



### Do School Learners And Adolescents Experience Trauma?

Trauma occurs differently for different individuals. For school-going children, trauma may arise at various ages due to different reasons. As they begin to establish a defined sense of right and wrong, develop the ability to empathize with others, and form relationships with adults and peers outside the family setting, older children have more capacity compared with toddlers to deal with the stress

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## Daily ePAPER

Thursday, October 9, 2025

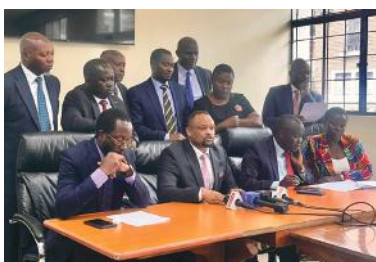
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### News>>Kiambu County On The Rise As Governor Outlines Three Years Of Transformation In Key Sectors


P. 8. Governor Kimani Wamatiya has declared that Kiambu County is on a firm path to reclaiming its glory, outlining sweeping reforms



### News>>MPs Call For Formation Of Ad-Hoc Committee To Investigate KTDA Amid Low Bonus Pay

P. 12. Members of Parliament drawn from the West of Rift tea growing region want an Ad-hoc committee formed to investigate Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) operations which they have accused of being corrupt following the discrepancies in 2025 tea bonuses payment.

# IEBC Clears Candidates

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Mbeere North Democratic Party (DP) candidate Newton Karish receives certificate

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# KEWOSA Empowers Women Leaders In Busia To Champion Gender Equality And Strengthen Devolution

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyetimes

*Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures*

Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA), chaired by Sen. Veronica Maina yesterday convened a capacity-building meeting in Busia bringing together women Members of County Assembly (MCAs) from Busia, Bungoma and Siaya, as well as female County Executive Committee Members (CECs), Chief Officers, and the Secretary of the County Public Service Board (CPSB). The session provided a vital platform for national and county women leaders to reflect on their roles in safeguarding devolution, promoting inclusivity and advancing the welfare of women at the grassroots. Busia Governor Paul Otuoma who joined the forum commended KEWOSA's efforts and echoed the senators' call for a supportive society that values women.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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# NEWS IN BRIEF



The government is keen on strengthening disease surveillance systems and emergency response mechanisms to enhance national health security. In this regard, the Ministry of Health is committed to supporting the Kenya National Public Health Institute (KNPHI) as the lead agency for emergency coordination and response. Yesterday, Ministry of Health officials led by PS for Public Health and Professional Standards Ms Mary Muthoni held a Strategic Leadership meeting with KNPHI, marking a key step in the effort. The session reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to supporting KNPHI’s transition and mandate of promoting public health through enhanced surveillance, early detection, prevention, and coordinated response to health emergencies. During the meeting, emphasis was placed on building a well-coordinated surveillance structure and fostering synergy across detection, confirmation, analysis, and response functions. The meeting also discussed outbreak management and the Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen Kenya’s emergency preparedness and response capacity.



The Kiambu County Government has launched a countywide subsidized vaccination and animal registration exercise, aimed at combating Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and improving livestock management across all its 60 wards. The program, rolled-out on Monday October is being implemented in partnership with 15 dairy cooperative societies, under the Department of Agriculture. Governor Kimani Wamatangi announced that the initiative seeks to enhance animal health, strengthen the dairy value chain and protect farmers’ livelihoods. The vaccination will be conducted door-to-door by veterinary officers, who will also register livestock for traceability. Under the subsidized program, each vaccination will cost Sh50 per animal, significantly reduced from the usual Sh160. Farmers are required to pay through M-Pesa and collect vouchers from their cooperative societies, before the veterinary teams visit their farms. The exercise is expected to run for three months, from October to December.

Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum Opiyo Wandayi together his Principal Secretaries Alex Wachira (Energy) and Mohammed Liban (Petroleum) yesterday made an extensive inspection tour to assess the level of preparedness for the upcoming Energy Week, scheduled to take place next week ahead of the Mashujaa Day celebrations in Kitui County. The team was impressed by the progress made by the relevant government agencies led by the National Government administration, the County government, and the State Agencies (SAGAs) under the Ministry. Particularly in their readiness in last mile connectivity projects being implemented by REREC, streetlighting by Kenya Power, Kitui-Wote transmission line by KETRACO, LPG gas installation and Borehole drilling under NOCK and KPC and ongoing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities across the County. The Energy Week aims to raise awareness and drive collective action toward achieving sustainable, inclusive, and modern energy access for all Kenyans, in line with our national commitment to a clean energy transition and equitable development.



Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Deborah Barasa, has urged Kenyans to plant fruit trees and clean their former primary schools, noting that this year’s Mazingira Day theme, “Turudi Primo, Tukadonate Fruit Trees,” embodies the spirit of unity and shared responsibility. She emphasized the importance of citizen-led environmental action as she called on the public to participate in greening the environments of their former schools. She disclosed that tomorrow, all Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Chairpersons, and CEOs of State Corporations will oversee activities at their former schools. Each school is expected to plant at least 2,000 fruit trees, with seedlings supplied by the National Youth Service. Since 2022, Kenya has planted over 1.06 billion trees towards its national goal. She noted that fruit trees have specifically been chosen for their triple benefit: providing nutrition, generating income, and restoring ecosystems. She was accompanied by State Department For Forestry PS Gitonga Mugambi in a meeting attended by Kenya Forest Service CCF, Mr. Alex Lemarkoko; Kenya Forestry Research Institute CEO, Dr. Jane Njuguna; Forest Development Secretary, Mr. George Tarus; Secretary Administrations; Mr. Mongo Chimwanga (Environment) and Mr. Patrick Meso (Forestry); Director of Education, Dr. Stephen Sugut and Ms Oprah Nyaboke (Office of the Government Spokesperson).



Residents of Amazon and Mandizini informal settlements in Mombasa County have raised concern over an ongoing construction project that they say has blocked community toilet drainage systems and ocean water channels, resulting in flooding in homes during high tide. The residents claimed the project commenced without public participation and has caused health and sanitation challenges in the densely populated area. Veronica Maringa, a resident of Mandizini, said residents have been left in the dark about the nature and impact of the project. Kombora Shume, from the neighbouring Amazon village, said the blockage of community toilets has created a public health risk.





# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

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# Kiambu Residents Cry Foul Over Stalled Ruiru II Dam Project As Water Shortages Deepen

By: Felix Njenga  
@themkenyaintimes

## Worth Noting:

- In a public petition presented by Lawrence Mwaura, MCA for Ting'ang'a Ward, residents lamented years of unfulfilled promises and government inaction over the dam's completion; a project first announced more than a decade ago but which has yet to take off.
- Ruiru II Dam, launched in late 2014, was envisioned as a lifeline for the growing populations of Kiambu, Kiambaa, and surrounding areas. The dam was expected to supplement the aging Ruiru I Dam, constructed in 1949 during the colonial period, which primarily serves Nairobi City.

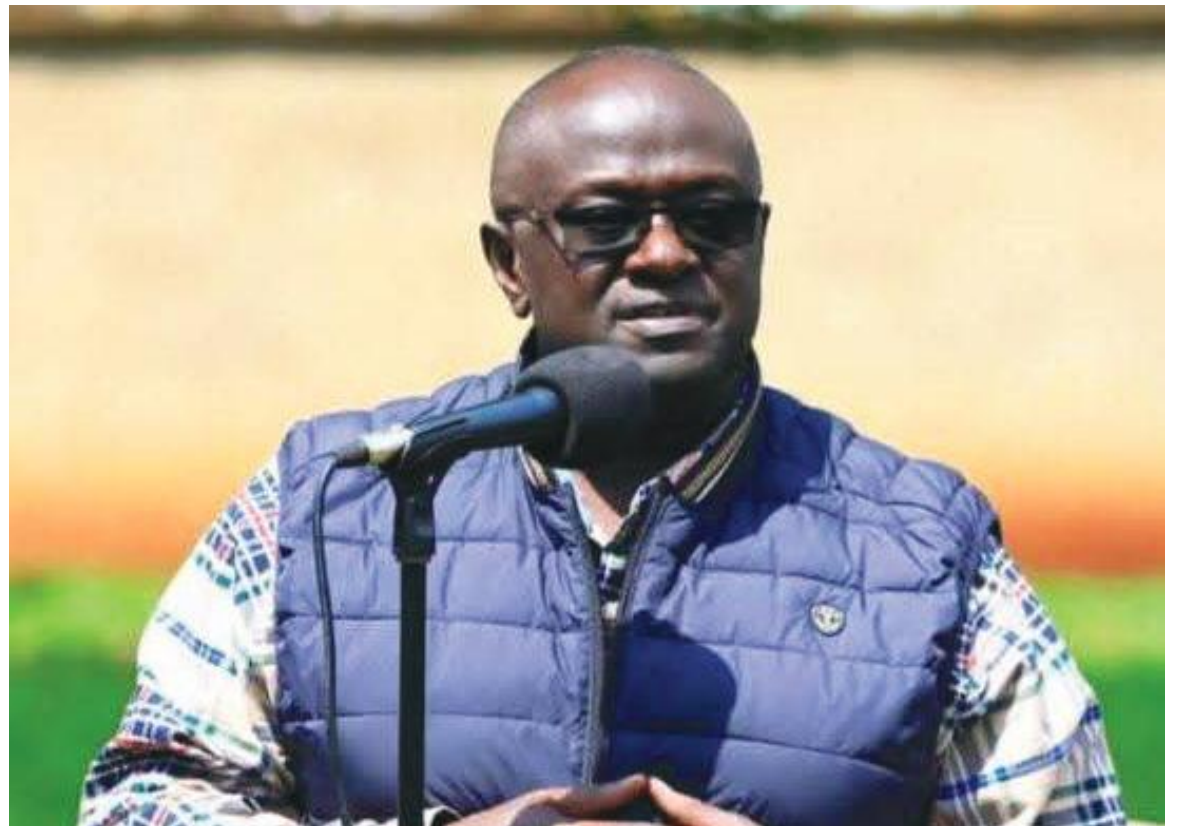
A wave of frustration is sweeping across Kiambu Sub-County as residents petition the National Assembly to urgently intervene in the long-stalled construction of the Ruiru II Dam, a vital water project that was expected to alleviate the region's chronic water shortages.

In a public petition presented by Lawrence Mwaura, MCA for Ting'ang'a Ward, residents lamented years of unfulfilled promises and government inaction over the dam's completion; a project first announced more than a decade ago but which has yet to take off.

Ruiru II Dam, launched in late 2014, was envisioned as a lifeline for the growing populations of Kiambu, Kiambaa, and surrounding areas. The dam was expected to supplement the aging Ruiru I Dam, constructed in 1949 during the colonial period, which primarily serves Nairobi City.

But more than ten years later, the site remains idle, with residents accusing authorities of neglect and misplaced priorities. "We were promised clean and reliable water, but what we have instead are endless excuses," said one resident of Ting'ang'a. "Every dry season, women and children trek for miles in search of water, yet a major water project lies abandoned in our backyard."

The petitioners expressed resentment that the Ruiru I Dam; designed to serve colonial settlers in Nairobi continues to channel most of its water to the capital, leaving local communities high and dry. Many villagers living near the dam say they are routinely denied access to the water, often being turned away by government officers or security personnel.



Tinganga ward MCA Mwaura Napoleon

"The dam is within Kiambu, yet our people cannot draw a single bucket from it," said a local elder from Githunguri. "It feels like history is repeating itself; water from our own soil is enriching others while we suffer."

Water scarcity has taken a heavy toll on households, schools, and farmers across Kiambu Sub-County. Residents depend on erratic boreholes, polluted streams, or expensive vendors for daily supply. During dry spells, the situation becomes desperate.

"It's heartbreaking to see children miss school because they have to fetch water before class," said Mary Wanji-

ku, a mother of three. "We had pinned our hopes on Ruiru II Dam. But year after year, nothing happens."

In their petition, the residents are demanding that the National Assembly's relevant committee investigate why the Ruiru II Dam project has not been actualized and to determine whether any concrete plans exist for its revival.

They are calling on the government to prioritize the project as a matter of public interest, arguing that the continued delay undermines their constitutional right to clean and safe water as guaranteed under Article 43 of the Kenyan Constitution.

"The suffering of Kiambu residents cannot be ignored any longer," reads part of the petition. "The completion of Ruiru II Dam will not only improve water access but also restore dignity to thousands of households who have been forgotten for too long."

As the National Assembly considers the petition, the people of Kiambu remain hopeful that their voices; echoing from dry taps and parched lands will finally stir action and bring to life a project that could transform their lives.

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Kiambu County On The Rise As Governor Outlines Three Years Of Transformation In Key Sectors

By: Felix Njenga

@themtkenyentimes

Governor Kimani Wamatangi has declared that Kiambu County is on a firm path to reclaiming its glory, outlining sweeping reforms and transformative development projects that have reshaped key sectors including education, health, infrastructure, agriculture, and water management.

Delivering the State of the County Address before the Kiambu County Assembly, Governor Wamatangi described his administration’s journey as a story of “turning hope into tangible progress,” crediting disciplined leadership, prudent resource management, and the spirit of service as the foundation of the county’s renewed transformation.

“When I took office, Kiambu’s cup was filling up. Today, that cup is almost full — and soon, it will be overflowing,” Wamatangi declared to thunderous applause from Members of the County Assembly.

Education took centre stage in the governor’s address, with Wamatangi announcing that 312 modern ECDE learning centres have been completed across the county, with an additional 178 under construction.

Each centre features furnished PP1 and PP2 classrooms, offices, play areas, and modern sanitation facilities — a far cry from the dilapidated shacks that once served as classrooms.

The governor said his administration’s school feeding programme now serves nearly 50,000 ECDE learners, providing daily fortified porridge, weekly eggs, and milk every Thursday. The results, he said, are evident: enrolment has soared from 32,000 to nearly 50,000 children in just two years.

“Our ECDE centres rival the best private academies in design and quality,” he said. “When we invest in children, we invest in Kiambu’s future.”

To complement these efforts, ECDE teachers have been absorbed into the county payroll and sponsored for higher training, while a bursary kitty expanded from KSh100 million to KSh750 million now supports thousands of learners in secondary schools and universities.

In one of the county’s most notable achievements, Kiambu has recorded zero maternal deaths at Kiambu Level 5 Hospital between January and July 2025 — a feat recognised by the United Nations General Assembly and the Federation of Interna-

tional Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

The governor announced the construction of six new Level 4 hospitals in Lari, Thogoto, Bibirioni, Githunguri, Juja and Karuri, alongside 28 new Level 3 hospitals strategically placed to ensure every resident is within five kilometres of medical care.

Kiambu’s hospitals have been equipped with modern digital X-ray, ultrasound, dialysis and endoscopy machines, while 19 fully equipped ambulances — including one dedicated to maternity emergencies — have replaced costly leased services.

Over 770 health workers have been promoted, 230 new medics employed, and a Health Management Information System (HMIS) now interlinks all facilities, allowing doctors to consult remotely and monitor drug stocks in real time.

“Our healthcare revolution is not just about buildings — it’s about saving lives, restoring dignity, and creating a model for Kenya and Africa,” Wamatangi affirmed.

Addressing infrastructure, the governor unveiled the “Boresha Barabara” programme, an ambitious plan to rehabilitate at least 1,500 kilometres of roads through grading, gravelling, cabro paving, and tarmacking.

Despite missing nearly KSh1 billion from the Road Maintenance Levy Fund, the county has forged ahead, tarmacking key roads in Thika, Kamenu, Biashara, and Limuru, among others.

Wamatangi also announced the construction of bus parks in Makongeni, Kiambu, Banana, Kikuyu, Kwa Maiko and Githiga, with more planned in Juja, Kiganjo, Kamangu, and Kimende.

In a major green energy push, the “Angaza Kiambu” initiative will install 12,000 solar streetlights across the county, cutting electricity costs and promoting sustainability.

The governor praised farmers for their resilience and outlined major investments in agribusiness, including distribution of improved kienyeji chicks to 100,000 women, piglets to youth groups, and certified maize seeds and fertilizer to boost food security.

Under the Co-operatives Directorate, coffee societies such as Komo-thai Co-operative have been revitalised, with the price of coffee rising from KSh20 to KSh89 per kilogram. The society’s milling capacity has doubled to 1.6 million kilogrammes annually, thanks to a county-issued commercial milling licence.

Wamatangi also reported that



Governor Kimani Wamatangi delivering the state of the county address before the Kiambu county assembly

166,000 fish fingerlings have been supplied to farmers, alongside the establishment of a solar-powered fish market in Ruiru and a nearly completed County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Githunguri — a project expected to revolutionise food processing and create thousands of jobs.

The governor highlighted progress in water supply and environmental conservation, noting over 200 kilometres of new water pipelines and rehabilitated boreholes across the county.

He also announced the issuance of 10,000 title deeds under the Second

Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP II), giving residents long-awaited land ownership security.

Meanwhile, Kiambu has conferred municipality status on six new towns, bringing the total to twelve, and unlocked KSh1.3 billion through the Kenya Urban Support Programme.

Wamatangi said the county is now pursuing Senate approval to elevate Thika Municipality to an Industrial Smart City, positioning Kiambu as Kenya’s industrial powerhouse.

Governor Wamatangi however urged leaders and residents alike to

guard the gains made and resist political distractions that could derail progress.

“We have laid a foundation of disciplined leadership, innovation, and service. The journey to make Kiambu great again is unstoppable,” he declared.

From education to health, roads to agribusiness, the message from the governor was clear: Kiambu’s transformation is not just underway — it is unfolding before the eyes of its people.



Governor Wamatangi with Assembly members.



# IEBC Clears Candidates Ahead Of November 27 Mini-Polls

By: Correspondent  
@themkenyatiimes

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has commenced the clearance of aspirants nominated by various political parties to contest in the upcoming by-elections scheduled for November 27, 2025.

A total of 24 electoral areas are set to hold by-elections following the declaration of vacancies earlier this year.

In Mbeere North and Magarini, Democratic Party (DP) candidate Newton Karish and Democratic Congress Party (DCP)'s Karisa Kenga will fly the United Opposition banner.

In Malava, Democratic Action Party-Kenya (DAP-K) candidate Seth Panyako will face off against UDA's Peter Ndakwa and DCP's Edgar Busiega in a tightly contested race.

James Shinachi Angatia, the Alliance for Real Change (ARC) party aspirant, was not cleared during Monday's exercise after failing to present his retirement letter.

However, the IEBC Returning Officer granted him a reprieve, allowing him until October 9 at 4 p.m. to submit the required document.

In Kasipul, Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) candidate Boyd Were and Independent candidate Philip Aroko were cleared to run in the parliamentary by-election. United Green Movement (UGM) party's Benson Obol is among those cleared for the Ugunja parliamentary contest.

Youngster Samuel Letasio of the Kenya Moja Movement Party has vowed to upset the political establishment in the Baringo Senate race, which also includes KANU Chairman Gideon Moi and UDA's Chemitei Kiprono.

"I believe, I am the right candidate, I know my party is prepared to be on the ground as soon as possible. We have been organizing everything. Everything is in place. And I believe, the Baringo people will realize that this is not just a two horse race. It will be a horse between the old and the and the Generation Zed, which are the youth. The youth of this county are ready to make a change," Letasio stated.

By-elections will also be held in various wards across Nairobi, Nyamira, Kajiado, Kitui, and Elgeyo Marakwet counties.

In Nyansiongo Ward, KANU candidate Alexander Mosebe, ODM's Dickson Machungo, and PDP's Jackson Mogusu received the green light to contest the seat, which fell vacant after the Magistrate's Court nullified the election of former MCA Dennis Kebaso.

In Purko Ward, DCP candidate Sanare Tipatet Saidimu was among the first to be cleared by the IEBC.



Youngster Samuel Letasio of the Kenya Moja Movement Party has vowed to upset the political establishment in the Baringo Senate race

# Lawmakers Challenge Education Ministry Over Delayed Resolution To Lecturers' Strike

By:PSCU  
@themkenyatiimes

Members of the National Assembly have urged the Ministry of Education to expedite talks with university lecturers' unions to end the ongoing strike that has paralysed learning in public universities across the country.

Gilgil MP Martha Wangari sought a statement from Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba on the steps being taken to resolve the impasse between the Government and university staff unions; UASU, KUSU, and KUDHEIHA to ensure the resumption of learning.

In his response, the CS said the government had substantially implemented the 2021–2025 Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs), whose total financial requirement amounts to KSh9.76 billion, disbursed in three tranches.

"KSh4.3 billion was released for the period October 2024 to June 2025, and another KSh2.73 billion has been disbursed for the 2025/2026 Financial Year. The remaining KSh2.73 billion will be paid in the next financial year as scheduled," said Mr. Ogamba.

He further noted that the 2017–2021 CBA remains under dispute, with the unions claiming an outstanding balance of KSh7.9 billion, while the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) maintains that only KSh624 million is pending after annual salary adjustments were accounted for.

"This difference in interpretation is a matter we are ready to resolve amicably through objective discussions," the CS added, confirming that the matter is currently under conciliation as directed by the Employment and Labour Relations Court.

However, lawmakers expressed dissatisfaction with the Ministry's explanation, accusing it of delaying the resolution of the long-standing pay dispute.

Kitutu Masaba MP Clive Gesairo questioned the accuracy of the Ministry's financial figures, accusing it of "hiding behind the SRC."

"This is not the first time the Ministry has contradicted itself. The Office of the Attorney General has already advised that balances owed under the 2017–2021 CBA be paid. Our young people are at home, and lecturers are on the streets," said Gesairo.

Wilberforce Oundo from Funyula constituency echoed similar concerns, calling for urgent action to restore normal learning.

"As a former lecturer, it saddens me to see my colleagues on the streets. Can the Ministry assure this House that the negotiations will be concluded this week so that lecturers and students go back to class?" he posed.

The CS maintained that the government remains committed to implementing the 2021–2025 CBA in full and to commencing negotiations for the 2025–2029 agreement once guidelines from the SRC are received.

he affirmed.

The House urged the Ministry to fast-track talks with all stakeholders to ensure university students resume learning without further disruption.



Gilgil MP Martha Wangari.



# Tech-Driven, Farmer-Centered Transformation Shaping Agricultural Future

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has outlined an innovation driven vision to transform Kenya’s agricultural sector through technology, partnerships, and farmer empowerment. Speaking during the IFAD East and Southern Africa (ESA) Division 2025 Workshop, the CS said the ministry is focused on making farming profitable, sustainable and youth-driven. “The success of our sector depends on embracing technology, AI, and evidence-based decision-making but adapted to our local realities,” he said. Since taking office nine months ago, Kagwe noted the ministry has rolled out major reforms across key value chains. These include a global online coffee auction to eliminate middlemen, the launch of orthodox tea auctions to boost value addition, a KSh1.45



billion milk cooler rollout across 40 counties, and the leasing of state owned sugar mills to private investors under a KSh12.25 billion public-private partnership model that prioritizes farmers. He said the Kenya Kwanza adminis-

tration is cutting bureaucracy, reforming agricultural colleges to produce tech savvy extension officers, and strengthening collaboration with private-sector bodies such as Agriculture Sector Network , Kenya Association of Manufacturers, and Cereal Grow-



ers Association. Digital tools like the Kenya Integrated Agricultural Management Information System (KIAMIS) and the electronic voucher program are also improving efficiency and access to inputs. At the same event, IFAD Associate Vice-President Donal Brown urged stronger local financing and innovative partnerships to support smallholder farmers amid global funding constraints. Kagwe further announced the creation of a Project Implementation and Monitoring Unit (PIMU) under his office to enhance coordination and track progress. “We must plan better, coordinate better, and deliver real results for farmers. Only by working together can we achieve the transformation our country deserves,” he concluded.





# CS Migos: Capitation Delays Necessitated By Verification Of Schools

By: PSCU

@themtkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- Responding to the question, the CS confirmed that an audit by the Office of the Auditor-General had revealed that some schools receiving capitation from the Ministry did not actually exist.
- “Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Auditor-General recently reported that some of the schools that received capitation from the Ministry of Education were non-existent,” said the CS.
- “Following this report, the Ministry decided to undertake a comprehensive verification exercise to determine the actual number of schools and learners in the country.”
- He explained that the verification was aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in the use of public resources, ensuring that only verified schools benefit from capitation funds.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Mr. Julius Ogamba informed the National Assembly that delays in the release of school capitation funds have been occasioned by an ongoing audit that uncovered serious irregularities, including the disbursement of funds to non-existent schools.

Appearing before the House to respond to Members' Questions the CS was addressing a question from the Member for Emuhaya, Omboko Milemba.

His question was read on his behalf by Gilgil MP, Martha Wangari.

Wangari, reading the question, asked, “Could the Cabinet Secretary state the plans that the Ministry of Education has put in place to ensure that all schools receive capitation to facilitate their operations during the third term, given that national examinations are about to commence? Could he also outline measures to ensure smooth running of schools during the ongoing verification process, indicate how long the exercise will take, and explain the actions being taken to uncover ghost schools that have been receiving funds for infrastructure and examination purposes?”

Responding to the question, the CS confirmed that an audit by the Office of the Auditor-General had revealed that some schools receiving capitation from the Ministry did not actually exist.

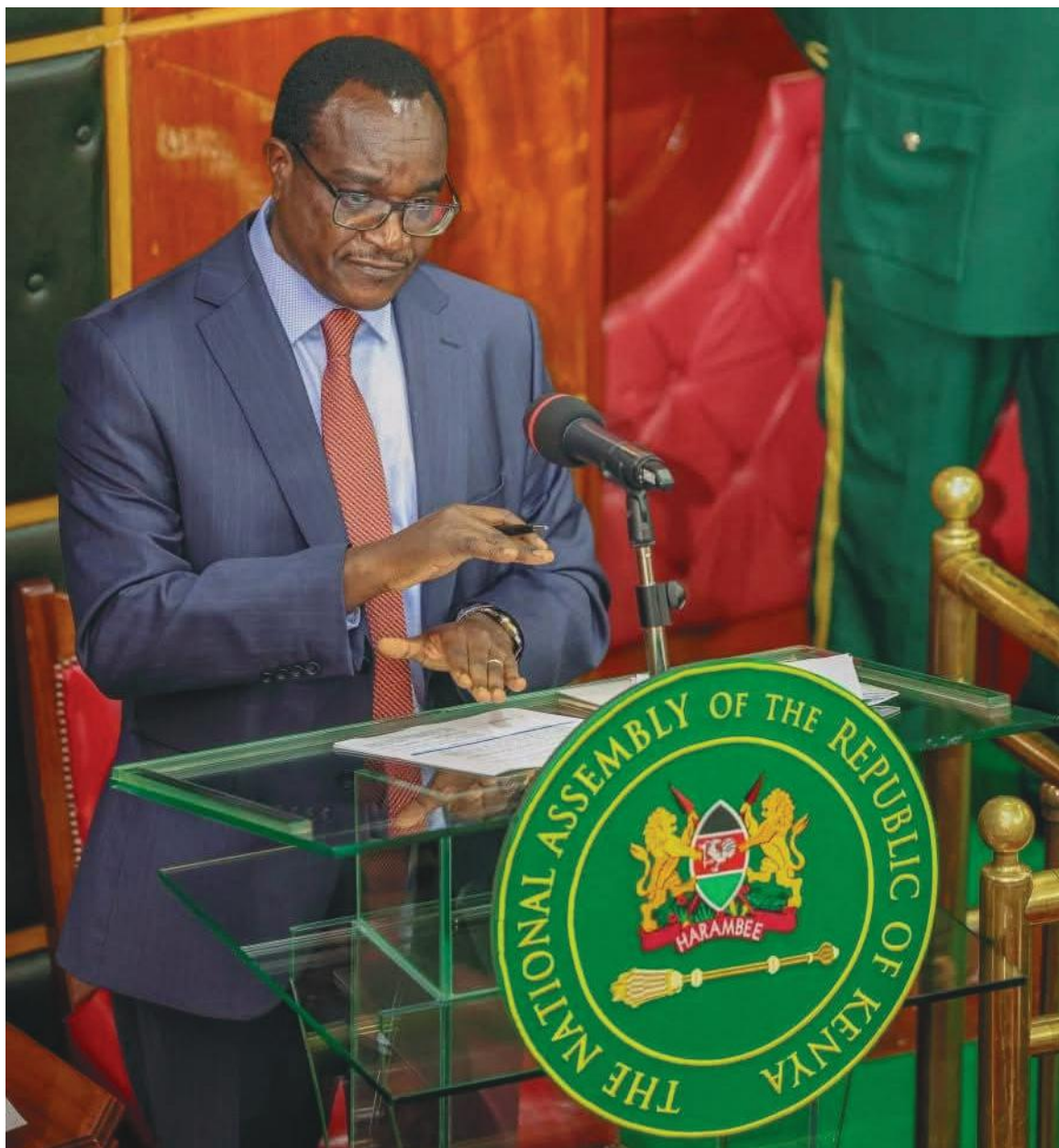
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“Following this report, the Ministry decided to undertake a comprehensive verification exercise to determine the actual number of schools and learners in the country.”

He explained that the verification was aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in the use of public resources, ensuring that only verified schools benefit from capitation funds.

As of Tuesday, the Ministry had verified and released capitation to 752 primary, junior, senior, and special needs education institutions across the country, catering to 9,430,139 learners.

On funding status, Ogamba reported that for secondary schools, KSh10 billion out of an allocation of KSh10.3 billion had been released, representing 96 per cent of the total. For junior schools, the Ministry had disbursed KSh4.1 billion out of KSh5.7 billion (73 per cent), while for primary schools, KSh821 million had been released out of KSh1.7 billion (48 per cent).



Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos in the National Assembly yesterday

The CS assured lawmakers that the verification exercise was nearing completion and that a comprehensive report would be ready within a week. “By Wednesday next week the exercise will be done and once the report of the analysis is released we will then determine which and where the

ghost schools are located. Retrospective action will then be taken by the investigative agencies,” added the CS. Nyeri County MP, Rahab Mukami, however questioned the timing of the verification exercise, saying it was disadvantaging candidates preparing for their national examinations.

“Why have Form Four students been

sent home while we know very well that they should be preparing for their exams?” she asked.

Mukami urged the CS to direct school principals to recall candidates to ensure they complete their preparation and sit for their final exams without disruption.





# MPs Call For Formation Of Ad-Hoc Committee To Investigate KTDA Amid Low Bonus Pay

By: MKT Reporter  
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- They blamed KTDA Management Services for failing to control rising costs of production and management, including inflated firewood procurement and staff expenses and manipulation of weighing scales by some field clerks, under pressure from factory managers.
- “In Kenya, tea is 2nd foreign exchange earner. Last year alone tea exports were worth KSh 215vbillion and 68 per cent of national tea production is from West of Rift while 32 per cent is from East of Rift. However, tea prices from West of Rift are dismal and worth concern,” Yegon said.
- The legislators are now demanding the introduction of blind or scientific tea testing at the auction to eliminate bias and guarantee fairness and a balanced representation model at KTDA Holdings claiming that the current one is imbalanced in favor of East of Rift farmers.

Members of Parliament drawn from the West of Rift tea growing region want an Ad-hoc committee formed to investigate Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) operations which they have accused of being corrupt following the discrepancies in 2025 tea bonuses payment.

During a press conference held at Parliament Buildings yesterday, the members led by Brighton Yegon who is the Agriculture and Livestock Committee Vice-Chairperson, condemned the low bonus paid to farmers from the region saying that over 700,000 farmers have been short-changed yet again despite their relentless effort in producing the world’s best tea.

They blamed KTDA Management Services for failing to control rising costs of production and management, including inflated firewood procurement and staff expenses and manipulation of weighing scales by some field clerks, under pressure from factory managers.

“In Kenya, tea is 2nd foreign exchange earner. Last year alone tea exports were worth KSh 215vbillion and 68 per cent of national tea production is from West of Rift while 32 per cent is from East of Rift. However, tea prices from West of Rift are dismal and worth concern,” Yegon said.

The legislators are now demanding the introduction of blind or scientific tea testing at the auction to eliminate bias and guarantee fairness and a balanced representation model at KTDA Holdings claiming that the current one is imbalanced in favor of East of Rift farmers.

“In 2025, we cannot have mouth being the single tasting instrument of products we must move to scientific tasting and to KTDA manage-

ment, once this Ad-hoc Committee is formed, we will tackle the cartels once and for all,” Clive Gisario, the Kitutu Masaba MP said.

‘Out of 13 brokerage firms serving Kenya’s tea auction, only one originates from the West of Rift, yet this region contributes 68 per cent of the national tea production. We demand fair representation in brokerage licensing to ensure equitable participation and regional inclusivity in tea marketing. We also demand immediate disbandment of tea trade association and a transparent exercise involving the farmer be put in place,” part of their press statement read.

At the same time, they called upon the House Business Committee to prioritize the Tea Amendment Bill that is currently tabled for 2nd reading in the National Assembly.

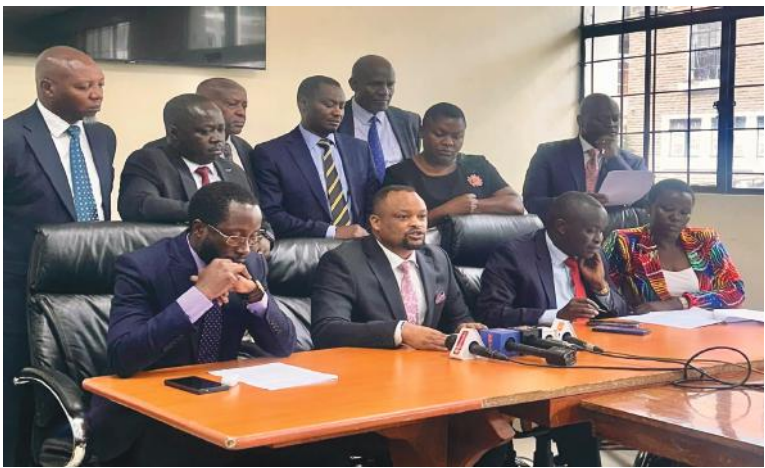
Nandi Hills MP Benard Kitur stated that the tea from West of Rift are the best worldwide however, its awkward that it receives the worst ratings in Mombasa auction.

The Members were drawn from Bomet, Kericho, Kisii, Nandi and Nyamira Counties.

Last week, KTDA sought to calm growing concerns from farmers over differences in bonus payments across factories for the 2024/2025 financial year, attributing the variations to market forces, leaf quality, and regional dynamics.

At the same time the agency revealed that farmers affiliated to it will be receiving the KSh2.7 billion that was recovered from Imperial and Chase banks alongside the bonus payment.

A statement issued by the agency’s Corporate Communication department said the money is supposed to reflect in the farmers, latest, by Wednesday next week.



The MPs while issuing the statement yesterday.



KTDA Holdings Chairman Chege Kirundi.



KTDA Management Services Chairman Solomon Maina alias Solo.



KTDA Group Chief Executive Officer Wilson Muthaura.



# Coffee Cartels On Edge As Kenya Prepares Global Online Auction

By: MoALD Team  
@themtkenyetimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe together with his Cooperatives and MSMEs Development counterpart Wycliffe Oparanya have confirmed that preparations are in the final stages for Kenya’s first online coffee auction, set to open the Nairobi Coffee Exchange to buyers worldwide.

“Marketing can not be done the same way year after year and expect different results. It’s madness,” said Kagwe.

“We have agreed that the auction must go online, allowing international buyers to participate directly. Cartels will no longer hold the market hostage. Technology will deliver transparency and better prices for our farmers.”

The two CSs stressed that reforms must put farmers at the center. Kagwe noted that Kenya earned KSh40 billion from coffee last year, but this was nearly KSh 60 billion less than peak earnings in the late 1980s. He

outlined plans to expand acreage in new regions, increase productivity per tree from 3Kgs to 30Kgs, and deploy extension officers from agricultural colleges to support farmers.

CS Oparanya said the revitalization program aims to triple production from 50,000MT to 150,000MT within three years. Through New KPCU PLC, the Ministry has already sensitized farmers in 22 counties, with modernization of 1,176 cooperative factories underway and seedling production being scaled up to meet growing demand.

Looking ahead, Kagwe revealed that Kenya will table proposals at the World Food Forum in Rome next week, pushing for Africa’s coffee markets to operate independently in order to boost farmer earnings and strengthen Kenya’s global competitiveness.

“We will not allow selfish interests to sabotage our coffee. The farmer is the future. This time, technology, reforms, and global partnerships must work for them,” he emphasized.

Oparanya added that the reforms are anchored in the Cooperatives Bill 2024 and the Coffee Bill 2024, currently before Parliament. Once enacted, they will address governance loopholes, improve coordination between the national and county governments, and strengthen farmer representation. He further revealed that the Direct



CSs Wycliffe Oparanya and Mutahi Kagwe in Nairobi yesterday..

Settlement System (DSS) operated by Cooperative Bank is now fully operational, ensuring that 80% of coffee proceeds go directly to farmers. 200 cooperatives are already on board, despite ongoing court mediation.

The two spoke during a breakfast meeting on coordination of the Kenya Coffee Sector initiatives and upscaling investments that was held at Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi.

## Weekly Coffee Auction Fetches KSh704 Million

By: MKT Correspondent  
@themtkenyetimes

A consignment of 11, 179 bags of coffee traded during the inaugural 2025/2026 coffee season at Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) realized KSh704 million.

The volume presented for auction marked a roughly 30 per cent drop compared to last week’s Sale 42 which was the final auction of the previous season where 14, 524 bags were traded.

In the auction conducted at Wakulima Houses in Nairobi on Tuesday, overall average price was KSh48,481 per bag of 50 kilograms.

Grade AB coffee dominated the auction with 3, 953 bags which fetched Sh141.2 million at an average of Sh51, 421 per bag.

Another batch of 3,953 bags of grade C earned Sh134.6 million with 1, 024 bags of premium grade AA netting Sh76.3 million.

Twelve brokers participated in the

sale with Alliance Berries Ltd trading the largest volume of 2,922 bags earning Sh134 million followed by New KPCU with 2,926 bags which fetched Sh133.9 million.

Others, Kipkelion Company traded 944 bags earning Sh56.7 million, KCCEMA Coffee brokerage Ltd sold 891 bags netting Sh54.8 million and Meru Union got Sh38.6 million after selling 697 bags.

In the category of buyers, five dealers purchased 8,793 bags valued at Sh573.5 million, which represents about 78.7 percent of the total volume traded and 80 percent of the total value of the entire sale, underlining their continued dominance at the NCE.

The five dealers that dominated the auction included Ibero Kenya Ltd which bought 2,514 bags at Sh144.7 million followed by C.Dormans SEZ Ltd which purchased 2,234 bags worth Sh. 144 million.

Louis Dreyfus Company purchased 1,531 bags at Sh88.7 million, Taylor Winch Ltd bought 1, 328 bags worth Sh82.8 million and Sasini Ltd got 1,186 at Sh76.6 million.



Coffee



# The Angel That Became The Wound



By Pearson Lemani

When first I gazed, her beauty seemed the  
skies,  
A radiant dawn to warm my weary soul;

Yet now that light is venom in disguise,  
Her sweetness turned to ashes, dark and cold.

Her voice once healed the fractures of my  
night,  
But now it carves a silence sharp with pain;  
Her kiss, once mercy, robbed me of my sight,  
And left my spirit bound in iron chain.

O cruel star that clothed itself in grace,  
How false the crown of love upon thy head!  
For every smile concealed a colder face,  
And every vow was written to be bled.

Yet still I burn, though reason bids me flee,  
For she, my ruin, is my destiny.

Edited by Conrad Ongwesi

# Baada Ya Kifo Cha Baba



Alipoondoka baba, mama kuachwa mjane  
Ya baba yote akiba, walisema wagawane  
Hatukupewa na haba, tuliachwa na ujane

Tulisalia kulia, kilio kisicho dawa  
Mama akawalilia, huruma akaonewa  
Mahali pa kulimia, shamba dogo kukapewa

Tulikuwa tu wadogo, yote yakifanyika  
Mama na ndugu mdogo, kwenye shamba tukafika  
Kulailima mihogo, mahindi na kadhalika

Walikuja mazao, siku yetu tukivuna  
Wakaipoleka kwao, tukawa chetu hatuna  
Yamo kwenye shamba lao,mashangazi wakanena

Hima hatukufa moyo , tuliyaishi maishi  
Nayo tulokuwa nayo, matumbo ikashibisha  
Mama kitutia moyo, yote hayo yangeisha

Mkopo alichukua, mama tukaenda shule  
Asingelipa hatua, shamba letu lijendele

Nasi ikawa satua, shuleni twende kilele

Tulisoma tukilima, huku tukivumilia  
Kwa walimu taadhima, sisi tukachikilia  
Ilipofika hatima, mosi tukaimbukia

Tulipata wafadhiri, tukaenda sekondari  
Tukakizika kiburi, masomo tukakariri  
Huko tukapata heri, gredi nzuri fahari

Chuoni tulipofuka, kina ami walikuja  
Kutuchukua hakika, tuliokuwa pamoja  
Tukakatakaa Aka, na vyao vingi vioja

Tuliosoma yakini, ndugu akawa daktari  
Mimi nami runingani, nikawa mwanahabari  
Mama akawa usoni, tabasamu lashamiri

Wote waliotuona, midomo walifungua  
Walosema tuna la'na, walishindwa kutambua  
Wakawa wasemezana, huku wakitwangalia

Na sisi tumejifunza, kwa amani tukaishi  
Na mama alotutunza, apate nzuri aushi  
Daima ni Mungu kwanza, kisha mametu shabashi

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi  
Malenga Kitunguu Machoni

# Journey From Struggle To Success



Journey from struggle to success –  
the path is full of obstacles.  
Ups and downs, smooth and rough,  
straight and the curve fills with challenges.

They are the inevitable part of life  
Perseverance is the key to success .  
Countless sacrifices, sleepless nights,  
Determination in mind brings success.

Through our journey we learn  
To accept,bend, using magic words  
With courage and consistency  
stand on boards with pride.

Rajesh Kanna B N

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

# My Library Is My Universe



Mrs. Anandhi's Mini Library



The book 'Stories Told by the Gita' that I received for securing second place in a poetry competition held for the school literary forum when I was in seventh grade is the first book I read on my own. The stories in it captivated my mind so much that I was drawn to books, and I have been reading and loving them ever since. During my student days, I developed the habit of borrowing books from others and going to the library to read. The library was very close to my school, and since our classes were on a shift basis, I had the opportunity to read books every day. The books I enjoyed reading include historical stories like Kalki's 'Ponniyin Selvan' and Sandilyan's 'Kadalpura.' If someone were to ask me, 'What do you want?' I would immediately respond with 'a book.' I also started reading English books, and I particularly love Agatha Christie's novels. Her book 'Murder in Mesopotamia' sparked my interest in reading English literature. Books like Shiv Kherra's 'You Can Win' and Robin Sharma's 'Who Will Cry When You Die?' and 'The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari' have deeply moved me. I read all 13 volumes of the English book 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' during the COVID-19 lockdown. Indira Soundarajan's stories and Ramani Chandran's novels are always in my bag. I eagerly

read stories about computers, like Sujatha's 'En Iniya Iyandhira.' I often think about how what he wrote as fiction is now becoming a reality. Everything I have read and grown up with is from Pattukottai. I have read many stories by Pattukottai Prabhakar Anna. Since his sister Kavitha was my classmate, I often made up some reason to visit their house to buy books. I have also read 'Da Vinci Code' and 'Harry Potter' books. If someone says a book is not good, I would buy and read it to understand why it is not good. There is no substitute for enjoying the rain with a book in hand. I have also read Japanese books known as 'Manga.' Recently, Mada Sami Aiya's 'En Sivappu ball point pena' captured my heart. It illustrated the actions and thoughts of teachers. The feeling that writing and reading are interconnected can only be understood by those who read books. Reading not only enhances our knowledge but also expands our imagination and serves as a platform for self-creation. I always intended to travel with books. My husband, who shares my thoughts, set up a small library at home. Both my husband and my two sons are book lovers, so books are scattered all over the house. I have donated some that I have read multiple times to the school library. Still, the first book I read is deeply etched in my heart. Occasionally, I share those stories with my beloved students. I can narrate the book 'Your Child Can Be Einstein' written by N.C. Sridharan in a nutshell. I presented my first book review among teachers on that book last year. Recently, I got the opportunity to present a review on the latest book I read. Many books have shaped me, continue to shape me, and I am determined to keep shaping myself while loving reading."

Anandhi S  
Graduate Teacher (English)  
Government Higher Secondary School, Kandigai  
Chengalpattu District.

# Digital Life vs Real Life



Like a mirage, pleasure shines so bright  
In the digital world, a fleeting sight  
But in reality, it's empty and bare  
It all vanishes in thin air, leaving nothing

It makes us believe it's real, a deceitful thrill  
Pleasure in the digital world is short-lived  
Fake and useless and hollow  
Many immersed, in this digital pleasure

Filtered smiles, and poses so fake  
Can't match the real personality,  
All thrill vanishes, in mere seconds' time  
Leaving us with emptiness, and a hollow

Cherish real life, and true happiness and beauty  
Digital happiness is short-lived, just a duty  
It's a mask that destroys genuineness and truth  
Find pleasure in nature, in all its beauty

In the moonlight, on dewy grass  
Take a deep breath, and let your spirit find  
pleasure  
A genuine smile with humans, is a treasure  
Find pleasure in pets, trees, and flowers

What a great contrast, between digital and  
real  
One brings emptiness, the other brings  
happiness and cheer

Brinda. D  
GRADUATE TEACHER,  
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,  
MELPATTAMPAKKAM  
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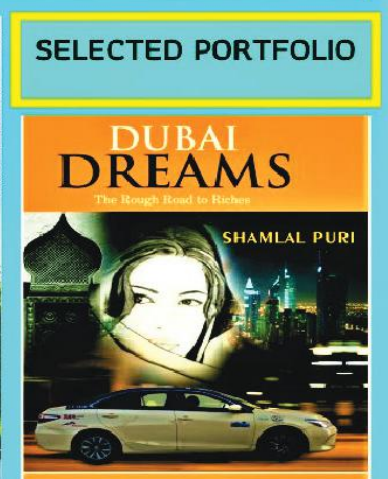
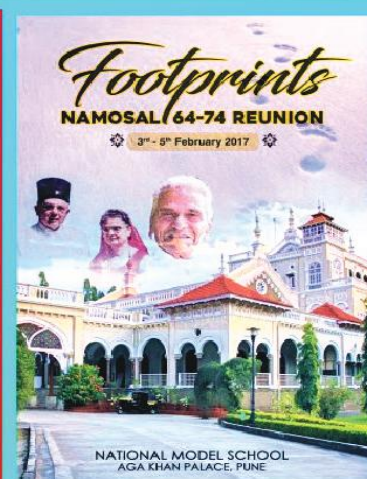
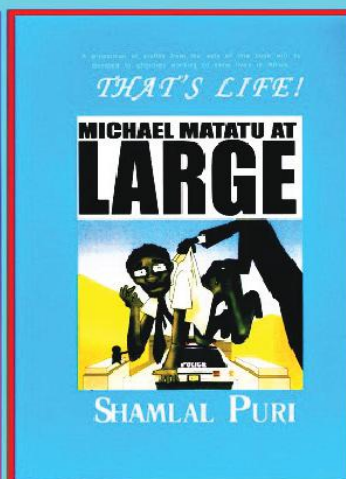
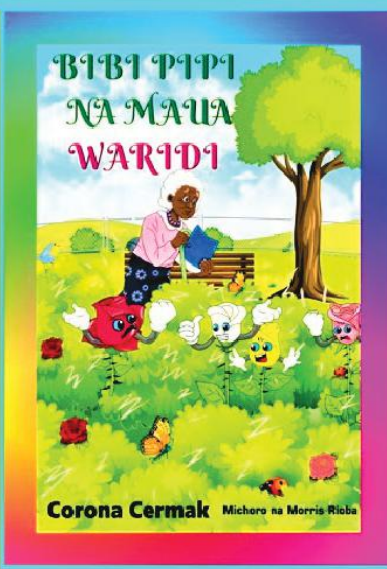
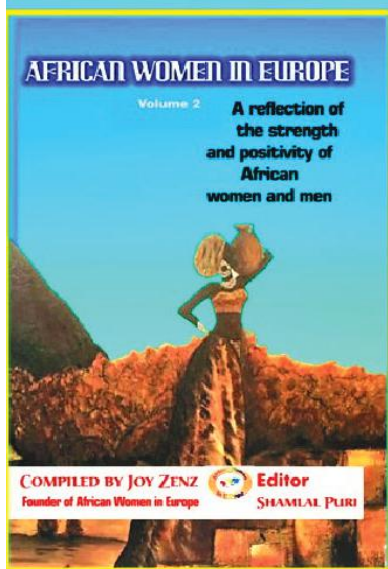
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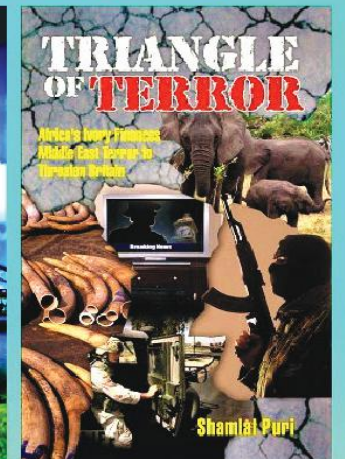
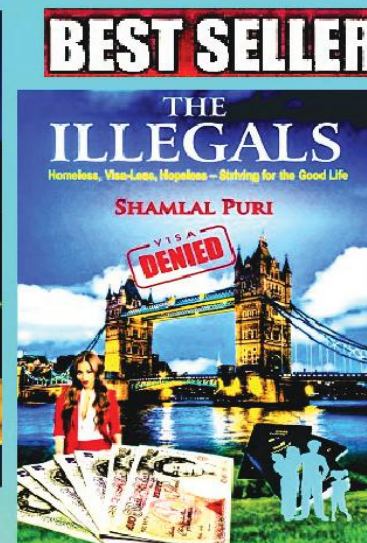
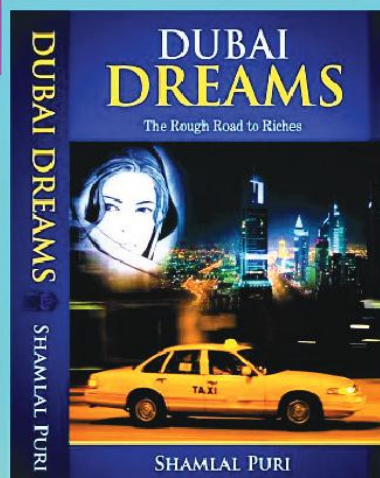
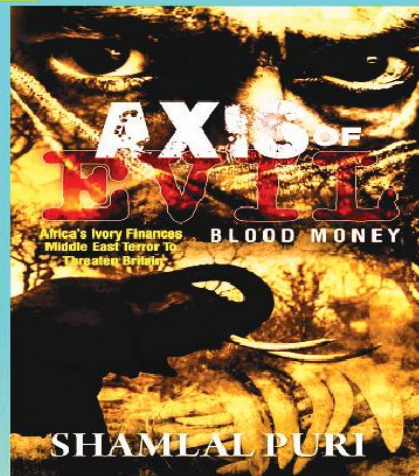
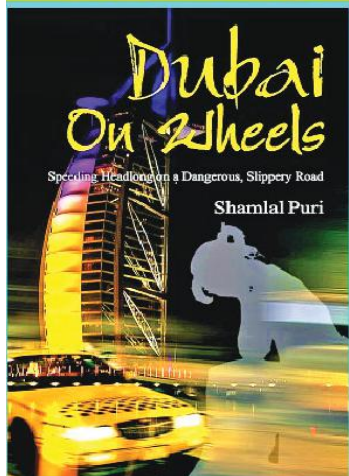
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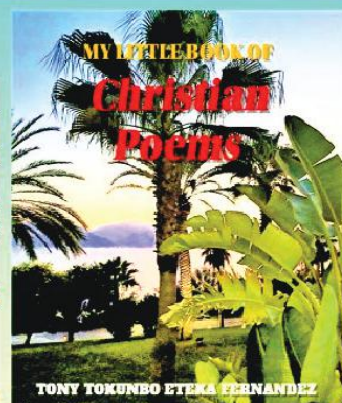
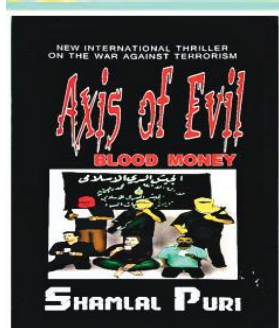
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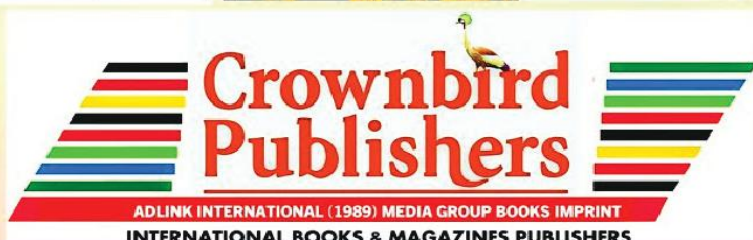


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## POETRY

## Abdulla Oripov: A Celebrated Uzbek Poet And Translator



By: Choriyeve Oynur  
@themtkenytimes

## Worth Noting:

- Despite a simple upbringing, Abdulla was different—reflective, sensitive, and deeply fond of books. Even before school, he enjoyed rhyming words, captivated more by their sound than meaning. Reflecting later, he said, “I don’t know exactly what motivated me to write my first poems. Maybe boredom, maybe joy—writing was simply inevitable.”
- In 1958, Oripov graduated from high school with a gold medal and entered the Faculty of Journalism at the Uzbek Philology Department of what is now the National University of Uzbekistan. Surrounded by books from a young age, his passion for literature and science blossomed early. He graduated with honors in 1963 and embarked on a prolific career in publishing and journalism.

This article explores the life journey, creative works, achievements, and social significance of Abdulla Oripov, the People’s Poet of Uzbekistan, a skilled translator, and a world-renowned literary figure.

Keywords: Abdulla Oripov, life and work, rich literary heritage, achievements, global recognition

## Introduction

Abdulla Oripov (1941–2016) was a People’s Poet of Uzbekistan, awarded the prestigious title “Hero of Uzbekistan.” A renowned Uzbek poet, translator, and public figure, he authored the text of the National Anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Oripov stands as one of the most prominent figures in 20th-century Uzbek literature and received numerous international awards throughout his lifetime.

## Early Life and Education

Abdulla Oripov was born on March 21, 1941, in Nekuz village, Koson District, Kashkadarya Region, situated at the foot of Kungirtau mountain. He vividly described his homeland’s beauty, especially in spring when the foothills blossomed with diverse herbs and flowers, creating a paradise-like atmosphere. Growing up in a family of eight siblings, with his father Orifboy Ubaydulla o’g’li as a collective farm chairman and his mother Turdixol momo as a homemaker, Abdulla’s childhood was typical of rural life, involving shepherding, collecting hay, and other chores.

Despite a simple upbringing, Abdulla was different—reflective, sensitive, and deeply fond of books. Even before school, he enjoyed rhyming words, captivated more by their sound than meaning. Reflecting later, he said, “I don’t know exactly what motivated me to write my first poems. Maybe boredom, maybe joy—writing was simply inevitable.”

In 1958, Oripov graduated from high school with a gold medal and entered the Faculty of Journalism at the Uzbek Philology Department of what is now the National University of Uzbekistan. Surrounded by books from a young age, his passion for literature and science blossomed early. He graduated with honors in 1963 and embarked on a prolific career in publishing and journalism.

## Professional Career

Between 1963 and 1967, Oripov worked as an editor at the “Yosh Gvardiya” publishing house. He later headed a department at “Sharq Yulduzi” magazine (1974–1976), served



Abdulla Oripov (1941–2016) was a People’s Poet of Uzbekistan

as literary consultant at the Writers’ Union of Uzbekistan (1986–1982), was editor-in-chief of “Gulxan” magazine (1983–1985), and executive secretary of the Union in Tashkent region (1985–1996). From 1996 to 2009, he chaired the Writers’ Union of Uzbekistan and concurrently led the State Agency for Copyright Protection. From 2009 until his passing, he was Honorary Chairman of the Writers’ Union.

Oripov also served as a deputy of the Supreme Council of Uzbekistan (1990), a member of the Oliy Majlis (1995), and a Senator (2005). He passed away on November 5, 2016, in Texas, USA, after a prolonged illness, and was laid to rest in Tashkent’s Chagatai district.

## Literary Contributions

Oripov began publishing poems as a student, with his first poem “The Bird” appearing in the republican press. His early works, such as “Listening to the Prayer,” “My First Love,” “Spring,” “Uzbekistan,” and many others, are cornerstones of Uzbek literature. His first poetry collection, Mitti Yulduz (“Little Star”), published in 1965, marked the arrival of a remarkable literary talent.

Subsequent collections, including Ko’zlarim Yo’lingda (“My Eyes on

Your Path”), Onajon (“Mother”), Ruhim (“My Soul”), and others, further solidified his legacy. Oripov was also a prolific epic poet; his epics like Path to Paradise, Healer and Death, and Sohirqiron are celebrated by Uzbek readers.

Notably, he authored the lyrics of Uzbekistan’s National Anthem, a symbol of national pride. Internationally, he was a foreign member of the International Academy of Science, Education, Industry and Art (California, USA), a professor at Soka University (Japan), and served on the editorial board of the National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan. He was honored with the Hamza State Prize, the Alisher Navoi State Prize, and in 2015, received the Order of the Star of Italy, awarded by the Italian President Sergio Mattarella.

Oripov also mastered the ghazal genre, with his 2024 collection Great Simplicity featuring 34 ghazals. As a translator, he notably rendered Dante’s Divine Comedy into Uzbek, a labor-intensive project he cherished. Additionally, he translated works by Nekrasov, Lesya Ukrainka, Taras Shevchenko, and others.

His poem Uzbekistan — My Homeland remains deeply cherished, embodying the spirit and pride of his nation.

## Literary Style and Influence

Oripov’s poetry addressed spiritual and philosophical themes, especially relevant during Uzbekistan’s independence era. His work reflects a blend of the philosophical lyricism characteristic of Gafur Gulyam and the musical simplicity of Hamid Alimjan. This fusion imparts a mystical quality, positioning Oripov as a key figure in modern Uzbek poetry.

## Conclusion

Entering the Uzbek literary scene in the 1960s, Abdulla Oripov became a herald of new poetic thought during a period of social transformation. His poems capture the evolving spiritual landscape, the quest for freedom, and the awakening of new ideas in society. Often called the “Navoi” of Uzbek poetry, Oripov’s legacy endures as a beacon of national identity and literary excellence.

*Choriyeve Oynur is a Student, Faculty of English Philology, Uzbekistan State World Languages University, Muborak District, Republic of Uzbekistan*



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# Do School Learners And Adolescents Experience Trauma?



By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi  
@themkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- School-aged children may respond to traumatic events in several ways. They may regress to earlier developmental stages, demonstrating responses similar to those of younger children through sleep difficulties, nightmares, worries about additional violent experiences such as their own injury or death, or worries about other threats, such as burglars.
- They may also regress to earlier modes of relating to parents through increased struggles over food, self-care, and schoolwork in order to defend against any additional traumas. They are more likely than younger children to report feelings of reliving the trauma and difficulty with expressing feelings, such as sadness or anger.

Trauma occurs differently for different individuals. For school-going children, trauma may arise at various ages due to different reasons. As they begin to establish a defined sense of right and wrong, develop the ability to empathize with others, and form relationships with adults and peers outside the family setting, older children have more capacity compared with toddlers to deal with the stress associated with experiencing trauma.

However, school-aged children are still vulnerable when it comes to trauma. Older children are at greatest risk for physical and emotional bullying or teasing, witnessing violence between parents and caregivers, witnessing violence among family members, and sexual harassment.

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They may also regress to earlier modes of relating to parents through increased struggles over food, self-care, and schoolwork in order to defend against any additional traumas. They are more likely than younger children to report feelings of reliving the trauma and difficulty with expressing feelings, such as sadness or anger.

To express the anxiety associated with witnessing or experiencing trauma, older children may feel a sense of guilt or shame over the traumatic event, hold concerns over their own safety and that of others in their school or family, or demonstrate aggressive or reckless behavior.

At school, children coping with extreme trauma may suffer from inattentiveness in the classroom or aggressiveness with other students. These behaviors may affect and impair the way they interact with others in the classroom setting, further impeding academic, social, and emotional growth.

In addition to present traumas, children also may be reacting to or coping with the stress associated with trauma experienced years ago, especially when it has not been addressed.

Trauma also comes at adolescence. Adolescence is a time of many changes for youth. In addition to physical and social changes, adolescents are gaining more independence from their families and establishing their identity.

Still, teenagers are prone to the consequences of experiencing and witnessing trauma even more than infants and school-aged children. A report given by different therapists and



psychologists who have interviewed different youths tells that youth between the ages of 12 and 25 are victims of community crimes more than any other age group, and that adolescent victimization is twice that of the national outcry.

Adolescents are at greatest risk for experiencing sexual harassment or assault, dating violence, sexual victimization, community violence, assaults by peers, or school threats. Older youth may also be affected by the consequences of witnessing or experiencing trauma during infancy or early childhood.

Experiencing trauma may lead to a number of symptoms in older youth. Adolescents are more likely than school-aged children to express feelings of fear, guilt, and isolation. In addition, they may react by avoiding school in order to guard from threats, arm themselves at school, or become involved in gangs in order to gain a sense of safety.

All these behaviors are an attempt to guard against feelings of helplessness and overwhelming fear. Following a traumatic event, adolescents may also respond through avoidance of violent environments, withdrawal into fantasy, social isolation, or regression into earlier phases of development.

Left unaddressed, adolescent victims of trauma will struggle to achieve at school, connect with their peers, and develop the skills needed to become strong members of their community.

Trauma affects people even while adults. Trauma has both short-term effects and also long-term effects that stay in the mind for a long duration of time. In addition to short-term consequences, a child who has experienced a traumatic event or events early in life may develop patterns of behavior that, in the long-term, may impair his

or her ability to form positive relationships with others.

Children who have not processed their emotions from traumatic events—child abuse, for instance—run the risk of bringing their experiences into their own families, continuing cycles of violence and abuse.

Compelling research has shown that trauma exposure early in life is linked to physical, emotional, and mental health problems in adulthood. Adults in the primary care setting explored the relationship between their current health issues and self-reported experiences of child abuse or family dysfunction recalled from childhood.

The data indicate a strong link between childhood exposure to abuse or household dysfunction and multiple risk factors for several of the leading causes of death in adults, such as heart disease and cancer.

Moreover, most patients surveyed who had experienced trauma were generally exposed to multiple traumas, rather than just one traumatic event. Another study interviewed adults with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and found that those who experienced their first trauma (in this case, sexual abuse) at an early age (before age 12) were more likely to have severe depressive symptoms following violent trauma in adulthood.

Thus, trauma in early childhood has the potential to lead to severe long-term consequences. Research has shown that the presence of multiple risk factors increases the likelihood of negative outcomes for children and youth who have witnessed or experienced a traumatic event.

These may include maternal depression, community violence, domestic abuse, or witnessing extreme traumatic events, such as war or natural

disasters. Children living in poor communities are at higher risk of experiencing trauma and have fewer resources and supports with which to buffer the traumatic stress.

While trauma has a strong effect on how children and youth develop, they have shown to be remarkably resilient. Faced with adversity, children and youth have shown they can thrive and overcome a number of dire circumstances.

Resilience refers to “the ability to adapt well to adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or even significant sources of stress.” Resilience equips children with the ability to face, encounter, and overcome traumatic circumstances and environments. However, this ability does not form in isolation.

Given the proper supports, children can endure hardship and avoid the negative behavioral, emotional, and physical consequences associated with experiencing traumatic stress. Commonly referred to as protective factors, these supports include parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and social and emotional competence of children.

The presence of one or more of these positive supports in the family, community, and greater environment helps combat the negative outcomes of child abuse, neglect, and other types of trauma, such as behavioral and physiological problems, and supports children’s development of resilience.

For instance, communities with such supports as religious institutions, schools with after-school programming, and early child care settings provide structure for both the child and family.



# Senator Mutinda Earns Global Honour With Election To Parliamentary Network Board

By: PSCU  
@themtkenyentimes

Nominates Senator Tabitha Mutinda has achieved a remarkable milestone following her election to the Board of Governance of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In an official communication to the Senate yesterday, Speaker Amason Jeffah Kingi congratulated Senator Mutinda on her appointment and called upon her colleagues to offer her their full support as she embarks on this new international leadership role.

The Board of Governance is entrusted with setting the strategic direction and providing oversight for the activities of the Parliamentary Network. Sen. Mutinda will represent the East Africa Region on the Board for the 2025–2027 term. The Parliamentary Network is an independent, non-governmental organisation that offers legislators from around the

world a platform to engage with the World Bank Group and the IMF on matters of transparency, accountability and development effectiveness. Among its key responsibilities, the Network facilitates dialogue between parliamentarians, civil society and international financial institutions. It focuses on promoting sound governance in the management of public resources, advancing poverty reduction strategies and supporting policies that stimulate inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Sen. Mutinda will formally assume her role on 13th October 2025, during the Parliamentary engagements at the 2025 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF.

Her colleagues in the Senate, including Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot (Kericho), Enoch Wambua (Kitui), Agnes Kavindu (Machakos) and Joe Nyutu (Murang’a) extended their congratulations, expressing great confidence in her abilities.

They commended her impressive record of service to the people of

Kenya and encouraged her to continue exemplifying excellence on the global stage. The Lawmakers pledged their unwavering support to ensure that Sen. Mutinda successfully fulfils her new responsibilities with distinction.

Senator Tabitha Mutinda



# Senator Nyutu Seeks Clarity On Implementation Of Governor Kang’ata’s Healthcare Programme

By: PSCU  
@themtkenyentimes

Murang’a Senator Joe Nyutu has called on the Senate Standing Committee on Health to provide detailed clarification on the implementation of Kang’ata Care, a health insurance programme launched by the Murang’a County Government to support vulnerable households.

The Senator raised concerns over the management and accountability of KSh172 million paid by Kang’ata Care to the Social Health Authority (SHA), seeking a breakdown of how the funds have been utilized and how many households have benefited from the initiative.

Speaking during Senate proceedings at Busia County Assembly, Senator Nyutu emphasized the need for transparency in the handling of public resources.

“The people of Murang’a deserve

transparency on how these funds are being used, Kang’ata Care was launched to ease the burden of healthcare costs for poor households, but we must ensure that every shilling reaches the intended beneficiaries,” he said.

He explained that Kang’ata Care, introduced in 2023, is a partnership between the Murang’a County Government and Britam Insurance designed to provide inpatient, outpatient, maternity, and last expense benefits to enrolled families. The County Government pays an annual premium per household, with the aim of making quality healthcare accessible to all residents regardless of their financial background.

The Senator sought clarity on the total number of households and individuals currently covered under the programme, the number of last expense claims that were paid through the defunct NHIF, and those that remained outstanding at the time of its dissolution.

The Murang’a Senator also questioned how much the County Government contributes per household, the cost-sharing arrangements for last expense payments between the County Government and the now-defunct NHIF, as well as the specific terms of agreement between the County Government and Britam Insurance.

Senator Nyutu further urged the Committee to confirm whether the scheme is continuous for consecutive years or renewable annually for the insured, and whether there exists any age limit for beneficiaries under the Kang’ata Care programme.

“This is not about politics, it is about accountability and service delivery. The residents of Murang’a have placed their trust in this programme, and it is our duty to ensure that trust is not misplaced.”

The legislator reiterated that while Kang’ata Care is a commendable county initiative that could transform healthcare access, proper oversight



Senator Joe Nyutu

is vital to prevent misuse of funds and to guarantee that the programme achieves its intended objectives.

“If managed well, Kang’ata Care could serve as a model for other counties across Kenya, but proper oversight and transparency are key to ensuring that such programmes truly serve the people.” Senator Nyutu noted.

The matter was referred to the Standing Committee on Health, which is expected to investigate the issues raised and present its findings to the Senate in due course.



# Why 2025 Nobel In Medicine Awards Immune System’s “Security Guards”

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyetimes

Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on Monday for discoveries that explain how the immune system is kept in check to prevent attacks on the body’s own organs. The Nobel Assembly at Sweden’s Karolinska Institutet cited their work “for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance,” awarding a prize of 11 million Swedish kronor (1.17 million U.S. dollars) to be shared equally between the laureates.

### Who are they and what they found

The immune system is a marvel of intricate checks and balances, enabling robust defences against infections while, in most cases, avoiding destructive responses against the body’s own tissues. How this balance is maintained has puzzled immunologists for more than a cen-

tury. For decades, researchers long believed that “immune tolerance” was enforced mainly in the thymus, where self-reactive T cells are eliminated during development, a process known as central tolerance. That view left a puzzle: despite this early culling, harmful immune reactions still arose unless something else kept mature T cells in check. In the mid-1990s, Sakaguchi showed what that “something else” was. He identified a small subset of T cells marked by proteins called CD4 and CD25 that act as brakes on immunity: removing them from mice triggered autoimmune disease, and restoring them calmed the attack. He named these cells regulatory T cells (Tregs). In 2001, U.S. researchers Brunkow and Ramsdell traced a severe autoimmune syndrome in the “scurfy” mouse strain to mutations in a previously unknown gene they named *Foxp3*. They also showed that mutations in the human equivalent of the gene, *FOXP3*, can cause IPEX syndrome, a rare and often fatal pediatric disorder marked by multi-organ autoimmunity. Follow-up work in 2003 established that *FOXP3* is the control switch for Tregs. Together, these findings connected the cells

and the gene into a single mechanism -- peripheral immune tolerance -- that continually polices harmful immune reactions outside the thymus.

### Why the discoveries matter

The work overturned the long-held assumption that the thymus’ early “weeding out” of self-reactive cells was sufficient. It revealed a second line of defense, peripheral immune tolerance, in which Tregs continually prevent friendly fire and help the system “stand down” once invaders are cleared. Through their revolutionary discoveries, the trio has provided fundamental knowledge of how the immune system is regulated and kept in check, said the Nobel Assembly in a release, adding that the outcome conferred the greatest benefit to humankind. “Their discoveries have been decisive for our understanding of how the immune system functions and why we do not all develop serious autoimmune diseases,” says Olle Kampe, chair of the Nobel Committee. Qiang Pan-Hammarstrom, member of the Nobel Committee, told Xinhua that the award is “for a major sci-



entific discovery” rather than a finished treatment. She said the work “clinched the case” that *FOXP3* is the lineage-defining switch for Tregs by linking the scurfy mouse to IPEX in humans.

### What could it mean for patients

According to Pan-Hammarstrom, the trio’s work has had far-reaching clinical implications, paving the way for new treatments for autoimmune diseases and cancer, and potentially improving the success of transplantations. In autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis, the aim is to

restore or strengthen the body’s own Tregs so they stop mistaken attacks on organs. In transplantation, the same cells could help patients accept a new organ with fewer broad immunosuppressants. In cancer, where tumours can accumulate Tregs to blunt immune attack, researchers are testing ways to reduce those cells inside the tumour so treatment works better. Pan-Hammarstrom said parts of these approaches are already in more than 200 clinical trials worldwide, including efforts by companies in China, but most studies are still in early to mid-stages, and none have reached Phase III.

# Ethiopian PM Launches Pan-African Media Platform To Reshape Africa’s Global Image

By: Xinhua  
@themtkenyetimes

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has launched Pulse of Africa (POA), a pan-African media platform designed to reshape the continent’s portrayal in the global media by promoting African narratives and perspectives to international audiences. The launch of the media platform took place in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and was attended by senior government officials, experts, and media representatives, among others. Addressing the event, Abiy said the launch of the POA marks a crucial step toward countering negative media representations of the continent. Africa, despite its vast potential, is often portrayed as smaller and less capable than it truly is, he said, adding that such persistent

misrepresentations have historically distorted the global perception of the continent and its people. Noting the POA’s “significant beginning,” Abiy projected the platform as a leading continental and global media outlet that will amplify authentic African voices. Experts and policymakers at the launching event emphasized the media’s unique role in fostering African unity and promoting the continent’s distinct cultural, historical, socio-economic, and political perspectives globally. Reaffirming the Ethiopian government’s commitment to supporting the platform’s core mission, Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh called for championing African agendas through the media. The POA traces its origins to Abiy’s call at the 35th African Union (AU) Summit in February 2022, where he proposed creating a continental media house to augment Africa’s media representation on the international

stage. “The stereotypical and negative media representation of Africa not only disinform the rest of the world about our continent, but also shapes the way we see ourselves as Africans. Telling our own stories and shaping our own narratives must be our top priority,” Abiy said during the summit.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed





# Canonizing The Dead: A Culture Of Posthumous Hypocrisy



By: Maina Wahome  
@themkenyentimes

In most Kenyan cultures, you must die to be loved, vanish to be valued, and rot to be remembered. That's why many people have become materialistic, striving to be remembered as the richest, the most educated, or the most fertile in their societies. It all depends on their goals.

These words embody a haunting reality of modern Kenyan society, a culture that glorifies the dead while neglecting the living. In a world where affection is delayed until death, life has become a desperate contest for remembrance. People hoard wealth not out of necessity but out of fear of being forgotten. They build monuments to their own egos, mansions, apartments, and castles, desperate to be remembered as wealthy, powerful, or educated, even if they lose their humanity in the process. It is a tragic irony that in our communities, love and honor often arrive only when the recipient can no longer receive them. Wreaths are valued more than heartfelt gestures, shared moments, or the living presence of those we profess to care for.

People should stop canonizing the dead. They are gone. As Ndaba Sibanda wrote, "The dead must be sobbing," and that is now our reality. Let the departed rest in peace, free from pretentious grief and hollow eulogies. Mourning should be private, sincere, and humane, not performative. No hashtags, no grand feasts, no dark T-shirts emblazoned with faces that were once ignored. Society must abandon this theatre of grief, this ritualized hypocrisy that celebrates corpses more than it ever cherished living souls. Across Kenya and Africa, posthumous sainthood has become a cultural disease, one where the dead are exalted while the living remain invisible. You must die to be celebrated. Being alive is a hindrance to recognition.

That is why many in positions of power plunder public coffers with reckless greed, stealing endlessly and hoarding fortunes their descendants could never exhaust. However, when such figures die, their



corruption is whitewashed through eulogies dripping with hypocrisy. If someone dies fleeing justice or engaging in crime, say it plainly: they perished as a consequence of their deeds. Society must stop enabling criminality and glamorizing mediocrity in the name of mourning. Experiencing relief or even happiness at the death of a societal nuisance is not necessarily heartless. It reflects the recognition that the oppressive presence that brought harm and suffering has finally departed.

For how long will we carry this posthumous hypocrisy we call mourning? Why give the dead more adulation than when they were alive? Must people die for the society to don dark T-shirts with their sorrowful faces, binge on endless feasts, and recite lifeless eulogies as if they truly cared? This recalls Ndaba Sibanda's poetry collection "As If They Minded," which captures the emptiness of performative grief, reminding us of Martin Luther King Jr.'s words: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Consider revolutionaries like political activists, freedom fighters, authors, musicians, reformers, and thinkers, men and women who shaped Kenya's intellectual, moral, and political landscape despite the country's deep-rooted cultural and systemic problems. In life, they were dismissed, starved, or exiled; in death, they are hailed as vision-

aries. The same society that ignored them suddenly cries torrents of crocodile tears. Their grief, however, is shorter than the tail of a pig. Ethnicity, jealousy, and social status divide people while they live, but death conveniently transforms even foes into "family." The hypocrisy is suffocating.

There is an unhealthy obsession with materialism that breeds envy, depression, and moral decay. In life, people are invisible; in death, they become saints. Their ignored calls and dismissed achievements suddenly become sacred memories. Once their hearts stop beating, timelines flood with curated sorrow and pixelated tributes. Suddenly, everyone becomes a poet of grief, a philosopher of loss, a prophet of remembrance. What cruel irony, the living are starved of love and celebration, yet the dead are drowned in it.

Expensive coffins, designer caskets, and golden wreaths are purchased not out of love, but to impress those who never mattered. At requiem masses, faces are carved in counterfeit grief, whispering sweet nothings to the wind. When the casket drops, the tears, if any, are more theatrical than true. Mourning has become a social competition, a stage where vanity masquerades as virtue and sorrow is measured by performance.

This madness of mourning is not only an insult to the living but also a mirror reflecting the moral erosion beneath our traditions. Society has

grown obsessed with appearances, a world where grief is rehearsed, and compassion is performed for public applause.

Social media has amplified this moral farce. It has become a digital cathedral of fake sorrow, a portal of pixelated grief and performative empathy. People now compete to prove how deeply they "cared." Do the dead care about the morgue that preserved their bodies? Why live like a pauper and be embalmed like a president? Then comes the digital resurrection, faces plastered everywhere: WhatsApp statuses, Instagram reels, Facebook tributes, and TikTok slide-shows, marketed like adverts. These posts come with captions few believe, hashtags none understand, and scriptures none live by. The internet has become the new altar of guilt, pride, and pretense.

Purported mourners are never short of phrases, the hollow, performative incantations of a grieving culture. "I can't believe you're no more." "Gone too soon." "We loved you, but RIP." "Death is cruel." "Rest easy, soldier," and countless other pretentious platitudes. These tired refrains repeat like a broken dirge, flooding timelines and reverberating through funerals as if they carried sacred weight. But do they? These are not words of love; they are murmurs of guilt, spilling from hearts weighed down by regret and inadequacy. They are spoken not because the departed were truly cherished, but because the living cannot endure

the burden of their own neglect. Each "RIP" transforms into a confessional whisper, a silent plea for absolution from those who withheld their love when it mattered most.

This charade must end. Mourning is not a show, and grief is not a performance. Celebration should not be reserved for the dead. If people are truly loved, they should be shown that love while they can still feel and experience it.

Kenyan society must unlearn this culture of death-centred affection and embrace a tradition of celebrating the living. Write tributes for the breathing. Feed the hungry. Support the struggling. Call those whose voices have been ignored. Love delayed until death is not love; it is guilt disguised as grief.

This culture of posthumous hypocrisy must be dismantled. It is not a virtue. It is vanity shrouded in sorrow, a madness dressed in tradition, and a performance of guilt parading as compassion. Humanity lies not in how we mourn the dead, but in how we treat the living. We must live the essence of Ubuntu, "I am because we are." Only by cherishing life before it ends can we truly claim our humanity.

## Short Bio

Maina Wahome is an author, linguist, and columnist. He also serves as a lecturer of the English language and conducts academic research.



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**Sports >>** \*Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-size motorcycle sector, on Wednesday celebrated the opening and launch party for Kenya's first Royal Enfield Exclusive Store at Rosslyn Riviera Mall

## Royal Enfield Welcome Customers To Kenya's First Exclusive Store In Nairobi



Royal Enfield Global and GPE Executives pose for a group photo during the official opening of the Royal Enfield Kenya dealership at Rosslyn Riviera Mall on 8th October 2025

Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-size motorcycle sector, on Wednesday celebrated the opening and launch party for Kenya's first Royal Enfield Exclusive Store at Rosslyn Riviera Mall, Nairobi, driving the expansion of Royal Enfield's mid-size 350cc to 650cc model availability for the Kenyan market.

The new showroom facility has been opened in partnership with Ganatra Plant & Equipment Limited (GPE Ltd) as official distributor for the region, showcasing the full line-up of Royal Enfield's class leading motorcycle range with all key models available to test-ride and order in-store including: the Bullet 350, Classic 350, HNTR350, Meteor 350, Himalayan 450, Guerrilla 450, Interceptor, Continental

GT, Shotgun 650, Super Meteor, Bear 650 and Classic 650.

Established in 1901 Royal Enfield is the oldest motorcycle brand in continuous production and now has over 2800 points of contact with motorcycle enthusiasts worldwide, including more than 200 exclusive stores, consequently financial year 2024/25 saw Royal Enfield sell more than one million motorcycles worldwide.

In addition to Sales, Service and Warranty for all Royal Enfield motorcycle models, the Nairobi Exclusive Store offers Royal Enfield casual apparel, protective riding equipment and genuine motorcycle accessories.

Buyers who purchase any Royal Enfield motorcycle also receive a three-year manufacturer warranty and free membership to the

Royal Enfield Riders Club to engage in community events.

Following the opening of Nairobi's new Royal Enfield Exclusive Store Mark Spiller, Marketing Manager EMEA said "This new showroom is a testament to our committed distribution partner GPE Ltd, who share our long-term values to develop the customer's brand experience, uphold service standards and build a strong rider community in Kenya.

We are especially delighted to see the positive reaction to the Bear 650 and Himalayan 450, both machines that are perfect to escape the city limits and explore the beautiful Kenyan countryside."

Abid Ganatra Director at GPE commented on the partnership "As long-time motorsport enthu-

siasts and passionate motorcycle riders, our directors are excited to bring the full Royal Enfield experience to the local market.

Known for their timeless design, rugged performance, and accessible pricing, Royal Enfield motorcycles cater to a wide range of riders.

Our first new showroom in Nairobi features the complete range of bikes, along with genuine apparel, accessories and spare parts.

A fully equipped service centre with trained technicians will ensure expert support and after-sales care.

In addition to Sales, Service, Spares and Warranty for all Royal Enfield motorcycle models, GPE will offer Royal Enfield Apparel and Genuine Motorcycle Accessories through their dealer network.

# GET THE BEST OF WORLD



**Sports >>** \*Cristiano Ronaldo has become football’s first billionaire player, according to financial information and media firm Bloomberg.

# Ronaldo The First Billionaire Player According To Bloomberg



Cristiano Ronaldo was top scorer in the 2024-25 Saudi Pro League campaign with 25 goals

Cristiano Ronaldo has become football’s first billionaire player, according to financial information and media firm Bloomberg. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index,, external which tracks the world’s richest people based on their net worth, has measured the 40-year-old Portugal and Al-Nassr striker’s wealth for the first time. The valuation takes into account career earnings, investments, and endorsements and says Ronaldo’s

net worth is \$1.4bn (£1.04bn). It says he earned more than \$550m (£410m) in salary between 2002 and 2023, and breaks down his reported earnings through deals and sponsorship, including a decade-long deal with Nike worth almost \$18m (£13.4m) a year. When Ronaldo joined Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League in 2022, he reportedly became the best-paid player in football history with an annual salary of £177m.

His contract was due to end in June 2025, but he signed a new two-year deal – reportedly worth more than \$400m (£298m) – which will keep him at the club beyond his 42nd birthday. Argentina and Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, who played against Ronaldo for many years during their time in Spain, has earned more than \$600m (£447m) in pre-tax salary during his career, according to Bloomberg.

That includes \$20m (£15m) in guaranteed annual pay since 2023, which is about 10% of Ronaldo’s income during the same period. When he retires, 38-year-old Messi is set to get a stake in Inter Miami.

**BBC**

SPORTS NEWS



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# Prime Minister Opened World-Class Illuminated Boat Festival in Nakhon Phanom



By: Anila Bukhari  
@themtkenyatimes

## Worth Noting:

- Once practiced across several provinces including Sakhon Nakhon and Ubon Ratchathani, the festival thrived most vibrantly in Nakhon Phanom, drawing visitors from across Thailand and beyond. The 2025 celebration featured a major competition showcasing the most beautiful and creatively designed illuminated boats.
- Traditionally crafted from banana logs or bamboo, the boats were often made from wood or synthetic materials in modern times, stretching 8 to 10 meters in length. Inside, offerings such as sweets and Khao Tom Mud—steamed sticky rice wrapped in banana leaves—were placed, while the exterior was adorned with flowers, joss-sticks, candles, and lamps. As night fell, the boats were launched onto the Mekong, glowing in a breathtaking spectacle.

On 7th October 2025, the Prime Minister presided over the grand opening of the internationally recognized Illuminated Boat Procession Festival, known in Thai as “Lai Reua Fai,” in Nakhon Phanom Province. Locally referred to as “Lai Heua Fai,” this ancient northeastern tradition celebrated the end of the Buddhist Rains Retreat, or Ork Phansa, with a dazzling display of fire-lit boats on the Mekong River.

Once practiced across several provinces including Sakhon Nakhon and Ubon Ratchathani, the festival thrived most vibrantly in Nakhon Phanom, drawing visitors from across Thailand and beyond. The 2025 celebration featured a major competition showcasing the most beautiful and creatively designed illuminated boats.

Traditionally crafted from banana logs or bamboo, the boats were often made from wood or synthetic materials in modern times, stretching 8 to 10 meters in length. Inside, offerings such as sweets and Khao Tom Mud—steamed sticky rice wrapped in banana leaves—were placed, while the exterior was adorned with flowers, joss-sticks, candles, and lamps. As night fell, the boats were launched onto the Mekong, glowing in a breathtaking spectacle.

The festival also included boat races and a wax castle procession, honoring the Buddhist legend of Lord Buddha’s return to earth after a heavenly mission. The fire boat ceremony began at sunset, with monks leading chants and sermons. Participants brought joss-sticks and candles to join in the spiritual rite, culminating in the lighting and release of the boats.

From the river’s center, the illuminated boats formed a radiant tapestry visible from afar, symbolizing devotion and the enduring spirit of Buddhism. The event uplifted local communities and enchanted foreign visitors with its vibrant cultural heritage and mesmerizing beauty.

