command system. The People's Liberation Army's (PLA) new system of services and arms -- the result of military reforms under Xi's leadership -- was put on display for the first time. The advanced armaments put on display included unmanned intelligence and counter-unmanned equipment, hypersonic missiles, directed-energy weapons, electronic jamming systems, and strategic weaponry capable of global strikes.

In his speech, Xi demanded that the PLA provide strategic support for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. He reiterated China's commitment to peaceful development. "Humanity is again faced with a choice of peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, and win-win outcomes or zero-sum games," he said. Chinese soldiers who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations marched past Tian'anmen Square, marking their first appearance in a V-Day parade. "We have the capability to defend the peace forged with the blood of our forefathers," said Shao Xiaoguang, a member of the reviewed troops who previously served on a peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This was also the first military parade since Xi led China to embark on "a new journey to pursue Chinese modernization on all fronts." The country has laid out a roadmap to basically achieve modernization by 2035. "Eighty years ago, we were revived. Eighty years later, we are thriving with even greater vitality," said Lyu Shouye, a spectator at the event and a graduate student studying AI. "Now our country has reached a stage where we need to undertake greater responsibilities," he said.



The hypersonic missile formation attends a military parade in Beijing, capital of China, yesterday. (Xinhua/Yang Guanyu).



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, and foreign leaders walk to Tian'anmen Rostrum ahead of a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, capital of China, yesterday. (Xinhua/Shen Hong).



A militia formation attends a military parade in Beijing, capital of China, yesterday. (Xinhua/Li Ming).

Worth Noting:

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Kakamega Catholic Bishop Vindicates Mudavadi Over St Mary's Hospital SHA Disbursement

By: Jacob Ng'etich
@themkenyatimes

Kakamega Catholic Bishop Joseph Obanyi has vindicated the Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi by admitting that Social Health Authority (SHA) had paid St Mary's Hospital in Mumias KSh98 million.

This comes a week after the Bishop contradicted Mudavadi that the St Mary's hospital had been closed due to late disbursement of the hospital bills by SHA.

In a press conference at the Kakamega Governor Fenandes Barasa's office attended by the Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, Bishop Obanyi admitted that SHA disbursement had been regular and that since December last year St Mary's Hospital had been receiving monthly payment from SHA.

"We have agreed and I can confirm that from December to August 2025 SHA has disbursed a total of Sh.98,671,567 this had been disbursed spread over the months," said Bishop Obanyi.

Bishop Obanyi confirmed that the hospital had the money and urged SHA to expedite that payment of the balance owed to the hospital.

"I am to inform you that we have had discussion and understood what is our true position. I can confirm that each month have been disbursing the money, in the coming one week we will also receive 14million.

The Catholic Bishop said idea of SHA is a good and noted that if well implemented it would help the government give better healthcare to its people.

"We believe the pending payment of 35million that we expected from SHA to clear the salary and because of the verification that 10million is yet to be verified," said Bishop Obanyi.

On Thursday last week, while addressing mourners at the funeral of a UDA aspirant for the Malava By election, Mudavadi called on the hospitals' management to come out and tell the public the truth on what led to the closure of the facility.

Mudavadi who was setting the records straight on the MoH disbursements of SHA funds to the facility challenged the hospital management to dispute the facts if the payments were not actually made.

Mudavadi had cautioned about misappropriation and mismanagement by some individual hospitals and health facilities on their internal operations and castigated a section of politicians misleading the public on the real cause of why the St Mary's Mission Hospital in Mumias was undergoing difficulties.

The Prime CS accused a number of



Bishop Joseph Obanyi

health facilities of hiding crucial evidence on the SHA programme in an attempt to hamper the smooth operationalization of the program.

Mudavadi shared details from the Ministry of Health and further clarified that the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) was verifying the NHIF arrears for St Mary's mission hospital following a court ruling and the dues will be paid once the records are cleaned up.

The detailed report from MOH shared by the PCS indicated a breakdown of disbursement from the SHA of Sh 92,992,340.00 million following the update for the August payments of Ksh4,888,370.

He said the report also tabulated that the payments made under the Primary Healthcare Fund of Ksh 5,791,500. A further Kshs. 201,593.85 from

the Public Officers Medical Fund Scheme (POMFS) had also been paid to the facility.

"The Ministry now says the hospital has received a total of Ksh 98,985,433 for the period from November 2024 to August 2025 under the three vote heads. The report indicates that the hospital received its disbursements through Cooperative Bank A/c 01120067164500 Mumias Branch with matching dates of each transaction," read the report shared by Mudavadi.

Mudavadi thanked Bishop Joseph Obanyi for coming out to vindicate his claims over the SHA disbursements to St Mary's Hospital and thereby putting the controversial matter to rest.

"Bishop Obanyi's gesture is a mark of honor that needs to be emulated by

all and sundry, and particularly some local politicians who had lunched into the St Mary's Hospital matter for political expediency," said Mudavadi.

PCS said We continue to thank the Faith-Based institution and in particular the Catholic Church for the continued partnership and support to the government in provision of health care to our citizen.

"I wish to also acknowledge the positive efforts of Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale for his quick intervention to save the St Mary's Hospital, his efforts alongside that of Kakamega governor Fernandez Barasa to foster positive collaboration and honest, and mature engagement on matters of health for our citizens is welcomed," said Mudavadi.

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SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *President William Ruto has announced establishment of a technical committee to coordinate the collaboration needed to support sports in Kenya, drawing members from the government, Football Kenya Federation

Road To AFCON27: President Ruto Hosts FKF, Private Sector As Preps Kickoff



President William Ruto speaking during a forum with CEOs on this vision to rally private sector leadership, investment, and collaboration in positioning Kenya as a true global sports powerhouse at State House, Nairobi, yesterday. Photo/Handaout

By Agencies

President William Ruto has announced establishment of a technical committee to coordinate the collaboration needed to support sports in Kenya, drawing members from the government, Football Kenya Federation (FKF) and the private sector.

The President said the committee will oversee sponsorships of sportsmen and women in various events, branding leagues and managing advertisements for sports events and to ensure that talent is fully tapped to take sports to the next level in Kenya.

He emphasised that the government is committed to making the tripartite partnership mutually beneficial, noting that the private sector would not invest where there is no clear value.

“We must make it win-win. If it

is not win-win, it is not sustainable,” he said.

The President made the remarks during a breakfast meeting bringing together the Ministry of Sports, FKF and private sector representatives at State House, Nairobi, on Wednesday.

The technical committee, the President explained, will help streamline the sports sector and thus encourage the private sector to fully participate and contribute ideas and finances.

He pointed out that the selected team will address the obstacles that limit private sector involvement in sports by creating a framework for their effective participation.

President Ruto said the government continues to make deliberate investment in sports, including the development of stadia, grassroots sports academies and

organising tournaments from the bottom up.

He pointed out that the government had also deliberately bid to host CHAN 2024 and AFCON 2027 to give local sporting talent the necessary visibility.

To build on this momentum, President Ruto called for bold leadership and a clear plan in the sports sector, adding that challenges in the sector are not as a result of lack of funds, but rather leadership and planning.

“I don’t think resources are the problem, both in government and private sector,” he said.

The President noted that private sector contribution to sports had dwindled due to mismanagement and lack of leadership.

He recalled that Kenya has turned a corner from recent sports debacles. In 2022, FKF had been suspended from inter-

national football while monies from the Sports Fund were being used for other projects.

These challenges, he said, had since been addressed. Since 2022, the Sports Fund has been dedicated solely to sports development.

On FKF leadership, he expressed confidence in the current office holders.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki added that the future of sports in Kenya is bright.

Sports Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya affirmed that the government is committed to fostering relations with the private sector to elevate sports in the country.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The team, made up of 25 of the most outstanding players will depart Nairobi on Saturday evening, 6th September, for Huesca for a week-long football training camp that promises to elevate their football careers.

Safaricom Chapa Dimba All-Stars Team Set For Camp In Spain



The Safaricom Chapa Dimba, All-Stars Team traveling to Huesca, Spain for training program. The team consists of 25 of the best players (13 boys and 12 girls) scouted during Season 4 of the tournament that was played across the country.

By Agencies

The team, made up of 25 of the most outstanding players will depart Nairobi on Saturday evening, 6th September, for Huesca for a week-long football training camp that promises to elevate their football careers.

In total, 32 players were selected for the All-Star squad. While 25 will travel to Spain, the others have already achieved significant milestones, receiving call-ups to various national and international clubs. These call-ups underscore the incredible talent that Safaricom Chapa Dimba continues to unearth, nurture, and propel onto the global stage.

“Chapa Dimba has always been about opening doors of opportu-

nity for Kenyan youth, and today, we are proud to see that vision come alive in an even bigger way. Not only are these young players traveling to Spain to sharpen their skills, but many of their teammates have also earned call-ups to top national and international clubs.

“To see players like Austin Odongo, Emily Moranga, Khamis Nyale break into professional clubs, while others take this next big step in Spain, fills us with immense pride. This is the heartbeat of Safaricom Chapa Dimba: empowering our youth, transforming their lives, and showcasing Kenyan football talent to the world,” said Dr. Peter Ndegwa, CEO of Safaricom PLC.

During their stay in Spain, the

team will immerse themselves in a series of enriching activities. They will test their skills against Huesca’s Youth Academy, learn from professional players through expert-led masterclasses, and train at the world-class facilities of the Base Aragonesa de Fútbol, S.D. Huesca’s modern sports city.

The players will also attend a high-energy Segunda Division match between SD Huesca and Málaga CF, alongside cultural experiences such as sightseeing and city tours.

“Visiting Spain and experiencing world-class football has always been a dream, and now it is becoming a reality. I am determined to make the most of this opportunity, learn as much as possible, and use the lessons to grow my

football career,” said Swaumu Masungu, Safaricom Chapa Dimba All-Stars player.

The All-Star team will be captained by Stanley Waswa of Ndura Sports Academy (boys) and Manda Sunira Were of Highland Royals Moi Girls (girls).

Accompanying the players are coaches Chrispine Odindo of Plateau Queens and Evans Oketch of Obunga FC, together with representatives from the Football Kenya Federation (FKF).

SPORTS NEWS

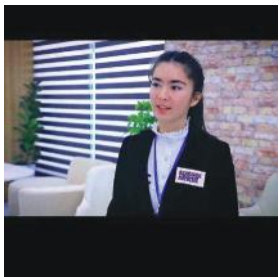


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- BREAKING NEWS





A Father's Affection



By: Mumtozbegin Askarova
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- About seven years ago, something happened in my life — an unforgettable lesson worth a lifetime. When I was 8 years old, I was enrolled in a piano class.
- I still remember my very first day at the music school as if it were yesterday — how shy I was to greet my teacher, how amazed I was by the sounds coming from the keys, and so on. In fact, I was a diligent and adaptable girl. Thanks to my parents' motivation and support, I quickly adjusted to the world of art as well. By the third quarter of first grade, I was already learning to play small pieces along with scales.

The word affection is often associated with mothers — their hearts like the sun, their love like a river, their patience like the sea. But what about fathers? Is it stylistically correct to use this word for them? Perhaps, stylistically it may not sound so fitting, but in terms of meaning and real life, it is absolutely appropriate. Let me explain why I think so through a story.

I am 18 years old, yet I still feel like a little child clinging to my father's shoulder and my mother's skirt.

Whenever I face a problem, I immediately turn to my father — the one who always understands me and gives a fair judgment in any situation. Some may say that daughters should fear their fathers, keep a distance, and never look them straight in the eye. Of course, such behavior shows respect and manners. However, because of this, many girls fail to feel the deep love their fathers have for them and instead internalize misconceptions.

With this, I do not intend to deny the above point; I simply believe that where there is fear, affection fades — respect should coexist with love.

About seven years ago, something happened in my life — an unforgettable lesson worth a lifetime. When I was 8 years old, I was enrolled in a piano class.

I still remember my very first day at the music school as if it were yesterday — how shy I was to greet my teacher, how amazed I was by the sounds coming from the keys, and so on. In fact, I was a diligent and adaptable girl. Thanks to my parents' motivation and support, I quickly adjusted to the world of art as well. By the third quarter of first grade, I was already learning to play small pieces along with scales.

One day, my teacher told me that I would be participating in the spring concert.

Since I had to play the piano at the concert, we chose a piece that was more difficult than my level. To memorize it, I had to practice a lot and attend the music school almost every day. Our home was in the city center, while the school was located on the outskirts.

At that time, our family's financial



situation was not very good. Despite this, my parents did not stop me from studying at that paid school. Almost every day, my mother would take me to class, and when my lessons ended, my father would bring me back home in his taxi.

The concert was just one day away. As usual, I needed to go for rehearsal after school.

This time, I was sent alone. The rehearsal went on until late. My father, tired after work, still came back to pick me up from the school. Though he tried to hide it with kind words, his fatigue was clearly visible on his face. Holding my heavy bag on one shoulder and my father's index finger in my other hand, we stood by the roadside waiting for a car.

Suddenly, my father, as if he had lost something, put his hand into his pocket. Then he stopped a car, paid for me, and reminded me to be care-

ful on the way. When I asked, "And you?" he replied that he had some errands and would come home later.

Only later did I realize why he had done that. At that time, he had only enough money for one fare in his pocket. He spent that very last coin on me and walked home on foot.

Now, years have passed, and that little girl has grown up — she is now a university student. She has come to understand that in life's coldest nights, a father is always the safe shore for his child.

Mumtozbegin Askarova student of English philology at Shakhrisabz State Pedagogical Institute in group XT 1-24.

I was born in 2007 in the historical city of Shakhrisabz, located in the Qashqadaryo region of Uzbekistan. I am highly interested in language learning and enjoys exploring new words, writing dialogues, solving

scanwords, and creating educational materials for young learners. In my free time, I read books, play the piano and watch educational videos. My dream is to become a modern and inspiring English teacher who motivate students to think, speak, and dream in English.

I believes that learning a language is not only about grammar and vocabulary but also about building confidence, discovering cultures, and expressing oneself freely. With my natural curiosity, love for knowledge, and dedication to teaching, I am on my way to becoming a true role model for future generations.