

Kalonzo: “Shoot Ruto At The Ballot!”



P.9 Wiper Patriotic Front (WPF) party leader Kalonzo Musyoka speaks during the National Delegates Conference at Uhuru Park, Nairobi, on October 10, 2025. Photo/Kalonzo



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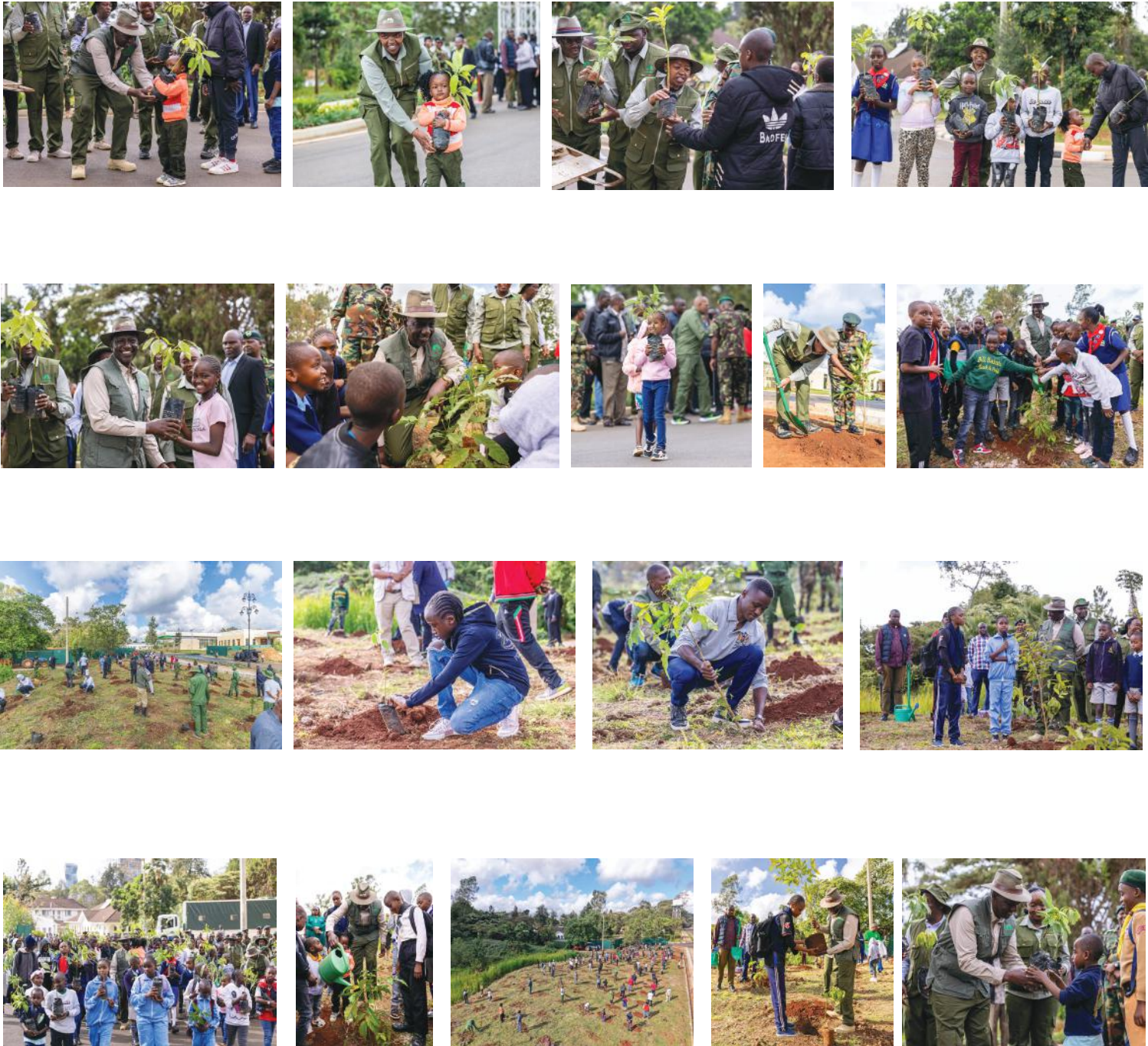
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President Ruto Joins Kenyans In Marking Mazingira Day

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some of the Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto on Friday led Kenyans in marking this year’s Mazingira Day. The president and First Lady Rachel planting several trees as the country geared towards achieving the 15 billion trees by 2032. “We call on every Kenyan to make their contribution to the national tree-planting drive as we work towards our ambitious goal of 15 billion trees by 2032. To make this vision a reality, the government will provide seedlings across the country. The Kenya Forest Service, working with the National Youth Service, will mobilise 15,000 NYS personnel to revive 300 nurseries in all our forests and establish 17 mega nurseries to produce two billion seedlings every year for Kenyans to plant,” the president said. The seedlings will include fruit trees to strengthen not only our food security, but also create opportunities for export, agro-processing, and generate jobs and wealth for our people. This initiative will also protect our water catchments and reduce the effects of climate change. The Head of State joined Kenyans at State House Primary School. Others senior Kenya Kwanza administration officials participated in the exercise at their respective home areas, with the majority planting trees at the primary schools where they studied.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Ms Mary Muthoni yesterday joined Kirinyaga County residents where they commemorated the Mazingira Day by planting trees. The PS said the day embodies the spirit of collective responsibility and action, together we plant, together we grow, and together we build the future we want. The event took place at Ngirambu Comprehensive Primary School.



The Catholic Church in Kenya has been forced to introduce a new brand of altar wine for Holy Mass after the previous one became widely available in local bars. A section of Kenyans discovered it and have been abusing it. Simply labelled Mass Wine, the new sacramental drink bears the coat of arms of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) and an official signature to certify its authenticity. The new wine is getting imported from South Africa and is exclusive to Mass. The new wine was officially introduced for the first time to thousands of worshipers during this year's National Prayer Day at the Subukia National Marian Shrine in Kenya's Nakuru area last Saturday.



The Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) has launched a campaign dubbed "Safari Salama" aimed at promoting road safety and mental health awareness among road users. Speaking during the launch of the campaign in Homa Bay on Thursday, KeNHA Regional Director Eng. Julius Mak'Odero emphasized the need for the public to take responsibility for both their mental wellbeing and safety while using the roads. He noted that KeNHA is conducting road safety audits and identifying conflict zones and danger spots to enhance user safety. The authority is also incorporating features for non-motorized traffic such as footpaths, service lanes and pedestrian crossings in its designs to protect pedestrians and cyclists..



Hundreds of boda boda operators in Narok Central Sub County have been sensitized on alcohol and drug abuse, with an aim of reducing accidents in the area. The forum provided a platform for educating the operators on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, promoting road safety and enlightening the operators on economic empowerment through organized Saccos. The area Deputy County Commissioner Kennedy Mwangome warned the operators against consuming unlicensed liquor, and asked them to report drinking dens that sell unauthorized alcohol. He warned that drinking and riding is very dangerous, observing that many motorists had died and others suffered major injuries due to riding while drunk.

Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Deborah Barasa presiding over the National Mazingira Day Celebrations as the Chief Guest at Kabuyefwe Primary School in Kiminini, Trans Nzoia County. This year's theme emphasizes citizen-led tree growing, expressed through the rallying call, "Turudi Primo, Tukadonate Fruit Trees." To lead by example, the Cabinet Secretary planted fruit trees and demonstrated proper waste management practices as part of the celebrations. She was joined by Principal Secretary Dr. Jane Imbunya (Public Service and Human Capital Development); Environment Secretary Dr. Selly Kimosop; Members of Parliament; Maurice Kakai Bisau (Kiminini), Ferdinand Wanyonyi (Kwanza), Dr. Robert Pukose (Endebess); Trans Nzoia County Commissioner Mr. Gideon Oyagi.



NEWS PAPER

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Sacco Reaffirms Commitment To Empowering Students Through Mentorship

By: Bernard Munyao and Purity Mugo

@themtkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during the graduation ceremony for cohorts 3 and 4 of the mentorship programme, themed “Unleash Your Potential. Dominate,” on Thursday, Mbui noted that the Sacco will continue investing in youth development as part of its long-term strategy to transform communities.
- “As a company that has thrived for decades through innovation, discipline, and service, we remain committed to empowering our youth because they are the most significant investment we can ever make,” said Mbui.

A Murang’a-based Sacco has reaffirmed its commitment to empowering students from poor backgrounds through a mentorship programme before joining institutions of higher learning.

The Chief Executive Officer of Amica Sacco Dr. James Mbui has promised that the Sacco will expand the programme dubbed Vuka to reach more students across Murang’a County and beyond.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony for cohorts 3 and 4 of the mentorship programme, themed “Unleash Your Potential. Dominate,” on Thursday, Mbui noted that the Sacco will continue investing in youth development as part of its long-term strategy to transform communities.

“As a company that has thrived for decades through innovation, discipline, and service, we remain committed to empowering our youth because they are the most significant investment we can ever make,” said Mbui.

The Vuka Mentorship Programme, launched in 2020, targets top-performing students from public-day secondary schools in Murang’a County, selected with support from the Ministry of Education.

The students are attached to various Amica Sacco branches for a three-month mentorship period, where they receive guidance on life skills such as financial literacy, stress management, relationships, and career development. Each mentee is paired with two mentors; a Branch Manager and a Head of Department and receives a monthly stipend during the training.

Mbui noted that the programme has so far benefited 142 students across the four cohorts. He praised the mentors



and partners for their commitment, saying their guidance has produced confident, responsible, and visionary young leaders.

“The Sacco has used roughly Sh. 20 million to facilitate the programme. Each cohort spends Sh. 5 million. The main purpose of the mentorship is to equip the students with life skills before they join universities.

“You have not just trained them; you have transformed them,” Mbui told the mentors, adding, “When opportunity meets guidance, great things happen.”

He further commended the Sacco’s Board of Directors for continuously approving and funding the programme, and thanked the County Director of Education for helping identify deserving students.

The CEO encouraged the graduating students to uphold discipline, integrity, and resilience as they pursue higher education and career goals.

“The world ahead of you is full of opportunities, but it will not hand you success, you must reach for it, earn it, and own it,” he advised. “Let your character be stronger than your circumstances. Lead with purpose, think boldly, and stay grounded in your values,” Mbui added.

The CEO assured that Amica Sacco would sustain and expand the mentorship programme, emphasising that the initiative has become a cornerstone of the Sacco’s corporate social investment agenda.

“The Vuka Mentorship Program will continue to grow, reaching more youths, more students, and more

dreams until every young person knows that with the right support, they too can cross over,” he affirmed.

Mbui disclosed that each student is attached to a mentor even after they conclude the programme to ensure they are assisted and guided when faced with various challenges as they pursue their studies.

One of the beneficiaries of the Vuka programme, Jeremiah Macharia said they have been equipped with skills that have helped them to adapt to university life successfully.

“This programme has helped me since after I cleared my secondary education, I was engaged and exposed to the working environment and taught various skills which will continue helping in my life,” he added.

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Kagwe Calls For Collective Action To Heal The Environment And Boost Food Security

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Muthahi Kagwe has called on Kenyans to unite in protecting the environment as a cornerstone for the country’s agricultural transformation and food security.

In a speech marking this year’s Mazingira Day celebrations at Kihate Primary School in Nyeri, the CS underscored the inextricable link between environmental conservation and sustainable agricultural development.

“No meaningful or profitable agricultural and livestock development can take place without a healthy, sustainable environment,” Mr. Kagwe said, emphasizing the Ministry’s central role in promoting ethical and sustainable food production.

He described the Ministry as the “guardian of Kenya’s natural heritage and steward of natural resources,” noting that farmers and pastoralists depend on healthy land, clean water,



and balanced ecosystems to sustain their livelihoods.

The Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed the government’s commitment to achieving food and nutrition security through strategic partnerships with county governments, research institutions, and other national agencies. “Our goal is clear — to make Kenya food and nutrition secure while protecting and preserving our environment,” he said.

Mr. Kagwe highlighted the government’s ongoing efforts to meet the national target of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, which aims to increase

the country’s tree cover to 30 percent and restore 10.5 million hectares of degraded land.

“It’s all hands on deck,” he added. “We must plant and nurture 1.5 billion trees every year if we are to achieve this goal. In doing so, we are not only healing our nation but improving the health of our soils — the foundation of all agricultural productivity.”

The CS further emphasized the importance of science and innovation in farming, pointing to AI-powered and data-driven agronomic practices as tools that can revolutionize produc-



tivity and quality in Kenya’s agricultural sector.

“Improved soil health, combined with technology and modern farming practices, will lead to healthier people, a healthier environment, and higher incomes for our farmers,” he said.

Mr. Kagwe praised Kihate Primary School for being an example of community-driven environmental stewardship. The school’s active 4K Club and Boys and Girls Scouts Clubs, supported by parents, alumni, teachers, and local government, were lauded as models for collective action.

“This is the way to go — a holistic, stakeholder-driven approach that mirrors the Ministry’s vision of sustainable development,” he said.

Quoting the late Prof. Wangari Maathai, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Mr. Kagwe concluded:

“It’s the little things citizens do that make the difference. Our little thing today — planting trees and restoring our land — is our contribution to healing Mother Earth and securing Kenya’s future.”

At the event, the CS was represented by Boniface Muhatia.

Concern As IEBC Registers 20,754 New Voters Against 6.3 Million Target

By: Joseph Muia
@themkenyentimes

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) says that 20,754 Kenyans have so far registered as new voters in the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise across the country.

In its week two status update released on Friday, the electoral agency reported that as of October 8, 2025, a total of 3,207 transfers and 61 updates had been recorded in its constituency offices nationwide.

According to the report, Nairobi County leads with the highest number of newly registered voters at 4,804, followed by Mombasa County with 1,379, while Nyamira County recorded the lowest turnout at only 18 new registrations.

The commission noted that despite steady progress, youth turnout re-

mains lower than anticipated, urging more eligible young Kenyans to take advantage of the ongoing registration to participate in the 2027 General Election.

“While we commend this progress, turnout among the targeted youth remains lower than expected. With a national target of 6.3 million new voters, the Commission urges all eligible Kenyans, particularly the youth, to take this opportunity to register and make their voices count,” IEBC Chairperson Erastus Edung Etheke said in the statement.

The commission boss further appreciated Kenyans who have already registered, updated their details, or transferred their voter records, noting that their participation is “vital in strengthening the foundation of free, fair, and credible elections.”

In addition to Nairobi and Mombasa, other top-performing counties include Kiambu (1,203), Nakuru (840), and Machakos (923). Counties such



IEBC Chairperson Erastus Edung Etheke during a past address. PHOTO | COURTESY

as Lamu (36), Tana River (42), and Turkana (148) recorded some of the lowest numbers in the first two weeks of the drive.

“Your vote begins with registration. Your voice matters. Your future depends on it,” Etheke emphasized in

IEBC’s call to action, encouraging citizens to visit the nearest constituency office to register.

The IEBC is conducting the Continuous Voter Registration exercise in all 290 constituency offices, except for 24 electoral areas where by-elec-

tions are scheduled for November 27, 2025.

Etheke said the commission remains committed to ensuring every eligible Kenyan has the opportunity to register ahead of the 2027 polls.

Kalonzo Fires Up 2027 Race: “Shoot Ruto At The Ballot!”

By: Ngugi Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Kalonzo’s speech also outlined his vision for a new Kenya under his leadership. He promised to eliminate what he termed “unnecessary taxes,” including the Affordable Housing Levy, and pledged to establish a functional youth enterprise fund aimed at job creation. He committed to lowering the cost of fuel and electricity, increasing funding for public schools, and delivering quality healthcare to all Kenyans. He emphasized that freedom of expression would be protected and vowed to end the practice of abductions, which he described as a violation of human rights. “These are not empty promises; they are concrete plans. Practical, people-centered, and achievable. This is what a Kalonzo Musyoka-led Administration will stand for—justice, opportunity, and dignity for all,” he said.

Wiper Patriotic Front (WPF) party leader Kalonzo Musyoka made a bold declaration during the party’s National Delegates Conference (NDC) held at Uhuru Park in Nairobi, officially accepting the party’s presidential flag for the 2027 General Election. In a speech that blended political satire with a call to civic action, Kalonzo urged young Kenyans, particularly Gen Z, to register as voters and exercise their constitutional rights by voting President William Ruto out of office. His remarks, delivered to a charged crowd of delegates and supporters, referenced the president’s recent controversial directive to police officers to shoot violent protesters in the legs, turning the phrase into a rallying cry for electoral change.

“Ruto ordered for you to be shot not in the head but in the legs because you dared to exercise your Constitutional rights. I urge all of you here to shoot Ruto at the ballot,” Kalonzo declared, drawing loud applause and chants of “Wantam” from the crowd. The term “Wantam,” a viral slogan popularized by Gen Z activists, has become a symbol of resistance against a second term for President Ruto. Kalonzo leaned into the slogan, urging attendees to make it a reality by registering to vote and mobilizing others to do the same. “If you have not yet, I implore you to register to vote. How many of you are ready to shoot Ruto at the ballot? This is what will make Ruto wantam,” he added.

Kalonzo’s speech also outlined his vision for a new Kenya under his leadership. He promised to eliminate what he termed “unnecessary taxes,” including the Affordable Housing Levy, and pledged to establish a functional youth enterprise fund aimed at job creation. He committed to lowering the cost of fuel and electricity, increasing funding for public schools, and delivering quality healthcare to all Kenyans. He emphasized that freedom of expression would be protected and vowed to end the practice of abductions, which he described as a violation of human rights. “These are not empty promises; they are concrete plans. Practical, people-centered, and achievable. This is what a Kalonzo Musyoka-led Administration will stand for—justice, opportunity, and dignity for all,” he said.

The NDC was attended by a host of prominent opposition leaders who lent their voices to Kalonzo’s campaign and echoed his criticisms of the current administration. Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressed the delegates, expressing concern over the country’s economic direction and calling for unity



Wiper Patriotic Front (WPF) party leader Kalonzo Musyoka with other united opposition leaders during the National Delegates Conference at Uhuru Park, on October 10, 2025. Photo/Kalonzo

among opposition parties. “The people are suffering. Taxes are choking businesses. We must rally behind Kalonzo to restore sanity and dignity to leadership,” Gachagua said. Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang’i took the stage to emphasize the need for institutional reforms and the protection of civil liberties. He condemned the use of security forces against civilians and called for a return to constitutional governance. “We cannot allow a regime that weaponizes security forces against its own citizens. Kalonzo represents a return to constitutionalism,” Matiang’i stated. People’s Liberation Party (PLP) leader Martha Karua praised Kalonzo’s inclusive leadership style and highlighted the importance of governance and gender equity. “Ka-

lonzo has always stood for justice and integrity. His presidency will be one where women, youth, and marginalized voices are heard,” Karua said, drawing cheers from the crowd. Democratic Action Party of Kenya (DAP-K) leader Eugene Wamalwa focused his remarks on economic transformation and youth empowerment. He criticized the government’s taxation policies and called for investment in people rather than punitive levies. “We need a government that invests in its people, not one that taxes them into poverty. Kalonzo’s plan is the blueprint for a better Kenya,” Wamalwa declared. Democratic Party (DP) leader Justin Muturi urged delegates to remain vigilant and committed to democratic processes. He emphasized the im-

portance of mobilization and organization in achieving political change. “Let us not be distracted. The mission is clear: mobilize, organize, and vote for change,” Muturi said. The conference concluded with Kalonzo’s formal acceptance of the party’s presidential nomination, signaling the beginning of a nationwide campaign. The event marked a significant moment in Kenya’s political landscape, with opposition leaders presenting a united front and rallying behind a shared vision for the country’s future. As the 2027 elections approach, the Wiper Patriotic Front and its allies appear poised to challenge the status quo, with Kalonzo Musyoka at the helm of a movement calling for justice, accountability, and inclusive governance.



Wiper Patriotic Front (WPF) party leader Kalonzo Musyoka speaks during the National Delegates Conference at Uhuru Park, Nairobi, on October 10, 2025. Photo/Kalonzo

Four Suspects Detained Over JKIA Cocaine Trafficking Syndicate

By: Ode Francis
@themtkenyatimes

Four suspects arraigned at the JKIA Law Courts on October 7th, linked to a narcotics trafficking syndicate operating through airport, will be detained for 13 days.

This follows a series of operations between October 5th and 7th, 2025, by the Multi-Agency Transnational Organised Crime Unit (TOCU), arresting the four individuals implicated in the smuggling of cocaine destined for both local and international markets.

The key suspects include Rishad Abdulrahim Sheikh, identified as the head of the syndicate, and Muamar Mutua Mohammed, the syndicate's logistician responsible for coordinating drug movement through JKIA.

The arrests come just days after a media exposé revealed glaring security lapses at JKIA, showing how narcotics were trafficked under the watch

of surveillance cameras and airport personnel.

The exposé raised serious questions about internal complicity and operational oversight at one of East Africa's busiest airports.

Investigators have connected the local arrests to an international case involving Jesse Da Mata Dos Santos, a British national recently detained in London with 20 kilograms of cocaine.

According to court affidavits, Jesse is suspected to have direct ties to Rishad Sheikh, who holds dual Kenyan-British citizenship. Another suspect, Hajinur Yussuf Mohamed, also a British national, is believed to be Sheikh's cousin.

Sheikh and Hajinur were tracked to Nyali Centre Mall in Mombasa County. Additional suspects — Adam Omari, Muamar Mutua Mohammed, Hajinur Yussuf Mohamed, and Rishad Abdulrahim Sheikh — were apprehended at an apartment in Utawala, Nairobi County.

During the operation, detectives recovered two packages suspected to



contain narcotics and seven mobile phones, now undergoing forensic analysis to trace communications and logistics.

Samples from the seized substances are being weighed and chemically profiled to establish links to previous trafficking incidents.

Authorities in the United Kingdom are currently interrogating Jesse Da Mata Dos Santos.

Legal assistance requests have been initiated to secure physical exhibits and digital evidence believed to be domiciled in the UK.

These materials are expected to play a crucial role in unravelling the full scope of the transnational network.

The suspects will be detained until October 29, 2025.



Ruto, Moi In Surprise Partnership

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The President said he had reached out to Mr Moi because of his determination to unite Kenyans and rally the country towards a national transformation agenda.
- He pointed out that the government needed “more hands and broader goodwill” to “achieve the goal of transformation”.
- “I want to ask you, the good people of the founding party, to accept that we work together,” he said. “Let us have a formal arrangement so that KANU becomes part of the government of Kenya.”
- The President explained that the union between KANU and Kenya Kwanza was not about serving personal interests, but serving the country.



President William Ruto being welcomed by KANU chairman Gideon Moi yesterday..

Independence party KANU has agreed to work with the Kenya Kwanza Alliance under the broad-based government arrangement. President William Ruto and KANU chairman Gideon Moi addressed a grassroots leaders’ meeting in Kabarak, Nakuru County, where the decision was reached, on Friday.

The President said he had reached out to Mr Moi because of his determination to unite Kenyans and rally the country towards a national transformation agenda.

He pointed out that the government needed “more hands and broader goodwill” to “achieve the goal of transformation”.

“I want to ask you, the good people of the founding party, to accept that we work together,” he said. “Let us have a formal arrangement so that KANU becomes part of the government of Kenya.”

The President explained that the union between KANU and Kenya Kwanza was not about serving personal interests, but serving the country.

“This is not about individuals, personalities, parochialism or regions. This is about Kenya,” he said.

The President explained that his engagement with Mr Moi would be about the contribution KANU will make to the development of the coun-



try.

His sentiments were echoed by Mr Moi, who said his interest in pursuing an elective seat was guided by his deep desire to transform the lives of the people.

He said his focus is on completing stalled projects, citing roads.

The meeting with Kanu grassroots leaders came two days after President Ruto, Mr Moi and KANU officials held talks at State House Nairobi on Wednesday.

At the same time, President Ruto noted that the development of the country has lagged behind for far too long because of poor leadership.

He explained that countries like South Korea and Singapore have managed to develop into first-world nations yet they were at the same level of development as Kenya at independence in 1963.

“We need to ask ourselves, what we got wrong, and what they got right,” he said.

President Ruto called on leaders to work together to get the country out of third-world status and make Kenya a prosperous nation.

The President outlined the measures he had taken to stabilise the economy in the past three years.

“The economy is now stable. We are focusing on implementing programmes that had stalled,” he said.

KANU Secretary-General George Wainaina told party members that it would work with the President, noting that KANU had been in the opposition for too long.

Kilgoris MP Julius Sunkuli thanked Mr Moi for making the bold decision to work with the government

Mudavadi Leads Mazingira Day Reforestation Drive At Maragoli Hills

By: OPCS PS
 @themkenyatiimes

Worth Noting:

- The tree planting exercise aligns with the national agenda to restore degraded ecosystems and advance Kenya's ambitious target of growing 15 billion trees by 2032, as part of Kenya's broader National Climate Change Action Plan, which envisions a low-carbon and climate-resilient.
- Speaking during the reforestation of Maragoli Hills in Vihiga, Mudavadi underscored the government commitment of protecting natural ecosystems as a matter of national security, economic stability, and community well-being.
- "This is not just about planting trees for today," said the Prime Cabinet Secretary. It is about growing and nurturing trees for tomorrow and generations to come," said Dr. Mudavadi.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi on Friday led government officials, environmental champions, corporate partners, security agencies, and community members in the planted trees and the serene and scenic Maragoli Hills Forest to commemorate Mazingira Day.

The reforestation drive marked a renewed national commitment to environmental restoration and climate resilience.

The tree planting exercise aligns with the national agenda to restore degraded ecosystems and advance Kenya's ambitious target of growing 15 billion trees by 2032, as part of Kenya's broader National Climate Change Action Plan, which envisions a low-carbon and climate-resilient.

Speaking during the reforestation of Maragoli Hills in Vihiga, Mudavadi underscored the government commitment of protecting natural ecosystems as a matter of national security, economic stability, and community well-being.

"This is not just about planting trees for today," said the Prime Cabinet Secretary. It is about growing and nurturing trees for tomorrow and generations to come," said Dr. Mudavadi.

He described the occasion as "a defining moment in Kenya's climate action journey" and called for collective responsibility in environmental stewardship.

The reforestation activity is part of a citizen-centered environmental campaign anchored on the theme "Citizen-centric Tree Growing and Environmental Stewardship."

The government, in collaboration with county administrations and private sector partners, has identified degraded landscapes across the country as priority areas for ecosystem restoration.

Maragoli Hills, covering approximately 465 acres, once thrived as a lush green forest and served as a critical water catchment area for Vihiga, Kisumu, Nandi and Siaya counties. Over the past three decades, however, unchecked deforestation, encroachment, and degradation have reduced the forest to a shadow of its former self — threatening water sources, biodiversity and the livelihoods of over 3.6 million people in Vihiga and its neighboring Kisumu, Nandi and Siaya counties.

"Our choice of Maragoli Hills Forest for this environmentally transformative activity is informed by the urgent need to restore these ravaged hills, which are the lungs and life



blood of over 3.6 million people in Vihiga and its neighboring Kisumu, Nandi and Siaya counties," said Mudavadi.

PCS called on citizens to see tree planting not as a one-off event, but as a lifelong commitment. This will see them mature into forests that will forever create a healthier environment for our people.

He further proposed to have a Maragoli Hills Reforestation Marathon that will see hundreds of athletes across the country participating in the bid to restore the forest.

The event was attended by senior officials from various government agencies, including Representatives from Ministries of Energy and Environment, Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), Kenya Rural Roads Authority, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, and corporate partners such as Kenya Airways, Safaricom, Bulkstream, Zep-Re, and the Tea Board of Kenya.

ya.

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), was represented by Vice Chief of Defence Forces Lieutenant General John Omenda, who hails from the region.

Through its Environmental Soldier Program, KDF has been at the forefront of tree-growing initiatives in different parts of the country.

The Maragoli Hills Community Forest Association, in partnership with the County Government of Vihiga, has been leading grassroots efforts to conserve the area. Friday's event was described as "a major boost" to ongoing restoration programs.

Vihiga Governor Wilberforce Otichilo lauded the national government's support, noting that joint action is essential in reviving environmental damage.

He further proposed for a sit down meeting with Ministry of environ-

ment, Forestry and climate change and other stakeholder to come up with a ten 10 year plan of the integrated Forest Management Plan for Maragoli Forest in effort to restore back the lost glory of the hill. This will see the community benefit through tourism and other economic activities such as camp sites, eco-lodges, nature trails among others

"This partnership is a game-changer," the governor said. "For over 30 years, our people have seen the rivers dry up and the hills lose their glory. Today, we are writing a new history of our heal."

The day's activities also saw the participation of several corporate organizations that donated thousands of tree seedlings. Among them were Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation, Williamson Tea, Eastern Produce, BAT Kenya, and NCBA Bank.



Mazingira Day: Second Edition Of Making Othaya Cleaner And Greener Observed

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- This was a community event where the team also cleaned up the town by picking litter, unblocking drainage and sweeping around.
- It was the second edition after the first successful event was held last year.
- The event was organized by Anthony Gitonga Foundation whose Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Gitonga alias Antogito led the event, jointly with other partners.
- He was joined by several of his friends, led by the youthful Mathira constituency Parliamentary Aspirant Dominic Muraya alias Mathira Finest and Penina Njeri of Mazingira Initiative also joined in.
- Muraya noted that the occasion was a special day of promoting environmental stewardship through tree planting and clean-up activities, which leads to improved air quality, reduced erosion, and habitat creation.

In a wake up of climate change mitigation, an exercise of planting trees was held in Othaya town.

[This exercise courtesy of Antogito Foundation ensured that Othaya is becoming cleaner and Greener.]

[Hundreds of local residents as well as scouts and girl guides from various learning institutions, Antony Gitonga Foundation team also planted hundreds of tree seedlings and sensitized the community on the importance of public hygiene and environment conservation.]

[This was a community event where the team also cleaned up the town by picking litter, unblocking drainage and sweeping around.]

[It was the second edition after the first successful event was held last year.]

[The event was organized by Anthony Gitonga Foundation whose Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Gitonga alias Antogito led the event, jointly with other partners.]

He was joined by several of his friends, led by the youthful Mathira constituency Parliamentary Aspirant Dominic Muraya alias Mathira Finest and Penina Njeri of Mazingira Initiative also joined in.

[Muraya noted that the occasion was a special day of promoting environmental stewardship through tree planting and clean-up activities, which leads to improved air quality, reduced erosion, and habitat creation.]

[Njeri reminded locals that a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is not just an ecological goal; it's a social right.]

Antogito who is aspiring to be the next Othaya MP also appreciated the partners including scouts fraternity, neighbouring schools, Mwai Kibaki Hospital, the County Government of Nyeri, the great people of Othaya, the police and the office of Othaya DCC for joining hands in making the day successful.

[Gitonga noted that the event demonstrated unity as Scouts, youth, and the entire community for a powerful day of action - sweeping our streets, collecting garbage, planting trees and some vibrant entertainment.]

"Together, residents are building a cleaner, greener, and more vibrant Othaya, because our environment is our pride and our future," he observed.

He said that the Othaya residents have a corrective responsibility to protect, preserve and restore our environment.

"Let us take action, however small, to make our surroundings cleaner, greener and healthier for generations



Anthony Gitonga Foundation CEO (centre) briefing journalists as Dominic Muraya from Mathira and Peninah Njeri looks on.
Photos/Joseph King'ori

to come.

[Mazingira Day contributes to national goals like planting 15 billion trees and achieving 30 % forest cover by 2032.

[Let us make Othaya great again," he remarked.

[At the same time, they urged the youth to register as voters ahead of the forthcoming General Elections with Muraya calling on the IEBC to work on modalities of allowing Ken-

yans to register as voters in all parts of the country as opposed to the current status where the exercise is being carried out at constituency headquarters.



Anthony Gitonga collecting garbage with the assistance of Scouts in Othaya town on Friday.

Beauty Of Peacock Feathers



Peacock feathers attract everyone
Its mesmerizing colours give happiness
The lengthy long feathers
Add the beauty of peahen.

We fed the food to the feathers
And hope which gives growth to them.
Secretly open the book and enjoy to see the
growth.
Happy to feed everyday.

Vensamaram- a collection of peahen feathers
Penned property as a fan(visiri)
The air from the vensamaram
gives cool and Freshness.

I am Rajesh Kanna B N
B T Asst,
From Government Model High School, Tirur.
Tiruvallur District.
Tamil Nadu, India.

My Father – My King



My father, my sultan, my hero so grand,
The greatest of men, with a guiding hand.
Stay by my side through each hour, each day,
In all of my moments, along life's way.

I cannot describe you, words fall behind,
Your greatness escapes the reach of my mind.
Even if I count, again and again,
The end of your virtues I'll never attain.

Be it your labor, or love for the book,
In every deed, a noble look.
You are the reason we strive to excel,
The greatest teacher we know so well.

One day in future, with pride you'll see,
What we have become, through your legacy.
For in this world, none can compare –
My father, so mighty, beyond all measure!

Azimova Mohiguloy Qudratjon

Four Children



Once upon a time, there was a boy named Jake.
He had three sisters, and each of them was
different.
The first one loved sleeping, the second one
loved dancing, and the third one loved reading
books.
Their names were Alisa, Maria, and Mellissa.
They were not very kind to each other.
These four children were the children of a king
and a queen.
To teach them a lesson, the king took Alisa,
Mellissa, Maria, and Jake to a garden in an old
village.
He brought them into the garden and said, "I'll
be right back," and left them there.
They were standing under a tree when they
suddenly heard a rustling sound.
Jake looked into the hollow of the tree and
shouted, "Look at this!"
Inside the hollow, they found a map leading to

a treasure.
Excitedly, they decided to look for the treasure
and followed the path shown on the map.
When they reached the place marked with an
x, they dug into the ground and found a box.
Inside the box, there was a letter.

The letter said:
My dear children,
You are the children of the happiest, kindest,
and most educated parents.
The real treasure is not gold or money, but
your love for learning.
You must appreciate your parents!
Your parents and your siblings are your true
treasure!
Sincerely,
Your Grandfather.

At that moment, their father returned and
asked, "Did you find the treasure?"
They replied, "Yes, we did!" and hugged their
father tightly, saying, "Thank you, Dad," as
they burst into tears.
From that day on, they began to love and care
for each other sincerely.
Alimova Madina Nozimjon qizi, a student
of School No. 24 in Uchqo'rg'on District,
Namangan Region.

Where There Is A Will, There Is A Way



Where there is a will, there is surely a way.

The seed in the soil fights the darkness and
stone,
It bends, it breaks through, it blossoms, full-
grown.
The bird in the sky once trembled to fly,
But faith gave it wings, and it soared to the sky.

A flame that is steady can banish the night,
A step that is taken can scale the great height.
Though trials may test us and doubt may betray,
Where there is a will, there is surely a way.

The sailor who wanders on oceans unknown,
Finds stars as his lanterns, his guide, and his own.
The dreamer who stumbles, yet rises to fight,
Finds dawn at the end of the longest of nights.

When shadows grow long and the night feels so
cold,
When dreams seem too distant, too heavy to
hold,
A whisper reminds us, both gentle and true,
"The path will appear, if the heart carries
through."

The mountain may tower, the river may roar,
Yet courage within opens every locked door.
No storm is too mighty, no night is too gray,

Dr.Meera.T
Erode

Being Grateful



Grateful to each and everyone in the world
Make yours life beautiful around

Gratitude increases positivity in life
Many don't understand the beauty of grateful
living

Still the world has ungrateful people
We can't satisfy them by doing good one

Do your duty satisfactorily
Let the world teach them how necessary
gratefulness is!

What a world we are living in
As everyone live for their own

R.Gayathri
Teacher
Dharmapuri dt

Before You Ask Anything From God, First Thank Him For Everything.



your day,
And for the stars that twinkle, in a celestial way.

Thank Him for the laughter, that fills your heart
with cheer,
And for the tears that heal you, and wipe away
your every fear.
Thank Him for the family, that surrounds you
with love,
And for the Friends who stand by you, sent from
above.

Gratitude opens doors, to a heart that's pure
and true,
So thank Him for everything, before you ask Him
for something new.

Before you ask for more, take a moment to
adore,
The blessings you already have, and the love that
you've been given before.
Thank Him for the sunshine, that brightens up

R. SRIPRIYA
BT ASSISTANT ENGLISH GHSS KOLAPAKKAM
KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT TAMILNADU INDIA

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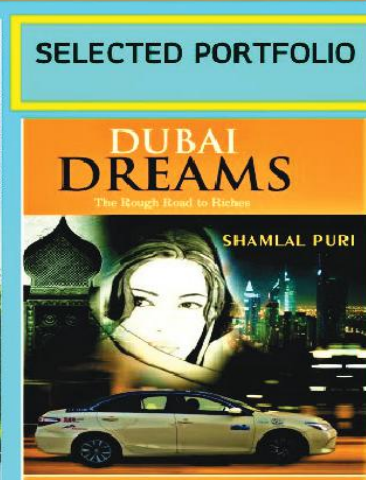
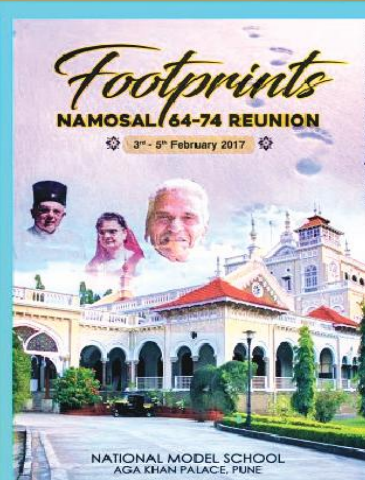
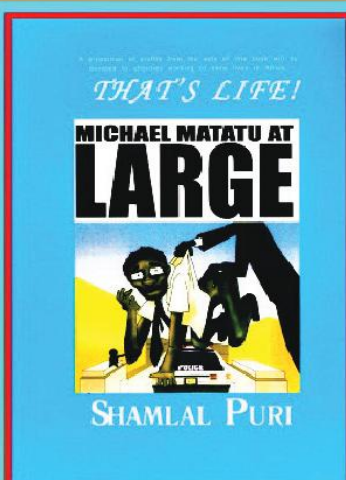
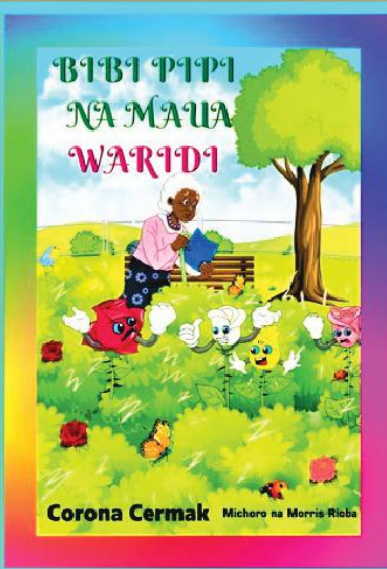
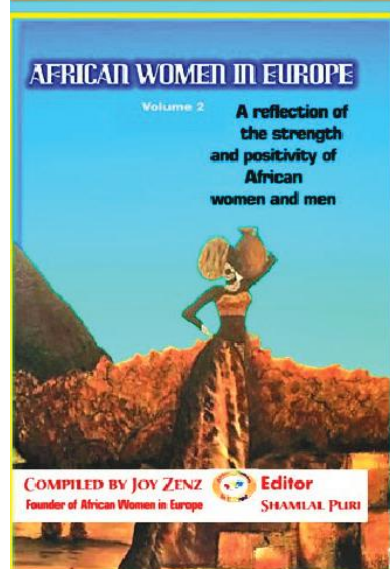
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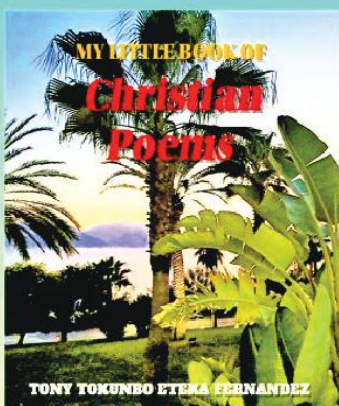
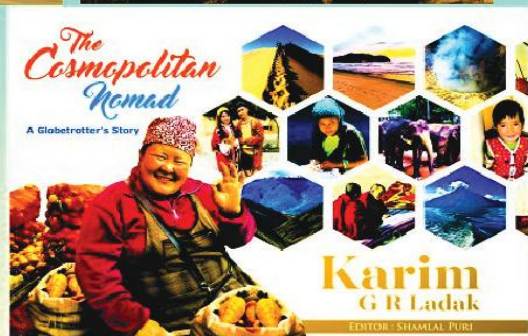
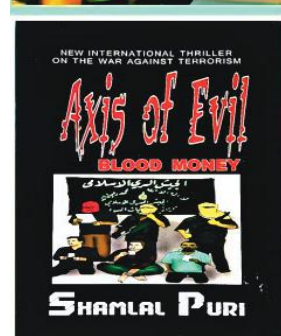
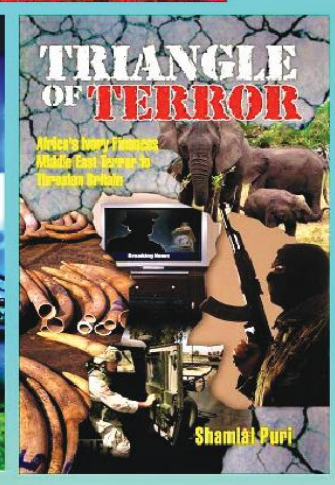
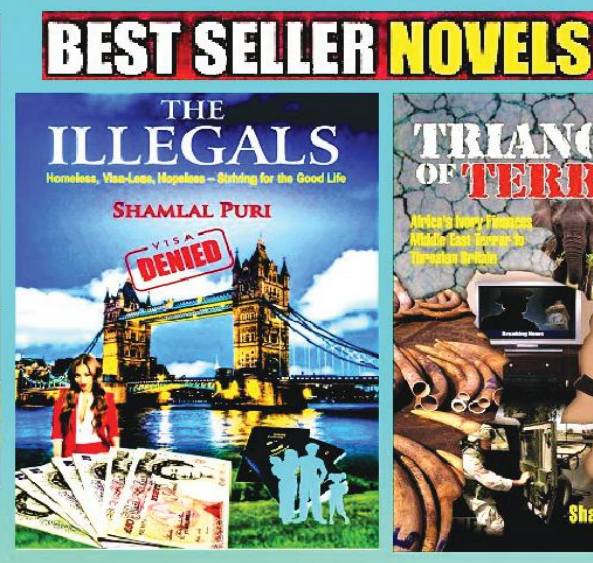
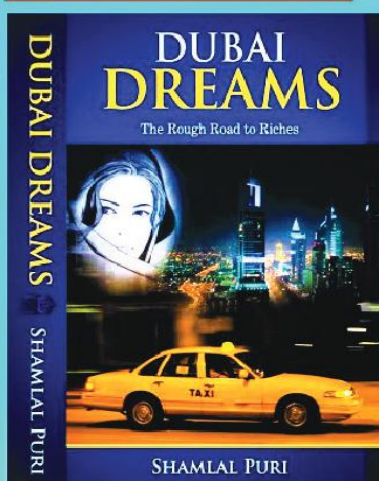
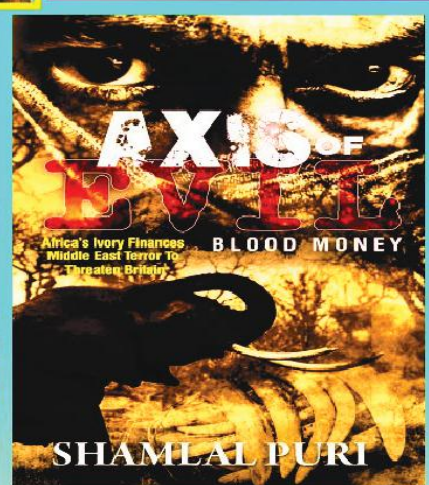
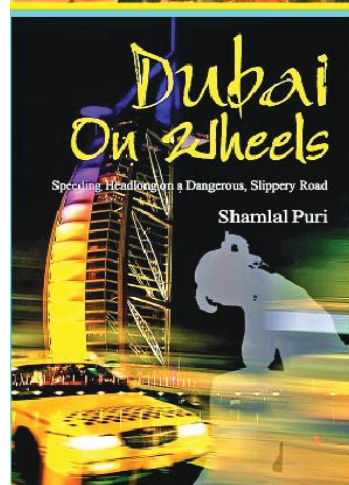
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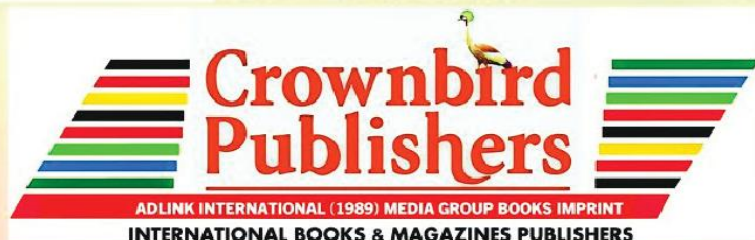


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POLITICS

Mwaura: Public Servants Must Serve Kenyans With Dignity



By: Aoma Keziah

@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The government has been marking Customer Service Week alongside the Public Service Week, with officers across various ministries urged to uphold professionalism and integrity. Citizens have also been encouraged to report cases of corruption, inefficiency, or poor service to the Office of the Ombudsman.
- In line with its job creation promise, Mwaura announced the rollout of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) project, a joint initiative between the government and the World Bank. The programme is expected to benefit more than 820,000 young people in all 1,450 wards through on-the-job training, business start-up support, and recognition of prior learning.

The government has underscored its commitment to better public service delivery, youth empowerment, and environmental restoration, as activities marking Public Service Week and Mazingira Day take place across the country.

Speaking at the Harambee Annex in Nairobi, Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said the week-long engagements led by Cabinet and Principal Secretaries were part of a wider drive to translate the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) into tangible action.

“This week, our focus has been on excellence in service delivery and accountability. As we plant trees today, we also renew our pledge to serve Kenyans with dignity, fairness, and transparency,” he stated.

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“Youth applicants who qualify will receive a start-up grant of Ksh.50,000 along with mentorship and training. The project promotes gender balance and inclusion of young people living with disabilities. The application window closes on October 12, 2025,” he added.

As part of Mazingira Day 2025, Kenyans were called upon to take part in a nationwide tree-planting exercise under the theme “Citizen-Centric Tree Growing and Environmental Stewardship.”

President William Ruto, Cabinet Secretaries, and other senior officials led tree planting activities in various regions. Every public primary school has been directed to plant at least



Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura during a press briefing at Harambee Annex in Nairobi.

2,000 fruit trees through the #Turudi-Primo initiative, with seedlings supplied by the National Youth Service.

Since 2022, Kenya has planted over 1.06 billion trees, moving closer to the national goal of 15 billion trees and 30 percent forest cover by 2032.

The Government Spokesperson noted that the government’s prudent economic management has restored global investor confidence. He highlighted the successful raising of USD 1.5 billion from international markets, part of which was used to repay USD 1 billion of the 2028 Eurobond

ahead of schedule.

“The oversubscription of our latest bond by five times shows the world’s confidence in Kenya’s economy. The move, has helped the country secure lower borrowing rates and create room for investments in education, health, and infrastructure,” Mwaura said.

He added that Kenya’s economy recorded five percent growth in the third quarter of the year, outperforming the global average.

Mwaura further revealed that the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)

achieved a record customs collection of Ksh.85.1 billion in September, the highest monthly figure in its history. The previous record stood at Ksh.82.5 billion in January 2025.

He attributed the improvement to strong performance in trade and petroleum taxes, saying it reflected a robust and expanding economy.

“As a government, we remain dedicated to fiscal discipline, better services, and opportunities that improve the lives of all Kenyans,” the government spokesperson concluded.

Prof. Egara Kabaji Inaugurated As Chancellor Of Mount Kigali University, Rwanda

By: James Wakahiu
 @themtkenytimes

Mount Kigali University marked a historic milestone with the installation of renowned Kenyan scholar, Professor Egara Kabaji, as its new Chancellor during a grand ceremony held at the Kigali Paramount Hotel.

The event signified a new era for the university, one centered on elevating its global academic standing through research, writing, and innovation.

Prof. Egara Kabaji is a distinguished literary scholar, author, and educationist whose career spans more than three decades. He has served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kenya and is celebrated for his contributions to African literature, communication, and higher education. With over 52 published works and numerous scholarly articles, Prof. Kabaji has become a leading voice in promoting African scholarship and the preservation of indigenous knowledge systems.

He also holds a PhD in Folk Media and Communication from the University of South Africa (UNISA), an MBA in Strategic Management from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), a Master of Arts in Literary Studies from Kenyatta University, and a Bachelor of Education in Literature and English from the same institution.

In his inaugural speech, Prof. Kabaji described the moment as both historic and transformative, calling upon the academic community to reimagine the role of African universities. "This moment is not just personal; it is historic, for it signifies our collective commitment to the future of African scholarship and the advancement of knowledge rooted in our own soil," he said. He envisioned Mount Kigali University as more than a "site of instruction," urging it to become a "hotspot for the generation of ideas, a laboratory of thought, and a crucible for innovation."

Prof. Kabaji underscored the urgent need for Africa to contribute more significantly to global knowledge production, noting that "less than 3% of global scientific publications originate from the African continent."

To address this challenge, he pledged to foster a strong research and publication culture within the

university.

As an immediate step, he announced a personal donation of 22 million Rwandan francs to establish two internationally indexed academic journals—one for humanities and social sciences, and another for science, technology, and innovation. The fund will also support the creation of the Mount Kigali University Press, which he described as "the intellectual engine of a university." He further donated several copies of each of his 52 books to the university library, emphasizing the importance of accessible knowledge. "Let us write. Let us research.

Let us publish. Let us dream. Let us make Mount Kigali University a lighthouse of knowledge shining from the heart of Kigali to the rest of the world," he concluded to warm applause.

Dr. Innocent Mugisha, Chairman of the University Governing Body, described the installation as a defining milestone in the evolution of Mount Kigali University. He praised Prof. Kabaji's distinguished record in scholarship, mentorship, and leadership, stating that it uniquely positions him to guide the university into a new era of intellectual excellence. Dr. Mugisha reaffirmed the Governing Body's commitment to providing strategic oversight, ensuring accountability, and upholding academic freedom as "the driving force of creativity and intellectual exploration."

Delivering his address, Professor Simon Gicharu, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors, of Mount Kigali University and Mount Kenya University, described the ceremony as a milestone in the history of Mount Kigali University one that confirms the institution is not merely growing, but transforming lives. "This is not an ordinary event," he said. "Prof. Egara Kabaji is a renowned scholar, celebrated author, and respected academic leader. His appointment as Chancellor speaks volumes about his confidence in character, capacity, and wide contribution. His influence has extended beyond borders, into classrooms, leadership forums, literary circles, and academic realms across the continent and beyond." He added that Prof. Kabaji's presence at Mount Kigali University reflects the words of Kwame Nkrumah, that "We face neither East nor West. We face forward."

Prof. Gicharu commended the theme of the ceremony — "Promoting Scholarly Writing for University Posterity" as both timely and neces-



Photos; Prof. Egara Kabaji being installed as the new Chancellor.

sary, especially as African universities seek to decolonize curricula and assert intellectual sovereignty.

"Within the context of university education, the Chancellor is more than a leader; he is the embodiment of rich academic values the guardian of the institution's vision, the torchbearer of academic integrity, and the moral conscience of the university," he said. "Prof. Kabaji's passion for writing, publishing, and academic mentoring gives our university a definite compass and a mission that is second to none. This aligns with our belief in a faculty that does not just teach, but also engages with the community and creates knowledge. Prof. Kabaji is the perfect match for us."

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Prof. Kabaji as the Chancellor will be an embodiment of the rich academic values — the guardian of the institution's vision, the torchbearer of academic integrity at the university.

Prof. Kabaji's passion for writing, publishing, and academic mentoring gives Mount Kigali University a definite compass and a mission aligning with our belief in a university faculty that does not just teach, but also engages with the community and a faculty that does not just

consume knowledge — but also creates it. Prof Kabaji is just the perfect match for us.

Mount Kigali University has undergone incredible transformation in academic and physical resources powered by strategic investment, stakeholder trust, and visionary governance.

The university has continued to expand her academic resources through the construction of the 8-Floor Tuition Block — expanding lecture spaces, laboratories, and teaching infrastructure for a growing student population.

New Administration Block; improving service delivery through centralized, modern operations.

Modern Student Hostels — MKU Rwanda is offering safe, clean, and student-friendly accommodation.

Kigali Paramount Hotel; a hospitality application facility, blending learning with industry-practice for MKU tourism and hotel management students.

University Medical Centre — providing essential healthcare to our community and serving as a practical hub for health sciences.

Royal FM — a student-led media platform promoting journalism, public discourse, and creative expression.

University Gardens and Green Spaces — promoting wellness, environmental stewardship, and reflective learning.

Water Reservoir & Wastewater Treatment Facility.

MKU Rwanda continues to in-

tegrate the university programmes with the industry needs and is aligned with Rwanda's national development agenda.

Embedded competency-based education in health sciences, education, business, and technology.

Mount Kigali University is deeply rooted in powering initiatives that empower the communities— Partnered with the Imbutu Foundation to nurture youth leadership.

Established Model ECDE Classrooms, raising national benchmarks in early childhood development. Delivered education sponsorships, medical outreach, and support for vulnerable population.

With Prof. Egara Kabaji at the helm, we see the future with greater confidence.

Scale up Masters and PhD programmes, Establish Centers of Excellence in entrepreneurship, climate action, and digital innovation, Host Pan-African research conferences, Promote south-south academic collaboration and Drive a strong culture of scholarly writing and African authorship

As we have always said, "We do not aspire to be the biggest but to be the most impactful. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you success in this new endeavor to steer Mount Kigali University as a Student-centric institution that attracts both local and international students" asserts Prof Gicharu.

Commercialization Of Intellectual Property In Kenya: Legal Pathways And Solutions



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

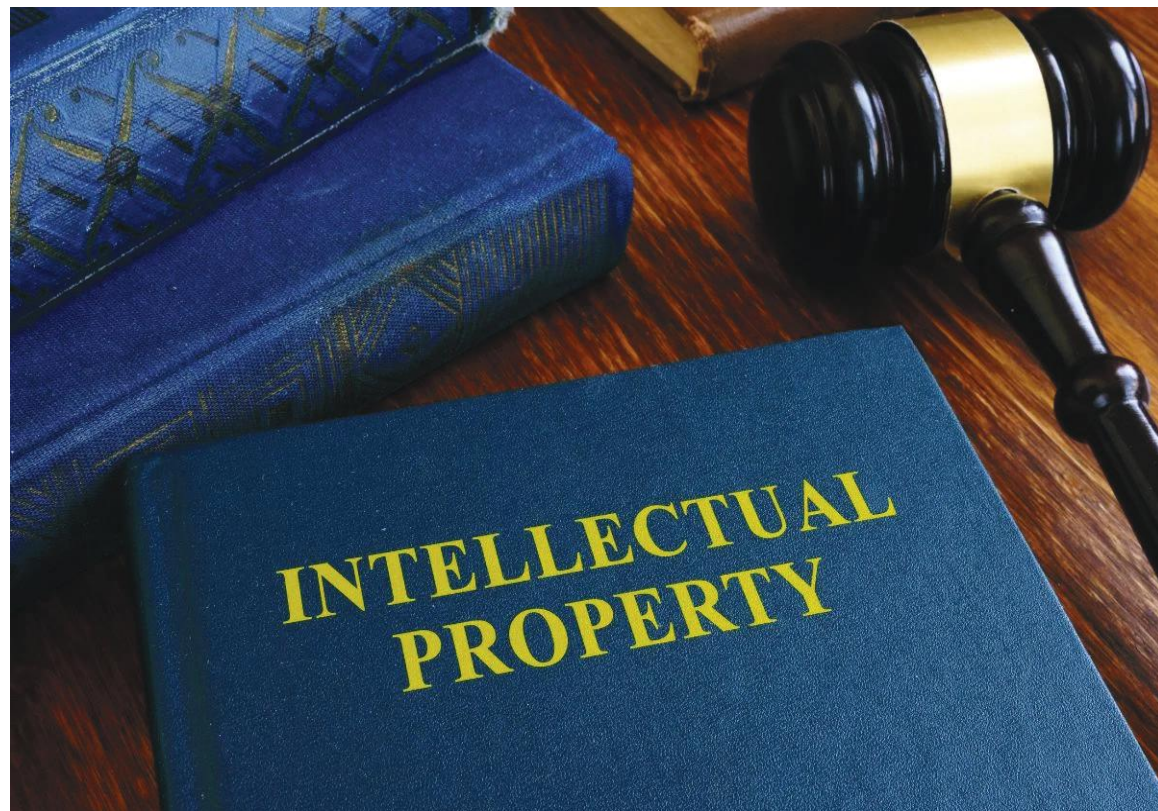
- One common route to monetize IP is through licensing. Under a licensing agreement, the IP owner (licensor) grants another party (licensee) the right to use the IP under agreed terms, for example geographic territory, duration, scope (exclusive or non-exclusive), and royalties or fees.
- In Kenya, licensing allows creators who may not have the resources to commercialize themselves to partner with larger firms that have markets and capacity.
- Legal solutions to improve licensing outcomes include standardizing licensing templates, ensuring transparent royalty structures, and including enforcement mechanisms in contracts. Also, having a registry or mechanism at KIPi (Kenya Industrial Property Institute) to track licensing agreements may help provide certainty.

Kenya has in recent years seen a marked rise in intellectual property (IP) creation, particularly in sectors like manufacturing, agribusiness, and education. Universities and research institutions are increasingly filing patents, with Kenya being one of the top designated states in regional patent applications via ARIPO. The government has established legal frameworks such as the Industrial Property Act, the Trademarks Act, and the Copyright Act to protect various forms of IP. Despite these laws, many innovations in Kenya remain uncommercialized due to lack of awareness, funding, and weak linkages between inventors and the market. There is also increasing institutional support, such as Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) in universities (for example JKUAT) collaborating with national innovation agencies.

A major challenge is financing: innovators often struggle to find capital to take an idea from prototype to market, while valuing IP assets remains weak due to few experts in IP valuation. Additionally, legal enforcement of IP rights is costly and slow, making it especially difficult for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to pursue claims. There is also a gap in institutional capacity, for example many TTOs lack strong staff, or the formal structure, incentives or resources to actively commercialize inventions. The problem of awareness is another – many creators do not know how to protect or exploit their IP, or even what rights they have. Finally, regulatory and market distortions, including competition law constraints, sometimes restrict how IP rights can be used in licensing or other agreements.

One common route to monetize IP is through licensing. Under a licensing agreement, the IP owner (licensor) grants another party (licensee) the right to use the IP under agreed terms, for example geographic territory, duration, scope (exclusive or non-exclusive), and royalties or fees. In Kenya, licensing allows creators who may not have the resources to commercialize themselves to partner with larger firms that have markets and capacity. Legal solutions to improve licensing outcomes include standardizing licensing templates, ensuring transparent royalty structures, and including enforcement mechanisms in contracts. Also, having a registry or mechanism at KIPi (Kenya Industrial Property Institute) to track licensing agreements may help provide certainty.

Another way is IP assignment, where the owner transfers ownership of the



entire IP (or part of it) to another party, who then has full rights to exploit it. Assignments can yield immediate revenues for inventors but entail giving up future returns, so the price must reflect both current and future potential. Legal safeguards here include ensuring the assignment agreement is in writing, includes warranties (e.g. no prior conflicting rights), records assignment in the relevant IP register (e.g. at KIPi), and provides for possible residual rights (such as moral rights, or residual royalties, if agreed).

Franchising is another commercialization route especially for business models or brands: the franchisor grants a franchisee the rights to use trademarks, trade secrets, business methods among others, often for fees and royalties. Particularly well-known brands in retail, hospitality, or quick service restaurants in Kenya use franchising. Merchandising (for example using character rights, branded designs etc.) is also used especially in entertainment or media sectors. Legal considerations include protecting brand identity (trademark registration), ensuring quality control in franchise agreements, establishing clear territorial rights, and ensuring franchise agreements comply with Kenyan laws (including competition law and consumer protection law).

Kenya's Moveable Property Security Rights Act (2017) allows movable assets, potentially including registered IP, to be used as security for loans. This enables innovators to access capital without having to sell or licence their IP. Securitization involves

forming special purpose vehicles (SPVs) to issue securities backed by future income streams from IP (like royalties) or other monetizable rights. Legal solutions to this way include clear legal recognition of the IP as collateral in transactional law, ensuring registration systems are functioning so lenders can record security interest over IP, and clarifying rights in default (what happens if borrower fails to repay, how the IP is transferred or exploited).

Spin-off companies (from universities or research institutions) translate research outputs into commercial entities. Such start-ups often attract investment and can bring to market innovations that individual inventors cannot commercialize alone. Joint ventures and collaborations (between public institutions, private firms, sometimes foreign partners) allow pooling resources, expertise, and networks, especially useful in fields needing high R&D, say biotechnology or ICT. Legal solutions include having clear agreements of ownership, profit sharing, licensing of background and foreground IP, clauses on dispute resolution, exit strategies, and ensuring compliance with national and international IP and competition laws.

To support all these ways, legal and institutional frameworks need strengthening. First, capacity building: more legal experts in IP valuation, more skilled staff in TTOs, more awareness among creators about IP rights. Regulatory reforms might include simplifying and speeding up the registration process for IP (pat-

ents, trademarks etc.), reducing costs, perhaps through subsidies or grants. Strengthening enforcement via specialized IP courts or divisions, or more efficient administrative or ADR (alternative dispute resolution) for IP disputes. Also, improving coherence among institutions (KIPi, KECOCO, ACA, KeNIA), ensuring support to innovators from stage of concept through to commercialization.

In conclusion, commercialization of IP in Kenya holds significant promise for economic growth, innovation, and job creation. While there are legal frameworks in place, realizing this potential requires overcoming gaps in funding, awareness, valuation, and enforcement. The six main commercialization pathways licensing, assignment, franchising/merchandising, collateral/securitization, spin-offs/collaborations, and direct exploitation offer diverse avenues depending on the nature of the IP and resources available. Legal solutions such as standardized contracts, clear registration and rights recording, robust enforcement, capacity building, and institutional coordination are central to enabling those pathways to succeed. Stakeholders government, universities, private sector, innovators must work together to implement these solutions so Kenya can better harness its intellectual creative output for sustainable development.

The Writer is a Legal Writer and Researcher

Science Teacher's Umbrella



By: Bindesh Kumar Jha
@themtkenyetimes

A new face seen in the school assembly confirmed that a new teacher had come. One or two teachers had been absent for two days, so their students were thinking about their replacements. In this thought process, some students were taking it as good news while others were disappointed. The principal in the assembly confirmed that the new teacher was a science teacher.

After the prayer, the new teacher took the attendance register along with his marker and a duster and went into his assigned class. In a traditional way, the students greeted him with, "Good morning."

"Good morning, students," he replied.

The students were waiting for the teacher to allow them to sit, but he didn't.

"As your roll number is called, sit down one by one," the teacher broke the students' first confusion.

After the attendance of all the students, the teacher said, "My name is Sonu. I am your new science teacher. In this class, I want to hear only two voices: one would be mine, and the other would be the fans'. If I hear any other voices, they should be for answering questions or asking questions."

All the students sat silently. In that lecture, only two voices were heard in the class. Either the students had understood everything, or they might not have understood anything.

A staff member came into the class and informed the teacher that he needed to check the students' dress and ensure they were in full uniform. All the students were in proper dress except a few.

The teacher could not confuse the students with his science lecture, but one student confused the teacher. A girl was sitting on the last bench with a black umbrella.

Sonu asked, "Why are you holding this umbrella in the winter season when the probability of rain is less than the probability of you passing the exam?"

The girl didn't answer. Sonu asked

twice or thrice. Another student took the courage to answer that the girl could not speak.

"She can't speak but can write?" Sonu asked.

This statement did not work as the earlier statement in the beginning of the class.

"Don't come with this dusty umbrella," the teacher ordered.

The bell rang, and the teacher left.

The next day, in the morning...

"Dear students, we are going to elect a class monitor. Who would like to run for it?" the teacher announced.

A few students volunteered and gave their names.

The teacher then asked, "Who will vote for Khushi?"

He counted 14 students.

"Who will vote for Ayush?"

He counted 12 students.

"Who will vote for Ruhi?"

He counted 10.

During this, the teacher noticed a girl on the last bench who didn't seem well. He went over and found that the girl was hiding her dusty umbrella.

The teacher raised his voice, "I have told you not to bring this dusty umbrella!"

Tears rolled down her cheeks.

Every day, the teacher warned her, but she didn't stop bringing it. One day, the teacher went to the office and informed the principal about the situation. The principal's reply was strange.

"Whatever you do, you do, but we cannot prevent her from bringing that umbrella. You should also not waste your time on this. No one can prevent her."

The teacher returned to the class and looked at the girl. She looked at the umbrella, then at the teacher, and smiled. This made the teacher angry.

During recess, the teacher called Khushi over. "Why is that girl holding an umbrella?" he asked.

Khushi did not answer and left without adding anything. The teacher felt uneasy. The next day, when the teacher entered the classroom, the first thing he noticed was the umbrella and he went to the girl, taking her umbrella forcefully. This time, instead of tears, the girl smiled, which only made the teacher more angry. He said, "There is only one good thing about you: you can't speak. But there is also a bad thing—I've taken that bad thing,



your umbrella." The teacher threw the umbrella out of the window. Throughout this incident, the other students did not react—they neither laughed nor seemed shocked.

The teacher then went to his desk, took the attendance of all the students, and ordered them to open their books. In the middle of the class, a new girl entered.

"Who are you?" the teacher asked.

"I am the new student in this class, and my name is Priya," the girl answered.

The teacher, puzzled, asked, "Why are you holding this dusty umbrella? I threw it out of the window."

"No sir, this is mine. I have been holding this umbrella for the past seven years," Priya replied.

The teacher looked at the girl who was sitting at the back of the room; she smiled again. The teacher instructed the student to take a seat on the bench, and Priya sat in the back where the other girl had been.

That day, the teacher said nothing more. Over the next few days, the teacher noticed that the girls continued to hold the umbrellas, but he said nothing. By the end of the week, unable to tolerate it any longer, he went to the two girls, took their umbrellas, and threw both out of the window again before leaving the class in silence.

The science teacher entered the 9th-grade class to teach the concept of force. Four new boys entered the room.

"Who are you?" the teacher asked.

"We are new students, sir," they replied.

"The second period is not your class time," the teacher said.

"Sir, no one knows the right time," one of the students responded.

"Why are you all holding these dusty umbrellas?" the teacher asked in shock.

All four students smiled.

That night, after taking classes, Sonu reached home.

"Do you know what happened?" Sonu asked his wife.

Before she could say anything, Sonu told her the whole story.

His wife replied, "Why don't you change schools?"

"I should change cities too," Sonu said.

12 years later...

"Sonu, your mobile is ringing," she called out.

"Yes, Basu. How are you?" Sonu answered the call.

"We have arranged a birthday party for my son, who just turned 5. I'm inviting you and your family," Basu said.

At first, Sonu refused to come, but Basu explained further, "Sonu, forget everything that happened with the umbrella. It's been 12 years, and you're still afraid of that."

"No, this isn't right... but okay, I'll come."

The day before the party, Sonu reached his friend Basu's home. Everything was going smoothly, and they were enjoying each other's company.

Sonu said, "We should visit the park. It's been 12 years since I last came to this place."

Sonu's suggestion was fantastic. Sonu, along with his wife and Basu, set out, reminiscing about their old and carefree days, their best days. The past seemed more memorable than the present. Suddenly, they reached the old school midway.

"Who ruined this school?" Sonu asked.

"Leave it," Basu tried to move on. But Sonu insisted.

"Basu, that girl with the umbrella killed so many students and was later found dead in the classroom, along with the new science teacher who had scolded her and broke her umbrella. After that, the school was shut down and left like this."

"I want to go inside," Sonu said.

His wife tried to stop him, but she couldn't.

Basu left the place.

"Come, darling," Sonu called to his wife.

Sonu went into Class VIII and ran his hand over the ruined desk.

"Sonu!" his wife screamed.

She had found human bones. Then she noticed something—the skeleton was wearing the ring she had given Sonu on their first wedding anniversary. She screamed again.

"Yes," a voice came from behind.

Sonu's wife turned around.

"Why are you holding that dusty umbrella?"

Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Deal Offers Fragile Hope After Two-Year Bloodshed In Gaza

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- The deal on the “first phase” of a U.S.-backed peace plan, coming after intense negotiations in Egypt’s Sharm el-Sheikh mediated by Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States, outlines a phased Israeli withdrawal, while establishing mechanisms for prisoner exchanges and humanitarian aid delivery.
- While both Gazans and Israelis are experiencing moments of emotional release, political divisions within Israel’s coalition government and Hamas’s demand for international guarantees have somehow threatened to undermine the implementation process. Besides, the enormous task of rebuilding Gaza and determining its political future looms large, testing whether the deal can evolve from temporary ceasefire to lasting peace.



Israel and Hamas on Thursday agreed to a Gaza ceasefire deal, offering a tentative path toward ending the two-year conflict that has killed over 67,000 Palestinians, injured almost 170,000 others, and left the enclave in ruins.

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Both Israel and Hamas’s officials have indicated that the ceasefire deal is set for Israeli government ratification. The Israeli side said the ceasefire will take effect within 24 hours after its security cabinet votes Thursday afternoon on the agreement in a meeting, whereas Hamas said the ceasefire will take effect immediately upon Israeli government approval. According to Israel’s state-owned Kan TV, political resistance within Netanyahu’s coalition, including from far-right ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, threatens to complicate the voting process, but the deal will still secure majority support.

The deal establishes detailed reciprocal obligations. Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan told Qatar’s Alaraby Television Network in an interview on Thursday that Israeli forces will withdraw from Gaza City, northern Gaza, as well as southern Gaza’s Rafah and Khan Younis, while five border crossings will reopen for humanitarian aid. “Drone operations in the Gaza Strip’s airspace will cease during the prisoner release process,” which will involve “250 Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences and 1,700 other prisoners,” he added.

Informed Palestinian sources told Xinhua that Hamas has provided mediators with prisoner lists “according to agreed criteria,” awaiting final approval, and has begun relocating Israeli detainees to safe locations ahead of handover to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation reported that three Israeli army divisions have started pulling out of Gaza City since Wednesday night in preparation for redeployment around Khan Younis. The Israel Defense Forces confirmed Thursday that it has “begun operational preparations” for the first of a three-phase withdrawal from Gaza, adding that “preparations and combat protocols are underway to transition to adjusted deployment lines soon.”

However, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz also ordered the military to respond with “great force” to any potential threat or attack by Hamas in Gaza against Israeli forces. According to an Israeli government spokeswoman, hostages would probably begin being released on Saturday or Sunday. Hospitals in the Tel Aviv area, where the hostages are expected to arrive for medical checks and recovery, also said they are making preparations.

Voices From The Ground

In central Tel Aviv’s Hostages Square, family members of Israeli hostages embraced as reports spread of their loved ones’ imminent return. Einav Zangauker, mother of hostage Matan Zangauker, and Anat and Haggai Angrest, parents of soldier Matan Angrest, burst into tears of excitement in a video shared online. “Matan and Matan are on their way home,” Zangauker said. “From now on, this square will be called the Square of Hope!”

In Gaza, news of the ceasefire triggered spontaneous celebrations amid the ruins. “I want to cry and dance at the same time,” Hussein al-Hindi, a 45-year-old displaced carpenter and father of three from the town of al-Zawaida in central Gaza, told Xinhua. “For two years, we lived without sleep, listening only to explosions and the screams of the wounded,” said al-Hindi, who now lives in a makeshift tent. “I still can’t believe the war has truly stopped ... I wake up every morning expecting the airstrikes to begin again. All we want now is to rebuild our homes, send our children back to school, and live normal lives.” Yet for the many more Gazans traumatized by the devastating conflict, the joy hearing the news is just a flash in the pan. Abdul Majeed Haniyeh, a 52-year-old man from Deir al-Balah, who lost his teenage son in an Israeli airstrike last year, wept as he

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told Xinhua: “Nothing can compensate for the loss of my child, but at least no other fathers will bury their sons tonight.”

Many Gazans have expressed cautious optimism, aware that previous truces have collapsed and that rebuilding their shattered lives will take years. “The Gaza we knew no longer exists,” Abed Dahman, a displaced father of five from Khan Younis, told Xinhua outside his tent. “We have to start from zero ... What we need now is not just promises but real reconstruction and a future for our children.” Despite the deal, 11 people were killed and 49 others injured by Israeli assaults across Gaza over the past 24 hours, including 13 wounded while seeking aid, Gaza-based health authorities said Thursday.

The conflict erupted on Oct. 7, 2023 when a large-scale Hamas attack on southern Israel killed roughly 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages, destroyed about 80 percent of Gaza’s infrastructure and displaced nearly 2 million residents, apart from creating human casualties, according to UN estimates.

Guarded Optimism From Middle East

The ceasefire deal has drawn widespread support from regional coun-

tries and organizations, which see it as a potential opening for broader political progress. Hamdan described the deal as “the fruit of the steadfastness and sacrifices of the Palestinian people over two years of ongoing Israeli aggression,” while Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called for the deal to become “a prelude to reaching a permanent political solution.” In a press statement, Abbas emphasized the need to establish an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, stressing that “sovereignty over Gaza belongs to the State of Palestine.” He also outlined key requirements for the deal’s success: immediate implementation, release of all hostages and prisoners, unrestricted humanitarian access, and a clear reconstruction process.

Jordan and Iraq emphasized the importance of full commitment to the deal and the urgency of addressing Gaza’s humanitarian crisis, while Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged to “closely monitor the strict implementation of the agreement,” and continue contributing to the process as well as advocating for Palestinian statehood. Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Oman also endorsed the deal. Egypt called it “a pivotal moment in the war of Gaza,” Lebanese President Joseph

Aoun hoped the agreement “will serve as a first step towards a permanent ceasefire,” whereas the latter two highlighted the deal’s potential to facilitate aid delivery and regional stability.

The Arab League also welcomed the breakthrough, with Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit calling it “good news for the people in Gaza after two years of bloodshed.” Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Philippe Lazzarini on Thursday called the deal “a respite” for Gaza’s traumatized population. The UNRWA has three months of supplies ready for immediate distribution, Lazzarini said in a press statement, urging the international community to support the agency in carrying out its work and assisting those in need during this critical period ahead.

However, analysts have cautioned that the deal represents only a first step. Gaza-based Palestinian political analyst Hussam al-Dajani told Xinhua that the deal, although marking an important step toward ending the war, “does not mean the conflict is over.” “Implementing the deal on the ground requires concrete international guarantees to ensure both sides’ commitment,” al-Dajani said. “Past experiences show that without monitoring, truces collapse quick-

ly.” Gaza now faces two simultaneous challenges: rebuilding its devastated infrastructure and reorganizing its internal political situation, he said. “Ending the war does not end the suffering. Gaza needs more than words; it needs a sustained international effort to ensure this tragedy is not repeated.”

Yemeni political analyst Yasin Al-Tamimi said while the deal marks a diplomatic breakthrough, “the possibility of continued confrontation remains ... as the political and security dynamics that fueled this conflict are far from resolved.” “A genuine peace process requires a just solution to the Palestinian issue ... Without this, any U.S. initiative is bound to fail,” Al-Tamimi told Xinhua.

Nabil al-Bukiri, director of the Arab Forum for Studies and Development, offered a more skeptical view, describing the U.S. role in the deal as more of political posturing and lacking sincerity and substance. “Without addressing the root of the conflict -- the occupation and denial of Palestinian rights,” he said, “talk of comprehensive peace remains an illusion.”

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> * LeBron James has been ruled out for up to four weeks and will miss the start of the NBA season with sciatica, Los Angeles Lakers have confirmed.

LeBron James To Miss Start Of NBA Season With Sciatica



Lebron James celebrates

LeBron James has been ruled out for up to four weeks and will miss the start of the NBA season with sciatica, Los Angeles Lakers have confirmed.

James, 40, signed a new contract with the Lakers in June and is set to become the first player to play across 23 separate NBA seasons.

Sciatica is a pain in the sciatic nerve that goes down the lower back and through the leg.

James has not taken part in pre-season and missed the de-

feats against the Golden State Warriors and the Phoenix Suns earlier this month because of the glute nerve irritation.

The American is expected to be sidelined for all five of the Lakers' games in October, including the season-opener against Golden State.

James, the NBA's all-time leading scorer, has never previously missed the start of the season in his 22-year career.

His tally of 1,562 regular-season appearances is just 50 short of

breaking former Boston Celtics star Robert Parish's NBA record.

The four-time NBA champion featured in 70 of the Lakers' 82 games last term and played on 71 occasions in the year before.

Last season, James averaged 24.4 points, 8.2 assists and 7.8 rebounds per game and finished sixth in Most Valuable Player vote.

The Lakers qualified for the play-offs in 2024-25 but lost 4-1 against the Minnesota Timberwolves in the first round.

BBC

Sports >>> *Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored all four goals in Gabon's 4-3 away win over The Gambia to extend his nation's hopes of reaching the World Cup for the first time – but was then sent off late on.

Aubameyang Nets All Four Goals And Sees Red As Gabon Keep World Cup Bid Alive

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored all four goals in Gabon's 4-3 away win over The Gambia to extend his nation's hopes of reaching the World Cup for the first time – but was then sent off late on.

The Panthers remain a point behind Group F leaders Ivory Coast, who thrashed Seychelles 7-0.

Only the group winners are assured of a spot at the 2026 finals in the United States, Mexico and Canada, but the second-placed side could still have a chance to reach the tournament via African and intercontinental play-offs.

With the Ivorians expected to cruise past winless Seychelles, Gabon knew they realistically needed all three points from a trip to neutral Nairobi to take their challenge to the final round of matches.

The West Africans took the lead twice in the first half through former Arsenal, Barcelona and Chelsea striker Aubameyang, but were quickly pegged back on both occasions.



Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

to the group leaders, the Panthers must win and hope Ivory Coast slip up at home against Kenya at the same time in order to qualify for their first World Cup.

The Ivorians are on course to return to the tournament for the first time since 2014 after cruising to victory over Seychelles in neutral Mauritius.

An early Ibrahim Sangare penalty got the reigning continental champions off the mark against the Indian Ocean islanders, and Emmanuel Agbadou, Oumar Diakite and Evann Guessand were also on target before half-time.

Yan Diomande fired in the fifth after the break, Simon Adingra tucked in the sixth and Franck Kessie completed the rout in the

final minute.

Teranga Lions and Leopards win Meanwhile, Senegal's qualifying battle with DR Congo in Group B will also go down to the last day of the African group campaign after both sides won on Friday.

Crystal Palace forward Ismaila Sarr netted twice as the Teranga Lions cruised to a 5-0 away win over South Sudan.

Sarr volleyed in an Iliman Ndiaye cross on the half-hour mark to slot the West Africans in front, and Sadio Mane tapped in another Ndiaye cross in the first minute of the second half.

After Sarr converted a loose ball to grab his second, Nicolas Jackson's penalty made it 4-0 with half an hour left and Cherif Ndiaye

rounded off the scoring in Juba in the 75th minute.

DR Congo made sure they stayed in the hunt by clinching a 1-0 win in Togo thanks to Cedric Bakambu's early strike.

Those results mean Senegal retain a two-point lead over DR Congo in Group B, and have a three-goal advantage over the Leopards when it comes to goal difference.

Senegal host Mauritania and DR Congo entertain Sudan in the final round on Monday (19:00 GMT), Sudan's bid for a second-placed finish is over they were held to a goalless draw by Mauritania.

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A Trailblazing Leader Who Serves Humanity



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In 2020, Jacqueline broke barriers as the first Latina woman elected to the Sunrise City Commission, a historic milestone that underscores her trailblazing spirit. Re-elected in 2022, she now serves as Assistant Deputy Mayor, tirelessly working to foster a community rooted in inclusivity, health, and opportunity. Her leadership embodies a profound commitment to safeguarding families, nurturing small businesses, and advocating for youth and public safety.
- Her personal journey as a two-time heart attack survivor fuels her advocacy for heart health awareness. As a former volunteer spokeswoman and board member for the American Heart Association, Jacqueline's efforts have illuminated the importance of cardiovascular health. Her annual Go Red Fashion Shows at Sawgrass Mills Mall serve as powerful reminders of her mission to combat heart disease and promote wellness.

Jacqueline A. Guzman stands as a shining beacon of compassion, resilience, and unwavering dedication to the betterment of her community and humanity at large. Born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in Sunrise, Florida, her journey is a testament to the transformative power of service, perseverance, and heartfelt commitment. With a life marked by triumphs over adversity and a relentless pursuit of positive change, Jacqueline exemplifies a true servant-leader whose actions continually uplift and inspire.

From her early days, Jacqueline displayed a profound sense of civic responsibility. Her educational pursuits—culminating in an associate degree in healthcare and specialized training in Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling—highlight her deep concern for health and well-being. Her academic achievements are complemented by an extensive portfolio of leadership training programs, including the Parent Leadership Training Institute, the Residents Leadership Academy, and the Florida League of Cities' Institute for Elected Municipal Officials. These experiences fortified her resolve to serve and empower others.

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Her personal journey as a two-time heart attack survivor fuels her advocacy for heart health awareness. As a former volunteer spokeswoman and board member for the American Heart Association, Jacqueline's efforts have illuminated the importance of cardiovascular health. Her annual Go Red Fashion Shows at Sawgrass Mills Mall serve as powerful reminders of her mission to combat heart disease and promote wellness.

Jacqueline's altruism extends be-



Jacqueline A. Guzman

yond health advocacy. She has served on the boards of HandsOn Broward and the Community Action Agency, championed child advocacy through the Guardian ad Litem Program, and actively volunteers as a coach and PTO President at Westpine Middle School. Her initiative, Panthers with a Purpose, exemplifies her devotion to nurturing youth leaders and fostering community engagement.

Her legislative and policy initiatives reflect her visionary leadership. She pioneered the Teen

Summit to empower young voices, supported vital investments in youth programs through the Boys and Girls Club, and advocated for accessible healthcare facilities, including Baptist Health Hospital, Broward Health's and Joe DiMaggio's Free Standing Emergency Department. These accomplishments showcase her unwavering dedication to creating equitable opportunities and improving lives.

Jacqueline A. Guzman is more than a public servant; she is a compassionate architect of change, a

resilient survivor, and a relentless advocate for humanity. Her life's work exemplifies the true essence of leadership—serving with heart, inspiring with integrity, and relentlessly striving to serve the greater good. Her legacy is a testament to the transformative power of compassionate leadership and unwavering service to mankind.