



Gaza Conflict: Two Years Of Devastation And Dim Prospects Ahead

As Hamas and Israel are meeting in Egypt over a potential ceasefire the world anxiously awaits, Gaza marked the grim second anniversary of the conflict on Tuesday. Over the past two years, what began as a cross-border attack by Hamas has, under the weight of political brinkmanship and superpower indulgence, snowballed into one of the world's deadliest conflicts in recent memory

Page 18

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News>>TSC, Equity to Equip Teachers with Financial Literacy, Saving Skills

P. 8. The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and Equity Bank have joined hands to promote financial literacy among teachers and also enhance Kenya's saving culture.



News>>Financial Inclusion: Sanlam Kenya Introduces Akiba Plus, A Tech-Driven Pension Solution For Flexible Retirement Planning

P. 12. Listed non-banking financial services firm Sanlam Kenya has announced the launch of the Sanlam Akiba Plus Pensions product that will be primarily delivered and distributed on its digital platform.

Cancer Patients Demand Action Over SHA Cover Gaps

Cancer patients yesterday staged a protest outside the Social Health Authority (SHA) headquarters in Upper Hill, Nairobi, demanding an increase in insurance coverage for treatment.

The protesters accused the government of turning a blind eye to their struggles, arguing that the current allocation by SHA falls far short of the actual cost of managing the disease.

At present, SHA provides Ksh.400,000 per patient annually for cancer treatment, a figure patients say is insufficient to meet the high cost of care.



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STORY ON PAGE 9

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Senate Mashinani 2025: Senators Hold First Session At Busia County Assembly

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyetimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

The Senate yesterday officially commenced its week-long plenary and committee sittings in Busia County, bringing the business of the Senate to the grassroots as part of its Senate Mashinani initiative. The historic sittings, running from Monday to Friday aim to enhance public participation and strengthen the link between the Senate and county governments.

In his opening address at the Busia County Assembly chambers, Speaker Amason Kingi emphasized that the initiative was crucial for entrenching devolution. "The sittings of the Senate outside Nairobi are designed as an innovative way of enhancing the interaction between the national and county levels of government and to entrench inclusivity in the management of public affairs in Kenya," he stated.

The week's activities began with a well-attended public hearing on the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Senate Bills NO. 13), which brought a large number of Busia residents to express their views on this critical constitutional amendment proposal.

Speaker Kingi affirmed the Senate's commitment to working with county legislatures to achieve the promise of devolution. "I would like to re-affirm the critical role that county assemblies play in our governance structure... the Senate is willing and ready to partner with county assemblies to ensure that the promise of devolution is achieved," he said.


Throughout the week, Senate committees will also hold committee meetings and field visits to assess the status of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), the effectiveness of the Busia one-stop border post, and the operationalization of industrial parks.

The Speaker thanked the Busia County Assembly for hosting the Senate sittings, and Governor Paul Otuoma and the people of Busia for extending a warm welcome to the Senate. Governor Kenneth Lusaka of Bungoma was among the dignitaries in attendance.

This is the second Senate Mashinani event in the 13th Parliament, and the fourth overall, following previous sessions in Uasin Gishu (2018), Kitui (2019), and Turkana (2023).



Editor's Desk




The Mt. Kenya Times

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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The County Government of Kiambu has intensified efforts to prevent flooding and enhance water management, with the desilting of OJ River in Ruiru taking centre stage. County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Water, Environment, and Natural Resources, David Kuria, supervised the ongoing desilting exercise of the OJ River, a key tributary of the Kiu River, being undertaken by Ruiru-Juja Water & Sewerage Company (RUJWASCO) under the leadership of Governor Kimani Wamatangi. The exercise, which involves removing silt and debris that have accumulated in the riverbed, aims to improve water flow and prevent flooding in surrounding communities. RUJWASCO is also expanding nearby streams that tend to overflow during heavy rains and plans to plant water-friendly tree species along the riverbanks to enhance natural water absorption and reduce erosion. Speaking during the supervision, CECM Kuria urged residents to avoid building on riparian land, warning that illegal encroachments contribute significantly to flooding and environmental degradation.



Rice farmers from the Kochieng Rice Irrigation Scheme in Kadibo Sub-County, Kisumu County, are appealing for urgent intervention from the county government and national disaster response agencies after a devastating hailstorm wiped out most of their rice crop. The severe storm destroyed approximately 80% of the rice, which was at a critical ripening and maturing stage. According to a preliminary assessment by the County Disaster Management team, the hailstorm affected about 148 acres of rice farms, leading to massive losses.



Women have been challenged to venture into the construction industry, which men in the country have largely dominated. UltiSmart Home Finishes company founder Rahab Kiige noted that the construction industry has been dominated by men but now time was ripe for women entrepreneurs to claim their spot in the sector. Speaking during the launch of the fourth branch of UltiSmart Home Finishes in Nanyuki town, Ms. Kiige added that her company was providing opportunities for women to manage branches, allowing them to gain knowledge in the construction industry. Basco paints Chief Executive Officer Hashim Doshi who also graced the launch noted that the government's Affordable Housing project had spurred the construction industry in a big way, with hardware merchants reaping huge profits due to the high demand for construction materials.



A total of Sh1.2 billion has been allocated to compensate civil servants who sustain permanent injuries or lose their lives while on duty. Principal Secretary State Department for Public Service and Human Capital Development, Dr. Jane Kere Imbunya says plans are underway to compensate civil servants who get incapacitated or die while on duty. She added that the president recently issued an executive order stating how civil servants who get injured or die in line of duty will be compensated and Sh1.2 billion has been set aside for the same. The PS further said that they are working on modalities to come up with a plan on who will compensate the victims or their beneficiaries incase such risks occur.

Mombasa County Government has unveiled a plan to resolve historical land injustices by operationalising the Ardhi Fund, which has been allocated Sh50 million in the 2025/2026 financial year, aimed at securing land ownership and ending perennial evictions. Governor Abdulswamad Nassir has signed into law the Public Finance Management (Mombasa County Ardhi Fund) Regulations, 2024, to promote access to affordable housing and safeguard residents against unlawful evictions. Land is a ticking time bomb in the coastal city, Mombasa has long been synonymous with land disputes that often lead to forced evictions and prolonged court battles. In every election cycle, land ownership remains one of the most politically charged issues used to sway voters. Speaking during World Habitat Day celebrations organised by Haki Yetu Organisation, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Land, Urban Planning and Housing, Mohamed Hussein, said the County is committed to ensuring secure land tenure, inclusive urban planning, and sustainable housing solutions under this year's theme, "Urban Crisis Response."

NEWS PAPER

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BYD By Loxea Kenya Confirms Growing Customer Demand As BYD UK Sells More Cars In Q1 Than Whole Of 2024

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Loxea Kenya, a subsidiary of CFAO Mobility Kenya, while celebrating BYD's impressive growth in the UK, confirmed that its sales success in Kenya is also beginning to grow, with the first BYD SHARK 6, shipment already sold out.
- Speaking in Nairobi, Loxea Kenya Managing Director, Jennifer Kinyoe said the firm has placed a replenishment order to meet fast-growing customer demand. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV), she said, are proving to be a popular customer choice as charging and after sales service infrastructure continues to grow countrywide.

A fortnight after the launch of the new BYD SHARK 6, a plug-in hybrid electric (PHEV) pickup truck, in Kenya by Loxea Kenya, the Chinese automobile manufacturer has set a new sales record in the UK, selling 9,271 cars in Q1 alone.

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Speaking in Nairobi, Loxea Kenya Managing Director, Jennifer Kinyoe said the firm has placed a replenishment order to meet fast-growing customer demand. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV), she said, are proving to be a popular customer choice as charging and after sales service infrastructure continues to grow countrywide.

"BYD vehicles are proving to be very popular models among discerning local clients in Kenya and beyond, seeking quality mobility solutions. Barely two weeks into the launch of the BYD SHARK 6, we have successfully sold the first five units shipped last month," Kinyoe said. She added, "We have placed follow-up orders and the pre-order list is growing fast, as we expect to deliver more BYD SHARK 6 vehicles to clients on the waiting list by the end of the year."

In the UK, the new sales record is not only BYD UK's most successful quarter since the company introduced passenger cars in March 2023, but also means the company sold more cars in the most recent quarter than the whole



BYD by Loxea Managing Director Jennifer Kinyoe with Lennox Mugambi NCBA Group Director, Asset Finance and Business Solutions.

of 2024 combined.

This impressive achievement has propelled BYD's UK market share to 1.6%, from 0.45% in 2024. In March alone, total market share was 1.8% – in exactly two years since the company launched passenger cars in the UK.

The SEAL U DM-i and SEAL were the standout sales stars in Q1, with the former the best performing model in the PHEV segment and the latter the seventh best-selling model in the pure electric category. The company registered 3,975 SEAL U DM-i and 2,521 SEAL.

Steve Beattie, Sales and Marketing Director, BYD UK: "I am incredibly proud of our latest achievement in the UK; thanks to the tireless work of our

team and retailer partners we have smashed yet another sales record. At BYD our mission is to bring high-tech and high-value cars to our customers, and it's great to see this resonating with UK buyers. With the addition of SEALION 7, we are confident that more people will continue to choose BYD."

The all-new BYD SEALION 7 joined the range in March and is already proving popular with customers.

Based on BYD's e-platform 3.0 and utilising the brand's innovative Blade Battery, the SEALION 7 combines sporty performance, stylish SUV design, cutting-edge technology and a beautifully finishes, spacious cabin. With an all-electric range of up to 312 miles of range, the SEALION 7 further extends the reach of BYD in the UK car market.

BYD

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TSC, Equity to Equip Teachers with Financial Literacy, Saving Skills

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

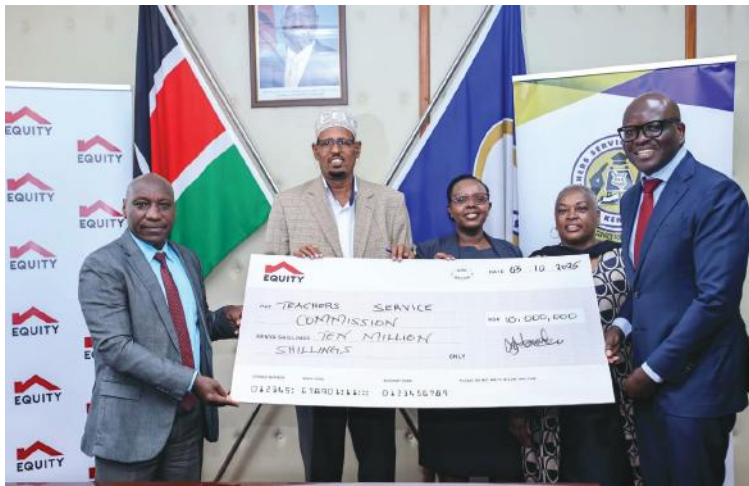
The Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and Equity Bank have joined hands to promote financial literacy among teachers and also enhance Kenya's saving culture.

This initiative will include training for newly recruited teachers, equipping them with the skills to manage their incomes effectively and in turn, instill saving habits in students from an early age.

Speaking at the TSC head office in Upperhill, Nairobi, TSC Chairman Dr Jamleck Muturi said the programme will start with teachers joining the service in January.

"Teachers joining TSC in January will undergo financial literacy training and I call on Equity Bank to support the TSC in facilitating the course," he remarked.

Further, Dr Muturi insisted that Kenya's saving culture can be improved through inclusion of financial literacy in the school's education curriculum. "Ugandans and Tanzanians are saving more than Kenyans and that is why we want to introduce financial literacy training from PP1 so that when a child is, for instance given 5 sweets, they keep one, if given five



During the handing over of the cheque....

biscuits, they keep some for the next bite," he illustrated, adding that the teachers will be recruited in January to join the current 415,000 permanent and pensionable teachers and the 20,000 others employed under internship.

"When we recruit the 24,000 teachers, we shall call on Equity to jointly train them on how to manage their incomes," he reiterated.

The TSC Chair also received a Sh10 million donation from Equity Bank Kenya Managing Director Moses Nyabanda in support and commemoration of the World Teachers Day

celebration, held last Sunday. "We are proud to stand with you as teachers, and today we are here to commit resources to walk with you," assured Nyabanda, citing the bank's vast network of 220 branches countrywide which are prepared and ready to walk with the teachers as they settle in their communities.

Further, the MD congratulated TSC for making World Teachers Day a significant celebration of the achievements of teachers, who have imparted essential skills to pupils and students, making Kenya stand out in Africa. "In Kenya, we recognise various



Equity Bank Kenya Managing Director Moses Nyabanda with TSC Chairman Dr Jamleck Muturi

other achievers but sometimes fail to celebrate the real heroes of Kenyan society—the teacher, who is the true hero. Teachers have made us who we are," he remarked.

Therefore, according to Nyabanda, Equity is set out not just to bank teachers but to transform their lives into fully-fledged entrepreneurs in addition to their profession with the multiplier effect that follows creating wealth.

In a quick rejoinder, Dr Muturi additionally highlighted the vital role teachers play in shaping professionals, stating, "A teacher is like a can-

dle that consumes itself to provide light to everyone in the process. No doctors, engineers, lawyers, or architects have not passed through the hands of a teacher."

In his remarks, TSC Director for Administrative Services, Ibrahim Mumin, also expressed gratitude to Equity Bank for its support in celebrating teachers.

He noted that the bank is a leader in the financial services industry, serving over 90,000 teachers.

"Thank you for giving all these teachers a shoulder to lean on," said Mumin.

Data Protection Commissioner Immaculate Kassait Appeared Before Assembly Committee Over Data Protection Role in Elections

By: PSCU
@themkenyatimes

Data Protection Commissioner Immaculate Kassait yesterday appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee (CIOC), chaired by Omondi Caroli, to provide detailed clarifications on data protection in the context of elections.

In her presentation, Ms. Kassait outlined the regulatory oversight exercised by her office over the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), registered political parties, and third-party service providers involved in handling personal electoral data.

She emphasized the mandatory registration and compliance obligations required under the Data Protection Act, 2019, highlighting ongoing reviews of applications from IEBC and political parties.



Some of the committee members in consultation

Ms. Kassait further detailed audits conducted on key entities such as the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) and the upcoming IEBC audit, underscoring the commitment to ensuring adherence to data protection principles.

Addressing complaints management, she reported a 97% resolution rate on over 8,000 complaints received, with most relating to digital lenders and political party registra-

tions. She noted that no enforcement measures against political parties have been necessary following ORPP's intervention.

On data breaches, Ms. Kassait confirmed that no notifications have been received from IEBC or other electoral stakeholders to date.

She also shared ongoing efforts in public awareness, including the publication of guidance notes on electoral data processing and capac-



Immaculate Kassait addressing the committee members

ity-building sessions for ORPP staff.

Highlighting challenges, Ms. Kassait cited the rapid evolution of election technologies and the need for updated legal frameworks, improved resources, and enhanced inter-agency collaboration to safeguard voter data.

Additionally, she made recommendations for legislative updates, policy enhancements and administrative

support, underscoring the need for investment in technical capacity to strengthen the protection of electoral data ahead of upcoming elections.

The Committee engaged Ms. Kassait in a robust discussion, reflecting the growing importance of data protection in maintaining election integrity and upholding citizens' constitutional privacy rights.

Cancer Patients Protest Outside SHA Headquarters Over Inadequate Cover

By: Ben Kirui
 @themtkenyatimes

Cancer patients yesterday staged a protest outside the Social Health Authority (SHA) headquarters in Upper Hill, Nairobi, demanding an increase in insurance coverage for treatment. The protesters accused the government of turning a blind eye to their struggles, arguing that the current allocation by SHA falls far short of the actual cost of managing the disease. At present, SHA provides Ksh.400,000 per patient annually for cancer treatment, a figure patients say is insufficient to meet the high cost of care. The patients, many of whom are still undergoing medication, urged the government to strengthen health insurance coverage for cancer care, saying the current allocation does not reflect the true cost of managing the disease. "We are very sad because some patients are abandoning medication

midway. We are burying patients and families are selling their properties to cover medical costs," said cancer survivor Robert Marende. "You start treatment and then it is stopped midway. When you go to the hospital, they tell you your card has been depleted," said another cancer survivor, Wambui Gatiri. They want the government to reform SHA and ensure it fully covers all essential cancer treatment services, including surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and medication. "The cancer patients only have four asks — improve the benefit design to reflect the actual cost of cancer treatment. Is Ksh.400,000 really enough?" posed one of the protesters. According to the patients, the current Ksh.550,000 allocated for the entire course of treatment is insufficient given the high cost of comprehensive cancer care. Currently, SHA provides a primary benefit of Ksh.400,000 per patient annually for cancer treatment, covering both diagnostic tests and therapy. "I underwent tests and six chemotherapy sessions, and I was told I



would need 18 injections. SHA said it would only pay partially, so I have been fundraising to cover the rest. I haven't even had my mastectomy because they say there's no money," said cancer survivor Agnes Waceke. "My family is exhausted. Treating this cancer is too expensive; we are asking for an increase in the oncology package," added Gatiri.

"This disease drains families financially. We have come to plead with the government because our families have given up. Even my husband left me because of this illness," said Margaret Wanjiru. Their petition, addressed to Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, was received by a senior ministry official. "All you are asking for here is clear.

I will deliver this to the CS," said James Ntabo, Secretary of Administration at the Ministry of Health. The protesting patients, who continue to endure the demanding process of treatment, expressed hope that the government will respond swiftly to ease the heavy financial burden of battling cancer.

National Assembly Approves Kenya Roads Bill Set To Streamline Roads Classification And Funding

By: PSCU
 @themtkenyatimes

The National Assembly has passed the Kenya Roads (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The Bill seeks to amend the Kenya Roads Act to classify public roads into two categories national trunk roads and county roads in line with the devolved system of governance.



Parliament

The Bill also makes amendments to the Kenya Roads Board Act to ensure equitable allocation of funds to both national and county governments for the maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of roads.

The six-clause Bill provides a comprehensive framework for enhancing efficiency in road management across all levels of government.

Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 47 of the Kenya Roads Act to provide for the classification of roads into national trunk roads and county roads as set out in the First Schedule. It further mandates the Cabinet Secretary

for Roads and Transport to review the classification and assignment of roads at least once every five years, ensuring that the country's road network keeps pace with infrastructural developments and emerging needs.

A new section, 47A, introduced under Clause 4, outlines the responsibilities of county governments with respect to roads within their jurisdictions. It requires county governments to adhere to national standards and policies in the roads sector, with county executive committee mem-

bers responsible for the maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of county roads.

To strengthen devolution, the Bill amends the Kenya Roads Board Act to allocate a share of road maintenance funds to county governments for the first time. Clause 6 of the Bill proposes to allocate 5 percent of the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund directly to county governments.

Under the proposed allocation structure, the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) will receive 36

| Agency Allocation | Proposed |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Constituency roads by KeRRA | 21% |
| Link roads by KeRRA | 10% |
| KeNHA | 36% |
| Kenya Urban Roads Authority | 14% |
| Kenya Wildlife Service | 1% |
| Kenya Roads Board | 1.5% |
| State Department for Roads | 1.5% |
| County Governments | 5% |
| Ministry | 10% |

Proposed allocation per agency.

percent, the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA) 21 per cent for constituency roads and 10 per cent for link roads between constituencies, the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) 14 percent, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) 1 percent, and the Kenya Roads Board (KRB) 1.5 percent. The State Department for Roads and the Ministry will receive 1.5 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

Each county government will be required to designate a department or division responsible for road works,

open a special purpose account at the Central Bank of Kenya, and submit annual road programmes to the Kenya Roads Board. These programmes, approved by the county executive committees, will ensure transparency and accountability in the use of funds.

The Kenya Roads Board will monitor and evaluate all works financed by the Fund and is empowered to take remedial or supplementary measures to ensure compliance with set standards.

East Africa Pentecostal Churches Bishop Urges Kenyans To Register As Voters

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themtkenyatimes

East Africa Pentecostal Churches Bishop Samuel Muguna has urged Kenyans and especially the youth to register as voters in high numbers so that their vote count in 2027.

“Am urging all our members and citizens to register as voters because it is what will count, not making noise or violence,” Muguna said.

There has been a low voter registration turnout that kicked off on September 29. IEBC targets 6.3 million new voters but only 7,048 have registered so far.

Muguna spoke at the East African Pentecostal Churches Headquarters in Meru town where he met pastors from across the country.

East Africa Pentecostal Churches has 1500 churches across the country.

He said unity of purpose and peace is good for the country ahead of the

2027 General Elections.

“We urge the opposition and the government to avoid reckless statements that might trigger violence in the country,” Muguna said.

He said those leaders who were elected in 2022 should not be campaigning but should instead concentrate on delivering their electoral pledges.

“Kenyans have a right to choose who they want to elect accordingly,” Muguna said.

On domestic violence the Bishop said family stability is good as it is the foundation of the church and a nation and hence domestic violence and family break outs is not good and should be avoided.

On HIV/AIDS the bishop said that Kenyans should get saved and stop immorality and stay faithful to their married spouses.

He urged the government to make sure education is free and accessible to all as it is the best gift parents can give to their children.



East African Pentecostal Church Bishop Samuel Muguna speaks to press at the church headquarters in North Imenti constituency, Meru. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.



Mudavadi Challenges Counties To Leverage On Technology And Data To Enhance Economic Planning And Strengthen Integration

By: OPCS PS

[@themkenyetimes](#)

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has advocated for leveraging on technology and data to improve service delivery in counties.

Mudavadi said for counties to harness more through their economic planning and national to county integration, embracing technology and having timely, accurate and verifiable data remains key.

He noted the digitization of public financial management processes within counties to be an enabler in real-time tracking, enhanced supply chain management, and improved decision-making through data mining and analytics.

“Let us work towards moving quicker with technology. For us to close corruption holes, do away with mismanagement and pilferage we must embrace technology. We have to find a way into the new digital world. I agree some counties are moving on well but in others much has to be done,” said Mudavadi.

“In data mining, you mine what is valuable. You don’t go and mine what is worthless,” he added.

Mudavadi pointed out at the recent roll-out of e-procurement as an example saying counties like Samburu are leading by example with systems having been put in place.

He challenged counties that are yet to embrace the use of technology to automate and streamline business procurement processes, such as sourcing, bidding, purchasing, and invoicing to follow suit.

Mudavadi was speaking in Busia county when he presided over the launch of the capacity building programme for county governments on economic planning and strengthening national - county integration mechanisms.

“Perhaps treasury should provide some data and information on which counties are doing well in moving forward with electronic procurement and which ones are not. This should act as a peer review platform for counties to learn from each other and compare with what others are doing. This will help us to know if we are sitting well or not,” poised Mudavadi.

The Prime CS challenged the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) to seize the week-long opportunity within their respective counties during the capacity

building workshops and stand out to be counted as key contributors in the national and county economic planning cadres.

He encouraged the officer to be critical players in data mining and verification for purposes of proper planning both at national and county levels as they are crucial grassroots government officials responsible for implementing national policies and programs and coordinating development at the local level.

“Politicians at times have been saying there is no need for NGAO, and now I am challenging our NGAO teams that you must find your own space and relevance. People will take you seriously when they know you have something of value. To the NGAO team (Assistant Chiefs, Chiefs, Assistant County Commissioners, Deputy County Commissioners, County Commissioners and Regional Commissioners), you can turn yourselves into a mega resource by ensuring that you are a primary source of data,” said Mudavadi.

“Get yourselves credible and hygienic data, and everybody will be looking for you, and the political clarion that keep saying that we can do away with these people, they start thinking twice, because you will be standing out as a crucial data centre. I urge you to convert yourselves into data centres with valuable information that will help the country plan and this is where your relevance is going to be anchored,” he emphasized,” he added.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary further warned counties against harming both local and foreign investors at county levels.

He said such incidents damage bilateral relations with foreign partners and erode investor confidence both locally and internationally.

Mudavadi, also the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs said foreign investments just like local investments in our respective counties must be properly safeguarded.

“We want to woo investors. As counties in the planning process make sure that your records are accurate, make sure your land tenure systems are accurate and up to date. Get information that is clear on what is the lead time for an investor who wants to set up a factory and the time you give the investor clearance and all the requirements for him/her to set up the factory. Does it take 3 years, does it take 5 years depending on how it varies from county to county.” Noted Mudavadi.



“We must figure out what are we doing ourselves to provide the right environment that will act as a magnet for investors who want to come our respective counties. Don’t be hostile to investors, previously I have given an example of one county where an investor was a victim of local politics that led to the destruction of his hotel industry investment,” Mudavadi regretted.

Adding that “The investor moved to court, the courts ruled in his favour awarding compensation for breach of contract and unlawful eviction. The locals couldn’t manage to pay thus creating a national crisis and now treasury is bearing the brunt and carrying the burden to pay the bill to the French investor who was chased away by very petty local politics. Now it has escalated to become a national issue of concern between Kenya and France.”

Previously Mudavadi has been quoted saying that competition for Foreign Direct Investment is absolutely essential for investment, employment and revenue growth.

“Please treat investors with dignity, obey the law and follow the laid regulations by your respective counties for us to attract investment and economic growth.” Said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi said it is time relevant stakeholders relook at the model governing the inter-border trade relations especially for counties that sit within the territorial borders with our trading neighbouring countries like Uganda.

“Uganda is our largest trading partner in the region but Busia, Migori and Bungoma actually benefit least on the revenues that emerge from such partnerships. We need to see

how to improve on such arrangements that will give enhanced trade benefits.” noted the Prime CS.

Mudavadi acknowledged that the national government under President Ruto’s administration has really stepped up in remitting the monies for county governments under the framework of the shared revenue as governed by the Commission on Revenue Allocation.

“Right now, it is only September that is pending, and treasury has assured county governments that the long-protracted delays are soon coming to an end with the September tranche expected to be released next week.” noted the Prime CS.

However, Mudavadi who once served as the Minister for Local Government and also as Minister for Finance in the previous regimes, cautioned county governments that are

“The true strength of devolution in our counties will actually manifest the day counties will be raising more from their own source revenue than that which they expect from the national government. That is where the true independence of counties will

come from.” he remarked.

“The truth of the matter shows several counties have abandoned working on their own source revenues. They are now becoming totally dependent on the national share. The question is who is undermining the independence of counties? Is it the national government or is it those in counties who have decided to slacken on their own source revenue collection aspect? The data is there with the Commission of Revenue Allocation, it is a public document, and you will realise that the percentage of own source revenue that is there, in some instances, has become less than even what used to be collected when they were councils. It will reach a stage where, he who pays the piper calls the tune, so county governments should pull up their socks,” warned Mudavadi.

Mudavadi said the national government is taking a vital step in renewing its commitment to closely support and work with county governments in the transformation journey for a more prosperous Kenya.



Financial Inclusion: Sanlam Kenya Introduces Akiba Plus, A Tech-Driven Pension Solution For Flexible Retirement Planning

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Listed non-banking financial services firm Sanlam Kenya has announced the launch of the Sanlam Akiba Plus Pensions product that will be primarily delivered and distributed on its digital platform.

The new mobile-first Sanlam Akiba Plus has been designed to boost life insurance product penetration and retirement savings growth, while allowing for self-service convenience and online onboarding for digitally savvy consumers.

The launch of the product aligns with recently released industry statistics issued by the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), confirming that Kenya's insurance industry had recorded robust growth in the second quarter of the year, driven by Digital Transformation initiatives and Regulatory Reforms. According to the IRA, during the period under review (Q2 2025), the long-term (Life) insurance business reported gross written premiums of KES 110.39 billion, representing a 17.7% growth compared to the same quarter in 2024.

Speaking when she confirmed the launch of the new Sanlam Akiba Plus, Sanlam Life CEO Jacqueline Karasha said the firm is investing heavily in Insurance Technology (InsurTech) innovation, research, and development to boost the uptake of digital Life Insurance products. She further affirms, "Our goal with Akiba Plus is to close the pension gap in Kenya by offering a simple, credible and future-ready solution that works for everyone. This is about helping Kenyans save consistently and retire with dignity."

Sanlam Life, a member of the Sanlam Kenya Group, is actively working to promote financial inclusion and accelerate national savings through pensions products in Kenya by delivering digital solutions that empower individuals and businesses to take control of their financial future.

"The development of Sanlam Akiba Plus underscores the wider commitment and investment by Sanlam Kenya to enhance the delivery and distribution of insurance products through



Sanlam Life Head of Innovations Isaac Mwangi (left) with Sanlam Life CEO Jacqueline Karasha (centre) the firm's Head of Retirement Benefits Jack Marwa share a light moment at the Sanlam Akiba Plus, pension solution launch.

Worth Noting:

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robust digital platforms," Dr. Patrick Tumbo, Group CEO, Sanlam Kenya said.

He added, "With Sanlam AkibaPlus, our existing and potential clients will now enjoy convenient access to a platform that allows them to take charge of their savings, increase their wealth and grow their retirement savings."

The mobile-first Sanlam Akiba Plus platform allows users to self-onboard into personal pension plans, while enabling employers and SME entrepreneurs to set up workplace pension schemes for their employees.

To meet the diverse retirement needs of individuals, groups and businesses, Akiba Plus brings together four innovative pension products, each designed to provide flexibility, security and convenience:

These are; Akiba Plus Personal Pension Plan (IPP): A flexible, tax-efficient savings plan designed for indi-

viduals who want to take charge of their financial future. With the IPP, savers can contribute at their own pace, enjoy tax relief benefits, and track their investment growth in real-time through the digital platform.

The other is; Akiba Plus Post-Retirement Medical Fund (PRMF): This is a specialized savings and investment solution designed to help individuals prepare for healthcare expenses in retirement. As medical costs continue to rise, PRMF provides a structured and tax-efficient way to build a dedicated fund that ensures access to quality healthcare when it's needed most—after active employment ends.

The third one is; Akiba Plus Employer Umbrella Plan (UPP): A comprehensive solution for businesses that want to support their employees' long-term financial security. Sanlam provides comprehensive administrative and regulatory support, while employers benefit from seamless

payroll integration, automated compliance, and the ability to offer staff an attractive retirement benefit that boosts loyalty and morale.

The fourth innovative scheme is; NSSF Tier II Compliant Pension Plan: A compliant, digital-first alternative to the mandatory Tier II contributions under the NSSF Act. This plan enables employers to channel contributions into Akiba Plus for potentially higher returns, while providing employees with the transparency, flexibility, and convenience of managing their retirement savings online.

All Sanlam Akiba Plus contributions will be guaranteed against capital depreciation and will earn a guaranteed minimum return of 5%.

The scheme's assets will be managed in accordance with the Trust Deed and Rules, Investment Policy Statement (IPS) and the Retirement Benefits Act.



Government To Produce Enough Certified Seeds To Eliminate Sub-Standard Ones

By: KNA
 @themkenyatimes

Kenya Seed Company has committed to producing sufficient quantities of top-quality certified seeds in an effort to eliminate the use of substandard and uncertified seeds among farmers across the country.

Speaking during the Agitech Grand Expo held in Mitithi, Mwea, Kirinyaga County, Kenya Seed Company Chairperson Wangui Ngirici assured farmers that all necessary measures were being put in place to meet the country's seed demand and curb the circulation of fake seeds.

Ngirici noted that a shortage of certified seeds in the market has created a loophole exploited by unscrupulous traders, who distribute counterfeit seeds to unsuspecting farmers severely affecting food production and security.

"I would like to tell Kenyans that what results into bad seed getting into the market mostly is the opportunity taken by the unscrupulous people

who, when the supply is low, make fake seeds and supply to the market," Wangui noted.

She also urged farmers to embrace crop diversification, advising that if certified seed for one crop is unavailable, they could opt for alternatives that were in supply.

"I'm asking the farmers not to go for the cheap because cheap ends up becoming very expensive by causing very low yield or no produce at all," the chairperson said.

To further combat counterfeit seeds, Ngirici announced that the government, through the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), has introduced a verification system with each packet of certified seed now comes with a scratch-off code. Farmers could send this code via SMS to 1393 (free of charge) to verify the seed's variety and species.

The Agitech Expo, which aims to empower farmers with knowledge and innovation, brought together key agricultural stakeholders. Many cited the proliferation of fake seeds and agrochemicals as one of the greatest threats to food security in Kenya.

Peter Karanja, Director of Mazoa



Kenya Seed Company Chairperson Wangui Ngirici (right) with other stakeholders

Afya, raised concerns over the influx of uncertified seeds and harmful agrochemicals in Kirinyaga County, allegedly imported from neighbouring countries.

"We need to take action against these people who are propagating or bringing in fake seeds, fake and unregistered chemicals, counterfeit in-

puts, because they are bringing products that are unsafe to our farmers," Karanja noted

He called on government agencies, particularly the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), to remain firm and vigilant in monitoring and regulating pesticide imports, some of which posed serious health and environmen-

tal risks.

"I would urge the government in conjunction with the PCPB to be very tough on these particular products because they're hazardous and very poisonous," he said.

Women Senators Take Mashinani Outreach To Villages To Tackle Rising Triple Threat

By: Absalom Namwalo
 @themkenyatimes

On day two of the Senate Mashinani sessions, members of the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA) took their outreach deep into villages to address the rising triple threat facing women in Busia County.

Speaking during an interactive session with education stakeholders in the County on the sidelines of the Senate Mashinani sittings, the female senators raised alarm over the rising cases of HIV infections, teenage pregnancies, rise of new sexually transmitted infections (STI) and rampant gender-based violence (SGBV) in Busia County, describing the situation as a national disaster which required urgent intervention.

The senators visited St. James Kwang'amor Secondary School, Okisimo Junior Secondary School

and St. James Nasewa School before holding a dialogue with county and national officials, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

According to the senators led by KEWOSA Chairperson Senator Veronica Maina, recent data from Busia on GBV, new HIV infection and teenage pregnancies paints a worrying picture far way above the national figure.

The National Aids Control Council data shows that Busia County recorded 135 new HIV infections among adolescents aged 10-19 in 2024, up from 120 in 2019, with about 2,400 adolescents currently living with HIV.

"Busia is on a wrong footing on matters GBV, between 2016 and 2024, there were 65,540 adolescent pregnancies, accounting for 28 percent of all first antenatal clinic visits. This is a worrying trend which calls for urgent dialogue," said senator Maina.

"Subsequently, reported SGBV

cases among adolescents rose sharply from 66 in 2016 to 480 in 2024, with 171 girls aged 10-17 becoming pregnant due to defilement within that period," she added.

With 69.3 per cent of Busia residents living below the national poverty line, more adolescents in the county remained vulnerable, exposing them as they are easily lured into sex, exploitation and could easily drop out school.

Busia Women Representative Catherine Omanyo in her submission slammed the justice system for delay in ensuring GBV cases are disposed of on time thus giving room for culprits to address GBV cases through kangaroo courts.

"Why should our justice system take forever to address a defilement case yet they know the culprits compromise witnesses to dilute the evidence?" wondered Omanyo.

The sentiment was echoed by Teso South MP Mary Emase who called on residents to report cases of GBV



and sexual exploitation.

Emase urged the government through the National Police Service Commission to ensure all police stations in Busia have a gender desk.

"We have witnessed Kangaroo courts handle GBV cases after our court failed to dispense justice to deserving families," said Emase.

As a mitigation measure, KEWOSA educated the school girls and boys on their rights as enshrined in the Constitution under their legal rights under the Sexual Offences Act

(2006), before distributing 3,000 menstrual hygiene pads to girls and 1,000 pairs of boxer shorts to boys to help improve school attendance and confidence.

"We will use our Senate mandate for oversight, legislation, and representation to ensure that frameworks such as the Children's Act (2022) and Basic Education Act (2013) are fully implemented" noted senator Maina.

My Heart Has Learned The Purest Feelings...



My heart has learned the purest feelings,
My soul became a captive of bliss.
Longing for you turned into my calling,
And I ask you – only this:

Please, never leave me all alone,
Without you, my heart turns to stone.

Though life is busy, and time has flown,
Come –
For sorrow's trap waits when you're gone.

The book of my life is filled with meaning,
You became God's most beautiful blessing,
The flowers of regret have all withered away,
You are the mercy He sent my way.

My heart has learned the purest feelings,
Thank you, my love, for everything true.
Let my patience be tested only by fate,
And may each day and night be beautiful –
with you.

– Nilufar Norsafarova

The Savior Of My Silence



Convinced of my part in the hellfire
A quiet place of my destructuon
I repeated this all time, them and I, but...

But i kept going back to that church
And they would encourage me to be go back
Often at times i would be happy
But at times i would be angry
Assuring myself it was of no use

A time came and i left
I left for good this time
Absolutely certain i will never go back
To return to those people of that Church Circle
Knowing i preserved my place in hell

But one day i found myself at the circle
I cried and got overwhelmed
Overwhelmed with their ears that could hear
And how i shared my story i do not know
Yet they told me, 'stay' different from ' come
back'

They assured me of their love
Until i am able to love myself
They told me they believe in me
Until i was able to believe in myself
That i was one of them

A person in recovery
Just as they were
And that the redeeming power was not yet
over...

Over for just my soul

Dr Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
The Weeping Onion

It wasn't intentional
That i never shared
I didn't know how to do it at all
For they were not my friends
Just a small circle in Church

I met them in a circle at church that Sunday
They smiled and kept talking
Sharing their life tragedies and pain
It was unusual to me
I felt alone in the crowd

I felt i was unworthy of light
And what they spoke of the redeeming grace
I thought i was beyond repair
With their savior's son on earth Religion
And how His mercy was new

I heard their suggestions of living
Without the topic of escaping substances
And so i ran to my solitude
To get the sanity i really needed
For i could not open my heart to strangers

They invited me and saved my seat
But i fled out of my condemnation

City Night Lights



The city night, a view of delight
Full of bright lights, that catch the eyes
Anyone who sees, can't skip adoring
A spectacle so grand and rich, none will ignore

To admire, one would need a thousand eyes
The colorful lights, decorating the city skies
Red, white, fluorescent, neon, and more
A dazzling display, leaves us mesmerized

The lights are beautifully arranged, a row of
splendor
Guiding the way, for vehicles and pedestrians
Nighttime is more beautiful, than the day

The contrast of colors, in a wondrous display

The star-studded sky, and city lights catches
every eye

A magical competition, of beauty
The city is awake, vibrant and alive
Skyscrapers standing tall, a kaleidoscopic view

From the sky, it's a mesmerizing view
A spectacle of lights, that our eyes can't get
enough time to admire

The urban side, is the city's majestic might
A sight is to admire this enchanted night.

Brinda. D
GRADUATE TEACHER,
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,
MELPATTAMPAKKAM
CUDDALORE, Tamilnadu India
creativewritersmag@gmail.com

The Most Difficult Cleaning Is...



Glistening the mind and body
By doing meditation and yoga.
A positive mind makes our body
Clean and hygienic today.

Making regular service to the hardware (body)
Becomes the software(mind) processor in
aware.

Taking healthy and hygienic food

The appearance looks clean and good.

Keeping prayers, gratitude, sharing with others
Undoubtedly you have a clean and good mind.

As we are human being trying to keep our
surroundings
Clean and neat.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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

A Doorway To Dream



The days I counted have finally come,
Long nights of study, patience, and some.
I cried and I laughed, but never gave in,
Thanks to Allah, this journey I win.

We rushed forward through hunger and pain,
Even with dry bread, nothing in vain.
With patience and smiles, the hard road I
crossed,
Thanks to Allah, no effort was lost.

Mother, your prayers reached the sky above,
Filling my heart with joy and with love.
With 180 points, I reached my goal,

Father, your daughter is now made whole.

A new chapter opens, shining and bright,
Knowledge and wisdom will guide me with light.
Books and notebooks will walk by my side,
With Allah's help, my path will be wide.

I will move forward, strong and secure,
The Fruits of knowledge I'm ready to endure.
Not for the fame, nor glory so high,
But for my homeland, I'll serve till I die.

My parents' eyes now shine with pride,
Their joy is something I cannot hide.
Hard work has given a sweet reward,
Blessings and mercy come from the Lord.

My dreams are high, I'll never give in,
Each step I take will bring strength within.
To greater heights my journey goes,
This is the path of me – Sarvinoz.

Nomanova Sarvinoz Shuhratjon

Shine In The Dark



Celebrating light is usual.
Glowing in the dark is crucial.

Being jubilant when things go fine is usual.
Displaying fortitude in the face of tribulations is
crucial

Straight trees are admired by all
Remember crooked trees too grow tall

Carry yourself when things go wrong
Combat the blues with a cheerful song

Be illuminated as a radium in the dark
By welling up your inner spark.

Pierce the darkness and surpass every fall
For all humans this is a divine call

A.Mabel Judy Fernando
B.T. Asst English
Chennai Middle School T.S.M Nagar
Thiruvotriyur
Chennai 19

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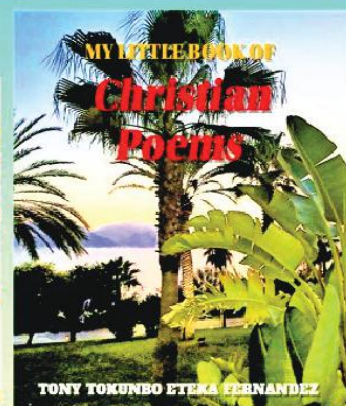
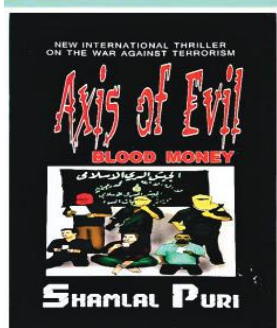
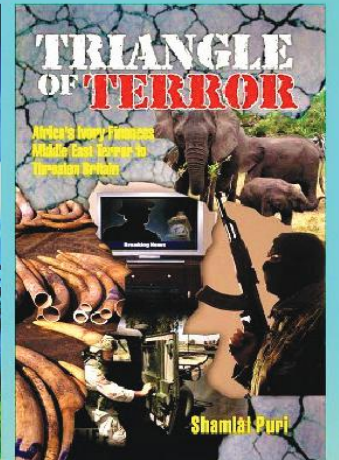
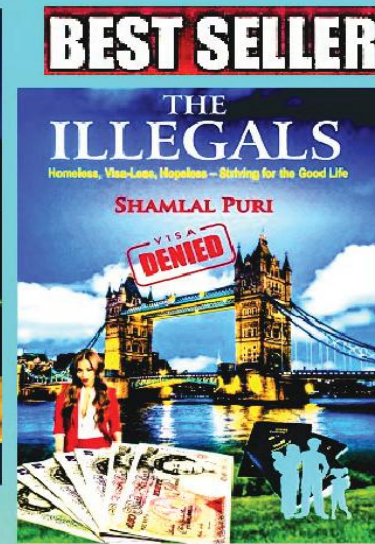
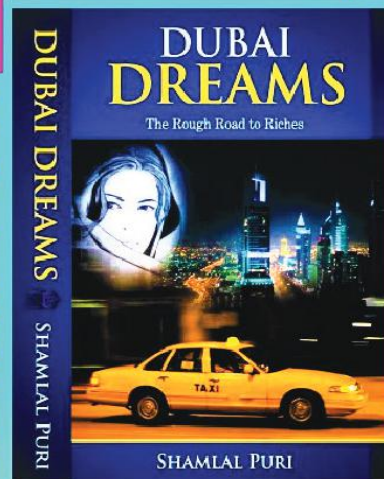
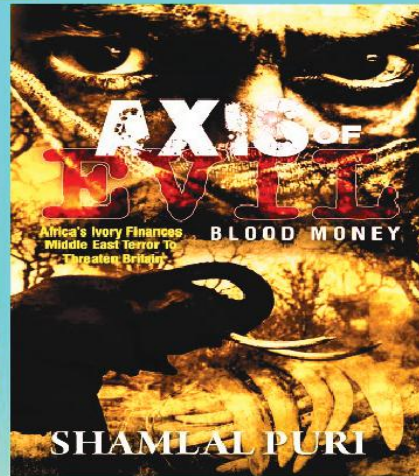
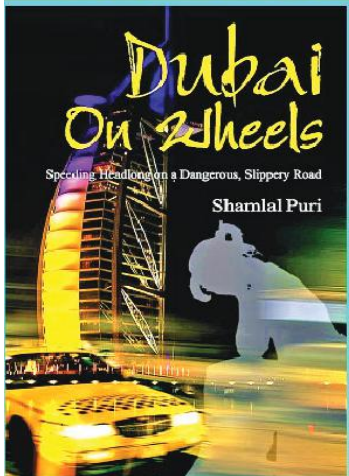
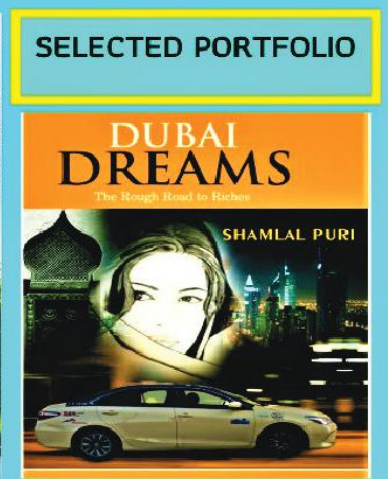
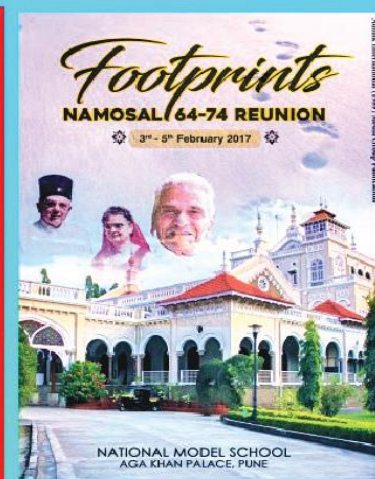
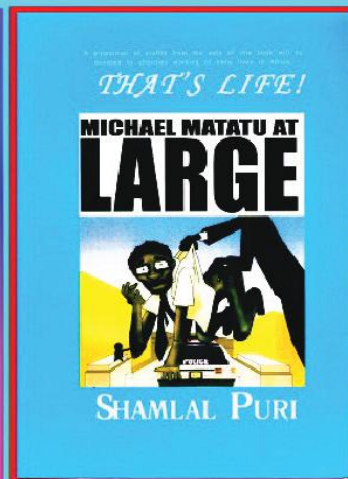
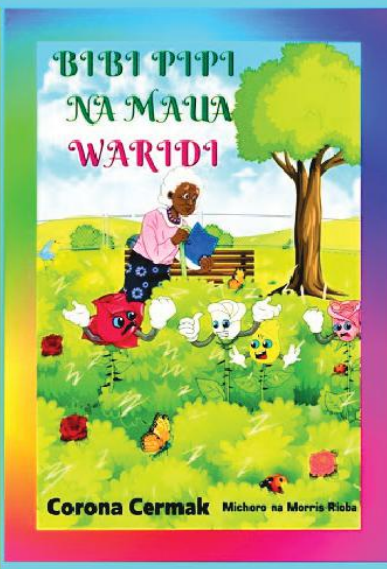
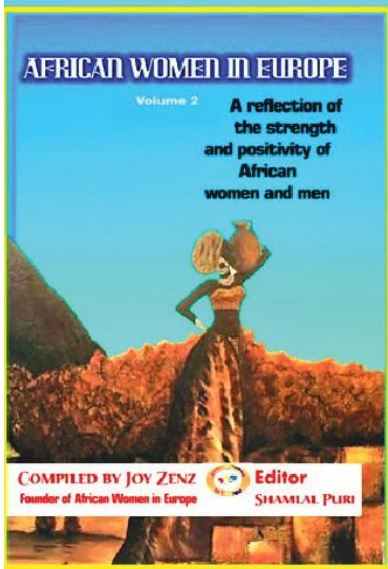
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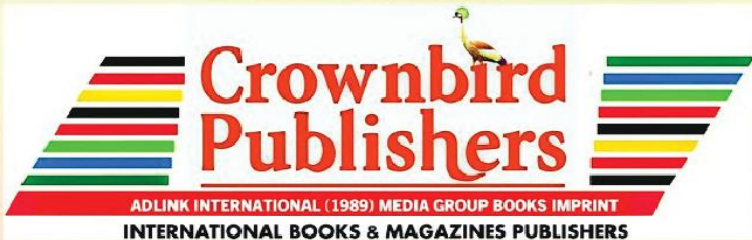
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BUSINESS

Safaricom's True Value Surpasses KSh1 Trillion, Marking A New Era Of Impact

By: Susan Wanjiku
@themtkenyentimes

Safaricom has announced a landmark achievement in its latest Sustainable Business Report, revealing a true value of KSh1.1 trillion for the financial year 2024/2025.

This figure, which represents the company's total economic, social, and environmental impact is 16 times greater than its financial profit, underscoring its commitment to purpose-led growth.

The report also indicates that Safaricom contributed KSh809 billion to Kenya's GDP through its operations, reflecting the company's expansive footprint in the national economy.

The surge in True Value is attributed to increased value creation for customers, agents, and merchants via M-PESA, expanded corporate social investment, and significant growth in capital and operational expenditures.

True Value is a holistic metric that evaluates a company's net impact on society, factoring in both positive and negative externalities.

It enables organizations to align business strategies with societal needs, fostering resilience and equity.

Speaking during the release of the report, Safaricom CEO Dr. Peter Ndegwa emphasized the company's enduring mission.

"Over the past 25 years, Safaricom has evolved into a purpose-led technology company guided by one simple mission: to transform lives by connecting people to people, people to opportunity, and people to information.

At the heart of this journey is sustainability, embedded not as an obligation, but as a business imperative," he said.

Now in its 14th edition, the Annual Sustainable Business Report is themed "Anchored on Purpose, Accelerating a Digital Future." It highlights Safaricom's strategic use of innovation and partnerships to drive impact across key sectors including education, healthcare, financial inclusion, and environmental conservation.

Among the environmental milestones, Safaricom planted over 830,000 trees and restored 694 hectares across eight counties, engaging more than 4,000 community members. The company has cumulatively grown 2.3 million trees toward its 2030 target of five million.

It also achieved a 99 per cent recycling rate, processing 190 tonnes of e-waste and 62 tons of plastic through



Safaricom's Director, Sustainable Business and Social Impact Karen Basiye with Safaricom CEO Dr. Peter Ndegwa during the launch of Sustainability report

M-PESA Green Points, and fenced 15 kilometers of Kakamega Forest.

On the social front, digital inclusion efforts saw smartphone penetration in the network rise from 22.93 million to 27.37 million. Through the Spark Fund Accelerator Programme, nine early-stage startups received support.

Digifarm disbursed KSh945 million in credit across 169,000 loans, with 36 per cent of recipients being women and 17 percent youth. Smartphone ownership among farmers increased from 44 per cent to 50 per cent, driven by the Lipa Mdogo Mdogo initiative.

Safaricom also made strides in diversity, equity, and inclusion, achieving a near gender parity workforce with 51 per cent male and 49 per cent female representation. Women hold 45 per cent of senior leadership roles, and 3.6 per cent of staff are persons with disabilities. The use of AI to personalize customer offers contributed to a 15.2 per cent year-on-year growth in mobile data revenue and a 14 per cent increase in usage per customer.

In governance, Safaricom attained ISO 27701 certification for its Privacy Information Management System, reinforcing its commitment to data protection. The company enhanced transparency by incorporating IFRS

disclosures alongside GRI standards. AI-driven fraud detection led to an 87 per cent reduction in fraud cases, and anti-money laundering efforts uncovered poaching-related transactions, resulting in the identification and reporting of 14 poachers.

Safaricom's FY25 report positions the company as a benchmark for sustainable business in Africa, demonstrating that profitability and purpose can coexist to deliver transformative impact.



From Left Safaricom CEO, Dr. Peter Ndegwa, Joyce Karimi of Mazingira Hub, Janet Kangogo Engineer at Safaricom and Advocable programme manager at inABLE Julius Mbura unveiling the Sustainable Business

Worth Noting:

- The surge in True Value is attributed to increased value creation for customers, agents, and merchants via M-PESA, expanded corporate social investment, and significant growth in capital and operational expenditures.
- True Value is a holistic metric that evaluates a company's net impact on society, factoring in both positive and negative externalities.
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- "Over the past 25 years, Safaricom has evolved into a purpose-led technology company guided by one simple mission: to transform lives by connecting people to people, people to opportunity, and people to information.

Fibre Industry Revival On The Horizon Amid New Regulations

By: MoALD
@themtkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has called for urgent revival of Kenya's cotton and sisal industries through the operationalization of the Draft Crops (Fibre Crops and Crop Fibres) Regulations, 2025.

Speaking before the National Assembly Committee on Delegated Legislation, the CS said the regulations will be "pivotal in unlocking the full potential of fibre crops and ensuring sustainable growth of this vital industry."

He emphasized that the new framework will streamline production, processing, and marketing of fibre crops, promote value addition, regulate imports, and strengthen competitiveness in both local and global markets.

"Under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), cotton is targeted to contribute significantly to poverty reduction, job creation, and economic growth.



CS Mutahi Kagwe before the committee yesterday..

The fibre crops sector can transform communities if we provide the right legal and institutional support," Kagwe told MPs

Kenya currently grows cotton in 21 counties and sisal in 11, with other crops such as jute, flax, kenaf, ba-

nana, pineapple, rice and coconut also presenting fibre potential. In 2024, cotton covered 16,477ha, producing 11,268 bales of lint against a national demand of 48,000 bales, leaving the country dependent on imports from Uganda and Tanzania.



The committee and CS teams during yesterday's session.

On sisal, Kenya ranked as the third-largest global producer after Brazil and Tanzania. Large estates and smallholder farmers produced over 30,000 metric tons of fibre in 2024, with 95% exported.

However, the CS noted that the sector is weighed down by challenges including competition from synthetic fibres, aging technology, weak farmer organizations, low financing, and influx of cheap imports.

The Draft Regulations are designed to address these gaps by enhancing coordination across the value chain, supporting farmer institutions, and anchoring fibre crops firmly within Kenya's industrialization strategy.

The Committee is expected to table its report in Parliament in the coming weeks, paving the way for possible enactment and implementation of the regulations.



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Gaza Conflict: Two Years Of Devastation And Dim Prospects Ahead

By: Xinhua

@themkenyatimes

As Hamas and Israel are meeting in Egypt over a potential ceasefire the world anxiously awaits, Gaza marked the grim second anniversary of the conflict on Tuesday.

Over the past two years, what began as a cross-border attack by Hamas has, under the weight of political brinkmanship and superpower indulgence, snowballed into one of the world's deadliest conflicts in recent memory, adding yet another open wound to a region already scarred by conflicts and grievances. Despite the ongoing peace talks, analysts warn that as long as the core rights of the Palestinian people are sidelined, enduring peace in the Middle East will remain little more than a pipe dream.

A War With No Winner

From the moment Hamas crossed the Israeli border on Oct. 7, 2023, cracking open a geopolitical Pandora's box, Israel has waged war in the name of vengeance -- unleashing its military might from the shores of the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. As the epicenter of this regional earthquake, Gaza has suffered most acutely. According to Gaza-based authorities, over 90 percent of Gaza's infrastructure has been destroyed by Israeli airstrikes. More than 67,000 Palestinians have been killed -- the vast majority of them being civilians, women and children -- and 169,000 more wounded. The enclave has become a "living hell," as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described it. "The scale of death and destruction are beyond any other conflict in my years as secretary-general." But the reach of the Israeli "war of revenge" has not stopped at Gaza's edge. As the assault on the strip continues, Israel has launched direct military strikes on targets in Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Qatar, entangling itself in a multi-front conflict across the region.

Though Israel appears to have chipped away at what it deems threats in the region, analysts say the "war of revenge" has also taken a heavy toll on the country. According to official Israeli figures, thousands of Israelis have been killed since the conflict between Hamas and Israel began. Dozens of hostages taken by Hamas during its initial assault remain in captivity, despite Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's early promise to bring every one of them home. Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza has drawn mounting international condemnation. Sympathy for Palestinians, coupled with disillusionment over Israeli policies, has fueled a growing wave of countries formally recognizing a Palestinian state. In September, Britain, Canada, Australia and France, among other Western nations, announced their recognition of the State of Palestine, a diplomatic move widely interpreted as a rebuke to Israel's prolonged military campaign. "The war in Gaza grinds on, the humanitarian catastrophe deepens, Israel's legitimacy erodes, and the region braces for further instability," Roei Kibrik, head of research at Mitvim, the Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies, told Xinhua. "This is a war with no winner."

Political Calculations And Superpower Indulgence

At the heart of the Gaza conflict's protraction, analysts say, lie two powerful forces: Israel's own domestic political calculus, and the extensive support of the United States. From the earliest days of its "war of revenge," Israel laid out three primary objectives: the return of all hostages, the dismantling of Hamas' military and political apparatus, and ensuring that Gaza can never again threaten Israel. Two years on, Gaza lies in ruins and yet none of those goals have been achieved. Experts suggest this is no accident as the declared objectives were never truly the priority. According to Eyal Zisser, vice rector of Tel Aviv University and a Middle East affairs expert, the "war of revenge" has actually been used by Netanyahu to shore up his political position and preserve his far-right governing coalition. In August, when asked in an interview whether he felt connected to the "Greater Israel" vision, Netanyahu responded: "Very much." The so-called "Greater Israel" refers to an expansionist vision that lays claim to not only the occupied West Bank and Gaza, but also parts of Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and Jordan, a geopolitical map that reaches far beyond Israel's borders.

For Refaat Badawi, a political analyst and a former presidential adviser in Lebanon, Netanyahu's remarks signal that "Israel aims to redraw the maps of the Middle East in a way that serves the Israeli goal of expansion in the Middle East." Beyond Israel's



own political maneuvering, the United States has provided unconditional support to Israel throughout the Gaza conflict. According to Israeli official data from May, Washington delivered 90,000 tons of weapons to Israel between October 2023 and May 2025. In addition to military aid, the United States has leveraged its superpower status to shield Israel politically, disregarding widespread international opposition and condemnation. In the UN Security Council, the United States has used its veto power six times to block Gaza-related resolutions calling for a ceasefire, throwing a wrench into international efforts to halt the bloodshed. "Washington's repeated vetoes at the UN Security Council have shielded Israel from international accountability. At the same time, U.S. financial and military aid sustains Israel's war effort," Mohammed Osman Ali, managing editor of Qatar's The Peninsula newspaper, pointed out.

Dim Light At The End Of The Tunnel

Under global gaze, Hamas and Israel are engaged in indirect negotiations centered on a 20-point ceasefire plan in Gaza put forward by U.S. President Donald Trump. Trump has hailed the proposal as a "critical step" toward lasting peace, while threatening that Hamas' refusal could lead to "complete obliteration." Though Israel has accepted the plan and Hamas has offered a cautiously positive response, major questions remain about whether it can truly bring peace to Gaza. The proposal demands the total disarmament of Hamas, striking at the heart of the group's survival. Meanwhile, the plan sidesteps any mention of implementing the two-state solution, which is widely regarded as essential for durable peace in the region. It also fails to address accountability or reparations for the deaths and destruction wrought in Gaza during the two years of brutal conflict.

Despite the flaws in the plan, both regional countries and the people of war-torn Gaza are still clinging to a sliver of hope that the ongoing negotiations could be the faint light at the end of the tunnel. "The people of Gaza are not seeking a military or political victory," said Ismail Abu Shar, a resident of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza. "We just hope the talks will mark the beginning of the end of the massacre and the war of extermination." As for the prospects of lasting peace in the Middle East, analysts have offered a more sober assessment.

"Even if Gaza quiets down, conflicts and animosities in Lebanon, the Red Sea, and the West Bank remain unresolved," said Hussam al-Dajani, a Palestinian political analyst based in Gaza. "The flames are still burning, the deaths continue, and the war's impact has long since spilled beyond Gaza. This means the Middle East is hurtling toward greater instability and chaos," he said.



Empowering The Future: Why Youth Must Lead Kenya's Voter Registration Drive

By: James Kilonzo Bwire

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Opiyo Wandayi's strategic emphasis on social media mobilization reflects a keen understanding of contemporary youth engagement. Young Kenyans are among the most digitally connected populations worldwide, using social media not only for communication but as platforms for activism and social change. Harnessing these tools to push voter registration creates a multiplier effect, spreading awareness rapidly, combating misinformation, and encouraging active political participation. This digital momentum must be translated into real-world actions: registering as voters and ultimately, exercising the right to vote.

- The framing of voter registration as a movement transforms an often routine procedural exercise into a potent vehicle for political awakening. When voter registration is embraced as a shared mission, it develops into a sustained culture of active citizenship.

In the lead-up to the 2027 General Election, Kenya stands at a historic crossroads in its democratic evolution. The vote remains the most powerful instrument through which citizens shape their nation's destiny. Opiyo Wandayi, the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, has issued a powerful call to the youth across the country: to take the helm in the voter registration campaign. This call is not simply a civic invitation, but a call to empower a generation whose future depends on their active participation in shaping governance and development priorities.

Kenya's youth represent the nation's demographic majority and embody both its present dynamism and future potential. Despite this, voter registration rates among young people have often fallen short, reflecting either apathy, misinformation, or disillusionment with the political process. CS Wandayi's call to youth leadership in the voter registration drive recognizes the indispensable role young people play in shaping the democratic landscape. Registering to vote is the foundational step toward political influence—one that can bring about profound change when harnessed collectively.

The essence of voter registration transcends the act itself; it is the gateway to political inclusion and community empowerment. When youth register in large numbers, they do more than fulfill a legal requirement—they amplify their community's bargaining power at the national

level. This act of political engagement is crucial in influencing policy formulation, holding leaders accountable, and advancing socio-economic transformation. As Kenya works to address deep-seated issues such as unemployment, education quality, healthcare access, and infrastructure, the youth voice through the ballot remains a critical driving force.

Opiyo Wandayi's strategic emphasis on social media mobilization reflects a keen understanding of contemporary youth engagement. Young Kenyans are among the most digitally connected populations worldwide, using social media not only for communication but as platforms for activism and social change. Harnessing these tools to push voter registration creates a multiplier effect, spreading awareness rapidly, combating misinformation, and encouraging active political participation. This digital momentum must be translated into real-world actions: registering as voters and ultimately, exercising the right to vote.

The framing of voter registration as a movement transforms an often routine procedural exercise into a potent vehicle for political awakening. When voter registration is embraced as a shared mission, it develops into a sustained culture of active citizenship. Such a culture is essential in addressing Kenya's pressing challenges: unemployment, political representation, inequality, and governance transparency. Young people are central to this transformation; their

participation will shape leadership that truly responds to their needs and is accountable to their aspirations.

CS Wandayi's personal commitment to lead alongside youth in this campaign sends a profound message of inclusive leadership and solidarity. Leaders who engage directly with grassroots efforts inspire confidence and motivate communities to participate meaningfully. This hands-on approach also bridges the gap between leaders and citizens, fostering trust and opening dialogue on critical governance issues as the country approaches one of its most significant electoral moments.

Youth-led voter registration efforts are not only about empowering individuals but also about strengthening the democratic fabric of the nation. A robust voter register reflective of Kenya's diversity strengthens the legitimacy of electoral processes and enhances the credibility of elected officials. When youth identify with and trust in the democratic process, they invest in the country's stability and future growth.

Kenya's political landscape is poised for transformation, and this transformation hinges on the active participation of the youth. The call to take ownership of voter registration is a call to take ownership of Kenya's political future. This responsibility comes with the promise of influence and change that is responsive to Kenya's evolving societal and economic realities.

It is paramount that voter registra-

tion be recognized not as a mere administrative task, but as an essential democratic exercise with far-reaching implications. Each registered youth voter is a building block in the nation's foundation for a more transparent, inclusive, and development-oriented leadership. Kenya's future prosperity rests heavily on how engaged its youth are today, as registrants and ultimately as voters.

Youth empowerment through political participation promises a more equitable Kenya where leadership is accountable and attuned to the needs of its citizens. By heeding the call of CS Opiyo Wandayi to lead the voter registration campaign, young Kenyans will be opening pathways for themselves and their communities to realize their full potential.

The future of Kenya lies firmly in the hands of its youth. The energy, courage, and commitment demonstrated in taking charge of the voter registration drive will reverberate beyond the electoral process, impacting governance, policy, and national cohesion. This movement is an opportunity—a duty—that the youth must embrace with pride and determination. The moment to act is now, and through their votes and voices, young people will shape a Kenya that is just, prosperous, and united.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner

WRA Warns Land Grabbers Targeting Protected Dunes

By: **Amenya Ochieng**
 @themkenyatimes

Water Resources Authority (WRA) has issued a directive to individuals illegally occupying and subdividing gazetted wetlands and sand dunes in Lamu County, ordering cease such activities or face prosecution.

The directive comes in the wake of Water Resource Authority Board members doing a tour visit of the gazetted Lamu sand dunes along the Lamu coastline, which are legally protected as water catchment areas.

Speaking to the media yesterday, WRA Chairman Donald Murgor stated that the WRA is aware of the surge in illegal encroachments, including the erection of semi-permanent structures, fencing, and land clearing, and is keen to ensure that enforcement is done curbing the illegal encroachment.

He further said that WRA will also

be doing a sensitization drive informing the Public over the need to protect the water catchment area, which he added is likely to be grabbed by a few well-connected individuals.

“WRA will soon be doing a tree planting drive as well within the sand dune area to plant indigenous trees in order to ensure that Lamu does not lose its primary fresh water aquifer,” he said.

He further stated that no one should continue occupying gazetted land under the pretext of having a title deed, and should seek compensation for that title as the land should be conserved.

These dunes are critical for recharging underground aquifers, which serve as the primary source of fresh water for the residents of Lamu Island and the surrounding mainland.

Murgor further revealed WRA is working with a multi-agency team that includes the county government, Lamu Water Resource Users Authority and the public administration to ensure that the lamu sand dunes are well protected.

Sentiments echoed by WRA CEO Mohammed Shurie, who called on those in receipt of legal title deeds for the Lamu Shela Sand dunes area to surrender them and seek compensation in a bid to preserve Lamu’s fresh water source.

“The government is ready to compensate those who reach out to them following the gazettelement of the Lamu sand dunes areas done in 2021,” Shurie said.

“11,000 square kilometers the Lamu Sand dune area will be fenced in a bid to prevent encroachment and land grabbing by anyone,” he added.

The WRA CEO further called on the public, particularly residents of Lamu, to report any incidents of encroachment or illegal activity within the gazetted areas and stated that the government will continue being vigilant against encroachment of the two gazetted wetlands areas in Lamu.

The Authority has also pledged to enhance surveillance and patrols in collaboration with the National Police Service and the County Gov-



ernment of Lamu to prevent further encroachment.

Lamu Tourism Association member and Shela youth representative Jamil Mohammed lauded the national government for ensuring the Lamu sand dunes are protected.

He further reported that the destruction of the dunes has accelerated in recent months, leading to increased

salinity in nearby wells and a noticeable decline in water levels.

“The sand dunes are our lifeline. When you destroy them for a temporary plot of land, you are destroying the future water supply for thousands of people,” Save Lamu Secretary General Mohammed Athmmand said.

Kenyans Urged To Go For Eye Care To Reduce Cases Of Blindness

By: **Sadik Hassan**
 @themkenyatimes

Kenyans have been advised to seek immediate medical attention if they experience flashing lights, floaters, shadows, or sudden blurry vision, as these are early signs of retinal or neurological issues.

World Sight Day 2025 will be commemorated tomorrow under the theme “Love Your Eyes”.

Dennis Somba, a 27-year-old Content Creator and Agronomist from Kisauni Sub-county, began to notice flashing lights and severe eye strain last year. He thought it was a minor issue that could be fixed with new spectacles.

Within months, his vision deteriorated drastically, leaving him partially blind in one eye.

After visiting several optical outlets without a clear diagnosis, Somba was finally referred to an Ophthalmologist who confirmed that he had suffered a retinal detachment in his left eye and underwent corrective surgery.

Retinal detachment is a serious condition that can cause permanent blindness if not treated promptly.

“The doctor told me that if I didn’t undergo surgery immediately, I would lose my sight permanently. It was terrifying, but I was lucky to have a supportive family and doctors who acted fast,” he narrated.

Since then, he regularly goes for eye clinics and has adopted new habits to protect his eyes, including reducing screen time and wearing protective lenses.

Dr Victor Opiyo, President of the Optometry Association of Kenya and Secretary General of the African Council of Optometry, says Somba’s case underscores the importance of early detection.

“Retinal detachment is an ocular emergency. Early diagnosis and immediate referral to a specialist make all the difference. In Somba’s case, the success came from detecting the problem early and treating it urgently,” explained Dr Opiyo.

While retinal detachment is more common among older adults, Dr Opiyo notes that myopia (short-sightedness), especially when



unmanaged, can increase the risk for younger people.

“When the eyeball keeps growing, it exerts pressure on the retina, causing it to thin and sometimes pull away. That’s what happened with Somba,” he stated.

Dr Opiyo disclosed that the country has a shortage of eye care professionals, with rural areas most affected, as most specialists are concentrated in urban areas.

“Nearly a quarter of Kenyans need eye care. Yet, about half of these cases involve avoidable blindness. We

urgently need to train more optometrists and establish eye care units at county hospitals to increase access,” he said.

He recommends annual eye examinations for healthy adults and biannual check-ups for those with conditions like diabetes or hypertension, which can affect eyesight.

“Listen to your body. If you wake up and something doesn’t feel right with your vision, don’t wait. Visit a professional immediately,” he advised.

He further noted that eye surgery

in the country remain costly, with retinal detachment surgery in public hospitals averaging around Sh250,000 per eye, and higher in private facilities. The expense often deters patients from seeking timely care, leading to irreversible vision loss.

To reduce this burden, the Optometry Association of Kenya is engaging policymakers to subsidise eye care services and integrate eye health into universal healthcare plans.

Childhood Trauma In The Development Process

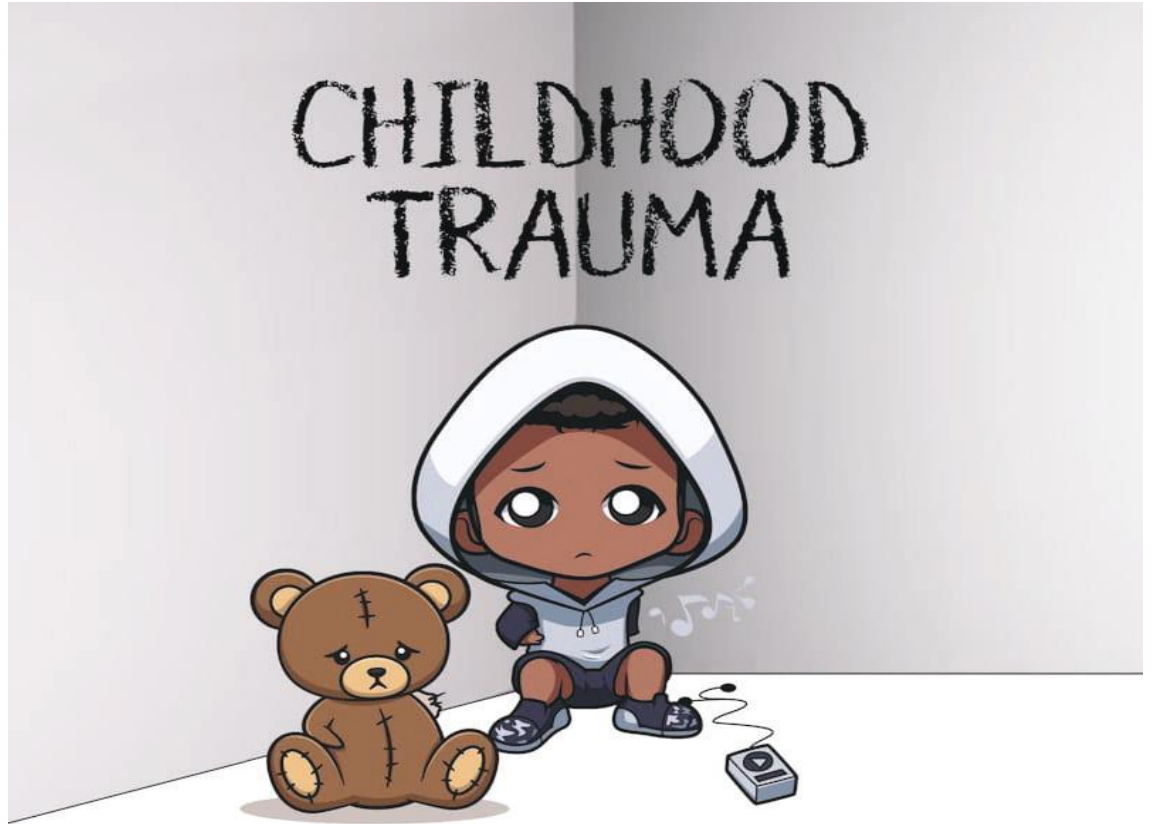


By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themkenyatimes

Childhood trauma occurs when a child experiences an intense or stressing events that threatens or causes harm to his or her emotional and physical well-being. These experiences may range from extreme adverse event to more common stressful events, such as community or domestic violence, neglect, medical emergencies, and physical or sexual abuse. This events in most cases they tend to pose danger or harm or unwanted emotions to the child at a young age. A child does not have to be the direct victim of such an occurrence to be traumatized; witnessing such an event can also be traumatic. While various types of trauma exist at different degrees of intensity, it is the individual's stress associated with each trauma that affects how he or she responds to and behaves following a traumatic event. Majority of children are exposed to or witness trauma during a young age. Research shows that most of adults experience abuse or other difficult family circumstances during childhood. Sixty percent of children in Kenya and Africa will witness or experience a traumatic event before they turn four. Through interviews with youth or the therapy sessions most psychologists have surveyed children from birth to age 17 on their recent exposure to several major categories of violence, such as peer victimization, witnessing violence, and Internet victimization. These categories examined children's exposure to violence in the home, school, and community settings.

The findings after a strict research done to different individuals shows that:

1. More than 60 percent of children were exposed to at least one type of violence within the past year.
2. More than 10 percent reported five or more exposures to violence.
3. About 10 percent of children surveyed suffered from child maltreatment, were injured in an assault, or witnessed a family member assault another family member.
4. About 25 percent were victims of robbery or witnessed a violent act.
5. Nearly half of children and adolescents surveyed were assaulted at least once in the past year. These information also show that children who had been victimized once are at a far greater risk of experiencing other types of violence. Those who have been victimized or assaulted in the past year are five times as likely also to have been sexually victimized, and over four times as likely also to have been



maltreated during that period. How children experience trauma is related to their stress response following the trauma. Most traumas are tolerable, and toxic stress. Positive stress refers to the everyday stress people experience that is normal. Children and youth must learn to respond to stress in healthy ways that support their healthy development. For instance, when an adolescent enters a classroom to take an exam, he or she experiences stress. Once he or she completes the exam, the adolescent's stress level should return to baseline. Children and youth experience tolerable stress when they undergo a heightened state of arousal due to traumatic events, such as the death of a loved one or a natural disaster. Secure relationships with adults and community supports can help the child recover from the stress. However, in the absence of these supports, experiencing such trauma may exceed a child's capacity to cope with and respond to the stress, thus elevating the stress level and putting at risk the child's physical, social, and emotional developmental trajectory. When traumatic experiences are prolonged, such as community violence or domestic abuse, a child's or youth's stress response system is continually activated. It is this prolonged activation of the stress response system in the absence of appropriate supports that disrupt a child's or youth's normal development. This level of stress is also referred to as toxic stress. Such experiences have shown to lead to impairments

in brain development and delayed social and emotional development. Unaddressed, the child's experience of trauma may eventually influence the way he or she behaves at home and in school, which will in turn affect the way he or she develops into an adult. Regardless of the type of traumatic event, it is important to note that each child or youth experiences trauma and responds to it in a unique way. An event that produces a toxic stress response in one youth, such as hearing about the death of a peer, may not produce the same reaction in another. Factors related to individual characteristics, family setting, and the environment interact and contribute to how a child responds. Just as each person experiences and responds to trauma differently, trauma manifests itself in unique ways among kids. The way a child or youth responds to trauma depends on developmental level, environmental factors, and family setting. It is important to distinguish the differences between how trauma may affect very young children compared with school-aged children or adolescents. Taking a developmental perspective, we can become aware of what behaviors we might observe as well as better understand the types of supports that are most critical for each age group. Very young children are especially vulnerable when it comes to trauma. Infants and toddlers are at greatest risk for witnessing family violence or experiencing assault by a sibling. At this stage, they are still acquiring the skills needed to adjust their behavior

adequately in response to changes in the environment. In addition, young children are in the process of acquiring verbal and communication skills and developing a sense of self. Infants and toddlers rely heavily on their parents to protect them and interpret the meaning of social interactions and novel events. While it may be difficult to see the immediate effect of trauma on very young children, the potential for developmental problems in the short-term and the added risks for negative long-term outcomes are very real. When young children witness or experience a traumatic event, they can experience overwhelming feelings of helplessness, especially if they are unable to rely on the protection of adults in their environment. They may respond by recreating the event in imaginary play or having nightmares about the event. These kids may have undeveloped coping skills for comfort. Having not yet developed the cognitive reasoning to interpret an event accurately, young children may also form assumptions that affect the way they interact with others and with their environment. Additional short-term behavioral symptoms include clinginess, temper tantrums, toileting and sleep disturbances, phobias, social withdrawal, and poor attention. They may also act out aggressively toward others. Children exhibiting these behaviors may experience difficulty in positively engaging with teachers in the early child care setting as well as with other family members at home.

Worth Noting:

- These events in most cases they tend to pose danger or harm or unwanted emotions to the child at a young age. A child does not have to be the direct victim of such an occurrence to be traumatized; witnessing such an event can also be traumatic. While various types of trauma exist at different degrees of intensity, it is the individual's stress associated with each trauma that affects how he or she responds to and behaves following a traumatic event.
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SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *The first leg of the Kenya Esports Series, dubbed the Flamingo Series, lived up to its billing in Nakuru. Upsets and fresh champions were produced in front of a lively crowd at the Old Nakuru Town Hall.

Rookies Shine At Kenya E-Sports Series Nakuru Edition



The first leg of the Kenya Esports Series, dubbed the Flamingo Series, lived up to its billing in Nakuru. Upsets and fresh champions were produced in front of a lively crowd at the Old Nakuru Town Hall.

What was expected to be a stage for seasoned players quickly turned into a coming-out party for new faces, with teenagers and first-timers dominating multiple categories.

In the e-Football final, 19-year-old Daniel Kibiwot stole the show with a 6-2 victory over veteran Francis Imbuga. Abraham Odhiambo edged David Owuor 3-2 to clinch the EA FC Open Category title.

The upsets didn't stop there.

In the eFootball Mobile competition, Jacob Deng overcame the experienced Nicodemus Mwendwa 2-1 in a tense final, underscoring the youthful energy sweeping through the event.

The only defending champion to hold her ground was the ever-reliable Hannah Gamer, who retained her EA FC Women's Category crown after beating Nancy Faulen 4-2.

Speaking after the tournament, Esports Kenya Federation President Ronny Lusigi lauded the emergence of new talent, saying: "We are very pleased to see the rise of new stars. This proves that talent spreads nationwide, so we are taking the series to the grassroots. Nakuru has set a very

strong tone for the next legs."

All podium finishers have now booked their tickets to the National Finals, slated for December 12, 2025, in Nairobi.

For the winners, the triumphs were personal milestones.

"I knew the pressure was on me to defend my city's pride," said Hannah Gamer, adding that she was grateful to the federation for promoting inclusivity and giving girls a platform to compete.

First-time winner Jacob Deng was equally elated:

"This is my first major title. I always believed I could do it, even when people overlooked me. Now I'm focused on the national championship."

Meanwhile, Kibiwot dedicated

his victory to his parents.

"They've always encouraged me to showcase my talent. This is just the beginning. I want to represent Kenya at the Olympic Esports Games 2027."

The next stop for the Kenya Esports Series will be Eldoret for the Rift Series on October 18, where more players will battle to qualify for the national showdown.

Citizen Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The Kenya Rugby Union has officially unveiled the Shujaa and Morans squads for the 2025 Safari Sevens tournament, which will be held from October 10 to 12 at the Nyayo National Stadium.

KRU Names Shujaa, Morans Squads For Safari 7s



FILE: Dennis Abukuse (L) of Kenya Shujaa fight for the ball with Festus Shihasi of Kenya Morans during the 2024 Safari Sevens Tournament at Kenyatta Stadium in Machakos on October 13, 2024. Photo/Sportpicha.

The Kenya Rugby Union has officially unveiled the Shujaa and Morans squads for the 2025 Safari Sevens tournament, which will be held from October 10 to 12 at the Nyayo National Stadium.

The annual rugby showpiece, a flagship event in Africa's rugby calendar, will feature elite sides from across Africa, Europe, and beyond as Kenya looks to defend its home turf and reaffirm its dominance in sevens rugby.

Head coach Kevin Wambua has named a balanced Shujaa squad that merges proven performers with rising stars, underscoring Kenya's continued commitment to excellence and transition in the short-code game.

George Ooro and Samuel Asati, two seasoned leaders who bring tactical maturity and composure to the team, will co-captain it.

They are joined by key figures

such as Vincent Onyala, Kevin Wekesa, and Patrick Odongo, whose pace and power make them standout international performers.

The selection also marks Christian Ojwang's return after a lengthy injury spell that kept him out of competition.

Strathmore Leos Captain Gabriel Ayimba earns his second consecutive Safari 7s appearance.

At the same time, Floyd Wabwire, statistically the top-ranked player in the 2025 National Sevens Circuit, cements his place after a dominant domestic season.

Other notable inclusions are Dennis Abukuse, Nygel Amaita, Festus Shiasi, William Mwanji, and Jackson Siketi, all expected to add depth and dynamism to Kenya's attack as Shujaa aims to thrill the home crowd and reclaim glory.

The Morans, Kenya's second men's national sevens side, have

opted for a youth-driven approach, naming seven debutants to nurture the next generation of stars.

John Okoth of Menengai Oilers captains the side, bringing valuable leadership and stability.

The debutants—Clinton Amukwachi, Eugene Ojiambo, Daniel Kipchirchir, David Nyangige, Elton Amalemba, Arnold Muita, and Rayvon Ambale—have been rewarded for their stellar form in the local circuit.

Ambale, from Kabras Sugar RFC, earned his call-up after a standout campaign in the 2025 National Sevens Circuit, following a two-year rugby stint at Bryanston School in the UK.

In the men's category, Kenya Shujaa and Morans will face stiff competition from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda Men, French Renegades, UK Select, Shogun, Apache Rugby, Reunion, KCB

RFC, and Walukuba Barbarians (Uganda).

Meanwhile, the women's category will feature Kenya Lionesses, Kenya Cubs, Belgium, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Shogun, and Costa Blanca Barbarians, reflecting the continued growth of women's sevens globally.

As Kenya continues its bid to host a World Rugby Sevens Series leg, this year's Safari 7s provides a crucial platform to showcase organizational excellence, home-grown talent, and the rich rugby culture that has made Nairobi's tournament a fixture on the global sevens calendar.

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SPORTS NEWS



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BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



A Beacon of Hope and Humanity



By: Anila Bukhari

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

While details of Dr. Peterson's early life remain private, her impressive academic journey highlights her commitment to learning and service. She holds Master's degrees in Clinical Psychology and Education, with specializations in School Principalship and Administrative Leadership. Furthermore, she is a licensed teacher in the State of Illinois, qualified in Psychology, Sociology, Social Science, and Student Learning Exceptionalities.

Throughout her career, Dr. Peterson has garnered numerous accolades and recognition for her leadership and humanitarian efforts. She has served as an ambassador for esteemed organizations and publications including International FACE Magazine, the Royal House of World Class, and Leadership Minds Ambassadors (LMA) Magazine. Her unwavering dedication to service has earned her awards such as the Best Female Humanitarian Leader of the Year in 2022 and Business Brand Ambassador Royalty Queen for 2024.

Dr. Delmar Denise (Dominique) Peterson, PhD, is a visionary leader and compassionate humanitarian dedicated to creating positive change worldwide. As the Founder and CEO of GLOW UP Brand International, she passionately empowers individuals to realize their full potential while fostering a spirit of service and community upliftment.

Early Life and Education

While details of Dr. Peterson's early life remain private, her impressive academic journey highlights her commitment to learning and service. She holds Master's degrees in Clinical Psychology and Education, with specializations in School Principalship and Administrative Leadership. Furthermore, she is a licensed teacher in the State of Illinois, qualified in Psychology, Sociology, Social Science, and Student Learning Exceptionalities.

Career and Achievements

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Her honors also include:

- SuperModels Unlimited - Lifetime Icon (2024)
- Face of the Premiere SuperModel's Unlimited Anniversary Gala (2025)
- Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award (2025)
- Humanitarian Award Trophy at the Dusable Black History Museum and Education Center (2025)

Humanitarian Work

Dr. Peterson's commitment to service is exemplified through her non-profit, Provision Unlimited, NFP.



Dr. Delmar Denise (Dominique) Peterson

The organization provides vital resources such as home furnishings, groceries, and survival supplies to underserved communities. She envisions establishing "Great Expectations," a finishing school and after-school program aimed at empowering secondary-aged children and nurturing future leaders.

GLOW UP Brand International

As the founder and CEO of GLOW

UP Brand International, Dr. Peterson has built a platform that encourages individuals to shine as role models and community leaders. With approximately 20 King and Queen Ambassadors and the publication Model GLOW UP Magazine, her platform continues to inspire hope, confidence, and cultural pride worldwide.

Legacy and Impact

Dr. Peterson's legacy is rooted in

kindness, compassion, and unwavering dedication to service. Her work exemplifies the transformative power of human connection and the profound impact one individual can have on others. As she continues to inspire and uplift, her influence will resonate through generations, fostering a more compassionate and empowered world.