



### Recognition And Resistance: A Global Analysis Of Palestine's Statehood Status

The question of Palestinian statehood remains one of the most contentious and symbolically charged issues in international diplomacy. Since the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) declared the establishment of the State of Palestine in 1988, the global community has been divided over whether to formally recognize it as a sovereign state.

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### NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE,

WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI  
WHEN: 17-21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

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## Daily ePAPER

Friday, September 5, 2025

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### News>> Farmers Set To Reap Big As Mutahi Kagwe Leads Mission To Boost Kenya's Agricultural Export In USA

P. 8. Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, has kicked off a week-long mission in the United States to secure direct market access for Kenyan agricultural products.



### News>> Waiguru Marks County Prayer Day With Calls For Continuity In High Development Standards

P. 12. Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru yesterday led a county Thanksgiving and Prayer Breakfast where she reflected on her administration's achievements and urged county staff to remain steadfast in delivering excellent services.

# Opposition Gears Up For Big Reveal

⚡ The United Opposition is set to announce its official outfit name and symbol next week, in a bid to galvanise the support of the team under one umbrella identity in preparations for the by-elections in November and the 2027 General Election.

The team, led by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, is expected to officially launch their official coalition name on Monday next week, complete with a symbol and slogan.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka and former CS Fred Matiang'i (inset)

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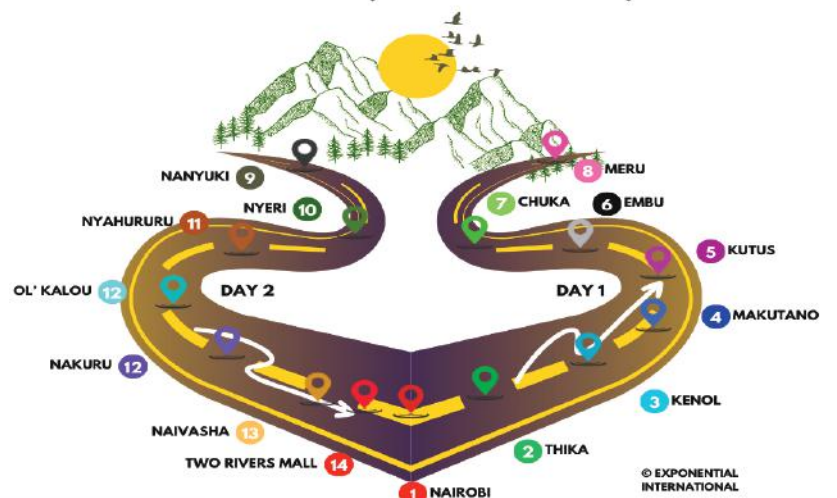
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### NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



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# President Ruto Opens 2025 Mombasa A.S.K. International Show

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday officially opened the 2025 Mombasa A.S.K. International Show in Mombasa County.

“We are taking decisive steps that rise above the short-term expediencies of winning the next election, and instead anchor our vision firmly on the long-term prosperity of our nation,” the President said, adding, “No-where is this more evident than in our approach to agriculture, the backbone of our economy and the livelihood of millions of Kenyans. We made the tough but correct choice to subsidise production rather than the convenient yet shortsighted path of subsidising consumption. The results are visible and measurable: stronger food security, higher farmer incomes, and renewed investor confidence.”

He noted that to secure the gains and accelerate food production, the government was partnering with the private sector on large-scale irrigation projects in Galana-Kulalu, Bura, and the Tana Delta, that focus on maize, rice, sugar, cotton, and other cash crops, firmly positioning Kenya on the path of sustained agricultural growth and national prosperity.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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**Group Executive Chairman**  
M. Danson

**Our Contacts**  
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262  
**Editorial Desk:** editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,  
**News Desk:** news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** [www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke](http://www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke)

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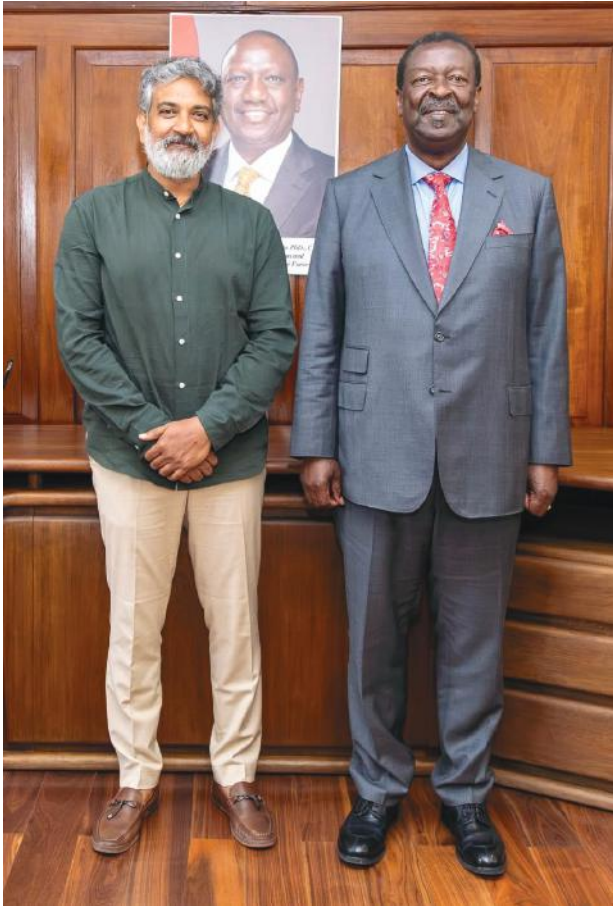
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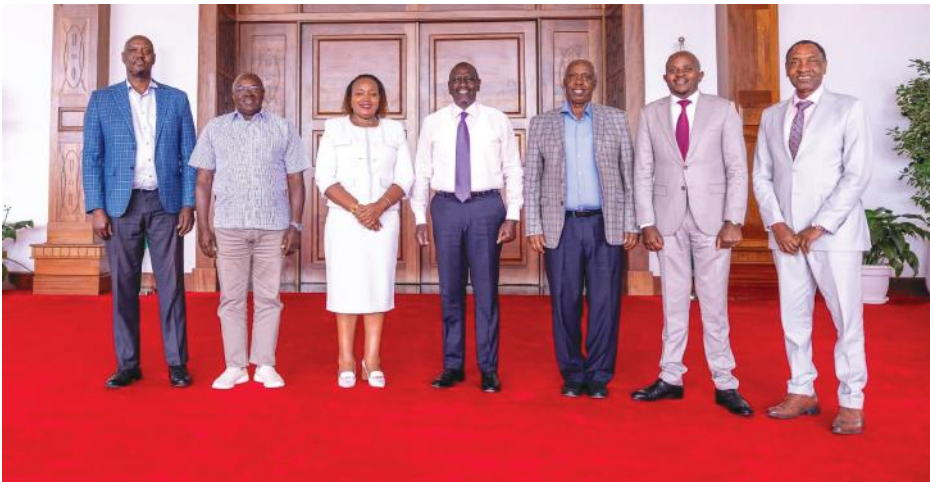
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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya this past fortnight became the stage for one of the world's greatest filmmakers, SS Rajamouli, the visionary Indian director, screenwriter, and storyteller whose works have captured the imagination of audiences across continents. 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 scouting tour across East Africa, settling on our nation as the primary filming destination where nearly 95% of the African scenes are being shot.



Six out of the eight Members of the National Assembly and Senate from Nyeri County yesterday paid a courtesy call to President William Ruto at State House. The six; Duncan Maina (Nyeri Town), Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), Rahab Mukami (Women Rep), Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni) and Senator Wahome Wamatinga said their discussions centered on ongoing and upcoming development projects in the county. The President has once again assured us of his full commitment to transforming the lives of our people through tangible, people-centered projects. Those missing in the visit were John Kaguchia (Mukurwe-ini) and Geoffrey Wandeto (Tetu) who are allies of former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.



The DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua has expressed his perplexity over the recent statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Interior Kipchumba Murkomen who alleged that there are no Juba land Forces present in Mandera. The former DP reaffirmed that his previous position remains unchanged: residents have been illegally displaced by forces operating in the area, contrary to the laws of the land. He made these remarks yesterday during a burial service for Grace Wanjira, the sister to Njathi, a Mathioya constituency DCP aspirant in Kiru Ward, Mathioya Constituency.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki was in Algiers, Algeria yesterday where he represented President William Samoei Ruto at the 4th Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025). The DP outlined the strategic steps that Kenya is taking to enhance Intra-African trade. He noted that the country is investing in key infrastructure development including the Lamu Port, internet connectivity and modernizing our financial infrastructure and architecture to enhance trade. "Moving forward and to realize economic growth and prosperity that is inclusive and sustainable, the continent must enhance co-ordination, embrace partnerships and collaboration under the auspices of the African Union and ensure that women and the youth are actively involved in the development of the continent," he said



The grand opening of the Mombasa International Show was presided over by the President William Ruto. During the event, KALRO was honored with two prestigious awards; Best Stand in Research and Development (Non-Education) and the Jersey Champion 2025 trophy. The trophies were received by the Chairman of the KALRO Board of Management, Dr. Thuo Mathenge, accompanied by other board members and the Director General, Dr. Eliud Kireger.



Kenya is building on major gains in community health to further strengthen primary health care through the Primary Health Care Optimization Initiative, led by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with Amref Health Africa in Kenya and other partners. So far, 8.8 million households have been registered on the electronic Community Health Information System, enabling millions of Kenyans to be screened for diabetes, hypertension, maternal, and child health conditions. In addition, 228 Primary Care Networks have been established across all 47 counties. Speaking during a working session with stakeholders, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, said the initiative is designed to shift Kenya's health system "from dependency to sustainability," anchored on the Social Health Authority Act, Primary Health Care Act, Facility Improvement Financing Act, and Digital Health Act. By 2028, she noted, Kenya envisions a prevention-first, people-centred, and financially sustainable health system, with communities actively engaged as partners in their own health.



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# Kirigara Girls School Get New Multi-Purpose Hall Roofing From Safal MRM Foundation

By: Dennis Dibondo  
@themkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- The Foundation Head Siprosa Rabach said they have been doing philanthropic work to give back to the community.
- "We have been doing business but it's also good to take care of community needs that cannot be commercialized so for the past 26 years we have been helping out in situations where we see the need across the country," Rabach said.



The new multi-purpose hall circular design structure that was put up at Kirigara Girls High School after a donation from Mabati Rolling Mills. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

Students of Kirigara Girls High School are now motivated after Safal MRM Foundation chipped in to assist put up a new multi-purpose hall in the school.

The Foundation Head Siprosa Rabach said they have been doing philanthropic work to give back to the community. "We have been doing business but it's also good to take care of community needs that cannot be commercialized so for the past 26 years we have been helping out in situations where we see the need across the country," Rabach said.

She said that with the help of the community, the Ministry of Education, and board of management at the school, they have been able to put up a multi-purpose hall at Kirigara girls high school.

She said the hall will help ease the congestion

Rabach said they have been building health, education and environment facil-

ities.

The building roofing was entirely offered by Mabati Rolling Mills at a cost of about KSh2 million.

Architecture who designed the building Evans Makan, a lecturer at Jomo Kenyatta University, said he visited the school and emphasised with the girls as the previous dining hall was too small and could not accommodate all the students.

"They had to take meals in shifts, and when it rained, others would be stranded outside," Makan said.

Makan said they designed the building for free as a way to give back to the community as he saw what students were going through.

He said the concept of his circular design was themed for freedom.

"I wanted to design in a way to inspire them as future leaders so that it could open their eyes so they could free their minds, thoughts to free them from local thinking since in the whole

constituency it is the only building with such a design making it unique," he added.

The school principal Agnes Mwiti said they are delighted with the donation from Mabati Rolling Mills as girls had no room where they could fit during assembly and other meetings.

"Prior to this construction, our dining hall, which was an old Mabati struc-

ture, could only host 200 last year we had 1200 and now we have about 800," she said.

The new multi purpose hall can host 2000 students.

Mwiti said the board of management had set aside some money for construction of the hall but it was not enough and they went out looking for wellwisher and that how they managed to get help from Mabati Rolling Mills.

He said that prior to the donation, they would hold meetings and assemblies in the open.

"Sometimes it would rain in the middle of an assembly and we would have to call off the meeting and wait for the weather to be conducive," she added.

She said most students are from humble backgrounds and parents struggle paying fees making it difficult to raise additional funds.

Mwiti said the new multi-purpose hall has motivated the school to produce good results as both teachers and students are delighted with the building.



MRM Trustee Siprosa Rabach (in pink coat) plants a tree at Kirigara Girls when she visited the school to see the new multi-purpose hall on Wednesday. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

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# Kiunjuri Defends SHA, Says Gov't Working On Contribution Concerns Raised By Citizens

By: Dennis Dibondo and William Muchiri  
@themtkenyatimes

Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri has said the government is looking at the SHA contribution model so as to reduce the number of months one can pay to get services. Kenyans across the country have raised concern on the issue and the government is keen on addressing it, he said. Kiunjuri said who has been tasked with carrying out empowerment at ward level across the country said in the 22 empowerment meetings he has attended so far, he has heard numerous complains from Kenyans that SHA is unaffordable to most Kenyans. "I have done meeting in Nyandarua, Embu, Nyeri Kirinyaga and Muranga and Tharaka Nithi ordinary Kenyans are saying that there is no need of being asked Sh6000 because many are poor," Kiunjuri said. Kiunjuri said the government has reviewed the terms and Kenyans are required to pay four months, which



Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri in Tharaka-Nithi County on Wednesday.

he noted was still high to some citizens and which the government was seeking ways of addressing. "Am urging Kenyans to register in large numbers as they wait for the number of months to be reduced further, those who are extremely poor the government will pay for about 1.5 million Kenyans," Kiunjuri said. He spoke in Magutuni, Maara constituency Tharaka Nithi during an empowerment program. On University education, Kiunjuri

said the government has abolished classification in band one band two and band three, four and five and all students will apply as they used to apply earlier. "The one who will be paying more will pay Sh.75,000 and most will pay Sh.20,000 and sh.28,000 and students are happy," he said. Kiunjuri said the university fee being paid now is lower than the previous regimes. The Service Party (TSP) elected



From left; MPs George Murugara, Mwangi Kiunjuri and Gachoki Gitari.

MP was accompanied by among others, Maara MP Kareke Mbiuki who drummed up support for President Ruto's reelection. Tharaka Nithi Women Rep Susan Mwindu who was also present said that she launched Tutam movement in Tharaka Nithi to drum up support for President Ruto and Kindiki reelection. However differences between Mwindu and Mbiuki played out, as the two have already declared seeking a gubernatorial seat in 2027. Ki-

unjuri had to calm supporters of the two sides reminding them they were still on the same side despite their political interests. Other leaders present were Meru Women Rep Elizabeth Kailemia, Gachoki Gitari MP Kirinyaga Central and several MCAs. The leaders had earlier visited Tharaka constituency where they were hosted by Tharaka Nithi senator Mwenda Gataya.

# Farmers Set To Reap Big As Mutahi Kagwe Leads Mission To Boost Kenya's Agricultural Export In USA

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe, has kicked off a week-long mission in the United States to secure direct market access for Kenyan agricultural products. On the first day, the delegation met with retail giant Walmart, which operates over 40,000 outlets across the U.S., to open doors for Kenyan tea, macadamia nuts, and other exports. MACNUT CEO Jane Maigua showcased Kenya's macadamia as a premium product, naturally grown without chemicals, sourced from over 200,000 smallholder farmers, and enjoying a 10 percent duty compared to 30 percent for South African nuts. She emphasized Kenya's reliable supply capacity and globally renowned buttery taste profile, making it attractive for American buyers. Kenya Tea Development Agency



Chege Kirundi



Wilson Muthaura.



Mutahi Kagwe

(KTDA) leaders led by chairman Chege Kirundi and Chief Executive Officer Wilson Muthaura also pitched Kenya's ability to package tea at source, ensuring freshness, traceability, and higher returns for farmers. Kenya, the world's largest exporter of black tea, is pushing to expand exports of value-added varieties, including green, orthodox, and purple

tea—the latter a unique Kenyan innovation celebrated for its health benefits and premium pricing. The mission will include engagements with the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, the Governor of South Carolina, and private sector players. The delegation will also participate in the North America Tea Conference, which recognizes

sustainable practices in the sector. In South Carolina, CS Kagwe held talks with Milo's Tea Company, the leading U.S. iced tea producer, accompanied by Phylis Kandie, Advisor to the President on Commodities Market Development, KTDA executives, Ketepa, and Kipchichim Tea. The meeting explored ways to raise Kenya's share of U.S. tea imports,

which currently stand at just two per cent. The visit underscores Kenya's push for direct-to-shelf exports, sustainable supply chains, and stronger farmer earnings.



# United Opposition Set To Unveil Name, Symbol Amid Fresh Infighting Over Kituyi Appointment

By: Emmanuel Too  
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The team, led by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, is expected to officially launch their official coalition name on Monday next week, complete with a symbol and slogan.
- However, the unity call seems to be dividing the team already, with Democracy for the Citizens (DCP) Deputy Party Leader Cleophas Malala rejecting the appointment of the former United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretary General Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi as the unit's spokesperson.
- "Is DCP your party? The one that listens to the ground? Don't be confused. That is the party of our region... When we are done with the nominations, from top down, vote DCP candidates so that we can have enough soldiers to protect our interests," Gachagua said in Kikuyu.



The United Opposition is set to announce its official outfit name and symbol next week, in a bid to galvanise the support of the team under one umbrella identity in preparations for the by-elections in November and the 2027 General Election.

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The move is set to rejig and rebuild opposition steam ahead of the by-elections, which have been billed as a do-or-die acid test. The team is

toying with a Swahili name as a possible way to reach the masses.

The secretariat, which will be led by Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, is also expected to be unveiled on Monday.

The Kenya Moja coalition, which brings together youthful leaders across the political divide, has already excited the masses barely a month after its launch.

However, a push to have the coalition name its presidential candidate in the next two months was shelved, as the teams continue to strengthen their parties. All the top opposition principals have declared interest in running for the top office.

The closed-door meeting also resolved to have the former Dr. Kituyi as its spokesperson in charge of all communication for the group.

The principals, taking to social media with a similar statement that endorsed the appointment of Dr. Kituyi as its spokesperson, tasked him with streamlining the opposition's communication.

However, barely hours after the unity summit, some fissures are already showing. Malala, who gave the event a wide berth, refused to sign the new outfit's agreement.

Speaking to Citizen TV, Malala said: "My position on the choice of the spokesperson is that the United Opposition deserves to demonstrate

willingness in engaging with fresh youthful leadership that can propel the country to the next frontier of politics and governance, qualities which Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi is acutely lacking."

Malala also maintained his hard stance on the Malava Constituency by-election slated for November.

The coalition had prevailed on the DCP party and DAP-K party to

have one of them stand down their candidates, to prevent splitting their votes.

However, Malala maintains that as the DCP Deputy Party Leader from Kakamega County, he ought to lead the campaigns for the candidate all the way to the ballot, with DAP-K leadership also sticking to their guns.



Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi



# Fairtrade Africa Marks 20 Years, Launches New Strategy To Empower Local Farmers

By: Gladys Njoroge and Andrew Mwasaru  
@themtkenyetimes

Fairtrade Africa celebrated its 20th anniversary with a landmark event in Nairobi, unveiling a bold three-year strategy (2026 -2028) to deepen its impact on farming communities across the continent.

Over the past two decades, the organisation has invested nearly KSh105.78 billion in more than 780 projects across Africa, benefiting thousands of smallholder farmers, including tea, coffee, and flower growers in Kenya. These investments have funded schools, health facilities, and climate adaptation initiatives while also expanding women’s leadership in agriculture. Today, women hold more than 25 percent of leadership roles in Fairtrade cooperatives — three times the industry average.

“On behalf of Principal Secretary, State Department of Trade, Ms Regina Ombam, I wish to commend Fairtrade Africa for its enduring partnership with government and farmers from all sectors. In Kenya, our coffee

growers in particular have felt the real impact of this collaboration — from fairer prices and better market access to improved community investments. This partnership has not only strengthened the coffee sector but also uplifted the livelihoods of thousands of farming families,” said Ms Elizabeth Miguda, Acting Director, State Department, Internal Trade during the fete on Wednesday.

“For two decades, Fairtrade Africa has walked alongside farmers and workers to ensure their voices are heard and their communities thrive. As we look to the next 20 years, our focus is clear: fairer prices, stronger communities, and sustainable trade that works for both people and planet,” said Fairtrade Africa Executive Director Isaac Tongola.

The new strategy is anchored on four key pillars: expanding market access, strengthening advocacy for fair trade policies, promoting sustainable agriculture, and supporting farmers as the backbone of the movement.

“We are committed to helping farmers achieve duty-free exportation of goods transported through Fairtrade Africa channels. The strategy



also emphasizes capacity building, financial literacy, and adoption of advanced techniques to boost yields sustainably,” said Ms. Madline Muga, Fairtrade Africa’s Director of Strategy and Impact.

Kenya, one of Africa’s largest Fairtrade producers, has seen more than 130 local cooperatives benefit from guaranteed minimum prices and premium payments that cushion farmers from global price shocks. Many communities in tea and coffee-growing

counties have invested their Fairtrade earnings in education bursaries, health services, and clean water projects.

“Fairtrade Africa has been a true partner to the floriculture industry in Kenya. Through fair prices, better standards, and reinvestment into communities, we have seen real change in the lives of workers and farmers. For the flower sector, this collaboration has not only opened up global markets but also strengthened our competitiveness while ensuring our growth

is inclusive and sustainable,” said Mr Christopher Kulei, Board Chair of the Kenya Flower Council and Executive Director of Sian Roses Group.

Looking ahead, the new three-year strategy aims to scale up regenerative agriculture, equip 10,000 young farmers with digital climate tools, and promote “Made by Africa” brands under the Fairtrade framework to expand intra-African trade.





# Mudavadi Speaks To Top US Diplomat After Death Of Kenyan Officer In Haiti

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Mr. Landau conveyed condolences on behalf of the US government and praised the courage of Kenyan officers serving under the MSS. He also wished the eight injured officers a speedy recovery.
- Mudavadi used the conversation to underline President William Ruto's leadership in deploying Kenyan personnel to Haiti, saying the move was guided by "our duty to humanity and solidarity with our brotherly state."
- "We applaud the selfless efforts of our gallant Kenya Police contingent in Haiti in spite of acute technical, logistical and financial constraints," Mudavadi said, adding, "Kenya stands ready to continue making its contribution to the stabilization of Haiti."

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to the Haiti peace mission despite the loss of a Kenyan police officer and injuries to eight others serving under the United Nations-backed Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS).

In a phone call with US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau on Wednesday evening, Mudavadi described the late Corporal Kennedy Mutuku Nzuve as "a gallant officer who gave his life in service of peace." Corporal Nzuve died in a road crash in Pétion-Ville, a suburb of Port-au-Prince, where Kenyan police officers are helping restore stability in the violence-torn Caribbean nation.

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Mudavadi used the conversation to underline President William Ruto's leadership in deploying Kenyan personnel to Haiti, saying the move was guided by "our duty to humanity and solidarity with our brotherly state."

"We applaud the selfless efforts of our gallant Kenya Police contingent in Haiti in spite of acute technical, logistical and financial constraints," Mudavadi said, adding, "Kenya stands ready to continue making its contribution to the stabilization of Haiti."

The MSS, authorized by UN Security Council Resolution 2699, has been working to support the Haitian National Police and re-establish security in schools and communities after years of gang violence and political paralysis.

Mudavadi commended Washington for rallying international support and providing technical backing to the mission. But he stressed that the long-term success of the deployment would depend on "predictable and sufficient" contributions from the global community.

Kenya has so far taken the lead in coordinating the multinational mission, deploying hundreds of officers despite mounting costs and logistical hurdles. Analysts say the mission is as much about Kenya's global profile as it is about Haiti, positioning Nairobi as a serious player in international peace-keeping.

Still, the deaths and injuries suffered by Kenyan personnel highlight the risks of the assignment.

"This is not just about Haiti, it is about our place in the world," a senior security analyst in Nairobi observed. "But every casualty raises the question of how far Kenya can go without greater support from other nations."

Mudavadi ended the call with an appeal to the UN Security Council to adopt resolutions guaranteeing adequate funding and backing for the mission.

"We owe it to Haitians; we owe it to humanity," he said.

Corporal Nzuve who died in the Haiti mission, was remembered by col-



Mr. Christopher Landau

leagues as a dedicated officer with an unshakable commitment to service.

Born and raised in Machakos County, Nzuve joined the Kenya Police Service in 2014 and served in several units before being selected for the Haiti deployment earlier this year. His superiors described him as disciplined, courageous and always ready to mentor younger officers.

He was part of the first Kenyan contingent to land in Port-au-Prince, a deployment that signaled Nairobi's leadership in the UN-backed Multinational Security Support Mission.

Musalia Mudavadi





# Waiguru Marks County Prayer Day With Calls For Continuity In High Development Standards

By: MTK Correspondent  
@themtkenyatimes

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru yesterday led a county Thanksgiving and Prayer Breakfast where she reflected on her administration’s achievements and urged county staff to remain steadfast in delivering excellent services.

The event, held at county headquarters in Kutus under the theme of “Let Your Light Shine” from Matthew 5:16, brought together members of the County Assembly, the County Executive, and staff from both arms of government.

Citing milestones achieved across various sectors over the past eight years, Waiguru said her administration has set a high bar in service delivery, particularly in health, agriculture, trade, education, women and youth empowerment, and infrastructure.

“My prayer is that in 2027, the determinant of who we elect in Kirinyaga

will be based on delivery and work,” she said, adding that her administration will showcase its progress on billboards across the county so that those intending to take over will know the bar has been set, and they can only take the county higher.

She highlighted hundreds of completed projects and their impact on residents, including state-of-the-art health facilities, modern markets, transformed urban centers through cabro-paving, increased agricultural production, tripled farmer incomes, and the ongoing development of the Sagana Industrial City.

On health, she noted that her administration has digitized services across all 74 health facilities, including dispensaries, bringing services closer to the people.

Waiguru commended county workers for their role in implementing projects, calling them the “engine” of transformation.

“The people who oil the wheels and carry the weight are the county executive. From the bottom of my heart,



thank you very much,” she said.

However, she cautioned staff against being distracted by the 2027 elections, urging them to stay focused on service delivery, while expressing confidence that future county leadership will build on the progress already made.

“Whoever will be Governor, we start praying that it will be a better leader than Anne Waiguru, because God is not limited,” she said.

Deputy Governor David Githanda and County Assembly Speaker Muriimi Muteti lauded Waiguru’s leadership, saying it has massively transformed the county.

“We are giving thanks for our governor’s years of excellent and transformative leadership, placing the county as a model and a benchmark for others,” said Speaker Muteti.

# Kenya, Australia In Satellite Technology Talks

By: Jacqueline Adyang  
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya has renewed discussions with Australia to expand the application of satellite technology including food security, environmental conservation and disaster preparedness, an initiative aimed at enhancing national resilience and sustainable development.

The consultative meeting, held at the Directorate of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing (DRSRS) Headquarters in Nairobi, brought together senior officials from both nations.

The Kenyan delegation was led by DRSRS Director, Dr Moses Akali, while the Australian side was represented by Deputy High Commissioner Chris Ellinger.

Dr. Akali welcomed the renewed engagement, describing Australia as a longstanding and valued partner in strengthening Kenya’s geospatial capabilities.

He referenced the earlier System for

Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK) Project, which significantly advanced the country’s capacity for land use mapping and greenhouse gas reporting.

“This partnership comes at a pivotal moment,” Dr Akali remarked.

“As Kenya intensifies its efforts to leverage science, technology, and innovation in pursuit of the Kenya Kwanza’s Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), particularly in agriculture and climate resilience, satellite technology will play a vital role in generating accurate, actionable data to guide farmers, safeguard ecosystems, and enable rapid disaster response,” he added.

During the session, Vincent Imala, Head of the Remote Sensing Division, showcased DRSRS’s cutting-edge systems including real-time data analytics tools, digitisation platforms and geospatial applications currently supporting land cover mapping and food security monitoring across the country.

On his part, Ellinger reaffirmed Australia’s commitment to support-



ing Kenya’s development priorities.

“Australia views Kenya as a strategic partner in harnessing science and technology to address shared global challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and sustainable resource management,” he stated.

The Deputy High Commissioner further emphasised that the collaboration would enable Kenya to tap into global innovations, including the Digital Earth Africa initiative, to enhance evidence-based decision-making and resilience.

The two parties concluded the meeting with a mutual agreement to establish a joint technical team tasked with identifying priority projects and formulating a comprehensive roadmap for future cooperation under the Digital Earth Africa framework.

Recently, DRSRS also rolled out a coffee geo-mapping exercise to help farmers and agencies comply with emerging international market requirements, underscoring its expanding role in applying geospatial tools for national development.



# Kiambu Leaders, Youth Clash Over Calls To Isolate County From Mt Kenya Region

By:Felix Njenga  
@themtkenyatimes

A storm is brewing in the Mount Kenya political landscape after the Kiambu Liberation Movement (KLM) strongly opposed proposals by a section of Kiambu leaders, led by Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichung’wah suggesting that the County should not be considered as part from the broader Mt Kenya region.

In a fiery statement, the youth-led lobby warned that such comments were “reckless, divisive, and a betrayal of the unity that has bound the region for decades.”

“Kiambu is part of Mt Kenya; in fact, it is the resolute force of its heart. To suggest otherwise is not only misleading but also a deliberate attempt to fragment our unity for short-term political gains,” said Kimani Wachira, the group’s Secretary General, adding that history would not be kind to leaders who profit from disunity.

The statement accused some elected leaders of advancing “the cause of an overambitious and oppressive regime” instead of addressing pressing challenges affecting residents.

KLM outlined a list of key issues it wants leaders to prioritize, including, rising youth unemployment and lack of job creation, the high cost of living, rampant drug and alcohol abuse among the youth and insecurity in urban and rural areas.

Others were; Poor infrastructure, especially feeder roads and markets and underfunded schools and limited support for education and skills training. Ngugi Ndegwa, the chairman of the movement, said leaders pushing for Kiambu to cut ties with Mt Kenya counties had not engaged residents.

“We did not send our elected leaders to start a discussion of having Kiambu County cut ties with the rest of the Mt Kenya region. There was no public participation, no civic education, and no mandate from the people,” Ndegwa argued.

He stressed that Kiambu could not stand alone politically or economically, pointing out that the region’s strength lay in unity and collective bargaining.

While rejecting Ichung’wah’s and other leaders position, some voices within Kiambu are pushing for a different kind of restructuring.

Wanjiku Muthoni, a youth leader, suggested that instead of breaking away from Mt Kenya, Kiambu should be split into three counties due to its massive population.



Kiambu Liberation Movement (KLM) members during their presser in Kiambu town.

“We should be discussing how Kiambu can be divided into three counties. That will mean more constituencies, more wards, and more resources allocated equitably to match our population,” she said.

The debate exposes growing political cracks in the Mt Kenya bloc, long regarded as a formidable voting bloc in Kenyan politics. While leaders like Ichung’wah argue for rethinking Kiambu’s place in the region, grassroots movements insist the future lies in unity, inclusivity, and focusing on development issues.

As the Kiambu Liberation Movement reaffirmed in its closing remarks: “Kiambu is, and will always remain, an integral part of the Mount Kenya family politically, culturally, and historically.”



Ngugi Ndegwa Chairman KLM

Kimani Wachira Secretary General, KLM.





# The Light of Success



Abdul Kalam, with books in hand,  
Worked day and night to serve the land.  
From simple roots his wings took flight,  
Through burning effort came his light.

Edison's lamp did not glow fast,  
He tried and failed but stood steadfast.  
At last the world was lit with flame,  
Because he played the patient game.

So when the night feels dark and long,  
Hold tight your hope, stay firm and strong.  
The dawn will break, the light will show,  
Success will shine where efforts grow.

Sachin once waited years to score,  
He practiced hard and wished for more.  
At last the runs began to flow,  
His record books began to glow.

V Durgadevi  
BT Assistant  
GHS Nesal  
Tiruvannamalai District

Every mountain looks too high to climb,  
But step by step you'll reach in time.  
No seed can bloom the day it's sown,  
With care and toil the fruit is grown.

# Keep Your Plans Close



success  
So keep your goals close to your heart, don't  
share,  
Let achievement be your reward, and your  
success be cherished later  
  
If you share your plans, excitement will fade,  
But keeping it confidential, will leave them all  
amazed and surprised  
when you finally reveal, they may be happy  
Your success will be sweeter, and your triumph  
will be real.

Silence is powerful, it's a secret to success,  
Keep your plans hidden, and let your  
achievements speak  
Don't announce your plans, until they're  
reached and won,  
Let your success speak for itself,

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

Don't tell people what you're doing, until it's  
done,  
For few will praise, and many will have fun,  
Criticizing, mocking, and spreading rumors too,  
Their negativity can bring your dreams to vain  
  
Be patient, keep quiet, until the result's  
announced,  
Don't let their evil eye, bring your success to  
hold  
Touch wood, touch wood, for good luck's sake,  
Or negativity may strike, and your dreams will  
break.  
  
Many will laugh at your failure, and enjoy in  
your tears  
They are jealous of your victory, and your

# Who Is My Teacher?



(Teacher's Day Poem By : R. Balu)

When I was in the womb and came to the world,  
the touch, care, and voice of my mother became  
my first teacher.  
When I played with my father and walked holding  
hands,  
his hug and protection seemed my second  
teacher.

When I played with my siblings and moved with  
neighbours,  
their words and behaviour became my third  
teacher.  
When I stepped into school with books and hope,  
the advice and teaching of my mentor became  
my fourth teacher.

When I worked with effort and played with joy,  
rules and co-operation became my fifth teacher.  
When I entered a game, with victory as my aim,  
teamwork and practice became my sixth teacher.

When I walked on the street and rested in the  
park,  
responsibility and discipline became my seventh  
teacher.

When I met the poor and spoke with elders,  
the need for kindness and respect became my  
eighth teacher.

When I joined a job and worked for a goal,  
punctuality and hard work became my ninth  
teacher.  
When I was honoured for a win and criticised for  
a mistake,  
humble acceptance and correction became my

tenth teacher.

When I returned home and went my room,  
responsibility and rest became my eleventh  
teacher.  
I learn much by experience from human teachers,  
yet even more I learn from nature's preachers.

The diligence of ants and the loyalty of a dog  
are my inspirational super teachers.  
The memory of an elephant and the intelligence  
of a dolphin  
are my enduring and thoughtful teachers.

The vision of an eagle and the patience of turtles  
are my remarkable guiding teachers.  
The adaptability of rivers and transformation of  
butterflies  
are my encouraging heavenly teachers.

The radiance of the sun and the generosity of  
trees  
are my life-giving, amazing teachers.  
The strength of mountains and the courage of  
a lion  
are my motivational soul teachers.

The vastness of the sky and the coolness of the  
moon  
are my great and beautiful teachers.  
The stillness of stones and the movement of the  
wind  
are my ever-guiding life teachers.

So who is my teacher? I now understand,  
all of creation is life in every hand.  
When the heart stays open and ready to learn,  
knowledge from everything we meet will return.

POEM BY :  
R. BALU  
B. T -ASSISTANT  
GHSS-IVYAPANTHANGAL  
KANCHIPURAM -DISTRICT  
PIN-600056

# Feeling Fresh



Feeling Fresh, after a heart-to-heart talk.  
  
Feeling Fresh, with homemade food by Mom,  
Feeling Fresh, on a long drive, peaceful and calm.  
  
Feeling Fresh, wearing flowers on my head,  
Feeling Fresh, when I travel to Mom's home  
instead.  
  
Feeling Fresh, in a hot bath on a cold day,  
Feeling Fresh, in a cool bath when the heat is  
at play.

Feeling Fresh, after a sound, soothing nap,  
Feeling Fresh, life's beauty wrapped in its lap.

KUMARESWARI S  
GRADUATE TEACHER -ENGLISH  
VKGHS AYANKALIPALAYAM TIRUPPUR  
TAMILNADU

Feeling Fresh, watching the sunrise at sea,  
Feeling Fresh, on a lonely travel with music and  
me.

Feeling Fresh, with a hot cup of coffee in hand,  
Feeling Fresh, as the morning breeze kisses the  
land.

Feeling Fresh, in an early morning walk,

# My Country



You are my wealth, my dearest and unique,  
And always because of you my speech is art.  
Don't let your peace be broken and bleak,  
I will not let your candle in my heart depart.

Your presence means that my existence is true,  
I have no happiness and joy apart from you  
My nation, in my heart, pride I knew,  
For you are the light that illuminates my way  
anew.

Jasmina Abdusaidova



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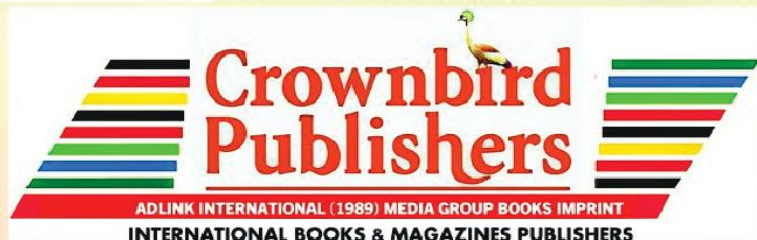
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# Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital Champions Climate-Smart Agriculture for Sustainable Growth

By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themkenyetimes

Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital has taken a significant step beyond its core healthcare services by endorsing climate-smart agriculture and sustainable trade as vital pathways to achieving long-term economic growth and community resilience.

The initiative was highlighted during a critical meeting convened in Mombasa where hospital representatives, experts, local leaders, and development partners gathered to discuss the urgent need for integrated approaches that safeguard the environment while boosting agricultural productivity. The hospital emphasized that adopting climate-smart practices will not only ensure food security but also create new economic opportunities for vulnerable populations.

"Healthcare and environmental sustainability are deeply intertwined. Healthy communities depend on healthy ecosystems," noted a representative from Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital. The hospital underscored that by promoting climate-smart

agriculture, communities can better shield themselves from the increasing threats posed by climate change, such as food shortages and economic instability.

Climate-smart agriculture refers to approaches that enhance productivity and resilience in farming systems while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting sustainable natural resource management. These practices include water-efficient irrigation, agroforestry, improved seed varieties, and soil conservation techniques that allow farmers to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

By championing these methods, Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital is aligning its health mission with environmental stewardship, recognizing that tackling food insecurity and climate change requires cross-sectoral collaboration. The hospital's involvement marks a growing trend where health institutions are extending their role beyond clinical care to address the social and environmental determinants of health.

During the meeting, participants discussed the importance of resilient agricultural and trade systems in driving inclusive economic growth. Sustainable trade practices such as

responsible sourcing, value addition, and ethical market access were identified as key components that would complement climate-smart agriculture. Together, these approaches can strengthen local economies by diversifying income streams and opening export opportunities.

Experts at the forum highlighted the urgent need for government agencies, private sector players, and development partners to increase investments in climate-smart and resilient systems. Such investments are critical to securing food supplies, creating jobs, and promoting national development amid a changing climate.

Local leaders also emphasized the importance of scaling up education and awareness campaigns to encourage farmers and communities to adopt innovative, eco-friendly agricultural techniques. They pointed out that without community buy-in and local knowledge integration, interventions risk falling short of their potential impact.

The hospital spoke firmly about its commitment to promoting resilience through strategic partnerships, calling for collaborative efforts that span multiple sectors. It urged stakehold-



Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital Champions Climate-Smart Agriculture for Growth.

ers to view climate-smart agriculture and sustainable trade not only as environmental imperatives but also as economic opportunities that can uplift livelihoods across Kenya.

"This initiative reflects our dedication to holistic community well-being," the hospital stated. "Climate change is a complex challenge that demands partnerships between health, agriculture, trade, and environmental sectors. As a healthcare institution, we are proud to take an active role in driving these solu-

tions."

By investing in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable trade, the initiative aims to build stronger, healthier communities that are prepared to face present and future environmental challenges. Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital's leadership in this space sets an example for other health institutions to integrate climate action into their broader missions.

# Senators Call On Governor Sakaja To Use Political Truce To Deliver Solutions

By: Cynthia Masibo  
@themkenyetimes

A group of Senators has urged Governor Johnson Sakaja to leverage the current political truce with the County Assembly Members (MCAs) to address the city's urgent challenges and deliver lasting solutions for its residents.

The call came during a media briefing held at a Nairobi Hotel, where the Senators welcomed the decision by MCAs to suspend an impeachment motion against the governor. They described the temporary peace as a positive development that offers a crucial opportunity for dialogue and stability in Nairobi's governance.

One senator emphasized the importance of this moment as a turning point. "We want to use this opportunity not only to speak to Nairobi-

ans but also to the Governor. This is a window he must not let close because if he fails, what happens in Nairobi will affect all of us," remarked the lawmaker, warning that persistent political instability within City Hall could disrupt service delivery and development projects across the county.

While the impeachment motion has been shelved, the senators underscored that institutions such as the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) remain empowered to investigate any governance and accountability issues. "An impeachment would only remove the head of the county government, but matters such as corruption or grabbed property can still be pursued by the competent agencies," they explained.

Reflecting on Governor Sakaja's tenure so far, the senators acknowledged a mix of progress and setbacks. They praised developments in infrastructure and water supply proj-

ects but pointed out continuing challenges in garbage collection, sewage management, and service delivery, particularly in informal settlements. "Let's give credit where it is due, but also admit that much more remains undone," noted one senator.

The lawmakers also commended President William Ruto and Azimio leader Raila Odinga for their mediation efforts, which helped avert what was described as a looming leadership crisis in the capital. The senators dismissed suggestions that the truce was designed to protect the governor from accountability, branding such claims as "outrageous" and unhelpful to Nairobi's future.

Looking ahead, the senators called on Governor Sakaja to deepen cooperation with MCAs and residents of Nairobi to fulfill campaign promises during the remaining one and a half years before the next general election. They emphasized that ultimate judgment rests with the electorate,



A group of Nairobi Senators in picture

who will decide through their votes whether the governor has succeeded in improving the city.

"Ultimately, the people will decide at the ballot whether he has delivered or not," they concluded.

This political truce marks an important pause in Nairobi's turbu-

lent leadership landscape, offering a chance for unity and focus on the city's pressing socio-economic needs. Stakeholders across the capital will be watching closely to see whether Governor Sakaja can translate this opportunity into tangible improvements for Nairobi-ans.



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# Recognition And Resistance: A Global Analysis Of Palestine's Statehood Status



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande  
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The global debate over the recognition of the State of Palestine is not merely a diplomatic exercise—it is a reflection of how the international community interprets sovereignty, justice, and the legacy of colonialism in the modern era. With 147 countries now formally recognizing Palestine, the momentum toward legitimizing its statehood is undeniable.
- These recognitions are driven by a range of motivations: solidarity with oppressed peoples, support for international law, regional alliances, and domestic political pressures. For many nations, especially those in the Global South, recognizing Palestine is a continuation of their own historical struggles for independence and dignity.
- On the other hand, the refusal by several powerful Western nations to recognize Palestine reveals the enduring complexities of global politics.

**Introduction**

The question of Palestinian statehood remains one of the most contentious and symbolically charged issues in international diplomacy. Since the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) declared the establishment of the State of Palestine in 1988, the global community has been divided over whether to formally recognize it as a sovereign state. As of 2025, 147 of the 193 United Nations member states have recognized Palestine, while others, particularly Western powers, continue to withhold recognition, citing various political, legal, and strategic concerns.

This analysis explores the geopolitical landscape of Palestine's recognition, examining the motivations of countries that have embraced Palestinian statehood and those that have resisted it. It delves into historical alignments, regional dynamics, diplomatic pressures, and the evolving discourse around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The goal is to provide a nuanced understanding of how recognition reflects broader ideological, strategic, and humanitarian considerations.

**Countries That Recognize the State of Palestine**

**Historical Foundations of Recognition**

The initial wave of recognition came in 1988, immediately following the PLO's declaration of statehood. Many countries in the Global South, particularly those aligned with the Non-Aligned Movement, recognized Palestine as part of a broader anti-colonial and pro-sovereignty stance. These included:

- Arab League members
- African nations emerging from colonial rule
- Former Soviet-aligned states
- Latin American countries with leftist governments

This early recognition was rooted in solidarity with the Palestinian cause, opposition to Israeli occupation, and support for a two-state solution.

**Regional Breakdown of Recognition**

**Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

All Arab League members recognize Palestine, including:

- Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon
- North African states like Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya

These countries view Palestinian



statehood as a central issue in regional stability and identity. Many have historical ties to the conflict and have hosted Palestinian refugees or supported resistance movements.

**Africa**

Most African countries recognize Palestine, including: South Africa, Namibia, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Senegal.

African support is often framed through anti-apartheid and anti-colonial narratives. South Africa, in particular, draws parallels between its own history and the Palestinian struggle.

**Latin America**

Many Latin American nations recognize Palestine, such as: Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua

Recognition here is often tied to leftist or populist governments that challenge US foreign policy and support global South solidarity.

**Asia**

Key Asian countries recognizing Palestine include: China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh

China and India, as major powers, support Palestinian statehood as part of their broader diplomatic balancing acts in the Middle East. Indonesia and Malaysia, as Muslim-majority nations, have long supported the Palestinian cause.

**Europe**

Recognition in Europe is mixed. Countries that recognize Palestine include: Sweden (2014), Ireland, Spain, Norway, Slovenia, Malta, San Marino

Recent recognitions in 2024–2025

reflect growing frustration with Israeli policies in Gaza and a desire to support humanitarian and legal norms.

**Others**

- Russia has recognized Palestine since the Soviet era.
- Turkey, a NATO member, also recognizes Palestine and has been vocal in supporting its statehood.

**Motivations Behind Recognition**

**Support for Self-Determination**

Many countries view Palestinian recognition as a moral imperative—supporting the right of a people to self-governance and sovereignty.

**Diplomatic Balancing**

Some states use recognition to balance relations with Israel and the Arab world, especially in regions where both alliances are strategically important.

**Domestic Political Pressure**

In democracies, public opinion and civil society activism often push governments toward recognition, especially during periods of heightened conflict.

**Humanitarian Concerns**

Recognition is sometimes framed as a response to humanitarian crises, such as the blockade of Gaza or settlement expansion in the West Bank.

**Historical and Ideological Solidarity**

Post-colonial states often see Palestine's struggle as analogous to their own histories of resistance and liberation.

**Countries That Do Not Recognize the State of Palestine**

**Overview of Non-Recognizing States**

As of 2025, 46 UN member states do not formally recognize Palestine. These include: United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Greece and Italy. These countries represent a mix of Western democracies, G7 members, and strategic allies of Israel.

**Reasons for Non-Recognition**

**Commitment to Bilateral Negotiations**

Many Western governments argue that recognition should come as part of a negotiated peace agreement between Israel and Palestine. They believe unilateral recognition undermines the peace process and incentivizes one-sided actions.

Example: The United States has consistently maintained that Palestinian statehood must be the outcome of direct negotiations, not international declarations.

**Strategic Alliance with Israel**

Israel is a key ally for many Western nations, particularly the US. Recognition of Palestine is seen as potentially damaging to diplomatic and military cooperation.

Example: The US provides billions in military aid to Israel and coordinates closely on regional security.

**Domestic Political Dynamics**

In countries like the US and Canada,



# Recognition And Resistance: A Global Analysis Of Palestine's Statehood Status

Contd from page 18

domestic political lobbies—particularly pro-Israel groups—exert significant influence over foreign policy. Recognition of Palestine is often politically sensitive.

**Legal and Diplomatic Concerns**  
Some governments argue that Palestine does not meet the criteria for statehood under international law, citing lack of defined borders, unified governance, and control over territory.

**Fear of Empowering Extremism**  
Certain governments worry that recognition could empower groups like Hamas, which is designated as a terrorist organization by many Western states. They argue that recognition should be contingent on democratic reforms and renunciation of violence.

**Conditional Recognition and Shifting Positions**  
Several countries have announced conditional or impending recognition, including:  
United Kingdom: Recognition contingent on ceasefire and negotiations  
France: Announced recognition at UNGA in September 2025  
Canada and Australia: Recognition tied to Palestinian Authority reforms  
These shifts reflect growing frustration with the status quo and a desire to support a two-state solution more assertively.

**The Role of International Institutions**  
**United Nations**  
Palestine has held non-member observer status at the UN since 2012. This status allows participation in debates and access to international bodies but not voting rights.  
Efforts to gain full membership have been blocked by US vetoes in the Security Council.

**UNESCO and ICC**  
Palestine was admitted to UNESCO in 2011 and recognized by the International Criminal Court in 2014. These recognitions have allowed Palestine to pursue legal action against Israeli policies, particularly settlement expansion and military actions in Gaza.

**European Union**  
The EU is divided on recognition. While several member states have recognized Palestine, the bloc as a whole has not. Internal divisions and the need for consensus have stalled collective action.



**Implications of Recognition and Non-Recognition**

**Diplomatic Legitimacy**  
Recognition enhances Palestine's diplomatic standing, allowing it to engage more fully in international forums and treaties. It also strengthens its claim to sovereignty and territorial rights.

**Impact on Peace Process**  
Critics argue that recognition undermines negotiations, while supporters claim it pressures Israel to engage seriously. The impact depends on timing, context, and accompanying diplomatic efforts.

**Humanitarian and Legal Ramifications**  
Recognition can facilitate international aid, legal protections, and accountability mechanisms. It also signals support for human rights and international law.

**Geopolitical Realignment**  
Recent recognitions by Western states suggest a shift in global diplomacy. As more countries embrace Palestinian statehood, traditional alliances may be tested, and new coalitions may emerge.

**Strategic and Ethical Considerations**

**The Ethics of Recognition**  
Recognition is not merely a legal act—it is a moral statement. It reflects a country's stance on justice, sovereignty, and human dignity. For many, recognizing Palestine is an act of solidarity with a people under occupation.

**The Politics of Delay**  
Delaying recognition often serves strategic interests but can perpetuate suffering and injustice. The argument

for "waiting for negotiations" loses weight when negotiations are stalled or asymmetric.

**The Power of Symbolism**  
Recognition carries symbolic weight. It affirms identity, validates struggle, and reshapes narratives. For Palestinians, each recognition is a step toward international legitimacy.

**The Future of Recognition**  
With growing momentum, recognition may become a tipping point in the conflict. If major powers like the UK, France, and Canada formalize recognition, pressure on the US and others will intensify. The question will shift from "if" to "when."

**Conclusion**  
The global debate over the recognition of the State of Palestine is not merely a diplomatic exercise—it is a reflection of how the international community interprets sovereignty, justice, and the legacy of colonialism in the modern era. With 147 countries now formally recognizing Palestine, the momentum toward legitimizing its statehood is undeniable. These recognitions are driven by a range of motivations: solidarity with oppressed peoples, support for international law, regional alliances, and domestic political pressures. For many nations, especially those in the Global South, recognizing Palestine is a continuation of their own historical struggles for independence and dignity.

On the other hand, the refusal by several powerful Western nations to recognize Palestine reveals the enduring complexities of global politics. Strategic alliances with Israel, concerns over regional stability, and domestic political calculations have led countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and Can-

ada to adopt cautious or conditional stances. These positions are often framed as support for a negotiated two-state solution, yet critics argue that such delay tactics perpetuate the status quo and undermine the urgency of Palestinian self-determination.

The recent wave of recognitions by European countries such as Ireland, Spain, and Norway signals a potential shift in the diplomatic landscape. These decisions reflect growing frustration with the lack of progress in peace negotiations and a desire to assert moral leadership in the face of humanitarian crises, particularly in Gaza. If more influential nations follow suit, the balance of international legitimacy may tip decisively in favor of Palestinian statehood.

Recognition, however, is not an endpoint—it is a beginning. For Palestine, formal recognition must be accompanied by tangible support: economic aid, institutional development, and protection of rights. For Israel, the growing international consensus may serve as a wake-up call to re-engage in meaningful negotiations. And for the broader international community, the recognition of Palestine is a test of its commitment to justice, equality, and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Ultimately, the question of Palestine's statehood is not just about borders and diplomacy—it is about the human aspiration for freedom, dignity, and a place in the world. As more countries come on board, the recognition of Palestine becomes a symbol of global conscience. Whether the remaining holdouts will join this movement depends not only on political calculus but on the willingness to confront uncomfortable truths and embrace a more inclusive vision of international order.

Worth Noting:

- The recent wave of recognitions by European countries such as Ireland, Spain, and Norway signals a potential shift in the diplomatic landscape. These decisions reflect growing frustration with the lack of progress in peace negotiations and a desire to assert moral leadership in the face of humanitarian crises, particularly in Gaza. If more influential nations follow suit, the balance of international legitimacy may tip decisively in favor of Palestinian statehood.
- Recognition, however, is not an endpoint—it is a beginning. For Palestine, formal recognition must be accompanied by tangible support: economic aid, institutional development, and protection of rights. For Israel, the growing international consensus may serve as a wake-up call to re-engage in meaningful negotiations.



# South Africa’s Labour Market Under Strain As Mass Layoffs Loom

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- A similar trend has surfaced in the automotive sector, where Ford Motor’s South African unit has announced job cuts and tyre manufacturer Goodyear is shutting down its factory as part of a “realignment” of production capacity to current and expected market demand. “Although the industries differ, both face severe economic pressure.
- Rising costs, import competition, and operational inefficiencies are forcing companies to downsize, which is why we are seeing job cuts across multiple sectors,” Parks told Xinhua in a phone interview. Some mining companies have blamed soaring electricity costs. Parks noted that electricity tariffs had risen by about 450 percent, putting pressure on businesses, and several smelters had already been forced to close.



South Africa workers protest

South Africa is facing mounting concerns over a looming jobs crisis, after major companies announced plans to shed over 7,000 workers in total, with thousands more indirect jobs at risk -- a move government and labor unions warn the country cannot afford.

Successive job cuts have drawn grave concern from Minister of Employment and Labour Nomakhosazana Meth, who warned of the challenges posed by ongoing retrenchments. According to a statement released Tuesday by the department, the closure of South Africa’s largest steel producer, ArcelorMittal, is set to result in “an estimated 3,500 job losses and a further 100,000 jobs downstream.”

Meanwhile, mining giant Glencore has recently begun a retrenchment process at its ferrochrome and vanadium operations in South Africa, citing power cuts, rising electricity costs, and broader economic pressures. “This is very concerning. The country cannot afford a job bloodbath. These retrenchments are putting immense pressure on families and local economies. Companies are citing various operational challenges, but the scale of the layoffs is alarming,” said Matthew Parks, parliamentary coordinator at the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), a main labor federation of South Africa.

A similar trend has surfaced in the automotive sector, where Ford Motor’s South African unit has announced job cuts and tyre manufacturer Goodyear is shutting down its factory as part of a “realignment” of production capacity to current and expected market demand. “Although the industries differ, both face severe economic pressure. Rising costs, import competition, and operational inefficiencies are forcing companies to downsize, which is why we are seeing job cuts across multiple sectors,” Parks told Xinhua in a phone interview. Some mining companies have blamed soaring electricity costs. Parks noted that

electricity tariffs had risen by about 450 percent, putting pressure on businesses, and several smelters had already been forced to close.

Parks noted that besides workers, the entire supply chain is feeling the pinch of retrenchments. “The impact is significant. Direct job losses are only part of the problem. Indirect effects on suppliers, contractors, and local communities multiply the impact. Without urgent intervention on electricity costs and other structural challenges, more sectors could follow this trend,” Parks added. Independent analyst Sandile Swana told Xinhua that South Africa should focus on providing cheaper and

more abundant electricity to support struggling sectors and promote industrialization. He added that higher electricity prices were undermining the country’s efforts to build an industrial base capable of sustaining smelters.

Sectors such as smelting were initially supported with cheaper electricity to encourage growth, but many are now closing and cutting jobs because they cannot keep up with rising costs, said Swana. He stressed that for any economy to advance to the next stage of industrialization, electricity must be affordable and abundant.





# 60 Killed In Nigeria Boat Accident

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyetimes

At least 60 people were killed and dozens rescued after a boat capsized in Nigeria's north-central Niger State, local authorities said on Wednesday. "The death toll of the boat incident has risen to 60 and the casualty figure is rising," said Abdullahi Baba Ara, chair of Borgu local government area, adding that 10 people were in serious condition and many others still missing. Emergency personnel and local divers were searching for the victims, according to the Niger State Emergency Management Agency. The accident occurred around 11 a.m. local time (1000 GMT) on Tuesday when the overloaded vessel collided with a tree stump and capsized near the Gausawa community in the Borgu local government area. The boat carried more than 100 people, with women and children being the majority of the fatal victims,



said Sa'adu Inuwa Muhammad, the district head of Shagumi. Boat accidents, often caused by overloading, adverse weather, and operational errors, are common in Nigeria

# Sudan Denies U.S. Accusations Of Chemical Weapons Use In Khartoum

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyetimes

Sudan's government has rejected U.S. accusations that it used chemical weapons in the capital Khartoum, saying there is no evidence of chemical or radiological contamination. In a report released earlier this week, the Federal Ministry of Health said field tests, medical reports, and surveillance data showed no signs of toxic substances. "There is no evidence of chemical or radiological contamination in Khartoum State," it said in a detailed report. The ministry said no abnormal deaths, mass illnesses, or symptoms of poisoning had been recorded, and that forensic reports had not identified any unusual causes of death. It added that radiation levels were normal, no radioactive material had

moved, and no suspicious munitions or residues had been found. The report said the findings were based on field tests conducted since April, when the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) retook control of Khartoum from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). It said measurements were carried out with equipment accredited by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The United States in June imposed sanctions on Sudan, accusing it of using chemical weapons in 2024. Khartoum dismissed the allegations at the time as "political blackmail" and a distortion of facts. Sudan has been in conflict since April 2023, when fighting broke out between the SAF and the RSF. The war has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions, worsening a humanitarian crisis in one of the world's poorest countries.





SPORTS  
NEWSPHOTOS  
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BREAKING NEWS

**Sports >>** \*Kenya's Naom Wafula lit up the second round of the SportsBiz Africa Golf Championship with a spectacular hole-in-one on the par-3 second hole at Kigali Golf Resort & Villas.

## Kenya's Naom Wafula Hits Hole-In-One As Nsanzuwera Extends Lead At Sportsbiz Africa Golf Champs

Kenya's Naom Wafula lit up the second round of the SportsBiz Africa Golf Championship with a spectacular hole-in-one on the par-3 second hole at Kigali Golf Resort & Villas.

The shot, coupled with steady play across the round, helped her post a brilliant 4-under-par 68, bringing his tournament total to 1-over-par 145.

Wafula secured his place among the top 30 players who made the cut for Friday's final round.

Reflecting on the achievement, Wafula said: "Today was a great round. I came in with the mentality to just enjoy myself and not put too much pressure. On hole two, I hit my iron, but from the tee I thought it was short. Since the green is uphill, we couldn't see where it landed.

"When we got up there, I thought the ball had rolled over the slope, but one of the caddies said a ball had dropped in. When we checked, it was mine, it was a hole-in-one! I was super happy, but my caddie calmed me down and reminded me that I still had a lot of golf to play. That confidence carried me through the round."

At the top of the leaderboard, Rwanda's Celestin Nsanzuwera delighted the home crowd with a sensational performance.

Using his knowledge of the course to his advantage, Nsanzuwera fired nine birdies and an eagle en route to a stunning 9-under-par 63, extending his overall lead to 13-under-par 131 after two rounds.

"It was an amazing round today," Nsanzuwera said. "Unlike yesterday, I didn't feel much pressure, and that helped me stay calm. Starting with back-to-back birdies and then an eagle on the third gave me so much confidence. I told myself to just keep going up and up.

"I had 23 putts all round and hit



*Naom Wafula in action at the Kigali Golf Resort & Villas during the second round of the SportsBiz Africa Golf Championship*

every fairway. Being my home course, I used that knowledge to my advantage. Tomorrow the plan is the same; play the fairways, trust my putts, and stay focused."

A seven-shot gap separates Nsanzuwera from his nearest challengers. Tied for second on 6-under-par 138 are South Africa's Travis Procter and two-time DP World Tour winner Haydn Porteous.

Procter carded a composed 3-under-par 69, with birdies on 1, 11, 13, and 17. He said: "I hit the ball much like yesterday, really solid.

The back nine was a bit of a struggle with the putter going cold, but overall I'm happy. To be at six-under feels like the

worst I could be playing this well. Tomorrow, I'll go out looking for a better score"

Porteous matched Procter with a 3-under-par 69 of his own, thanks to birdies on 4, 6, and 13.

Kenya's Eric Ooko was the top-ranked Kenyan on moving day. His round of 2-under-par 70, with birdies on 8, 10, 11, and 18 offset by bogeys on 4 and 17, lifted him to 5-under-par 139, just outside the top three.

Other Kenyans who made the cut include John Wangai, Jastas Madoya, Dismas Indiza, Mutahi Kibugu, Samuel Njoroge, Michael Karanga, John Lejirma, David Wakhu, Ken Abuto, Greg Snow, Daniel Nduva, Mohit Mediratta, Jacob Okello, and Njoroge Kibugu.

The cut was set at 3-over-par 147, narrowing the field to 30 golfers who will compete in Friday's decisive final round for a share of the USD 25,000 prize purse, along with crucial Sunshine Development Tour points, Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points, and World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points.

The SportsBiz Africa Golf Championship is sponsored by SportsBiz Africa, East African Breweries through its Johnnie Walker brand, Kigali Golf Resort & Villas, and Pure Travel.

Citizen Sport

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD



**Sports >>** \*Kenya’s security agencies have been praised for their exceptional role in ensuring the successful and peaceful hosting of the recently concluded CHAN)2024 tournament.

# FKF Laud Security Forces For Flawless CHAN Hosting



FKF President Hussein Mohammed speaks during a meeting with leaders of various security agencies to appreciate their excellent work during CHAN2024 on September 9, 2025. Photo by FKF

**By Frankline Kipruto**

Kenya’s security agencies have been praised for their exceptional role in ensuring the successful and peaceful hosting of the recently concluded African Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024 tournament. In a statement released on Thursday, the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) President Hussein Mohammed acknowledged the dedication, coordination, and professionalism displayed by the country’s security forces during the CHAN event. Speaking during a breakfast

meeting with sector commanders from various security agencies, Hussein Mohammed expressed deep appreciation for their tireless efforts, saying their commitment was key to delivering a seamless and safe tournament. “Their coordination and professionalism were second to none. We’re proud of the work done and look forward to continued collaboration to guarantee safety in all our future matches,” he said. Special recognition was given to top security officials who played key roles in the success of the tournament including Tom Ode-ro, Deputy Director of Operations

and CHAN Focal Point – Kenya Police Service, George Seda, Assistant Inspector General and Host City Commander – Nairobi. Others are Edward O. Achola, AIG and Deputy CHAN Commandant – RBPU and Dr. Resila Onyango, Commander of the Close Protection Police Officers – Diplomatic Police Unit The meeting also served as a planning session for upcoming events, with security arrangements being fine-tuned ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, where Kenya will lock horns with The Gambia this Friday, and Seychelles next Tuesday.

As Kenya eyes more international tournaments, FKF maintains that strong security infrastructure remains a cornerstone for successful hosting.

SPORTS NEWS

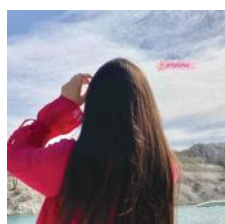


PHOTOS  
SCORES  
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BREAKING NEWS





## Artificial Intelligence In Today's World

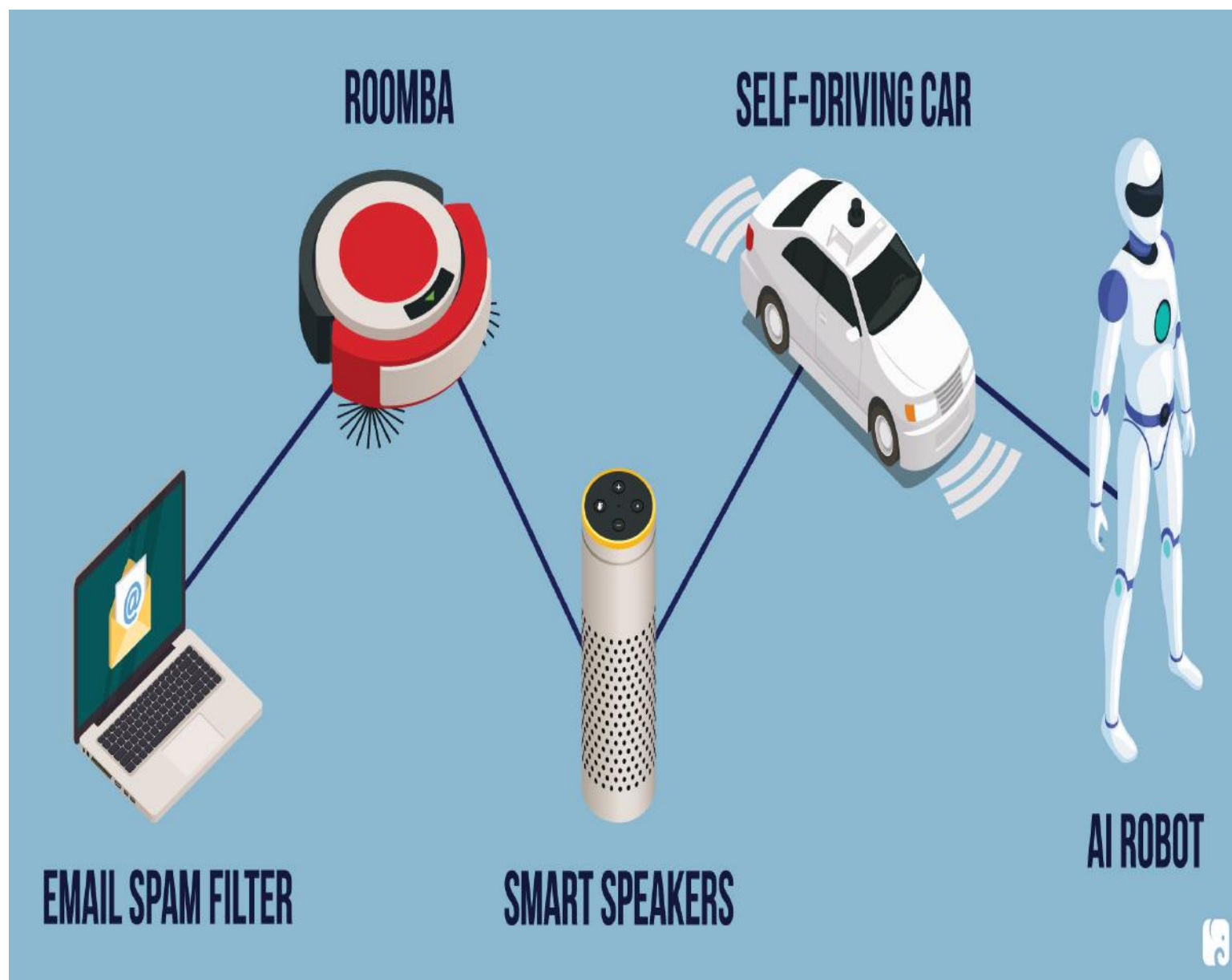


By: Ogiloy Bozorova  
@themkenyatimes

### Worth Noting:

The 21st century is called the century of technology, and it differs from other eras by its many conveniences. One of these opportunities is considered artificial intelligence. Of course, it is also useful for our country. Firstly, it can be very beneficial for the state budget. One of the reasons is that robots are capable of doing almost any task. Secondly, they can replace additional human labor, being used in construction and many other sectors. Moreover, since these robots are connected to human intelligence and can be equipped with smart features, they also have useful sides.

However, just like everything created has a "but," artificial intelligence also has certain drawbacks. Although artificial intelligence can perform many tasks, it may also replace several professions in the future.



In today's world, where technology is rapidly developing, it is difficult to imagine our lives without artificial intelligence. However, some people warn about the negative consequences of artificial intelligence.

Over the past decade, the modern world has changed so much that it is impossible to imagine life without intelligence. Changes have entered all aspects of our daily lives and, at the same time, have also touched the fields of artificial intelligence. Yet some people warn against the possible negative outcomes of artificial intelligence. So, what are the benefits of artificial intelligence for our lives? Let us discuss this in today's essay.

The 21st century is called the century of technology, and it differs from other eras by its many conveniences.

One of these opportunities is considered artificial intelligence. Of course, it is also useful for our country. Firstly, it can be very beneficial for the state budget. One of the reasons is that robots are capable of doing almost any task. Secondly, they can replace additional human labor, being used in construction and many other sectors. Moreover, since these robots are connected to human intelligence and can be equipped with smart features, they also have useful sides.

However, just like everything created has a "but," artificial intelligence also has certain drawbacks. Although artificial intelligence can perform many tasks, it may also replace several professions in the future. Nowadays, programmers, bank employees, engineers, and translators

are gradually being replaced by artificial intelligence. Still, there are areas where technology cannot succeed. For example, professions like designing, teaching, and painting remain challenging for them.

Therefore, despite a number of negative aspects, artificial intelligence has become both a positive and negative force in our lives. This artificial mind even frees humans from certain tasks.

In conclusion, despite all the challenges, we must make extensive use of artificial intelligence.

My name is Ogiloy Bozorova. I was born on May 27, 2006, in Qumqor-gon district, Surxondaryo region. Since my school years, I have been passionate about poetry, singing,

and performing on stage. Later, I was admitted to the National Institute of Fine Arts and Design, where I am currently studying.

During my studies, I have participated in various competitions and achieved good results. At the same time, I developed an interest in pedagogy. In the future, I intend to write articles in my field and become a useful member of society.

At present, I am an active member of the "Zakovat" team, where I continue to test myself in different directions and strive to achieve many successes.