



**Strong Collaborations With Industry And TVET Institutes In East Africa Have Resulted In Improved Employment**  
 Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes in East Africa have established strong collaborations with industry, resulting in improved graduate employment across the region. Graduate employment, among 16 Regional Flagship Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania Page 18

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**News>>Kindiki: Government Accelerating Development In North Eastern Region**

P. 8. The Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has criticised the past regime for sidelining the residents of Northern Kenya in development distribution.

# Mudavadi Welcomes UN For IEBC 2027 Readiness Review

**Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said Kenya is committed to working closely with the United Nations and other key stakeholders to ensure a transparent, credible, free, fair and peaceful General Elections in 2027. Speaking when he met with Mr. Akinyemi Adegbola, East Africa Division's Principal Electoral Advisor, United Nations Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), and his delegation in his Railways office, Mudavadi appreciated their mandate to objectively assess the political and electoral context and provide recommendations on the scope and modalities of UN support.**



**News>>Ndumberi ICT Hub: Transforming Youth Dreams Into Digital Futures**

P. 12. At the Ndumberi ICT Hub in Kiambu, 22-year-old Ken Mwai, a part-time DJ, is learning to market his talent online. With newly acquired skills in Photoshop, Canva, and web development, he now dreams of building his own digital brand.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi in his office yesterday

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# NYOTA Programme Rolled Out To Empower Unemployed Youths Across The Country

By: MKT Team  
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Kwanza government yesterday officially rolled out the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Programme, a flagship initiative by President William Ruto to empower unemployed youths across the country through startup funding and skills development. The launching event, held across all the 47 counties was presided over by Principal Secretaries. The PSs led the events in their home counties. During the ceremonies, the PSs emphasized that

the current government is committed to supporting every deserving youth and Person Living With Disability (PLWD) to access startup capital and training to begin their journey of self-reliance. Apart from the Principal Secretaries, a number of Members of Parliament, MCAs and officials from the National and county governments also attended. The NYOTA Programme, funded by the World Bank, targets to support over 820,000 vulnerable youths aged 18-29 years and up to 35 years for PLWDs with 70 beneficiaries per ward across the country. The programme also aims to achieve 50 per cent gender parity, ensuring equal participation by both young men and women. As the sensitization continues across the country,

the NYOTA Programme is expected to boost entrepreneurship, reduce unemployment, and ignite innovation among Kenya's young population fulfilling one of the Kenya Kwanza administration's core promises.

**Eligibility**  
Age : 18- 29 years and 35 if Persons Living With Disabilities  
Education: Form 4 level of education or below.  
Employment Status: Unemployed, underemployed, or in low income jobs.  
NYOTA Project Categories:  
1. Business Support  
2. On-the-Job Experience  
3. Recognition of prior Benefits

### How To Apply

Dial \*254 #  
Select: Nyota Project  
Select: preferred options e.g Business support  
Select: Apply  
  
Application Period:  
6th - 12th October.  
Validation and sensitization of applicants at the constituency level: 17th October, 2025.

## Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures



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

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# NEWS IN BRIEF



The Council of Governors convened a full Council meeting in line with the Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012, during which new elections were held for the Executive and Committee Chairpersons. The Council unanimously elected Ahmed Abdullahi (Wajir County) as Chairperson, Mutahi Kahiga (Nyeri County) as Vice Chairperson, and Muthomi Njuki (Tharaka Nithi County) as Whip to steer the Council's agenda for the next one year. The new leadership has committed to operationalizing the Devolution Training Institute, implementing the Council's Strategic Plan (2022–2027), finalizing the transfer and costing of devolved functions, and strengthening devolution across all sectors.

*Full list of new officials in the photo*



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday graced the opening of the COMESA–EU Horticulture Connect Forum. The high-level engagement brings together policymakers, private sector leaders, and development partners to unlock new opportunities for Kenyan and regional horticulture in accessing the EU market. In his Keynote address, the CS reaffirms Kenya's commitment to value addition, compliance with international standards, and expanding market access for our farmers under the Government agenda. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) European Union in Kenya.



The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has successfully transitioned to the Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system, marking a significant milestone in promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public procurement. This digital migration aligns with the Government's broader reform agenda to enhance integrity, fairness, and value-for-money in the management of public resources. Dr. Robi Mbugua Njoroge, ACA Executive Director, said the move to the e-Government Procurement platform is more than a technological upgrade it's a bold step towards strengthening institutional integrity and public trust. Through this platform, ACA will streamline procurement processes, reduce costs, improve oversight, and ensure fair competition for all suppliers and contractors.



Mr. Edward Maina Muriuki has been appointed as the Ag. Director of Meteorological Services. Mr. Muriuki, a seasoned meteorologist who joined the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) in 1991, brings with him over three decades of experience in meteorology, hydrology, and leadership. He holds a Master's Degree in Water Resources Engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam, a Postgraduate Diploma in Hydrology, and a BSc in Mathematics and Meteorology from the University of Nairobi. Over the years, he has served in various technical and leadership roles at KMD, including: Senior Assistant Director in multiple divisions, Deputy Director, Technical and Support Services, Principal of the WMO Regional Training Centre – Institute for Meteorological Training and Research (IMTR), Nairobi, Deputy Director, Forecasting Services. He takes over from David Gikungu who retired two months ago.



The Methodist Church in Kenya (MCK) Changamwe circuit committee's election yesterday was marred by controversy as some worshippers left in a huff, protesting interference and financial mismanagement. The media was barred from observing the election, with four armed Police Officers deployed to man the entry to the church. Two officers were in uniform while the other two wore civilian clothes. They had clear instructions to bar journalists from entering, ensuring the election proceedings were conducted in camera. After the election, the presiding Superintendent Minister, Rev. Joshua Rinkanya, refused to address the media on the outcome of the election. Worshippers were bemused by the state of affairs, with most of them opting to give the election a wide berth after the main service, accusing some Church leaders of imposing leaders on them in a bid to control the church revenues rather than serving the Church.

# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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# Senate Mashinani Kicks Off In Busia With Soccer Match

By: MKT Reporter  
@themkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- Nyegenye stated that Senate 'Mashinani' provides an opportunity for the citizens to properly understand the work of the senate.
- "We are bringing the Senate to the public who are the owners. In our constitution, all powers belong to the people. We want to bring the legislature to the people. This is one way of giving life to the provision of article six requiring all state organs to bring their services close to the people," he said.

The 4th Senate 'mashinani' kicked off in Busia County with a soccer match between the Busia County assembly team and the Senate.

The match which was played at Mundiika Primary School grounds in Busia Sub County on Sunday saw the Busia County Assembly team winning by 4-3 goals through post-match penalties after a barren draw in the 90 minutes.

The clerk of the senate Jeremiah Nyegenye, speaking after the match said that it was the opportunity for the two entities to bond and interact ahead of the senate 'Mashinani' activities.

Nyegenye stated that Senate 'Mashinani' provides an opportunity for the citizens to properly understand the work of the senate.

"We are bringing the Senate to the public who are the owners. In our constitution, all powers belong to the people. We want to bring the legislature to the people. This is one way of giving life to the provision of article six requiring all state organs to bring their services close to the people," he said.

He added that holding Senate 'Mashinani' in Busia County presents an opportunity to address the challenges experienced in the county.

"Senate coming to a particular county, the affairs and issues of that county are highlighted. For instance, in Uasin Gishu, issues of agriculture were highlighted and legislative interventions were made. The benefits of the Senate interacting with people directly on the ground is that they are able to understand and witness first-hand the challenges the people face," he said.

Busia county Senator Okiya Omtatah termed Senate 'Mashinani' as an opportunity for the residents of Busia to



The Clerk of the Senate Jeremiah Nyegenye addressing the media on Sunday.

understand the work of the senate.

Omtatah urged the residents to engage with the Senate through different forums to submit their issues.

"This is a constitutional requirement and is an opportunity for the residents of Busia to interact with the senate. This will be an opportunity for the people to understand the work of the senate. The senate will also have a distinct understanding of the challenges facing Busia beyond interacting with it through statements, audit reports and petitions," he said.

He further said all sub-counties will have an opportunity to receive a committee of Senate and interact with members.

"Committees will be sitting and moving around and we have ensured that every sub county has a committee visiting it thus a boost to the economy here," expressed Omtatah.

Busia County Speaker Fredrick Odilo said the Senate 'Mashinani' in Busia County will address matters that are beyond the county assembly and affect the people of Busia.

"Senate is here to strengthen the relationship between the assembly and the Senate. It is the base of the county government and we know they are here to assess the steps Busia County has made since 2013 and how the money has been spent. They will also visit most of the projects and make an

informed decision on what has happened," he said.

Odilo expressed his optimism that the senators will be able to experience the challenges experienced by the county and help in finding the solutions.

"We want senators to walk around and understand the kind of problems we have between the Kenya and Uganda border. They will also understand the jam we have on our road and this will maybe enable them to allocate more money to Busia during appropriation to solve the existing challenges."

The Senate sittings commenced yesterday and will run until Friday.

The

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# Gachagua Calls For Constituency-Level Tallying To Curb Election Fraud

By: Citizen Reporter  
@themkenyentimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has proposed that presidential election results be announced at the constituency level instead of the national tallying centre at the Bomas of Kenya, saying the move would enhance transparency and curb election malpractice.

Speaking during an interview with KTN News on Sunday night, Gachagua argued that delays in announcing presidential results at the national level have historically created “room for monkey business,” suggesting that decentralizing the process would guarantee a free and fair election.

“Once the results are announced at the constituency, that should be final. Everyone, including the media, can tally them and declare the winner,” Gachagua said.

He further claimed that manipulation of results was more difficult at the grassroots level compared to the

national tallying centre, which he said has been contentious since 2007. “It is not easy to tamper with results from 290 constituencies, but the national tallying centre has been a problem for years,” he added.

The former Deputy President suggested that devolving the presidential tallying process would not only enhance accountability but also speed up the announcement of results.

“Let there be 290 returning officers for the presidential election so that no one can interfere with those individuals, instead of having one officer at Bomas,” Gachagua said. “If we tally the presidential votes first, it’s possible to have the results by morning. That would reduce anxiety and eliminate opportunities for manipulation.”

Turning to the 2027 General Election, Gachagua predicted a two-horse race between President William Ruto and a candidate from what he termed the “United Opposition.”

“If anyone breaks away from the united opposition to form a third force, Kenyans will reject it,” he said. “In 2027, whoever the opposition unites behind will become Kenya’s



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua attends a church service in Nyahururu, Laikipia County, on June 29, 2025. | PHOTO: @rigathi/X

sixth President. It will be the one-term movement against President Ruto.”

Addressing reports of divisions within the opposition, Gachagua dismissed claims of personal differences

with former Interior Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred Matiang’i. Instead, he accused President Ruto of planting moles within opposition ranks to sow discord.

“There are no differences between

me and Dr. Matiang’i,” he asserted. “What we are seeing is an attempt by President Ruto to infiltrate the opposition and cause division.”

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# Kindiki: Government Accelerating Development In North Eastern Region

By: DPCS  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has criticised the past regime for sidelining the residents of Northern Kenya in development distribution.

He took issue with the vetting process that previously complicated issuance of identification documents including the National Identity Cards, Birth Certificates and Birth Certificates in the region.

“It was very hard and cumbersome for the people from the northern Kenya to get identification documents before 2022, but President Ruto Promised that when elected he will ensure that everybody will be served equally, and he fulfilled that on 5th February this year when he made his proclamation in Wajir to abolish that retrogressive policy and all Kenyans now irrespective of their religion, ethnicity will be served equally,” DP said.

Speaking yesterday at Water Grounds in Garissa Town, Garissa Township Constituency, Garissa County during an empowerment event for small-scale traders affected by the Suq Mugdi fire tragedy in July this year, the Deputy President noted that the newly reopened Garissa passport office closed since 2019 and officially reopened by the President May are part of efforts to end historical marginalization in the region.

The DP also inspected the upgrading of Garissa Airstrip at a cost of KSh710 million, which includes an input of KSh110 million from the County Government of Garissa.

He also checked on the construction of Tana River-Garissa Bridge which is being constructed at a cost of KSh1.7 billion to ease transportation between the two counties.

Prof. Kindiki also reaffirmed the government’s commitment to accelerating development and restoring equal opportunities across Northern Kenya saying the region had been sidelined for decades but is now witnessing major investment in infrastructure and public services.

He announced that the ongoing construction of 750-kilometre road that connects Mandera-Wajir-Isiolo highway worth KSh100 billion will ease mobility, reduce commodity prices, open up economic activity and strengthen security. It is expected to be completed before 2027.

“This is the longest road to be constructed by any government since independence. The road from Man-

dera-Ramu-Garre-Elwak-Kobo-Kotulo Tarbaj-Wajir-Samatar-Modogashe-Kula Mawe to Isiolo is on course,” said Kindiki.

He also announced the construction of a 370 kilometre Lamu-LAPSSET corridor linking Lamu-Ijara-Garissa-Isiolo Road and the planned Garissa-Dadaab-Liboi-Harhar corridor, which will link Kenya to Somalia.

The Deputy President added that the government has invested KSh 13 billion in affordable housing, fresh produce markets and hostels in Garissa.

Other projects include construction of the Tana River Bridge in Garissa Town worth Ksh 1 Billion and last mile electricity connections worth KSh1.7B that will benefit 7,200 households in Garissa County.

At the same time, Prof. Kindiki expressed concern over high child mortality rates in Northern Kenya assuring residents that the government will continue strengthening healthcare access through the Ministry of Health to ensure that the deaths are reduced.

“I support Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale when he says we must work very hard as a government in both levels to reduce the child mortality rate in Kenya,” he said.

The event was attended by Health CS Duale, Kimani Ichungwa (Leader of Majority National Assembly) Aaron Cheruiyot (Majority Leader Senate) (Deputy Governor Garissa) MPs Major Dekow Barrow (Garissa Township)

Farah Maalim (Dadaab), Major Abdullahi Bashir (Mandera North) Mohammed Abdikadir (Lagdera) Abdi Sirat (Nominated) Umul Kher (Nominated) Yakub Adow (Bura) Hiribae Said Buya (Galole) Abdi Ali Abdi (Ijara) Japhet Nyakundi (Kitutu Chache North) Mwengi Mutuse (Kibwezi West), Deputy Governor Garissa Abdi Dagane, Members of Garissa County Assembly and a host of leaders.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with other leaders in Garissa yesterday. Photos/DPCS



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki with other leaders in Garissa yesterday. Photos/DPCS

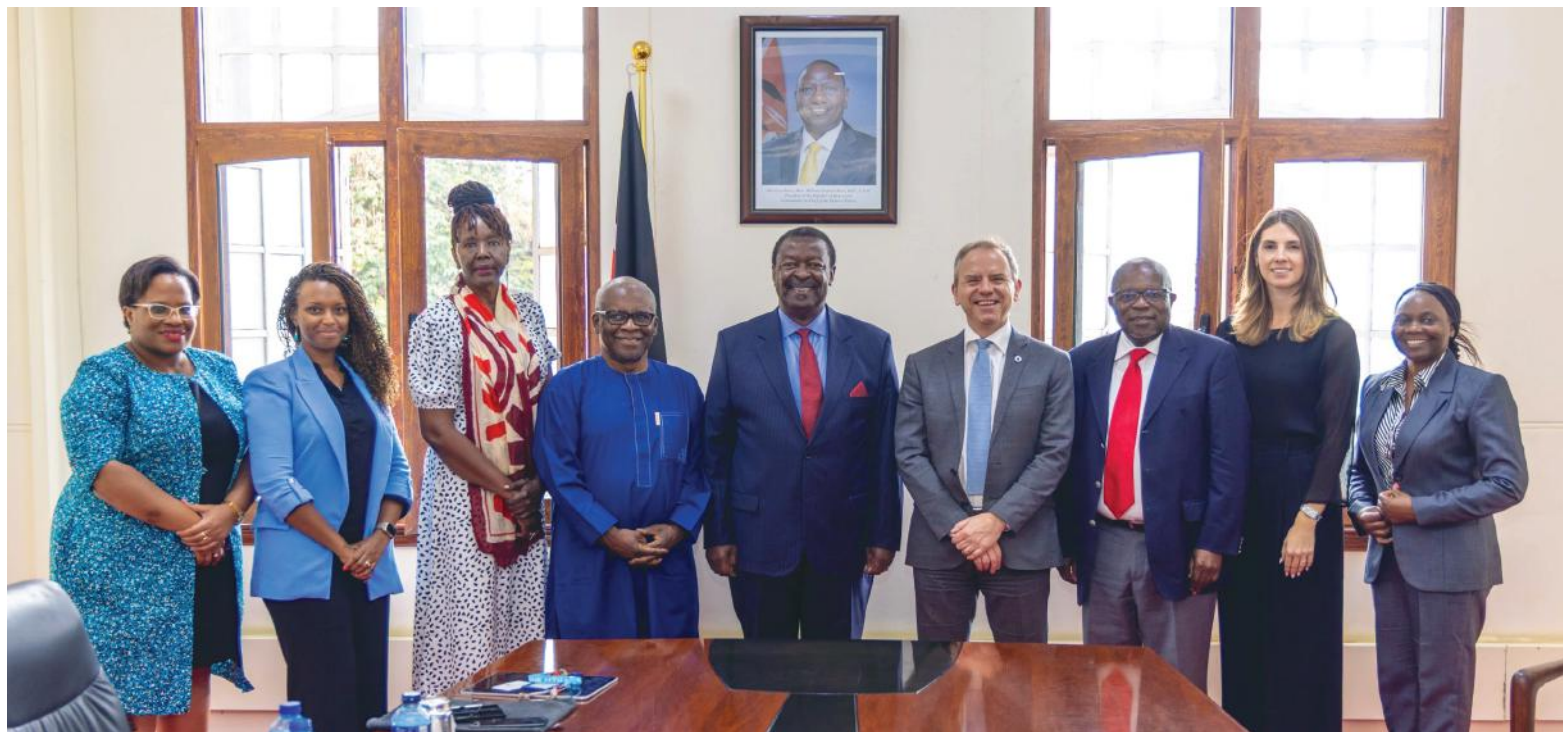


# Mudavadi Welcomes UN Officials To Do Need Assessment For IEBC's 2027 Polls Preparedness

By: OPCS PS  
@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- PCS said the government was systematically making the electoral process better, and as we do so, as the government, but its engagement will not interfere with their independence, and will know its limits and boundaries so that the integrity of IEBC is kept intact.
- "It is our desire that the 2027 general election be successful and will earn us stability and allow Kenya to continue being a benchmark election in the region and on the continent," said Mudavadi.
- Mudavadi said as they planned to do their assessment, he asked the delegation to also consider the influence of technology, social media, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and acknowledge its possible impact on the polls.



PCS with the delegation

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said Kenya is committed to working closely with the United Nations and other key stakeholders to ensure a transparent, credible, free, fair and peaceful General Elections in 2027.

Speaking when he met with Mr. Akinyemi Adegbola, East Africa Division's Principal Electoral Advisor, United Nations Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), and his delegation in his Railways office, Mudavadi appreciated their mandate to objectively assess the political and electoral context and provide recommendations on the scope and modalities of UN support.

"This is a critical step in ensuring that Kenya continues to consolidate democratic gains and uphold the integrity of its electoral system, and Kenya will continue to uphold its obligations to foster democratic governance and safeguard the credibility of electoral processes," said Mudavadi also Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

PCS said the government was systematically making the electoral process better, and as we do so, as the government, but its engagement will not interfere with their independence, and will know its limits and boundaries so that the integrity of IEBC is kept intact.

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The United Nations Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) delegation is in the country following the request of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) through a letter by the chairman nominating Dr. Erastus Etheke a month ago.

Mudavadi assured the team that the government will not interfere with the operation of the IEBC and instead

give them full support to ensure that the polls are successful.

PCS said he wanted to see IEBC officials, security personnel, and all the stakeholders in the election process well prepared and ready before the election.

"We also want to have Faith-Based organisations, the civil society and the judiciary, and many other actors play a proactive role during the electioneering period," said Mudavadi.

On his part, Mr. Adegbola said they will take the request for assessment seriously and will begin the assignment soon.

"We always approach the request with a sense of modesty. We always have a paradox of where do we draw the line on where we engage on politics in politics to ensure that our assessment is responsive to the real issues," said Mr. Adegbola.

Mr. Adegbola said in Kenya some areas of need have evolved over a period of time and have progressively been narrowing to needs in particular areas," said Mr. Adegbola.

He noted that less and less they were not involved into the logistics of the elections.



PCS during the deliberations.

# Free Eye Camp Brings Relief To The Elderly Struggling With Eye Complications

By: KNA  
 @themkenyatomes

Elderly residents from Juja and its surrounding areas have received a big relief after benefiting from a free eye clinic, with many expressing renewed hope that they would regain their sight and independence after years of struggling to see.

The medical outreach by Zetech University and the Lions Eye Hospital brought together dozens of elderly men and women who have long suffered from poor eyesight and other vision-related complications. For many, the clinic marked the first time they had received specialized attention from medical experts.

Some of the elderly, who had become partially or completely blind, termed it a huge relief. Led by Lucy Waithera, 74, who has lived with blindness in one eye for over a year, they said the camp had restored optimism.

"I have been unable to cook, fetch

water, or move around safely. My world became dark. Today, I have hope again after doctors said they will perform surgery to restore my sight," she said.

Many of the elderly narrated painful experiences of neglect, saying their children had migrated to towns in search of job opportunities, leaving them alone in villages with little access to healthcare.

"We feel forgotten. Our children hardly visit, and treatment is too expensive. This camp is a blessing," said Jane Ndirangu from Makongeni, Thika.

According to Moreen Wanjiru, a representative from Lions Eye Hospital, the most common conditions among the elderly screened included cataracts, uveitis, and diabetes-related eye complications; illnesses that, if untreated, can lead to total blindness.

She said the hospital is committed to offering free corrective surgeries and follow-up care to those that they diagnosed with severe cases.

Zetech University Vice Chancellor



Prof. Njenga Munene said the initiative aligns with the mission of the newly launched Institute of Ageing Studies, which seeks to improve the wellbeing of senior citizens through healthcare, research, and advocacy.

"We want to ensure that our elderly live with dignity and receive the

care they deserve. Eye problems are among the many challenges that the senior citizens face and that's why we organized this medical camp. This clinic is just the beginning," he said.

The elderly called on more organizations and well-wishers to support such community-based initiatives,

noting that ageing should not condemn anyone to a life of suffering or dependency.

The partners pledged to make the eye clinics an annual event to help more elderly residents regain their sight and live healthier, more fulfilling lives.



# Government Faults Contractor For Slow Pace On Othaya Market Construction

By: MKT Correspondent and Kenya News Agency  
 @themtkenyatimes



The Central Regional Implementation Committee (RICMC) at the site where a modern market is being built in Othaya constituency.

## Worth Noting:

- During a recent site visit last week Central Regional Commissioner Joshua Nkanatha said the project was progressing at a slower pace than expected and urged the contractor to speed up the work and focus on handing over the project as agreed.
- Nkanatha declared it was unacceptable for the project to be at 15 per cent completion yet the State had already cleared all the outstanding payments to the contractor.
- The Regional Commissioner's team started tour of several projects in the region in Othaya where at the construction site of a five-storeyed market which is supposed to cater for over 700 traders, they found that the contractor was on site but realized that he is having very few workers.

The government has put a contractor on notice for the slow progress in the construction of a KSh324 million modern market in Othaya constituency, Nyeri County.

The multimillion project being funded by the State Department for Housing and Urban Development started on May 6, 2025 and is set for completion on May 8, 2026.

Once complete, the five-storeyed facility is expected to accommodate more than 700 traders and will incorporate guard rooms, modern washrooms and solid waste management facilities.

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for over 700 traders, they found that the contractor was on site but realized that he is having very few workers.

The team was set up by the move with the RC saying it was in bad taste since the government had recently released KSh60 billion and paid all pending bills owed to contractors, and so the government does not owe them anything.

Nkanatha was accompanied by other members of the Central Regional Implementation Committee (RICMC).

Consequently, the Commissioner directed the contractor to increase the number of casual labourers at the site to speed up the progress of the project which he noted was already behind schedule.

The modern market is one of the many others, totalling more than KSh500 million that the area MP Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima has lobbied from President William Ruto's administration.

He underscored that apart from implementing development projects for Kenyans in the rural areas, one main objective of the government was open up those areas and create ample employment opportunities for the youth.

"These projects are expected to create employment for the youths and when we found a project like that one having 11 workers we started getting worried whether they are really helping us to attain the goals set by the government. So we have said we want to go and have a meeting with the contractor and raise our concerns that we are not going to entertain that. We want to see the work progressing faster," he told KNA.

The team also visited the Ichamara-Kimathi-Rutune Road which is being upgraded to bitumen standards at a cost of Sh1.2 billion.

The road which will link Nyeri and Kirinyaga County is expected to ease mobility for both traffic and people in an area that had never seen tarmac since Kenya gained independence.

Nkanatha lauded the contractor for the commendable progress and said once the 28-kilometer stretch is complete it will transform the area and create good business opportunities.

"We are happy with the pace at which the contractor has mobilized resources. We have even talked to the community representative like the local administrator. The people around here are very thankful to the

Government that for the first time this area is being opened up to enable local people do business and also interact freely with the rest of the region. There are people who are seeing tarmac for the first time in this region," he added.

James Nguyo, the assistant Regional Site Engineer, said they plan to hand it over to the government in July next year.

He also exuded confidence that the progress of the works will not be compromised as the deadline approaches.

"Basically, we are at 35 per cent progress against 96 per cent time lapse. But the construction has been moving very well with very few challenges. In total we have over 100 personnel per day and many times they are engaged on a need basis. But we might get to 200 depending on the work at hand. In terms of progress and preparedness the contractor is on course and we are hoping that in the coming year we should be thinking of this work being complete," he stated.

# Ndumberi ICT Hub: Transforming Youth Dreams Into Digital Futures

By: KNA  
 @themkenyatimes

At the Ndumberi ICT Hub in Kiambu, 22-year-old Ken Mwai, a part-time DJ, is learning to market his talent online. With newly acquired skills in Photoshop, Canva, and web development, he now dreams of building his own digital brand.

A few desks away, 19-year-old Carlos Maina, who could not afford to join college after completing Form Four in 2024, is mastering web development, a path he sees as a stepping stone toward his dream of becoming an architectural engineer.

Their stories reflect a growing wave of digital empowerment sweeping across Kenya's youth – one click, one skill at a time.

As part of the government's Digital Superhighway and Jitume initiatives under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the once quiet Ndumberi Youth Centre has been transformed into a vibrant ICT Hub, equipping young people with the digital skills needed to thrive in today's technology-driven economy.

The Digital Superhighway, one of the flagship pillars of BETA, aims to expand broadband connectivity, promote digital skills, and create over one million jobs through ICT innovation and e-services. It focuses on extending fibre-optic infrastructure across the country, digitizing government services, and establishing community digital hubs like Ndumberi to nurture local talent and innovation.

The Ndumberi Hub is one of several established across Ting'ang'a, Riabai, Ndumberi, and Kiambu Township wards in Kiambu County. Through the Ajira and Jitume programmes, the centre offers free, government-certified training in transcription, graphic design, digital marketing, Forex trading, and web development. It also provides mentorship and a co-working space equipped with computers and reliable Wi-Fi connectivity.

At the heart of this transformation is Samuel Wainaina, the Centre Manager, who believes the hub is rewriting the future of Kiambu's youth.

"If such an opportunity existed years back, many of our youth would have been much better. The digital world is moving fast, and companies will always want people who can manage their data," he said.

Currently, 150 trainees are enrolled, including 54 pursuing ICT Stage 1, formerly known as computer packages. Two groups attend classes daily – one from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and another from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. The three-month courses targets youth aged between 18 and 35 years residing in Kiambu Constituency, with registration open on weekdays.



Beyond training, participants are linked to NGOs, mentors, and companies in the digital economy – bridging the gap between learning and employment.

"These hubs really help us. They keep us away from drugs, theft, and idleness because, as the saying goes, an idle mind is the devil's workshop," said Ken, who now uses his new skills to design flyers and market his DJ services online.

For Carlos, the Hub offers a sense of direction. "At first, I felt stuck. But when I heard about the ICT Hub, I decided to try web development. It doesn't mean I've abandoned my dream of becoming an architectural engineer – this is another skill I can use while planning my next step," he said.

Since its establishment, the Ndumberi ICT Hub has trained over 300 young people, with some already earning income through online transcription, digital marketing, and virtual assistant jobs.

According to Aloysius Njoroge, the Constituency Office Manager under MP Machua Waithaka, the concept was inspired by a pilot model at the Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology.

"In 2023, 500 computers were distributed to the Ministry of ICT under the Jitume programme. Ndumberi Hub received its first 50 computers from Konza City. Currently, there are three fully operational centres across Kiambu," he explained.

He added that the project continues to receive strong support from both the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) and Konza Technopolis, which

provide trainers, maintenance funds, mentorship, and capacity-building to ensure sustainability.

According to the Ajira Digital Programme, a flagship initiative of the Government of Kenya implemented through the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (MoICDE), significant progress has been made in expanding digital access and skills development across the country.

Nationally, more than 280 ICT hubs have been established out of the planned 1,450, ensuring that every ward will eventually host one. Through Ajira Digital and Jitume, over 390,000 youths have been trained, with 119,000 already linked to online work opportunities. Notably, 53 percent of the participants are young women – a major milestone in bridging gender gaps in the technology sector.

Kiambu MP Machua Waithaka lauded the initiative, saying it is transforming Kenya's youth into global digital citizens. "The future belongs to those who can adapt to technology. These hubs are preparing our young

people to become global competitors while creating opportunities right here at home," said Machua.

The digital push aligns with the government's broader goal to digitize over 5,000 public services, expand broadband access, and lay more than 100,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable across the country. Plans are also underway to enhance internet stability and provide alternative power solutions to ensure uninterrupted learning in Kiambu's hubs.

For trainees like Ken and Carlos, the Hub represents more than a learning space – it is a lifeline. It offers not just skills but also structure, purpose, and community. Ken even suggests that introducing indoor games would make the space more engaging, blending recreation with innovation.

The ripple effect is undeniable: every trainee leaves with a skill, a dream, and renewed hope. Together, they represent the future Kenya envisions under the Digital Superhighway – a nation where opportunity meets determination and digital innovation drives prosperity from the grassroots up.



## Worth Noting:

- Their stories reflect a growing wave of digital empowerment sweeping across Kenya's youth – one click, one skill at a time.
- As part of the government's Digital Superhighway and Jitume initiatives under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the once quiet Ndumberi Youth Centre has been transformed into a vibrant ICT Hub, equipping young people with the digital skills needed to thrive in today's technology-driven economy.
- The Digital Superhighway, one of the flagship pillars of BETA, aims to expand broadband connectivity, promote digital skills, and create over one million jobs through ICT innovation and e-services. It focuses on extending fibre-optic infrastructure across the country, digitizing government services, and establishing community digital hubs like Ndumberi to nurture local talent and innovation.

# Opposition Alleges Scheme To Rig Mbeere North By-Election

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

Tension is mounting in Mbeere North Constituency, Embu County, after two opposition leaders alleged a plot by operatives linked to the UDA government to rig the upcoming by-election. Democratic Party (DP) leader and former Public Service CS Justin Muturi and his Devolution Empowerment Party (DEP) popularly known as Bus party leader Lenny Kivuti claimed efforts were underway to import voters. Kivuti sensationally claimed nonresidents were being registered as area voters in Nairobi with the intention of ferrying them to vote on election day. They said those behind the scheme had sensed defeat and that is why they were engaging in desperate attempts to rig the election as they exuded confidence of a landslide win for the joint opposition candidate on a DP ticket Newton Karish who is the outgoing Muminji Ward MCA. Speaking during a meeting with over 2,000 locals in Kanyuambora Market last Saturday, the two warned that any

attempts to subvert the will of the people will be met with stiff resistance. "People here know each other well and can be able to pick out strangers easily and so anybody planning on stealing the election is ill-advised," Kivuti, also a former Embu Senator said. Muturi said any attempt to rig the election will be met with equal force, saying, "they have dialed the wrong number." The two emphasized the need for a credible process and called on IEBC to ensure the election was free, fair and transparent to ensure people of Mbeere North got their preferred choice of leader. They termed their candidate as the "People's Choice", whom the opponent was fearful of because of his performance record as MCA for three consecutive terms. Karish expressed confidence that the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) will deliver a free and fair election. "This is a litmus test for the IEBC. I believe they will conduct a credible exercise," he said. Meanwhile, the race has turned into a



From left; Lenny Kivuti, Newton Karish and Justin Muturi on Saturday.

three-horse race between DP's Newton Karish, UDA's Leonard Muthende and Chama Cha Kazi candidate Duncan Mbui who is the outgoing Evurore Ward MCA. This was after the Jubilee Party denied Jacob Mbaio a ticket and instead

threw its weight behind the DP's candidate. UDA's candidate has enjoyed support from Public Service CS Geoffrey Ruku who has been combing the region, urging voters to align with the ruling party to ensure continued de-

velopment. The CS is banking on government goodwill to swing the vote in Muthende's favor.

# KSB: 80% Of Sugar Workers To Be Retained As Mills

## Revive

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themtkenyatimes

Kenya Sugar Board (KSB) chairman Nicholas Gumbo has assured more than 5,000 sugarcane workers that the ongoing leasing of public sugar mills to private investors will not result in mass job losses, but instead create new opportunities. Gumbo said that 80 per cent of the current workforce will be absorbed by private millers, while the remaining 20 per cent, mostly staff due for retirement but still serving due to lack of exit packages will be gradually phased out in line with retirement benefits settlements. Describing the shift as a "silver lining" for the struggling sector, Gumbo noted that the modernization and full maintenance of factories such as Sony, Chemelil, Muhoroni, and Nzoia will raise efficiency and unlock more jobs.

"Once these mills run at full capacity, sugar production is expected to double to 1.6 million tonnes annually, positioning Kenya as a potential net exporter of sugar," he said. Already, cane farmers are enjoying improved terms, with payments now being made weekly instead of monthly or seasonally—a move Gumbo says will boost farmer morale and production. The remarks come against a backdrop of worker unrest, with unions warning against sidelining employees and threatening industrial action if redundancy notices take effect on October 31, 2025. Many workers are also demanding the settlement of KSh5 billion in salary and allowance arrears before any transition. The government, however, insists the leasing plan is crucial for restoring competitiveness in the sugar industry, assuring that all redundancy and terminal benefits will be honoured in line with the law.



KSB chairman Nicholas Gumbo

## If Someone Is Trying To Bring You Down



It means they're already below you.

Never show our signs on them,  
Be calm and stay away from them,  
If you react to that...  
Easy for them to mess you.

Counting numbers from one to ten  
And taking a long breath,

Imagine that you're in a calm phase.  
Telling something as witty in a pretty.

Spending time in the library .  
Walking, doing meditation and yoga,  
Spend more with your favourites  
Helps us to flee.

By giving sarcastic responses  
They will stop dragging you down.

Rajesh Kanna

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

## Walking Barefoot On The Grass Is Awesome



The droplets sparkle, like stars in the sky  
Like diamonds on the green, catching the eye  
Reflecting sun rays, in a beautiful sight  
All worries vanish, in the morning's dew

In this peaceful moment, mind is free  
All are Connected to nature so free  
The dew drops on the feet is a treasure  
A blessing in the morning beyond comparison

Brinda D

GRADUATE TEACHER,  
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,  
MELPATTAMPACKAM  
CUDDALORE, Tamilnadu India  
creativewritersmag@gmail.com

Walking barefoot on the grass is awesome  
Early morning, with dew drops on grass  
The feeling is fantastic, unexplainable  
No words can capture, the joy

Warm feet connect with cool, fresh dew  
Like kissing a newborn baby  
Fresh air gently touches the face  
Dew on the feet, is a wonderful delight

## Shirinova An Astronomical Professor And Scholar



Shirinova Inobat Anvarovna was born in 1957 in Oxunboboyev village, Sirdaryo district, Tashkent region. After graduating from secondary school in 1974, she entered the Tashkent State Pedagogical Institute named after Nizamiy and successfully completed her studies there in 1979.

Inobat Shirinova began her professional career in 1979 as a teacher at School No. 31 of the Oxunboboyev collective farm in Sirdaryo district. Later, she was accepted to work on a competitive basis at the Faculty of Biology of the Sirdaryo State Pedagogical Institute named after G'afur G'ulom. In 1987, she was admitted as a trainee at the Institute of

Biochemistry of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, and in the same year, she enrolled in the full-time postgraduate program. After completing her postgraduate studies, Inobat Shirinova continued her career at the Pedagogical Institute.

In 1993, she successfully defended her candidate's dissertation and was awarded the academic degree of Candidate of Biological Sciences. Currently, Inobat Shirinova works as an Associate Professor at the Department of General Biology. She has published about 40 scientific and methodological works. The scholar delivers lectures and conducts practical classes in "Biology," "Physiology," and "Histology."

Inobat Anvarovna is also actively involved in the university's public life. She has served as a scientific advisor to students of the faculty and as head of the department. In her scientific and social activities, she has demonstrated herself as a capable organizer, modest, and morally mature employee.

## Silence Is The Best Attitude



Silence becomes the language, when your heart cries out.

Silence becomes the weapon to shout out.

Silence is the best way to strengthen yourself.  
Silence becomes the best teacher to assess thyself.

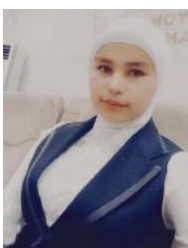
Silence conveys many things that words cannot do.  
Silence can be understood by only who are true to you.

Silence paves the way to win any situation.  
Silence makes you strong and win over the game.

By, Mrs. Gulzar Jahan  
(English B T)

PUMS Chinna Obulapuram  
Gummidipoondi block  
Tiruvallur Dt.

## Happy Teachers' Day, Dear Teachers!



Born in the garden of love, yet without a flower,

A heart that rejoices every hour.  
You are the ones worthy of sweet words,  
Happy holiday, dear women of the world!

The skies shine their light just for you,  
Morning nightingales sing to bring joy anew.

All greetings and blessings are with you,  
Happy holiday, dear women of the world!

From your sweet words, the world takes delight,

Your hearts are full of love, shining bright.  
With tender words we say, pure and clear,  
Happy Teachers' Day, dear teachers!

Yulduz Xolmuminova was born on September 18, 2007, in Qarshi district. She is currently a student of the Faculty of Pedagogy at Shahrizabz State Pedagogical Institute, majoring in Biology. Due to her passion for poetry, she often engages in creative writing and is known as a person of artistic thinking.



Forget the ones who made you cry,  
Lift your head and reach the sky.  
Life's a gift, so live it true,  
With brighter souls surrounding you.

Though love once led you far astray,  
You learned your strength along the way.  
No one can break the heart you own,  
You rise again, you stand alone.

Their role is done, their page is past,  
But your great story still will last.  
A thousand dreams remain to chase,  
A thousand smiles will take their place.

Don't burn the book for one dark line,  
The rest still holds a light divine.  
Each page can shine with joy and cheer,  
A better chapter waits so near.

So walk ahead with hope and grace,  
Let peace and courage fill your space.  
Life is once, so make it bright,  
And live each day in love and light.

Durgadevi V  
BT Assistant  
GHS Nesal  
Tiruvannamalai District

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## BUSINESS

## Murang'a Tea Farmers Lament Over Low Bonus

By: Kenya News Agency  
 @themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The huge disparity and decline in prices have triggered uproar among farmers, who are now demanding government intervention to stabilize the sector and cushion them against global market fluctuations.
- KTDA however attributes the sharp decline in earnings to a slump in global market prices for tea.
- Charles Mwangi, a smallholder farmer who delivers his green leaf to Kanyenyaini Tea Factory, said the payout was a major blow and he was still reeling from the shock of the payout announcement.
- “We are very disappointed by this year’s prices because we have loans that we can no longer service. I had taken one to pay my son’s college fees,” he said.



Tea.

Tea farmers in Murang'a are expressing outrage and despair over a sharp drop in this year's bonus payments, which they say has left them struggling to repay loans and meet household needs.

This year, factories in the East Rift covering Mt Kenya region will pay between KSh26 and KSh57 per kilogramme, while those in Rift Valley and South Nyanza will receive between KSh10 and KSh32 per kilo.

For the 2023-2024 financial year, the highest tea bonus paid was KSh62.8 per kilogramme.

The farmers, who have long depended on tea as their primary source of income, say the 2025 bonus payout is the lowest in years dropping by more than KSh10 per kilo, a blow they fear will cripple livelihoods across the county.

The huge disparity and decline in prices have triggered uproar among farmers, who are now demanding government intervention to stabilize the sector and cushion them against global market fluctuations.

KTDA however attributes the sharp decline in earnings to a slump in global market prices for tea.

Charles Mwangi, a smallholder farmer who delivers his green leaf to Kanyenyaini Tea Factory, said the payout was a major blow and he was still reeling from the shock of the payout announcement.

“We are very disappointed by this

year's prices because we have loans that we can no longer service. I had taken one to pay my son's college fees,” he said.

“In fact, I am now considering uprooting my tea bushes for an alternative crop, even though my family solely depends on tea.”

Mwangi revealed that last year they received Sh51 per kilo, but this year they will only receive KSh33 per kilo.

The drop, he says, has thrown many tea farmers into financial uncertainty.

“This is a significant drop considering the cost of operations, like farm inputs, transport and labour has remained high thus we will remain trapped in debts for a long time,” he lamented

In Kangema constituency, Esther Wanjiru, who delivers her green leaf to Githambo Tea factory echoes similar sentiments.

“I have been farming tea for 15 years now and every year we receive promises of stable prices but now we seem to be making two steps ahead and six steps backwards.”

“Most of us depend solely on tea. When the prices fall like this, everything stops; paying school fees, feeding our families, and repaying loans,” she said.

Another farmer who also delivers his green leaf to Githambo tea factory, Peter Karanja, said he is already considering diversifying into avocado farming, citing uncertainty in the

tea market.

“We have been patient for years hoping the prices would stabilize, but this cycle of disappointment is too much.”

Last year we received KSh49 per kilo; this year the payout is at KSh32 per kilo, some of us are already uprooting tea bushes and planting other crops even as we consider joining private entities whose prices remain constant all year long,” he said.

During a Bottom-Up Economic Empowerment Forum at General Kago Stadium in Murang'a on Friday graced by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, leaders from the region called on the state to cushion tea farmers against fluctuating global market prices.

Kangema MP Peter Kihungi said tea farmers form the backbone of Murang'a's rural economy and deserve better protection from unstable global prices.

They said stabilizing prices of tea, coffee, and milk is key to the success of the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

They also urged President William Ruto to prioritize interventions for farmers, noting that stabilizing rural economies would not only sustain livelihoods but also curb rural-urban migration.

“Empowering our farmers is empowering the nation and we must ensure that the backbone sectors that

is tea, coffee, and milk are stable and rewarding enough to sustain livelihoods,” said Kangema MP Peter Kihungi

Mathioya MP Edwin Mugo echoed the call, saying the government must prioritize farmers in its economic planning.

“When farmers earn well, local economies thrive. We must move beyond promises and ensure fair pricing, local value addition, and reliable markets for their produce,” he said.

Nominated MP Sabina Chege said value addition at factory level would shield farmers from unpredictable global shifts often driven by private middlemen and export brokers.

“In this region we have 11 tea factories, and if value addition is done at factory level, it will ensure that prices do not fluctuate from time to time” she stated, adding,

“As it stands, value addition is being done by private entities, which means our farmers will always be affected and, with time, they will be unable to even support their children through school,”

Chege admitted that this year's drop is so significant that some disgruntled farmers are already thinking of alternative means of livelihood as opposed to tea farming.



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# Strong Collaborations With Industry And TVET Institutes In East Africa Have Resulted In Improved Employment

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- The results were revealed during the Africa Skills for Jobs Policy Academy, organised by the World Bank in collaboration with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and held in Nairobi from Monday to Friday last week.
- “Our experience has shown that when we align training to the needs of industry, young people get jobs quickly. The 16 Flagship TVET Institutes for Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, under EASTRIP, have established partnerships with more than 300 private sector companies to assist in curriculum design. This ensures that what students learn in classrooms matches what employers demand in the workplace,” said Dr. Cosam Joseph, EASTRIP Regional Project Coordinator at IUCEA.

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes in East Africa have established strong collaborations with industry, resulting in improved graduate employment across the region.

Graduate employment, among 16 Regional Flagship Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania; under the World Bank funded East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) has risen to 80 per cent within six months of graduation.

This is up from 47 per cent before the project began. The gains are also evident for women, with female graduate employment improving from 51 per cent to 74 per cent.

The results were revealed during the Africa Skills for Jobs Policy Academy, organised by the World Bank in collaboration with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and held in Nairobi from Monday to Friday last week.

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The 16 TVET Institutes have established over 300 partnerships with private sector companies to design over 500 new demand-driven programs, ranging from renewable energy and geothermal science to aviation, transport logistics, manufacturing, and hospitality.

In Kenya, the KenGen Geothermal Training Centre has established a regional centre of excellence in geothermal technology.

In Tanzania, the National Institute of Transport launched aviation and logistics courses, with graduates now working in regional airlines. General Wingate Polytechnic in Ethiopia expanded into manufacturing and leather technology, linking young people directly to local industries.

“In aviation and the broader transport sector, we have partnered with airlines and logistics firms to design training programmes. Our graduates are being absorbed by industry almost immediately after graduation,” said Eng. Dr. Prosper L. Mgaya, Rec-

tor of the National Institute of Transport, Tanzania.

“Our training model is industry-based because our KenGen Geothermal Training Centre is part of KenGen, the electricity generation company in Kenya. This allows us to give students real work experience as part of the training to prepare specialists who can step directly into critical roles in the renewable energy sector,” Ms. Risper Kandie, a Geologist and Centre Leader, KenGen Geothermal Training Centre, Kenya

“With support from the World Bank, through EASTRIP, KenGen Geothermal Training Centre has transformed from an inhouse training unit of KenGen to a fully-fledged TVET Institute,” said Kandie.

As a result, student enrolment in the 16 Regional Flagship TVET Institutes increased from 6,971 to 57,857, with women making up about 19,000 of the students, a breakthrough in attracting female learners to technical fields long dominated by men.

“We began with only six programmes. Today we run over twenty demand-driven programmes developed with industries. The partnership model has made our graduates more attractive to employers and reduced drop-out rates,” said Zekarias Gebre Belayneh, Project & International Relations Coordinator, General Wingate Polytechnic College, Ethiopia.

“As an employer, I can state that our collaboration with TVET Institutes in Ethiopia has bridged the gap between training and employment. We now receive graduates who are industry-ready because they were trained using real production settings and industry-designed curricula,” said Mr. Belachew Admasu Alemu, Managing Director, Sheraton Addis, Ethiopia.

Through the project, countries in East Africa, are strengthening collaboration through the the Regional TVET Qualifications Framework and 204 mutually recognised qualifications, enabling graduates to work across borders without barriers. This harmonisation is paving the way for a common East African labour market.

“The Regional TVET Qualification Framework allows employers in Tanzania to recruit TVET graduates trained in Kenya or Ethiopia, and vice versa, with confidence that their qualifications meet the required standards,” said Dr. Cosam Joseph.

The movement of students between the three countries has also increased, with more than 2,000 students crossing borders to study in neighbouring countries up from just 31 when the project began.



Principal Secretary for TVETs Dr. Esther Muoria, PhD, Principal Secretary during the opening ceremony of the Africa Skills for Jobs Policy Academy, organised by the World Bank in collaboration with the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and held in Nairobi last week. Photos/Courtesy..



World Bank Global Director of Education, Luis Benveniste at the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology, Ngong Campus, one of the 16 regional flagship institutes in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania under the World Bank-funded East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP).



TVET students from the Kiambu National Polytechnic, one of the 16 regional flagship institutes in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania under the World Bank-funded East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP).

“We have been to exchange students and staff with other TVET institutes in East Africa. Students from Tanzania and Ethiopia have come to our institute to study together with Kenyans, exchange ideas, and build networks that will serve them for life,” Mr. Evans Onyango, Head of Research and Innovations at Kisumu National Polytechnic.

# Australian Red Napier Grass Transforming Dairy Farming In Kiambu County

By: MKT Reporter  
 @themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- The crop, originally developed in Australia for dryland forage, was introduced to Kenya through agricultural research collaborations and pilot projects five years ago.
- Its rapid growth, disease resistance, and ability to thrive even in changing climatic conditions have made it a preferred choice among dairy farmers facing pasture shortages and fluctuating milk production.
- Steven Kariuki, a 38-year-old dairy farmer in Githunguri Sub-county, is part of a growing wave of farmers redefining dairy production through the adoption of Australian red napier grass. His success story reflects the broader shift transforming Kiambu's dairy landscape.
- "When I started dairy farming, I never thought grass could be this valuable. Now, people come from other counties to buy it from me," said Kariuki with a smile.



Australian Red Napier Grass

Australian red napier grass is steadily gaining popularity across Kenya, particularly in counties such as Kiambu, long regarded as the heart of the country's dairy industry.

Praised for its high yield, resilience, and superior nutritional value, the grass is transforming how small-holder farmers feed their livestock and earn a living from their land.

The crop, originally developed in Australia for dryland forage, was introduced to Kenya through agricultural research collaborations and pilot projects five years ago.

Its rapid growth, disease resistance, and ability to thrive even in changing climatic conditions have made it a preferred choice among dairy farmers facing pasture shortages and fluctuating milk production.

Steven Kariuki, a 38-year-old dairy farmer in Githunguri Sub-county, is part of a growing wave of farmers redefining dairy production through the adoption of Australian red napier grass. His success story reflects the broader shift transforming Kiambu's dairy landscape.

"When I started dairy farming, I never thought grass could be this valuable. Now, people come from other counties to buy it from me," said Kariuki with a smile.

Kariuki, who manages a 10-acre farm, replaced half of his traditional Napier crop with the Australian variety in 2023. Within months, he observed a marked improvement in his herd's productivity.

"Before switching, my cows produced about 15 liters of milk per day," he added "Now, with the red napier, the average is 25 litres. The grass is more nutritious, and it grows back quickly after harvest," he said.

The benefits extend beyond the farm gate. With surplus yields, Kariuki began drying and baling the grass for sale to other dairy producers. Bundles of red napier cuttings fetch between Sh25 and Sh30 apiece, depending on the number of cuttings a farmer is buying.

What started as a small side business has grown into a regional trade, supplying feed to farmers in neighboring Murang'a, Kajiado

and Nyandarua counties, and even across the border into Uganda and Tanzania.

"I never thought I'd be exporting grass. But demand keeps rising. Farmers in dry areas especially like it because it stays green longer," he said.

Agricultural experts attribute the crop's success to its adaptability and nutritional composition. According to data from the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Australian red napier has a crude protein content of up to 16 percent, compared to an average of 10 percent in conventional napier grass. It also matures faster that is within 75 days of planting and allows up to eight harvests annually.

Dr Grace Mwangi, a livestock nutrition specialist at KALRO, said the grass could play a significant role in enhancing Kenya's dairy competitiveness.

"Feed costs account for more than 60 percent of milk production expenses. By adopting high-quality fodder like red napier, farmers can

lower costs and increase output sustainably," she explained.

County governments are now encouraging wider adoption of the crop. In Kiambu, extension officers have launched training programmes to guide farmers on cultivation, harvesting, and preservation techniques.

Back on his farm, Kariuki plans to expand his acreage under red napier and invest in mechanized baling equipment, to meet growing demand. "It's more than fodder, it's become a business," he said.

As Kenya's dairy sector continues to evolve, the Australian red napier grass is emerging as both a productivity booster and a symbol of agricultural innovation rooted in local resilience.

# Tanzania's Zanzibar Woman Blends Chinese Acupuncture With Local Healing To Empower Others

By: Xinhua

@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

“Since I began, I’ve treated many patients, about 90 each month, most of them women,” she told Xinhua recently. “People here truly appreciate acupuncture. It’s natural, effective, and helps them find relief.” As women around the world prepare to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, often known as the Beijing Women’s Conference, through the Global Summit of Women held in Beijing later this month, Abdallah’s experience reflects one of the key themes of that landmark conference: empowering women through education, skills, and leadership.

At Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, empowerment is taking shape through acupuncture needles and the spirit of collaboration, with the acupuncture unit standing as a symbol of women’s leadership in healthcare, a reminder that empowerment comes not only through policy but through practice.



Bai Xinyu (L), a member of the Chinese medical team, gives guidance to Tanzanian traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioner Fatma Ally Abdallah during a cupping therapy session at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar, Tanzania, Oct. 4, 2025. (Xinhua/Nuridin Pallangyo)

At the acupuncture therapy unit of Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Tanzania’s Zanzibar, the soft sound of needles being prepared mingles with the calm voices of practitioners, mostly women trained in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

Among them is Fatma Ally Abdallah, a TCM practitioner who joined the hospital’s acupuncture department in 2021. “I learned acupuncture right here from the Chinese medical team,” she said with a proud smile. “Every year, new Chinese doctors come, teaching us different acupuncture points for conditions like sciatica, stroke, and facial paralysis. Each visit brings us something new.” Abdallah’s journey into TCM began when she was introduced to acupuncture, cupping, and massage therapy. What started as curiosity soon turned into a calling.

“Since I began, I’ve treated many patients, about 90 each month, most of them women,” she told Xinhua recently. “People here truly appreciate acupuncture. It’s natural, effec-

tive, and helps them find relief.” As women around the world prepare to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, often known as the Beijing Women’s Conference, through the Global Summit of Women held in Beijing later this month, Abdallah’s experience reflects one of the key themes of that landmark conference: empowering women through education, skills, and leadership.

At Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, empowerment is taking shape through acupuncture needles and the spirit of collaboration, with the acupuncture unit standing as a symbol of women’s leadership in healthcare, a reminder that empowerment comes not only through policy but through practice. For Bai Xinyu, a female TCM doctor stationed at the hospital, the mission goes beyond treating patients. “I believe in health equality,” Bai said. “As a woman, I understand the cultural taboos local female patients face. Combining acupuncture with modern medicine

respects their customs while ensuring effective treatment.” Her work, she said, is about empathy as much as it is about expertise. “A doctor’s value isn’t just in skills, but in understanding people,” she explained. “When I see a local nurse become confident in her work after training, that’s the most meaningful result.”

Zhou Fang, another member of the Chinese medical team, has viewed TCM as a valuable partner in the local healthcare system, noting that acupuncture works well for chronic conditions like arthritis, back pain, and recovery after a stroke. “I demonstrate, then supervise local practitioners as they perform the procedure themselves,” he said. “The goal is for them to become independent. We’re not just providing aid; we’re building a team that will continue the work long after we’re gone.” He praised his Tanzanian colleagues for their resilience and dedication. “As nurses, they are hard-working. As learners, they are eager. This partnership is mutual; we share

our knowledge, and we also learn from their experience.” At Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, the bridge between Chinese and Tanzanian medicine continues to grow, built by steady hands, shared knowledge, and a common belief in the power of healing. Abdallah dreams of going to China one day to further her studies. “I’ve learned a lot here,” she said. “But I want to learn more, to master acupuncture and bring that knowledge back home.” Her aspiration echoes the spirit of the 1995 Beijing conference, which called for women’s full participation in science, education, and development. Today, as nations mark the 30th anniversary of the conference, women like Abdallah, Bai, and their colleagues are living proof of that vision in action.

# The Boy Child Matters Too

By: Paula O.M.OTUKILE

@themkenyatimes

On the fight against GBV the eyes are on the girl child and the mother respectively but there is a lot going today concerning open sexuality and liberty for one to be whatever they feel. This emancipation of the LGTB has come with positive changes of welcoming everyone as they are and fresh liberation movements and social action due to more awareness on the issues of sexuality and acceptance. However there is an unbecoming pattern of some gay men who have a regular tendency of abusing young boys, which is not right.

Like they did to choose their sexuality and express themselves they ought to let young boys grow and choose who they are too, not force them into sexual activity at a tender age for their pleasure without consent.

During the school holidays and weekends that's when the preys

strikes, so parents must be careful who they leave their kids with.

October 2023 became a nightmare to some family as one student who was writing primary school leaving examinations was raped by a neighbor, this boy was traumatized and a teacher and the school head had to intervene and involved the police. It is with a heavy heart that today another incident occurred where a teacher allegedly said to have killed himself due to shame of fear of confrontation after being ambushed of repetitive incidents of violating a boy in Shoshong, near Mahalapye village.

School must be a safe place where a child feels free and confident and comes back with positive feedback stories of having learnt and being fulfilled.

A Teacher is a parent, a guardian and a safe place for the children. They are the second parents to children. There is a need to reinforce order in schools to remind teachers who they are, in the eyes of the kids they teach, to the schools and the community.

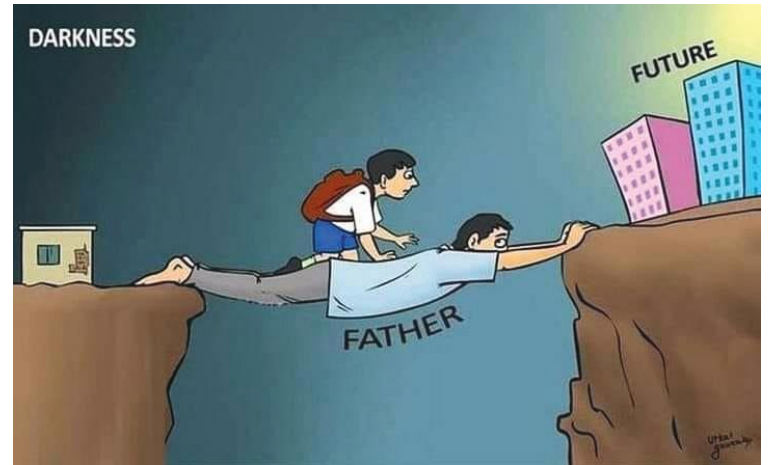
When an educator violates students

it takes away the trust of the parents on the educators that they are wolves not protectors of these kids, it kills the prestige and the honor of decades of what a teacher is. The trauma is too much for the child and the colleagues as well as the entire school and the parents.

The narrative that depicts a girl to be the only abused person or a woman gives abusers a bigger room to thrive and do rubbish with too much liberty because both genders suffer abuse.

There are homes which men are quiet because they are abused and fear to be labeled because they are beaten by a woman. The police must take action if such people come to report. There must be no biases. The boy child tend to grow with too much fear to speak out in terms of abuse by men, women or anyone because the expectations are he should be man enough or strong. The strong people are those who report abuse and who stand against any injustice not shy away from their problems.

When we emancipate the girl child let's include the boy child too. There



St Benedict Kipsamoite Secondary School sports team.

is a lot going behind close doors concerning the boy child that is why some end up doing drugs and smoke earlier.

A child needs love, education, clothes, food, the right to play and to be free as well as to feel peaceful and a shelter to call home and a school to learn, but if these are taken away from him through abuse of any kind is a great tragedy and traumat-

ic to a young soul.

These two incidents verify that there is a lot to be done in terms of raising awareness about sexuality on the children and in schools. Teachers must stop abuse, parents must stop abuse, children must not abuse each other. People must live in peace

# Jerop: A Conrad Reporter

By: Conrad Nyakundi

@themkenyatimes

In the heart of Nandi County, one educator is redefining what it means to be a teacher. Ms. Faith Jerop of St Benedict Kipsamoite Secondary School is not only shaping minds in the classroom but also inspiring hearts on the field and in the community.

**A Teacher Beyond the Classroom:** Ms. Jerop's dedication to holistic education is evident in her tireless efforts to promote co-curricular activities. Her passion for sports led her to coach the school's girls' handball team, which recently made headlines by advancing to the regional level during Term II games held in Eldoret. Her leadership and commitment have transformed the team into a force to be reckoned with, instilling discipline, teamwork, and confidence in her players.

**Mentorship Through Writing:** Beyond the pitch, Ms. Jerop is a mentor with a mission. Through her writing ministry, she has authored two im-



Ms. Faith Jerop of St Benedict Kipsamoite Secondary School

portant books: What Makes a Successful Student and Student Leaders Master Guide. These works serve as powerful tools for student empowerment, focusing on academic excellence and leadership development.

Her mentorship journey has taken her to several schools across the region, where she has conducted inspirational talks and donated copies of

her books. Beneficiary institutions include Kimong Secondary, Cheptonon Secondary, Cheptil Secondary, Kemeloi Boys, and St Mathew's Girls. Her outreach reflects a deep commitment to giving back to society and nurturing the next generation of leaders.

**A Legacy of Impact:** Ms. Jerop's multifaceted role as a mentor, teach-



St Benedict Kipsamoite Secondary School sports team

er, and coach exemplifies the transformative power of educators who go beyond the call of duty. Her story is a testament to the impact one individual can have when driven by purpose, passion, and a heart for service.

As her students rise in leadership and her athletes shine in competition, Ms. Jerop continues to be a beacon of inspiration—proof that true education happens not just in textbooks, but in the lives we touch.

**Stepping Into Leadership: KUP-PET Aspirant**

In addition to her roles in education and mentorship, Ms. Faith Jerop is now stepping into the arena of union

leadership as an aspirant for the position of 3rd Assistant Gender Secretary in the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUP-PET), Nandi Branch. Her candidacy reflects a deep commitment to advocating for gender equity, empowering female educators, and amplifying the voices of teachers across the county. With her proven track record in mentorship and community engagement, Ms. Jerop brings a fresh perspective and unwavering dedication to the role.

# SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS  
SCORES  
OPINIONS  
STATISTICS  
SCHEDULES  
BREAKING NEWS



**Sports >>** \*Kianyaga Football Club (FC) has booked a spot in Governor Anne Waiguru's Minji Minji Football Cup finals after edging out Kiburu FC in a tense penalty shout out.

## Kianyaga Through To Finals Of Governor Waiguru's Football Tournament



By MKT Correspondent

Kianyaga Football Club (FC) has booked a spot in Governor Anne Waiguru's Minji Minji Football Cup finals after edging out Kiburu FC in a tense penalty shout out.

This after the two teams ended in a 1-1 draw in regular time during a thrilling semi-final encounter played last weekend at the Mwea GK Prisons Grounds.

Kianyaga FC will face off with either Kiamaina FC or Kaitheri FC in final match to be played at Wang'uru Stadium on Sunday.

The winning team will walk away with KSh1.5 million, while the runners-up will take home

KSh1 million. The team finishing third will pocket KSh750,000, while the fourth-placed team will walk away with KSh500,000.

Kianyaga captain Dennis Kariuki hailed the tournament for its transformative impact on young people.

"We are very thankful to Governor Anne Waiguru for commissioning this tournament because it has brought out all the youth," he said.

Kariuki further emphasized the team's ambition going into the final. "We have never had such a big tournament, with a prize of KSh1.5 million. We are planning to win the tournament and go home with the top prize."

Despite the defeat, Kiburu FC captain Kennedy Maina said the team had come a long way to get to the semi-finals.

"The games have been very tough and we have come a long way as a team. To reach this far in the league, we thank God and we are proud of the effort we put in."

The second semi-final which pitted Kiamaina FC against Kaitheri FC was aborted in second round following disagreement over a penalty awarded against Kiamaina FC by the referee.

The two teams will meet for a replay later in the week.

County Executive Committee Member for Sports, Dennis

Musyimi, described the semi-finals as a culmination of weeks of thrilling football.

"The tournament has gone on well, helping keep our youth away from drug and substance abuse. The turnout has been great across all the games, and now the teams that win today will face off at the finals," Musyimi said.

The Governor Anne Waiguru's Minji Minji Football Cup has grown into one of the biggest grassroots tournaments in Kenya, not only providing a platform for talent development but also offering life-changing rewards.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Ian Simiyu Baraza joined Tusker FC midway through last season, coming in to Ruaraka with a hot pedigree of 14 goals in half a season for Nzoia Sugar in the second tier National Super League.

# Simiyu Delighted To Finally Net A Goal In Tusker Colors, Hand Relief To Under Pressure Okere



*Ian Simiyu celebrates his late leveller against Shabana FC. PHOTO/Tusker FC*

Ian Simiyu Baraza joined Tusker FC midway through last season, coming in to Ruaraka with a hot pedigree of 14 goals in half a season for Nzoia Sugar in the second tier National Super League.

However, he found the going tough to continue his run in the top flight, and struggled to score a single goal. Well he did, against AFC Leopards, but was unfairly ruled out for offside.

However, almost nine months after joining the Brewers, Simiyu's hard work finally birthed a goal, in a hard earned 1-1 draw against Shabana FC. His 77th minute strike not only broke the duck for

him, but settled tonnes of pressure that were on coach Charles Okere's shoulders.

It was relief for both the forward and his coach; the forward to finally score, and the coach to almost save his job after Tusker's horrendous start to the season.

For Simiyu, the goal was a massive lift, especially noting that he had been battling for more playing time.

"I am really delighted because I have been praying and working so hard for this moment and I am delighted it has come. Even when I was coming on, I had the belief that I could do something to help

the team. I believe this is the start of better. This is one of many more goals and assists to come," Simiyu told the club's official social media channels after the game.

He believes the goal will be massive to push his confidence, especially after Tusker's difficult start to the campaign.

"We have to keep working hard to get results. Personally, I have been working a lot on my own, trying to improve my movements and decision making and I am very sure there is more to come for me. I now have to remain consistent throughout the season but I have a feeling that good things are

coming," Simiyu added.

Tusker goes to the international break on the bounce of back to back draws and they hope to turn them into wins when the season resumes on October 19 with a trip down to Murang'a.

*Capital Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS  
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BREAKING NEWS



# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Lynn Dowdell Elevating Every Interaction



By: Anila Bukhari

@themkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- As the founder of The Dowdell Experience™, she developed the innovative E.L.E.V.A.T.E.™ Framework, empowering leaders and entrepreneurs to elevate their interactions with clients, colleagues, and communities. Her expertise in high-touch leadership, luxury branding, and creating memorable client experiences underscores her philosophy that leadership extends beyond results—it's about building legacy and trust through meaningful engagement.
- Lynn's passion for culture and sophistication is also reflected in her work with Vin Collective, where she combines her love of wine and storytelling to craft elevated experiences that foster connection, exploration, and community. She believes wine is a universal language that unites people across diverse backgrounds, making each pour an opportunity for cultural exchange and relationship-building.

Lynn Dowdell is a visionary leader, entrepreneur, and community advocate dedicated to transforming the way individuals and organizations engage with others. Guided by a deep-rooted commitment to service, connection, and purpose, Lynn's journey has been marked by her unwavering belief that true leadership is inherently human, intentional, and impactful.

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Her influence has reached global audiences, as she has shared her insights on leadership, entrepreneurship, and empowerment across Italy, Dubai, Chicago, New York, and beyond. Recognized as the Most Inspiring Visionary Leader 2025 and recipient of the Global Recognition Award for Leadership, Service, and Mentorship, Lynn's achievements exemplify what is possible when excellence and empathy intersect.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Lynn remains committed to service. She serves as a Community Service Officer, working to foster trust and understanding between institutions and communities. Additionally, she mentors women entrepreneurs through the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center's Milestone Circles, helping elevate their voices and ventures on a global stage.

At her core, Lynn Dowdell is dedi-



Lynn Dowdell

.....  
cated to creating spaces of transformation, connection, and leadership. Her mission to elevate

every interaction reflects her belief that prestige and service can coexist to generate lasting, meaningful im-

.....  
pact for generations to come.