Why The legitimacy Of The South Sudanese Government Hangs In Balance

The arrest and continued detention of Dr Riek Marchar the South Sudanese first vice president under house arrest and the resurgence of conflict ignites concerns about the delayed implementation of the 2018 peace accord. It also questions the legitimacy of the South Sudanese government on two grounds; because the arrest itself is a violation of the Addis Ababa peace agreement Page 18

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Matiang'i: Kenya Is Facing Leadership Vacuum

Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i says the growing discontent among Gen Z youth has exposed a deepening leadership vacuum in the country. Speaking after attending a church service at the Presbyterian Church of East Africa in Thika town, Matiang'i lamented that leaders have resorted to blaming each other or inciting divisions between communities.

"You don't need rocket science or a PhD from Harvard to know that the country is headed in the wrong direction and that the citizens are not happy," said the Jubilee Party presidential aspirant.

Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i

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News>>Ruto: Criminals Disguised As Protesters Will Be Held Accountable

P. 8. President William Ruto has met the country's top security chiefs and administrators and directed them to ensure the lives and property of all Kenyans are protected.

News>>2025 International Association Of Deposits Insurers-ARC Conference Reinforces Financial Resilience

P. 12. The 2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference of the International Association of Deposit Insurers – Africa Regional Committee (IADI-ARC), was held in Mombasa Kenya, with a rallying call that Deposit Insurance Systems must evolve in tandem with the challenges of modern finance.

President Ruto To Seal Landmark UK Deals, Champion Global Finance Reform In Spain

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Photos Showing President Ruto's Arrival In Spain and Holding Meetings

President William Ruto departed for official visits to Spain and the United Kingdom yesterday where he will sign a renewed Kenya-UK Strategic Partnership set to unlock major investments, create jobs, and boost Kenya's global competitiveness in trade, climate, technology, and security.

In London, President Ruto will join UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer to sign the renewed Kenya-UK Strategic Partnership 2025-2030. Anchored on four pillars: trade, climate, technology, and security, the partnership aims to double trade by 2030, equip Kenyans with digital skills, and strengthen cooperation on regional stability, terrorism, cyber threats, and climate action.

Under the trade and green growth pillar, both countries will prioritise the completion of flagship projects, including the Nairobi Railway City, which is set to transform Nairobi's Central Business District into a modern, transit-oriented urban hub. The UK has committed to mobilising up to £1.5 billion in new investments across Kenya to drive growth across priority sectors by 2030.

A press statement by State House spokesman Hussein Mohamed stated that in support of climate action, the two nations will unlock green finance from public, private, and blended sources.

The science and technology agenda will invest in Kenya's innovation ecosystem, supporting start-ups and digitally enabled SMEs, and creating digital jobs, with additional cooperation in Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies.

President Ruto will also witness the announcement by Lloyd's of London to establish a regional underwriting hub in Nairobi under the Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC), positioning Nairobi as a financial gateway for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Additionally, he will deliver the keynote address at the Africa Debate, hosted by Invest Africa, a platform to promote Kenya's economic transformation agenda and attract strategic investment.

Prior to his engagements in the United Kingdom, President Ruto yesterday arrived in Seville, Spain, where he will participate in the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, a high-level global forum convening world leaders to define new principles for development financing. He will advocate for reinvigorated multilateralism in a world facing growing uncertainties, geopolitical tensions and intersecting crises; from extreme poverty, rising inequalities, and economic turmoil, to climate change and biodiversity loss.

President Ruto will also co-chair a high-level session during the summit and hold bilateral talks with several Heads of State and Government, including Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and King Felipe VI, aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in areas such as clean energy, youth empowerment, and climate resilience.

Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

On Saturday, in Kirinyaga County, Principal Secretary for Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni held a grassroot consultative forum with National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs), village elders and Community Health Promoters to enhance coordination in frontline service delivery. The discussions centred on accelerating Universal Health Coverage (UHC), promoting health awareness at the household level, and addressing the growing threat of drug and substance abuse. The community was also sensitised on the proposed Quality Health and Patient Safety Bill 2025, a vital tool that will enhance accountability and high standards in healthcare. They also discussed the Social Health Authority (SHA), a transformative step toward equitable and sustainable healthcare access. The PS noted that the forum reinforces the government's commitment to integrating administrative and community health systems in advancing the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), in healthcare, and community empowerment.

Media Council of Kenya Director of Media Training and Development, Victor Bwire, has underscored the need for journalists to familiarise themselves with legal frameworks protecting their work and to embrace ethical, fact-based reporting.

Speaking during a training forum for journalists and public communication officers from Kisii County, held at Kisii University, Bwire cited copyright infringement, content theft, defamation, and misinformation as key challenges facing the media profession. He urged journalists to use legal channels when seeking access to information and to avoid publishing unverified content. Bwire emphasised that the Constitution guarantees access to information but also outlines limitations, especially on matters involving personal data, hate speech, or privacy. He encouraged journalists to develop reliable sources and understand their audience to produce impactful stories.

A tragic incident unfolded yesterday at Ng'iya Post in Siaya County, where a police constable fatally shot his boss following an alleged disagreement. Constable Martin Mwendwa allegedly used a G3 rifle to shoot Corporal Cheruiyot Chesire in the chest and arms while he was asleep, killing him on the spot. After the shooting, he reportedly called the Police officer commanding Kogelo Police Station to confess to the crime before attempting to flee toward Ng'iya Girls' National School. He was shot dead during a gunfire exchange with fellow officers. Gem-Yala Sub-County Police Commander Charles Wafula confirmed the incident, and the bodies were moved to Siaya County Referral Hospital mortuary. A police report indicated that Mwendwa may have been experiencing mental distress.

Othaya constituency MP Wambugu Wainaina yesterday visited the family of Joseph Ndonga who was shot dead during Wednesday's protests. While at the deceased's home at Gathambara village, near Othaya town, the MP condemned the incident saying it was disgusting and heart-breaking for a parent to lose a child, more so in the manner the young man met his death. He further noted that it was sad that someone who's a symbol of protection turned into an executor cutting short dreams and ambitions of an innocent youth and called for accountability saying he would push the relevant authorities to ensure that family of the late Ndonga gets justice.

Kenya Livestock Marketing Council Chairperson Dubat Amey has urged political leaders and the youth to exercise restraint and uphold peace, warning that continued unrest could plunge the country into irreversible chaos. Speaking in Garissa alongside local elders, Amey condemned recent violence, looting, and destruction witnessed during youth-led protests, attributing the turmoil to incitement by selfish politicians. He stressed that change in leadership must follow constitutional processes, not street demonstrations. Elder James Maina, a member of the Somali council of elders who has stayed in Garissa town for over five decades, echoed the call for unity, urging police to avoid excessive force and appealing to both citizens and security agencies to preserve peace and safeguard the nation's future.

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-LET'S MAKE NAIROBI WORK -

Why Proposed Constitution Amendment Bill To Entrench NGCDF, Senate Oversight Fund and NGAAF Will Collapse

By: Ndung'u Wainaina

Worth Noting:

- **Thirdly, it fundamentally violates the basic structure of checks and balance as well as the principles of separation of powers and accountability established by the Constitution.**
- **Fourthly, constituency as a separate or distinct development and service delivery unit outside of the County is alien to the Constitution. The Constitution doesn't envision a third tier system where a unit is grafted from national government to operate within County but outside County governance and development structures.**

Maendeleo kwa wote

Tomorrow, the National Assembly is expected to vote for the passage of a bill that Members of Parliament hope will eventually address the unconstitutionality of the three funds that they administer.

However, they initiative is null and void, because of several reasons, which I have articulated here.

First, it is an exercise in futility. It is astonishingly hollow. The National Assembly should be held liable and accountable for irrational and reckless misuse of public funds.

Secondly, not all constitutional amendments are permissible especially those that go to the heart of the Constitution architecture.

Thirdly, it fundamentally violates the basic structure of checks and balance as well as the principles of separation of powers and accountability established by the Constitution.

Fourthly, constituency as a separate or distinct development and service delivery unit outside of the County is alien to the Constitution. The Constitution doesn't envision a third tier system where a unit is grafted from national government to operate within County but outside County governance and development structures.

Fifthly, it infringes of the division and assignment of functions between two levels of government. Counties are constitutionally self governing and distinct. If the National government wants certain functions assigned to it be done by the Counties, the Constitution has established a mechanism for function(s) transfer. Development projects in a constituency fall first under the jurisdiction of County government as Constituency is unit under County. The National government must respect and uphold Schedule Four of the Constitution

Sixth, the funds are duplication and waste of public funds. They interfere with division of revenue, prudent use of public resources and principle of public finance. Funds are dismembering the shared powers, cooperative governance principles and principle of revenue sharing enshrined in the Constitution. Senate Oversight cost is already taken care by budgetary allocation for the Senate vide Parliamentary Service Commission.

Finally, the funds directly violate the core functions of Parliament and Executive. They blur the Constitutionlly assigned functions to each arm of the State. For Parliament, the funds destroy the separation of oversight, legislation, budget approval and appropriation, and representation. The funds conflate the executive and legislative functions contrary to what drafters and the people of Kenya provided in the Constitution.

The is a Transitional Justice and Human Security Fellow. @ndunguwainaina

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Ruto: Criminals Disguised As Protesters Will Be Held Accountable

By: PCS

President William Ruto has met the country's top security chiefs and administrators and directed them to ensure the lives and property of all Kenyans are protected.

The President also directed the security chiefs to bring to book all those who perpetrated heinous crimes, including looting, robbery, rape and arson, during riots earlier this week and ensure they are prosecuted.

Hosting regional and county security and National Government Administration bosses at State House, Nairobi, on Saturday, he said: "If those behind the riots that led to looting and destruction of people's property are not arrested and prosecuted, we will be breeding impunity."

President Ruto also warned against attacks on the police, saying those who do so are threats to peace and stability and must face the full force of the law.

"We cannot have a country where criminals run after our police officers. If a policeman's life is in danger, how can our families be safe?" he said.

The President went on: "This trend must change. The criminals that attacked our officers and destroyed property in the Wednesday mayhem will be held to account."

He pointed out that the government will stand by every man and woman in uniform, and protect them as they discharge their duties.

"Only when the police keep our country safe will we have a more secure and stable Kenya where meaningful development occurs," President Ruto pointed out.

At the same time, the President expressed the government's commitment to reforming the security agencies to cope with emerging threats associated with terrorism and cybercrime, among others.

He said crime had become more sophisticated and it was critical to enhance the capacity and improve the tools of work of law enforcement agencies.

Consequently, the government is investing in training to boost the capacity of the police in fighting modern-day crime.

Saying security was the foundation on which peace, stability and development were anchored on, the President expressed the government's commitment to ensuring that it was enhanced in all parts of the country.

"We are investing in the modernisation of police equipment and training of officers besides providing a conducive environment for them to operate," he said.

Meanwhile, President Ruto called on Parliament to enact legislation to regulate demonstrations and balance the constitutional right to assembly with public order and safety.

He noted that while Article 37 of the Constitution guarantees the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket, and petition, this can be regulated to ensure the rights of others are respected and to maintain peace.

The President proposed that the legislation should provide a framework for identifying the organisers, venue of demonstrations and the specific time of demonstrations as well as address potential public safety concerns.

"We want a situation where the organisers can present their petitions, state their reasons for the demonstration and where it will be held and at what time," he said.

President Ruto also briefed the officers on the progress of the government's programmes in stabilising the economy, job creation, universal healthcare, housing and agriculture, among other sectors.

He assured them that 20 percent of the affordable houses will be ringfenced for members of the security agencies.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen wondered why critics, including religious and civil society, have not condemned the brutality criminals meted on police officers last Wednesday.

"When a police officer is attacked or a police station burned, no religious leader, foreign envoy or Law Society of Kenya official speaks," he said.

Present were Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo, Inspector-General of Police Douglas Kanja, Deputy IG Gilbert Masengeli, and Director of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations Mohamed Amin, among others.

Meanwhile, President Ruto has commended the country military for their commitment to safeguarding security in the wake of rapidly evolving threats.

Speaking during the investiture of the new Kenya Defence Forces leadership at State House Nairobi, the President said: "We implore the new leadership to discharge its responsibilities with professionalism and integrity. You have our full support."

President William Ruto on Saturday at State House, Nairobi.

Worth Noting:

- **President Ruto also warned against attacks on the police, saying those who do so are threats to peace and stability and must face the full force of the law.**
- **"We cannot have a country where criminals run after our police officers. If a policeman's life is in danger, how can our families be safe?" he said.**
- **The President went on: "This trend must change. The criminals that attacked our officers and destroyed property in the Wednesday mayhem will be held to account."**
- **He pointed out that the government will stand by every man and woman in uniform, and protect them as they discharge their duties.**

Matiang'i: Kenya Facing Leadership Vacuum Amid Gen Z Unrest

By: Laban Wanambisi
@themtkenyatimes

Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i says the growing discontent among Gen Z youth has exposed a deepening leadership vacuum in the country.

Speaking after attending a church service at the Presbyterian Church of East Africa in Thika town, Matiang'i lamented that leaders have resorted to blaming each other or inciting divisions between communities.

"You don't need rocket science or a PhD from Harvard to know that the country is headed in the wrong direction and that the citizens are not happy," said the Jubilee Party presidential aspirant.

He criticized both government and opposition leaders for failing to take responsibility and provide leadership as the country struggles to address the concerns raised by Gen Z youth.

Matiang'i expressed concern that leaders, whose statements should inspire public confidence, are instead stoking public anger.

The former Interior CS also condemned the lackluster manner in which investigations are being conducted, saying it has led to senior government officials making laughable pronouncements to the public.

"It is only when such things occur that you hear all sorts of interesting claims. Now we're being told that a certain community moved from one county to another and caused all this mayhem. Does that mean there was no one from Murang'a or Nyeri present that day?" he asked

Matiangi called for a pause in politicking as urged leaders to work together to find solutions to the governance and accountability concerns the GenZ youth are demanding.

Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i

Mask Vendor Boniface Kariuki Declared Brain Dead After Police Shooting During 'Justice For Ojwang' Protest

Boniface Mwangi Kariuki, the 22-year-old mask vendor who was shot in the head at close range during the 'Justice for Albert Ojwang' protests, has been declared brain dead, his family has confirmed.

Speaking to journalists at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) yesterday, family spokesperson Emily Wanjira said doctors informed them at midnight that Kariuki's brainstem had ceased functioning, though his heart was still beating with the help of machines.

"We were called to come here at 12:47am. When we arrived, they told us he is now brain dead but there is still a pulse. They cannot switch off the life support machine because of legal limitations," said Wanjira.

Kariuki was shot on June 17 along Tom Mboya Street in Nairobi during protests demanding the resignation of Deputy Inspector General of Police Eliud Lagat following the custodial death of influencer Albert Ojwang. A video that went viral showed two police officers confronting Kariuki before one of them shot him at point-blank range, leaving him unconscious.

Since then, Kariuki has undergone three delicate surgeries at KNH, where he has remained in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Doctors initially removed a bullet-like object lodged in his brain, which the hospital CEO, Dr William Sigilai, said could have been a rubber bullet—though further forensic analysis is pending.

Despite the surgeries, bullet fragments remain lodged in his brain, and doctors say there is no longer any brain activity. Kariuki has been on life support for nearly two weeks.

"He underwent another surgery on Friday where breathing tubes were moved from the nose to the throat," Wanjira explained. "He also underwent a pegging procedure to install a feeding tube directly into the abdomen as he could no longer swallow."

The family says the hospital bill has now surpassed Sh3 million. They have appealed to well-wishers for financial support, even as they brace for what lies ahead.

Kariuki's father, Jonah Kariuki, expressed anguish over the situation and criticised the lack of justice.

"My son's brain is no longer working, yet his heart still beats. We need help to cover the bills," he said.

Jonah Kariuki Nyambura, father of mask vendor Boniface Kariuki who was shot by police in Nairobi on June 17, 2025..

To compound their ordeal, the family revealed they had been conned out of Sh200,000 by a person who promised to assist them with treatment logistics.

The shooting has drawn widespread outrage, with human rights groups demanding police accountability. Amnesty International has listed Kariuki among the victims of police brutality during the ongoing Gen Z-led protests, which have left at least 16 people dead and more than 400 injured nationwide, most of them allegedly shot by police.

Expansion Of Kenneth Matiba Hospital In Murang'a Begins

By: Bernard Munyao
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in partnership with Murang'a County Government has embarked on construction of a 100-bed hospital wing at Kenneth Matiba Hospital in Makenji area of Kandara Sub-County.

The project, which includes construction of a state-of-the-art trauma centre and a doctors' plaza, is expected to be completed within six months.

Defence Principal Secretary, Patrick Mariru and Muranga County Governor, Irungu Kang'ata, commissioned the construction of the ultra-modern health facility that will revolutionize health-care service delivery in parts of Murang'a south.

Speaking during a groundbreaking event, Governor Kang'ata highlighted the strategic importance of the expansion, saying the trauma centre would operate 24 hours a day and play a crucial role in managing road accident emergencies across the region.

"This trauma centre will not only operate around the clock but will also be critical in handling accident cases from within and beyond Murang'a. It's a timely investment for our people," said Kang'ata.

The governor noted the hospital is located along the busy Thika – Kenol highway thus suitably located to handle victims of road carnage.

Currently, Kenneth Matiba Hospital which was launched late last year has a bed capacity of only 20, but the expansion will raise that to 120, representing a five fold increase in the hospital's ability to serve patients.

Kang'ata underscored the efforts his administration is doing to improve health service delivery by constructing new dispensaries and health centres and also renovating and upgrading existing hospitals.

Kang'ata lauded the collaboration between the national and county governments, revealing that the county had already provided land for construction of the new hospital building.

"Initially Kenneth Matiba was hosted in a rental premise but my administration built a health facility here at Makenji where the hospital was shifted to. We look forward to expanding the hospital to a level-5 status," he added.

On his part, Principal Secretary

Mariru reiterated the commitment of the national government in supporting devolved units to achieve significant development.

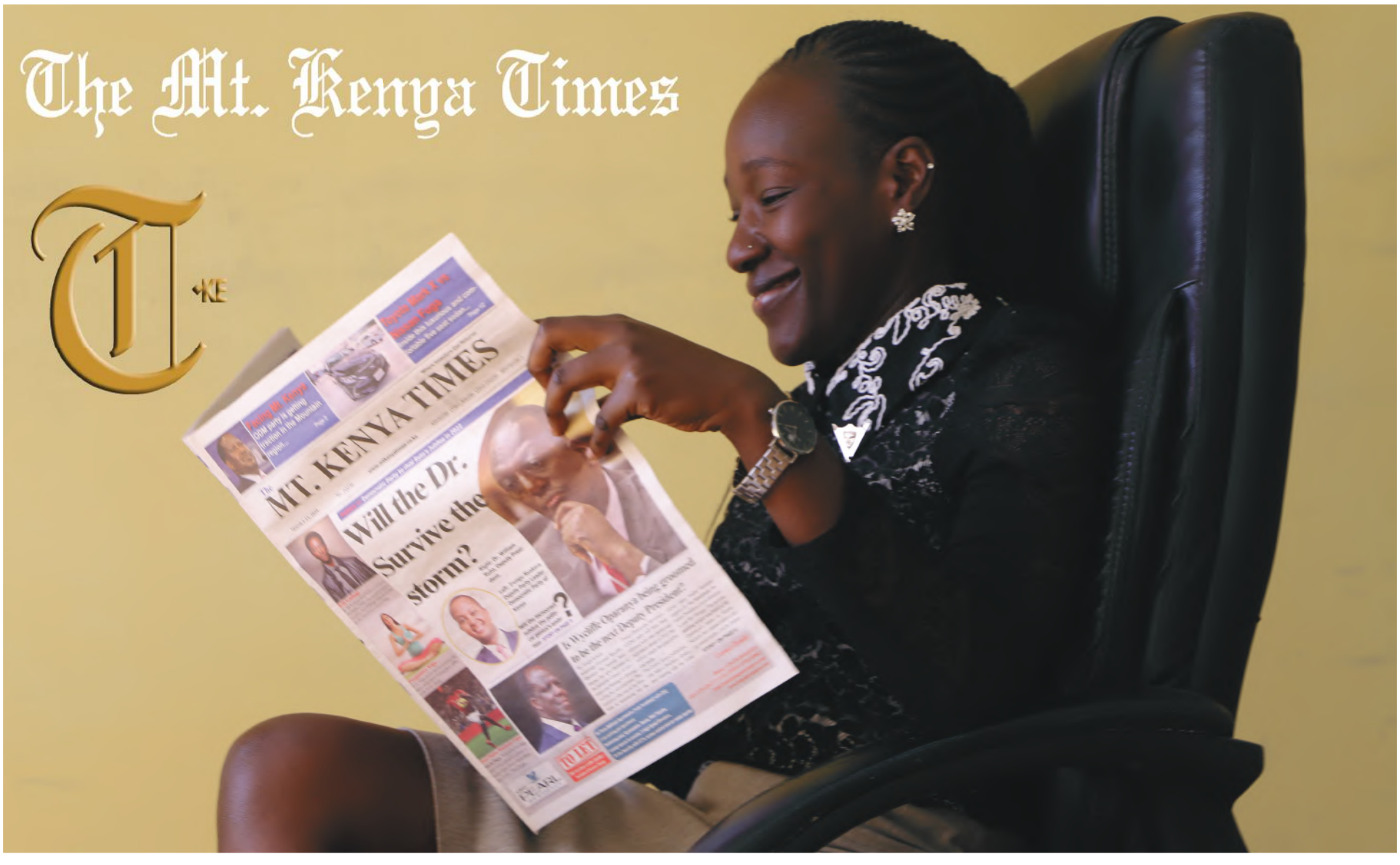
Mariru noted the construction of the new buildings at the hospital will be done by KDF and that the entire project is fully funded by the national government.

"This is part of a broader plan to enhance health infrastructure across counties. We are rolling out similar projects in Meru, Ol Kalou in Nyandarua, Kiambu, and Siaya," remarked Mariru.

Meanwhile Kang'ata announced that the county is set to benefit from additional government investment, including the proposed construction of a 10,000-seater Mumbi Stadium in Murang'a town to support local sports and talent development.

The governor added that Sports PS Elijah Mwangi is expected to spearhead the construction of another stadium in Murang'a south further boosting local sports and infrastructure development.

PS Mwangi who was also present during the groundbreaking of the hospital observed that his ministry and the Murang'a government are exploring a suitable location to construct second stadium after Mumbi in Murang'a South area.



Align Strategies With BETA, Eliminate Graft, Koskei Tells Parastatals

By: MKT Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

The Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, has directed Chief Executive Officers of parastatals to align their institutional strategies with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

He also emphasised the need to eliminate corruption loopholes within their organisations in order to accelerate national development.

Speaking in Mombasa during the inaugural caucus of CEOs under the Executive Kenya umbrella, Koskei said President William Ruto had emphasised during the third Cabinet retreat the need for all government arms and agencies to deliver tangible development outcomes.

"The message could not have been clearer: there is no space for complacency. Every arm, agency, and authority of Government must align and act with a singular intent: to make the productive presence of government felt in every village, every ward and every county," stated Koskei.

The CEOs were challenged to ensure that every programme, line of expenditure, and performance obligation is tethered to positively impact BETA priority areas and to align institutional outputs to the nation's strategic imperatives.

"We no longer audit effort; we measure effect. Henceforth, performance reviews shall be exacting assessments of how your work is bettering the lives of our citizens," said Koskei.

Kenyans, Koskei noted, are growing restive as a result of delays in opacity in procurement, leakage of public funds, and, in some instances, blatant corruption.

"These are not simply technical defects; they are breaches of trust. They deprive citizens of dignity, breed apathy, and imperil the gains hard-earned over decades. We must meet this moment with candour and courage. Without integrity at the heart of leadership, no reform will ever endure," he stated.

Koskei further explained that when the young people picket, they are not merely protesting policy but failure.

"Their cries echo the disillusionment of a generation confronting systems that are sluggish, aloof, and unresponsive to their truths. They indict complacency, inefficiency, and indifference. We must listen, not with deflection, but with humility," said Koskei.

He added, "For their anger is a mirror, a challenge to renew our integrity, to accelerate delivery, and to prove that the Government is still a force for good."

The CEOs were encouraged to manage the institutions with humility, patriotism, integrity, and urgency in the face of need.

"Let us model from the apex the integrity and accountability we demand. Let us restore the honour of public service, not through platitudes but through demonstrable, visible change," said Koskei, calling for disciplined execution.

The CEOs were also ordered to strictly comply with the directive of the Head of State that, effective 1st July, no procuring public entity shall be permitted to transact outside of the Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) system.

"This is not optional. 100 per cent compliance is expected, no exceptions, no delays. Let us not entertain excuses or attempts to resist or circumvent this directive. The system must function, and it must be adopted in full across every public institution," Koskei reiterated.

"Let us not entertain excuses or attempts to resist or circumvent this directive. The system must function, and it must be adopted in full across every public institution," he added.

The adoption of the e-GP system is poised to embed transparency, rebuild public trust, and affirm the government's commitment to a modern, efficient, and digitally empowered nation.

The directive will also seal revenue loopholes that have for years denied Kenyans the full benefit of public resources. "The culture of theft and indifference must end. And it must end with us," he declared.

The CEOs were also exhorted to act within the law in the execution of their mandates and to be champions of compliance. Koskei explicitly told the Heads of Parastatals that the era of backdoor instructions and phone calls from so-called "ofisi kubwa" is over.

"No one should call you to tell you how to do your job outside the law, and if they do, you are under no obligation to comply. Our stance is firm: follow the law, follow due process, and let accountability be your compass."

Felix Koskei

Worth Noting:

- **The CEOs were challenged to ensure that every programme, line of expenditure, and performance obligation is tethered to positively impact BETA priority areas and to align institutional outputs to the nation's strategic imperatives.**
- **"We no longer audit effort; we measure effect. Henceforth, performance reviews shall be exacting assessments of how your work is bettering the lives of our citizens," said Koskei.**
- **Kenyans, Koskei noted, are growing restive as a result of delays in opacity in procurement, leakage of public funds, and, in some instances, blatant corruption.**
- **"These are not simply technical defects; they are breaches of trust. They deprive citizens of dignity, breed apathy, and imperil the gains hard-earned over decades. We must meet this moment with candour and courage. Without integrity at the heart of leadership, no reform will ever endure," he stated.**

A section of the CEOs follows proceedings during the official opening of the Executive Kenya convention in Mombasa. Photo/Andrew Hinga

2025 International Association Of Deposits Insurers-ARC Conference Reinforces Financial Resilience

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The 2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference of the International Association of Deposit Insurers – Africa Regional Committee (IADI-ARC), was held in Mombasa Kenya, with a rallying call that Deposit Insurance Systems must evolve in tandem with the challenges of modern finance.

With the theme "Enhanced Bank Resolution Frameworks and the Vital Role of Deposit Insurance Systems in Bank Failure," the event brought together over 100 delegates from across Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe.

The discussions were timely, as global financial systems continue to grapple with increasing complexity, heightened interconnectedness, and rising systemic risks.

Speed, transparency, cross-agency coordination, and public awareness were also highlighted as key components of effective bank resolution.

Presiding over the conference, Principal Secretary for the State Department of National Treasury and Economic Planning Mr Cyrell Odede emphasized that a resilient financial system is foundational to public trust, economic stability, and national progress.

He highlighted the government of Kenya's steadfast commitment to reinforcing financial stability through policies that protect depositors—especially during periods of economic uncertainty.

He noted that maintaining the health of the financial sector is a collective effort involving both fiscal and monetary authorities and stressed that deposit insurance systems are not reactive tools, but proactive guarantees—a critical component of financial safety nets that preserve confidence even in times of institutional failure.

"It is here that deposit insurance systems play a transformative role," PS Odede stated. "When a bank fails, deposit protection ensures that public confidence does not collapse alongside it."

At the center of this effort in Kenya is the Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation (KDIC), which was widely lauded for its leadership, technical capability, and ethical foundation.

He praised KDIC for its achievements, including: Growth of the Deposit Insurance Fund from Sh105 billion in 2019 to Sh260 billion in 2025, introduction of a risk-based premium assessment model in 2022 to incentivize sound risk management, deployment of advanced technologies like the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW), and the ongoing payments to depositors and creditors of failed banks such as Pan African Bank, Euro Bank, Chase Bank, and Kenya Finance Bank.

The Principal Secretary affirmed that the Ministry remains fully committed to supporting KDIC's mandate and to fostering regional and international collaboration for stronger financial systems.

Speaking on behalf of KDIC, Board Chairperson Mrs. Hannah Muriithi, EBS, emphasized that the Corporation's mandate goes beyond mere compensation but encompasses promoting sound risk management, timely intervention, and the resolution of troubled institutions.

She highlighted the KDIC Board's efforts to align operations with international best practices, particularly the IADI Core Principles.

She also pointed out that KDIC had significantly strengthened its early warning systems, legal frameworks, and internal governance to ensure agility and operational readiness in the face of financial distress.

"Resolution planning is a continuous process embedded in sound institutional governance," Mrs. Muriithi said. "A well-governed, well-resourced, and independent deposit insurer contributes decisively to the stability of the financial sector."

Mrs. Hellen Chepkwony, KDIC's Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Secretary General of the IADI Africa Regional Committee, reiterated the Corporation's mission of being a proactive risk minimizer.

She outlined KDIC's threefold mandate in providing a deposit insurance scheme for customers of member institutions, offering incentives for sound risk management, and promptly resolving problem banks to mitigate failures early.

Mrs. Chepkwony acknowledged the social and psychological toll that bank failures have on ordinary citizens, reinforcing that deposit insurers are the last line of defense against loss of trust and financial despair.

KDIC's preparedness was underlined as a top priority, supported by technology, capacity building, and strong national collaboration.

She also touched on the importance of cross-border cooperation, noting that deposit insurance cannot work in isolation.

"How do we ensure speed in intervention? How do we uphold market discipline while maintaining trust?" She posed these questions that formed the foundation of several conference deliberations.

PS Cyrell Odede.

IADI-ARC Chairperson Dr. Julia Clare Olima Oyet commended KDIC for its professionalism in organizing the conference noting that the concept of deposit insurance took root in Kenya before spreading across the continent—a reminder of Kenya's pioneering role in financial reforms.

Dr. Oyet described how the complexity and interconnectedness of modern financial systems increase the urgency for sound supervisory and resolution mechanisms.

She warned that even isolated bank failures can trigger systemic risk and undermine public trust.

"Deposit Insurance Systems and robust resolution frameworks must be viewed as indispensable pillars of financial safety nets. A well-designed scheme not only protects depositors but also supports orderly resolution and limits moral hazard," said Dr Oyet.

She applauded institutions such as the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) and the Deposit Protection Fund of Uganda (DPF) for successfully making payouts to depositors within three days of bank closures in 2024—a major achievement in line with IADI's Core Principles.

Dr Oyet announced the inclusion of a new member—the Deposit Guarantee Fund in Central Africa (FOGADAC), which covers six countries: Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon. This, she said, reflects ARC's strategic efforts to spread sound deposit insurance practices across the region.

The Chair also highlighted two important initiatives; The launch of a Communications Technical Committee, which produced ARC's first digital newsletter, and formation of a Research Technical Committee, currently preparing its first regional research paper.

Despite these advancements, she added, only 27 out of Africa's 54 countries are IADI members.

"In this regard, ARC, in collaboration with the African Association of Central Banks (AACB), is working to close this gap by advocating for the establishment of deposit insurance systems across the continent," said Dr Oyet.

The 2025 conference served as a powerful platform for reflection, collaboration, and innovation.

It underscored the centrality of deposit insurance systems in maintaining financial stability and public trust.

Through stronger legal mandates, early detection tools, regional cooperation, and strategic reforms, African nations and their global partners are taking bold steps to safeguard their banking sectors.

The event concluded with a shared commitment: to continue building robust, credible, and responsive deposit insurance frameworks that can endure uncertainty and shield depositors from financial harm.

A group photo of all the delegates that attended the conference in Mombasa. Photos/Dickson Mwiti..

Ignore Over The Counter Veterinary Drugs, Warns National Veterinary Board

By: Sean Ngirici
@themtkenyatimes

Livestock Sector

Dr Benson Kibore

The continuous use of over the counter drugs has exposed livestock farmers to suffer major losses, a move that can be averted through use of the licensed veterinarians.

The National Veterinary Board officials led by Dr Benson Kibore in an operation to fight the quacks in the livestock sector, outlined that over the counter drugs and farmers administering treating the sick animals was counterproductive.

Kibore, who conducted raids on unlicensed unlicensed individuals selling veterinary drugs in Marsabit town and the neighbouring subcounties, said all the animal health practitioners should be registered as the policy demands.

Kibore, who is the board's Director of Compliance, advised herders against administering drugs to the livestock without professional guidance.

" Always rely on licensed animal health practitioners, and avoid relying on individuals lacking veterinary training and the requisite certification," said Kibore..

"Our concern is based on the rising cases of misuse of veterinary drugs and improper treatment of animals in Marsabit County and other parts of northern Kenya," said the director.

He argued that over counter prescribing drugs has continued exposing unsuspecting Kenyans livestock farmers to a massive risk of contracting diseases and death of their animals.

"The board will not allow farmers to be exploited by the quacks selling contaminated animal products," said Kibore.

He explained that the use of unregulated veterinary drugs led to drop in milk production, poor quality of meat and milk.

In the operation, Kibore was accompanied by Mohammed Jillo and Esther Mburu who said the government will intensify awareness campaigns to educate herders on the dangers of relying on quack animal doctors, or administering drugs to their animals by themselves.

One of the local farmers, Mzee Karazo Mohammed said the approach by the government was the best but hindered by lack of enough veterinary experts at the ward level.

"The county government should ensure there are enough veterinary officers as a way to stop farmers seeking for service from the unlicensed persons," said Mohammed.

KUPPET Pushes For Major Pay Rise In New CBA Talks

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Union of Post-Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) has outlined key proposals ahead of a scheduled meeting with the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) on July 2, 2025, to kick off negotiations for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Top on the union's list is a proposed basic salary increase of between 50% and 100%, a 20% rise in house allowance with all teachers moved to cluster one, and a commuter allowance increase of up to 250%.

KUPPET also seeks the retention of the current 45 hardship zones and calls for the payment of daily subsistence and leave allowances.

Speaking during a leadership workshop in Malindi, Secretary General Akello Misori emphasised the union's resolve to push for better compensation, including hazardous, overtime, and risk allowances pegged at 20% of the basic salary.

KUPPET Chairman Omboko Milemba has proposed the creation of three distinct school levels to address the challenges facing the Competency-Based Education (CBE) system.

Milemba, who is also the MP for Umuhaya, said the current confusion over the representation of Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers—between KUPPET and the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT)—can only be resolved by establishing JSS as a standalone level.

"For JSS to stand, we think that JSS should be an independent school so that we have three levels of schools – the primary school, the JSS school and then the high school – and that will ease the linkage between the secondary school teachers and those who are in JSS," he said.

Akello Misori

Fakes

I don't know who you are
Some faceless people are low.
Your friendship is built on a mask
So many selfish, fakes.

Your heart is full of envy
Did we hurt you or your heart.
What was your unanswered pain
So many bottomless, fakes.

My life was made into a toy,
My deepest patience in my heart.
My sincere cry to God
So many vile, fakes.

You are the net of our house
Our love is a fiery chimney.
You have become the salt of my forehead
So many miserable, fakes.

Did we make mistakes or not?
Did we hug you or not?
Did we leave you alone or not?
You are so heartless, fakes!!!

Yusupova Farangiz

My Parents

My Parents, my guiding light
Love me so much, day and night
They show me the way with
care and might
Helping me grow, with
love and so bright.
They're always near,
when I need a hand,
A shelter from life's storms
I'm grateful for their love
and care,
My parents, My heroes
always there,
With every step, they guide
me right,
Supporting me, through
day and night,
Their love and care,
forever true,
A bond so strong,
forever shining through

S. Kavitha Lakshmi,
VIII Std B
KAMARAJ MATRICULATION HIGHER
SECONDARY SCHOOL,
KOVILPATTI.

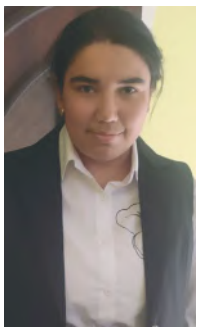
Mother

Seeking the scent of fame,
Longing for honor and respect among people,
Trading my happiness for wealth,
I forgot my mother along the way.

When she called, "Come, my child, let's talk a while,"
I sighed, "Oh mother, I have work to do."
Only when regrets pierced my soul deep inside,
Did I feel how sorrow and grief silently grew

Sharipov Mirjalol was born on June **17, 2005** in Yangiarik district, Khorezm region. He is the eldest child in the family. He received secondary education at school No. **20** in the district. He was active at school and developed the "BizningBlog" project in the Youth Union to update the image of the school. On October **13, 2021**, at the invitation of the leader of the school Youth Union, the coordinators of the Regional Youth Union and the District Youth Union visited the school and listened to a report on the work carried out. On that day, for the first time, the activities of School Youth Union No. **20** were announced on the telegram, Facebook pages and websites of the Republican Youth Union. Then he continued his activities as the coordinator of the "Education" direction of the Yangiarik district Youth Union. After graduating from school with excellent grades, he was blessed with the happiness of a student. Currently, he has published about **20** scientific and artistic articles in international journals and conferences, and as the leader of the "KuhnaKhiva" team of the Pedagogical Faculty of the State University of Education, he has authored about **30** pieces for cultural performances and concerts in **2** years.

You Are My Guide, Master Shoira ❤



Life is like this, a caravan,
One day is good, one day is bad,
The strongest and kindest in the world,
This is my teacher Shoira

What trials he went through,
Sometimes tears come to my eyes,
How much you suffered,
You are my only teacher Shoira

Everyone struggles with their own pain,

Life is getting more and more difficult,
You are the solution to a thousand trials,

You are my only teacher Shoira

Worries and trials will end one day,
May there never be sadness in your heart
Thank you for being in my life,

You are my only teacher Shoira
Thank you a thousand times for being in my life,
You worked hard for me,

May beautiful happiness always surround you

You are my only master Shoira

Sobirjonova Rayhona, a **10**th-grade student of the **9**th general secondary school in Vobkent district, Bukhara region. He was born in December **2008** in the village of Cho'rikalon, Vobkent district, in a family of intellectuals. Her parents supported Rayhona from a young age. He started writing in the **3**rd grade. His first creative poem was published in the newspaper "Vobkent Hayot". He has also published extensively in America's Synchaos Newspaper, India's Namaste India Magazine, Gulkhan Magazine, Germany's RavenCage Magazine and many other magazines and newspapers. Actively participated in many competitions, won high places and won many prizes. He is still busy creating

Everything We See Online, Isn't Real At All

Everything we see online, isn't real at all
They are digitally created in a clever manner
Behind the screens, a different story is there
imperfections are hidden, and truths untold.

We must be cautious, not to fall prey,
To attractive offers, that attract us
For online charm, can be a clever cheater
Hiding flaws, and hiding truth

The digital world, is a stage to display,
Behind the curtain, a different tale is there
Of imperfections, and stories left untold.

When buying online, we can't feel or see,
The product's true nature or its quality,
We trust in images, and descriptions
But often the reality is not genuine

We know that we are cheated only after, we are cheated
Our trust is broken, our confidence vanishes
In front of us we see one thing, on screens another thing
It is a great disparity and cheating

Truth is concealed, and reality is hidden
Hardly anyone speaks, the truth covered
Instead, we praise, the attractive things
Just for the sake of pleasing others
And fall for the charm, of digital compromise.

Let's be aware, of this digital game,
And not be carried away by online things
For true value lies, in authenticity and trust,
Not in the show and fashion

Brinda. D

Mrs. Brinda. D
CREATIVE WRITERS
GRADUATE TEACHER,
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,
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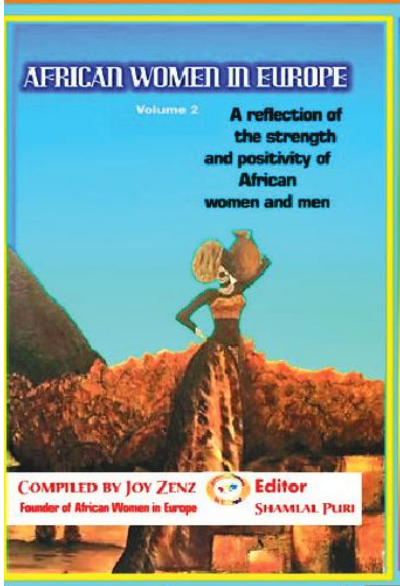
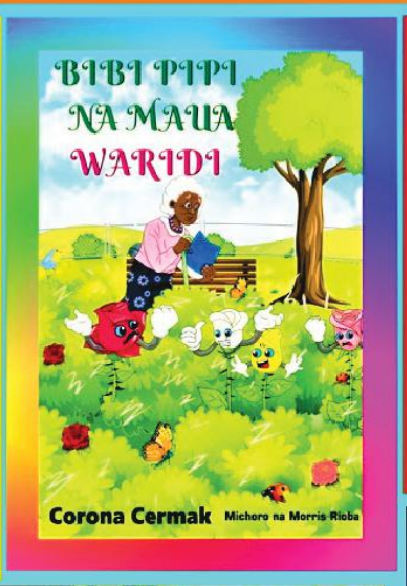
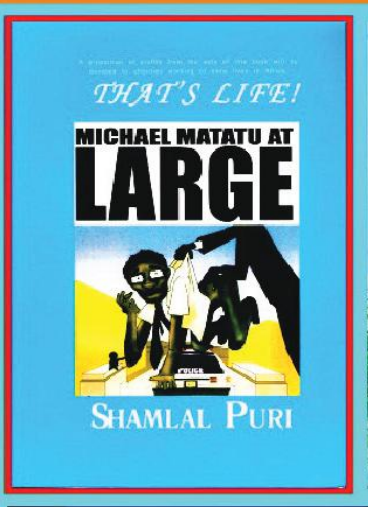
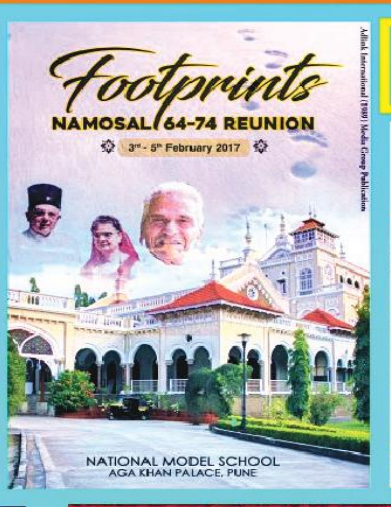
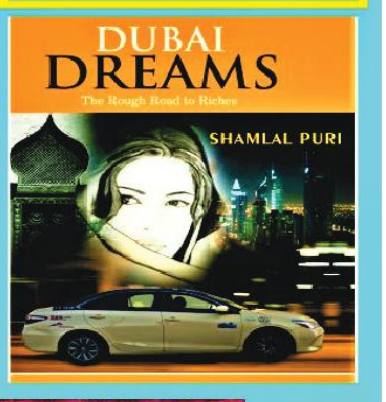


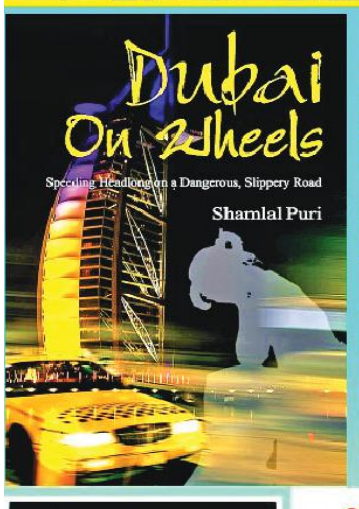


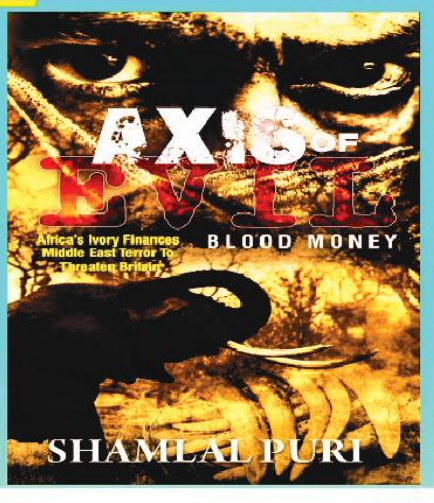


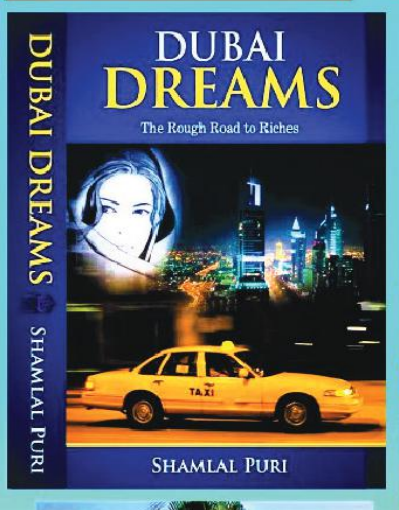


SELECTED PORTFOLIO









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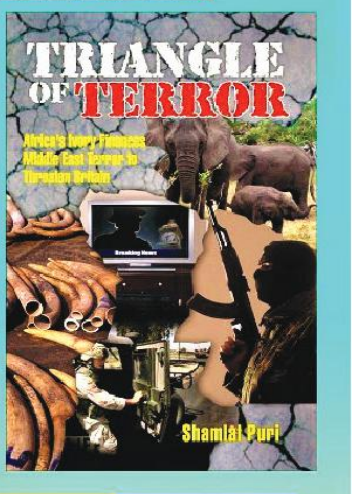

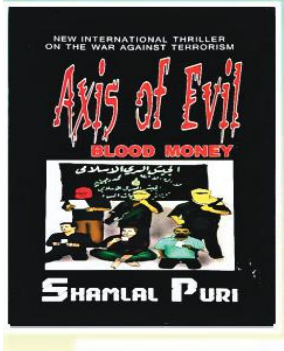

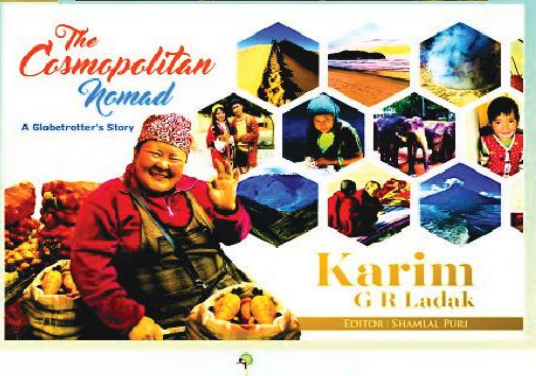

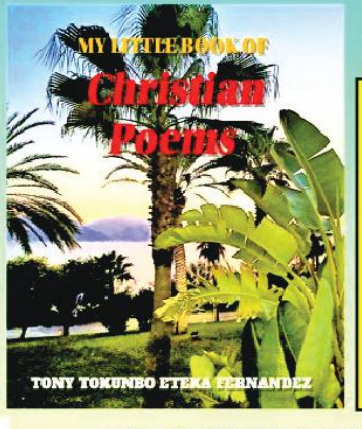

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BUSINESS

Lemayan And Kwambai Triumph In The 25th Lewa Safari Marathon

By: Dickson Mwiti
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **The Marathon was held at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Northern Kenya under the theme, "Connecting Generations through 25 Years of Conservation."**
- **This year's event marks a significant milestone in one of the world's most unique sporting experiences, considering it was cancelled last year due to the Gen Z June protests.**
- **Addressing Journalists during the event, Lewa's Programmes and Partnerships Coordinator, John Kinoti, said they were grateful that the marathon was successful after last year's halt.**
- **He said they were proud to see how people turned out in large numbers inspiring them to hold more events in future.**

Samson Lemayan and Mercy Kwambai emerged winners of this year's 25th Lewa Safari Marathon that attracted at least 1500 participants from across the globe.

Mr Lemayan from Maralal in Samburu County clocked 2:28:35 to finish the race followed by John Musee and Joseph Kariuki who emerged second and third respectively taking 2:29:18 and 2:29:36 to finish the race.

In the women category, Mercy Kwambai successfully defended her 2023 title leading in the full marathon with a time of 2:47:17, beating Evaline Lagat and Monica Watetu who settled for the second and third positions with 3:02:32 and 3:20:21 respectively.

The Marathon was held at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Northern Kenya under the theme, "Connecting Generations through 25 Years of Conservation."

This year's event marks a significant milestone in one of the world's most unique sporting experiences, considering it was cancelled last year due to the Gen Z June protests.

Addressing Journalists during the event, Lewa's Programmes and Partnerships Coordinator, John Kinoti, said they were grateful that the marathon was successful after last year's halt.

He said they were proud to see how people turned out in large numbers inspiring them to hold more events in future.

"We want to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and participants because their sweat during the race will not be lost as the funds raised from this event will help us improve the conservancy and support communities through provision of clean water, health services, support education, and women," said Mr Kinoti.

He added that everyone in the event was a winner and their efforts will touch someone's life in one way or the other.

In order to intensify participation of children in conservation activities, Kinoti said some of the funds raised during the event will go to primary schools to support the existing environmental clubs.

"We are also allowing children to move around the conservancy and see what we are doing in terms of conservation, this will make them grow knowing how this is done," said Mr Kinoti.

Safaricom Chief Executive Officer, Dr Peter Ndegwa, underscored the importance of the marathon in wildlife conservation and reduction of the conflict between wildlife and local communities.

He said Safaricom has been the greatest sponsor of the event in the last 25 years and will continue doing so in future.

"In future we will be working with Tusk and Lewa Conservancy to advance technology to support the work being done here," said Dr Ndegwa.

He said Lewa Safari Marathon has been improving over the years considering that the first race had only 148 participants.

"We also had our different goals in participating in the marathon today including losing weight and keeping fit and we are grateful that we are eventually achieving this," Dr Ndegwa said.

Meru County Deputy Governor, Lindah Kiome, hailed the event noting that it will bring about economic impact to the County especially to the communities neighbouring the conservancy.

She said this year's theme was timely especially in enabling the upcoming generations to understand the importance of wildlife and environmental conservation mainly for animals that are under threat of extinction.

"We appreciate the management of Lewa Conservancy and its partners for organising a successful Lewa Safari Marathon that will have ripple effects to our County at large," said Ms Kiome.

Sports and Youth Executive Committee Member, Julius Murega, said the event was a good platform for the young people from the County to develop their athletic talents which is rare in the region.

"We have also come here to learn how we can effectively hold our own marathon for instance the Mount Kenya run, with a purpose of building strong generations in future," said Mr Murega.

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Why The legitimacy Of The South Sudanese Government Hangs In Balance

By: Richard Byamukama
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **It becomes very difficult to answer questions surrounding the legitimacy of the existing government of South Sudan. The peace agreement has been breached, where is the government now deriving powers to call itself government? The government no-longer exists by the 2018 peace agreement that formed it upon its violation, could the existing one be as a result of democracy, military coup, any other existing agreement, or it's just an imposter?**
- **On a brief background, since independence in July 2011, the world's youngest country has never held any democratic election, and only enjoyed 2 years of relative peace before it was plunged into a conflict after threats of a pending military coup led by the then vice president Dr Riek Marchar against the president Salva Kiir.**

The arrest and continued detention of Dr Riek Marchar the South Sudanese first vice president under house arrest and the resurgence of conflict ignites concerns about the delayed implementation of the 2018 peace accord. It also questions the legitimacy of the South Sudanese government on two grounds; because the arrest itself is a violation of the Addis Ababa peace agreement that ended the 5 years civil war.

But also, the mandate of the current transitional government lapsed with the expiry of the 3 years transitional period that was agreed upon by both parties during the peace agreement that ended the civil war. The routine postponement of the country's general elections and the delayed democracy despises the purposes of the 2018 peace agreement and the mandate/ legitimacy of the transitional government.

It becomes very difficult to answer questions surrounding the legitimacy of the existing government of South Sudan. The peace agreement has been breached, where is the government now deriving powers to call itself government? The government no-longer exists by the 2018 peace agreement that formed it upon its violation, could the existing one be as a result of democracy, military coup, any other existing agreement, or it's just an imposter?

On a brief background, since independence in July 2011, the world's youngest country has never held any democratic election, and only enjoyed 2 years of relative peace before it was plunged into a conflict after threats of a pending military coup led by the then vice president Dr Riek Marchar against the president Salva Kiir.

However, the conflict turned out to be mapped along ethnic lines which led to the splitting of the army into several factions of paramilitaries and with clashes between the Nuel and the Dinka ethnicities, with the Nuel aligning with the vice president and the Dinka aligning with the president.

This large-scale ethnic violence that lasted for 5 year merits explanations for the enormous human sufferings it caused with millions of refugees languishing in refugee camps in the neighboring countries of Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, millions in IDP camps, thousands of deaths, casualties and destruction.

The conflict was ended by the 2018 peace agreement known as the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (RARCSS) that was signed on 12th December 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

South Sudanese President Salva Kiir.

The key objectives of the peace settlement was to agree on power sharing which resulted in the formation of a transitional government that was to oversee the return to democracy by organizing for the country's general elections, and security sector reforms. Is there any sufficient reason for the delayed transition and general elections in the country?

The arrest and continued detention of the vice president under house arrest becomes an important piece of evidence in the larger puzzle surrounding the legitimacy of the government as this questions the existence of the 2018 agreement that gave birth to the current government. Could it be the last bullet towards the question of the legitimacy of the government? No doubt.

The arrest has been followed by a state led aggression against the sympathizers opposing the arrest of the Vice president and subsequent deployment of Ugandan forces to help in the offensive. The deployment of the Ugandan forces has been questioned internally and internationally citing concerns of the ethnic dimensions in the conflict, proportionality, breach of the 2018 peace agreement, sovereignty and breach of international customary law.

The Salva Kiir Presidency is using Ethnicity cards to avoid or delay democracy in South Sudan. South Sudan is home to 64 distinct tribes who have been deprived of democracy by the Kiir-Marchar mistrust.

Regional and the international community should be concerned about the fate and legitimacy of the government in South Sudan, alongside other key concerns about the delayed democracy, transitional justice especially after the offensives by Ugandan Forces (UPDF) among others

Democracy will stabilize South Sudan at all odds, and there is no sufficient reason for the continued delay of the democratic process.

Richard Byamukama is a Lawyer, and a security studies expert and a security analyst.
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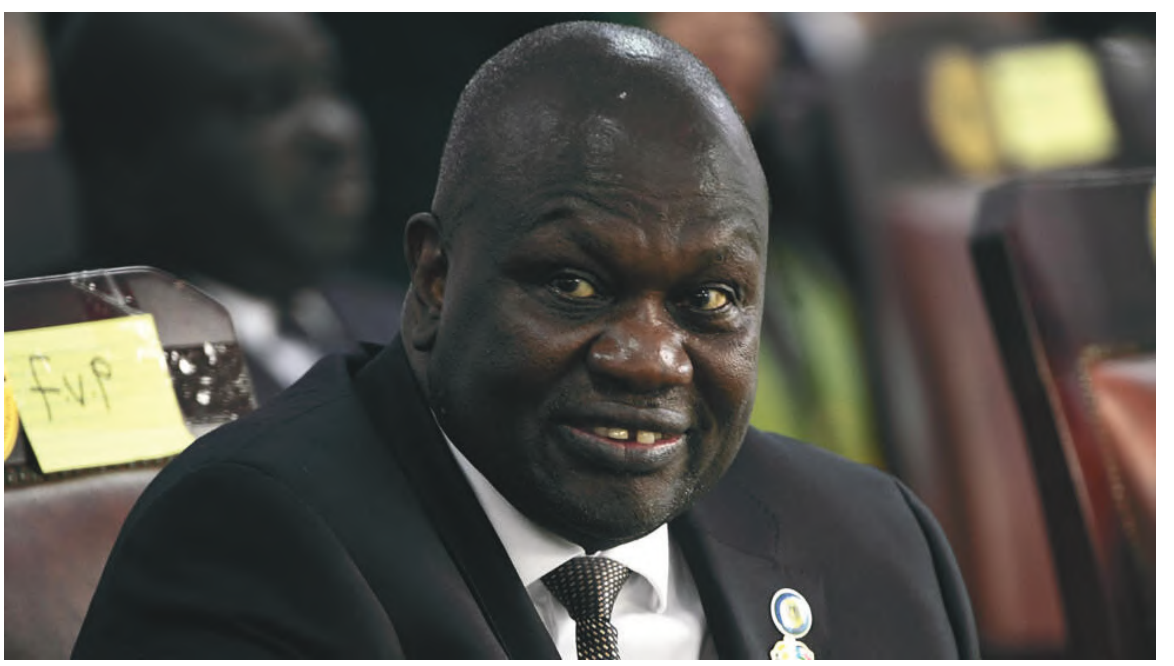


Dr Riek Marchar the South Sudanese first vice president.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kenya's Gen Z Protests And The Collapse Of The Magic Bullet Theory In The Digital Age

The Magic Bullet Theory of communication, which imagines media messages as powerful projectiles fired directly into passive, uniform audiences, is a relic of a bygone era. This simplistic model, suggesting that media can instantly and uniformly shape public opinion without resistance or reinterpretation, fails spectacularly when confronted with the vibrant, digitally savvy activism of Kenya's Generation Z.

The protests against the Finance Bill 2024 and ongoing youth-led demonstrations in 2025 reveal a far more complex and dynamic media-audience relationship. Gen Z Kenyans have not passively absorbed government messaging or traditional media narratives. Instead, they have harnessed the power of social media platforms such as TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and WhatsApp to organize, inform, and mobilize in ways that defy the one-way communication model.

These young activists have turned digital spaces into arenas of grassroots activism and political debate. They translate complex legislative texts into accessible language, use AI tools like ChatGPT to clarify policy implications, and flood officials' phone lines with messages demanding accountability. The #RejectFinanceBill2024 hashtag alone engaged hundreds of millions online, showing how digital activism can transcend ethnic and tribal divides to unify a dispersed youth population around shared grievances.

Social media's role goes beyond mere broadcasting. It is a tool for real-time coordination, psychological relief through humor and solidarity, and a platform for creative expression—memes, music, videos—that amplify political messages and sustain momentum. This digital revolution has transformed protest culture from hierarchical and centralized to leaderless, decentralized, and participatory, challenging traditional media's gatekeeping role.

The government's response, including the Communications Authority's 2025 ban on live TV and radio coverage of protests, underscores the contested nature of media influence today. While authorities attempt to control narratives through legacy media restrictions, digital platforms remain largely uncontrollable, enabling citizen journalists and activists to bypass censorship and keep the world informed.

This ongoing tug-of-war between state control and digital freedom highlights the inadequacy of the Magic Bullet Theory. Media effects are not direct injections but complex interactions shaped by audience agency, social context, and technological affordances.

Kenya's Gen Z protests exemplify how media today is a participatory ecosystem where messages are co-created, contested, and transformed.

In sum, the Kenyan experience dismantles the notion of passive audiences and one-way media influence. It heralds a new era where young people wield digital tools to challenge power, shape narratives, and demand change—proving that in the 21st century, media's power lies not in its ability to shoot messages like bullets, but in its capacity to engage, empower, and mobilize active citizens.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication practitioner.

Learning Foreign Languages – A Necessity For Modern Youth

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

In today's era of globalization, knowing foreign languages is becoming an important tool not only for personal growth but also for finding one's place in society. Foreign languages are keys that open the doors to knowledge, opportunity, and progress. This need is especially growing among young people, playing a significant role in their professional careers, education, and daily lives.

It is no coincidence that learning foreign languages is given special attention in the Republic of Uzbekistan today. Thanks to the initiative of our country's leadership, large-scale reforms are being implemented to enhance language learning from preschool to higher education. Schools are improving English language lessons, and universities are introducing modern language teaching methodologies. This, in turn, creates tremendous opportunities for us students.

From my personal experience, I can say that mastering English thoroughly not only broadens my academic knowledge but also enriches my social circle. Being able to easily access scientific resources on the internet, participate in foreign courses, and take part in international competitions and scholarship programs — all of these are the results of knowing a language. Another important point is that a foreign language broadens one's thinking, changes one's worldview, and enhances one's ability to adapt to society.

Modern youth live in a digital era. This period demands the use of technology, self-development, and quick access to diverse international information. From this perspective, knowing foreign languages has now become not just a need, but an essential part of life. Today's youth must be able to express their thoughts and present their ideas not only in their mother tongue but also in world languages.

In conclusion, learning foreign languages is a powerful tool that boosts young people's self-confidence, enhances their intellectual capacity, and gives them the opportunity to enter the international arena. Every young person should take full advantage of this opportunity, shaping their future through education and language acquisition.

Alimdjanova Shaxzoda Ilxomovna
Termiz State University, Faculty of Philology and Language Teaching: English Language, 2nd-year student.

Alimdjanova Shaxzoda Ilxomovna was born on September 28, 2005, in Termiz city, Surkhandarya region. Her nationality is Tajik.

Currently, she is studying at Termez State University, majoring in Foreign Philology (English Philology). During her studies, she has been deeply learning English and strengthening her knowledge in linguistics, translation, English language teaching methodology, and literature. Alongside this, she is learning German as a second foreign language and, due to her interest, she is also working on mastering the Turkish language.

She has a good command of English, speaks Tajik as her mother tongue, and is fluent in Uzbek as well. She possesses practical skills such as computer literacy, public speaking, and time management. In the future, she aims to pursue a career in teaching, translation, and communication.

Career Pathways: A Case For Or Against

By: Odero Enos
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **When he left, the late prof. George Magoha gave us a bitter-sweet gem; CBC. We may have gambled with the original idea and maybe, the implementation might not have been as it was intended by the designers. Years have passed and now, it's our chance to talk for the first time, about career pathways of our children and siblings. This is a fresh new world that even in every homestead, few to almost none of the home occupants have something tangible to really talk about.**
- **Interests shift with time. When Specializations come, one, naturally, is expected to have had a stable track, a solid ground in all the areas of their career and so, they specialise in a field they have stabilized in.**

All careers are good. It is the gift of men and women that makes a difference. Their ambitions, drive, the work put in the work, desire and the vision they have for themselves and the world around them that creates a distinction. Once again, to remind us, we are made equal in the image and likeness of God. We can do all things. When it comes to which career to choose, we are limited one; because of time, abilities, talents and two; because of our environment . Environment in this case stands for many things- technology, future prospects, finance among others.

In a world full of chaos, anarchy and disillusionment and absurdity, it is wise to choose a career that will elevate your understanding of the issues of the modern world or a career that will be used as a means to elevate, support or provide solutions to the present day problems of those around you. To higher levels of sentience, choose a career that will serve humanity.

When he left, the late prof. George Magoha gave us a bitter-sweet gem; CBC. We may have gambled with the original idea and maybe, the implementation might not have been as it was intended by the designers. Years have passed and now, it's our chance to talk for the first time, about career pathways of our children and siblings. This is a fresh new world that even in every homestead, few to almost none of the home occupants have something tangible to really talk about.

Interests shift with time. When Specializations come, one, naturally, is expected to have had a stable track, a solid ground in all the areas of their career and so, they specialise in a field they have stabilized in. Today, we are debating about this. Specializations for 14/15 years old boys and girls? This is truly a wander. Let your sons and daughters be educated broadly; to know and discover their environment and identities. The government may want them to specialize in an area. That is not the end. With time, they might be allowed to change as their focus is sharpened.

The obsession with STEM. Oh! We are too much obsessed. Many people are grappling to have their sons and daughters and relatives secure the STEM pathway by fire by thunder. What you all don't know is that even in STEM itself, we have pure and applied sciences and they may not necessarily be judged with the same magnitude. This, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics pathway has been the most common and famous since time immemorial. " When I grow up, I want to be a pilot, an engineer, a doctor, a neurosurgeon." Utmost, that was and is the dream of every child in the Global South countries.

We are greatly disadvantaged as a country and as a continent. Unless your child is destined for bigger things and the Global North countries, Africa is still not yet there. Some courses can be offered at tertiary levels; (of course, education is a business) but their relevance in Africa may never be witnessed and they may never get a chance either through employment or whichever other means to practice their skills. So, even as you select their career pathway, look at the market and employability. Put this in mind that in the near future, AI will be even more dominant.

Truth be told. Most Africans have been brainwashed and it's only until recently that a number have started to think outside the box. However, most Kenyans still remain glued to think that STEM careers are the only paying careers and the best of them all. Parents think that if their child doesn't get this path, then they will have an oblique future. A lie. There are still other options and indefinite considerations.

The Arts and Social Sciences is a corridor that is mostly looked down upon. This is "purely for the wayward people" as some population still hold. In this pathway, your child can still perfect in either fine or visual arts and put food on the table. Look, from mockers, they have been heard saying, "literature cannot put food on the table." Well, "my child cannot just dance and say that that is a career. How will that feed him/ her and take care of their family?" All these are things that most parents say. If putting food on the table is the only worry we have in this 21st Century, then we are doing injustices to ourselves and our generations yet to come.

When choosing career pathways to our children, let's look at their peace, convenience, and whether they are interested in it or not. We should not just focus on food alone. In the words of my teacher Prof.Austin Bukenya, " robbers, thieves, prostitutes and cultists are putting enough food on their tables." Question. Is that what we want? Literature does put food on the table. Entertainment industry does that too.

Parents be advised, your child can still make it when he/she becomes a musician or an actor or a Professional photographer, a drawing artist. Don't limit your child's potential. More than anything else, let's teach them responsibility, compassion and other values that will surpass the harvests of their careers. We even have carpenters who are millionaires, salespersons who are untouchables and DJs who have traversed continents.

There comes this other one. O heavens! My countrymen think that Sports science is not a career pathway suitable enough for their children. As they negate it, they are talking about the likes of Faith Kipyegon and praising Eliud Kipchoge. These are people who have gone through trainings of coaches, have practiced team work and collaboration with others. Let us teach our children all these things; remind them that discipline too is a career of its own.

My take. In whichever field your child may want, examine: interest, ability, talent and the environment. If your environment (in this case, financial muscles and social network) will enable your child to be an international hockey player, then why not permit him/ her? If you know that there is no otherwise, then let your child pursue what will be of use to his/her future self. Take away point: This is not the end of the world. Make the right choice.

Author: Odero Enos
Literature student

Every Moment I Am Alive, I Have Learned To Be Grateful

By: Jakhongir NOMOZOV
@themtkenyatimes

Our guest today is one of the shining figures of Azerbaijani literature — poet, writer, translator, and journalist, editor of the "Yazarlar" magazine, member of the Azerbaijani Writers and Journalists Union, and laureate of the "Golden Pen" award, Zaur USTAJ.

— You began your literary career in 1988.

How did the socio-political atmosphere and sources of inspiration during that time shape Zaur Ustac's mastery of the pen? How does the weight of those years manifest in the voice of your current writing?

— That's correct. My first piece titled "Love for Labor" was published in an official press organ on May 24, 1988.

The themes of that period mainly focused on glorifying labor and celebrating holidays. We wrote about real, everyday life — as the saying goes, "what's straight is straight, what's crooked is crooked."

I believe one of the most valuable habits I've carried from those years is just that — being realistic, seeing things with open eyes, praising the good, speaking of meaningful deeds, being among the people — in daily life.

To be hardworking. To keep working without tiring or giving up. That's how it was.

— You often emphasize the concept of "purity of the pen." Is this a personal belief or a literary manifesto for you?

— As I mentioned in the previous answer, this is what we were taught.

It is a norm.

A beneficial and meaningful literary norm proven by the test of long years — you can call it a manifesto. In short, it's our working principle.

I believe goodness and benefit lie in this path.

It serves the good of our collective work.

— In your opinion, what role should writers play today as the heart and conscience of the people?

— Dear Jakhongir, your questions are so beautifully chosen that our conversation flows like a poem. Mashallah.

The answer to this question is embedded in what I've already said.

A writer, a poet, a scholar — all should be among the people. They should know what the people think, what they eat and drink daily.

Take, for example, the time when my first literary attempts were published…

Bakhtiyar Vahabzadeh, Khalil Rza, Khudu Mammadov, Anar, Elchin… May mercy be upon those who have passed, and good health to those still living.

When a literary work, a writer's word is sincere and heartfelt, it becomes beneficial — both for the one who says it and the one who hears it.

Writers must be aware of the people's condition, write about real life, write for the benefit of the nation and leave a historical legacy for future generations. That's it.

— How did the Karabakh war leave a mark on your life and creativity?

— In one day, many of the interests that existed in the world disappeared.

Many issues became mundane. The value and importance of being human, of humanity, of health, of surviving — all increased.

I realized that time is the most precious gift. I began to give even more thanks for every moment I was safe.

I started working more, doing good, selfless deeds more.

And no matter what we do, compared to the grace that the Almighty grants us, it is very little — like a drop in the ocean — and if we can do even that, we are truly fortunate.

— Through the "Ustac.az" center, you have combined science, creativity, and personal development. In your view, what directions should this center serve in the future?

— Our work will continue in this very direction.

Regardless of age, status, or gender, we will be there for those who need us.

That is our purpose, our mission, the essence of our work.

— One of life's heaviest lessons is loss. As a creative soul, what have you learned from your losses?

— I have learned to be grateful for every moment of life and to value what I have. I have learned to share, and to find joy in sharing. Life, in its truest sense, becomes more beautiful when it is shared. Thank you especially for such a meaningful and thought-provoking question.

— A human being has two great homelands: one is their native soil, the other — their heart.

How have you built a bridge between these two through literature?

— I have united them. Just as a demon's soul resides in a bottle in ancient tales, my soul finds peace in my homeland. It beats freely, its rhythm aligned with the murmur of the springs and waterfalls of this land. This is where I find happiness. The more I see my homeland flourish, the more pride swells in my chest. I realize that my youth has not been in vain. That is a very special feeling.

— When life gets difficult, people tend to turn to either silence, prayer, or solitude.

How do you spiritually recover from exhaustion — by writing poetry, observing nature, or by resting in silence?

— I've said this before and I say it again: I have never faced any hardship in life.

Whatever I have wished for in my heart, the Almighty has granted me.

I simply enjoy traveling through my homeland, writing poetry, and reciting poetry.

What I feel must be said, I write mostly for future generations.

That's all.

Does today's generation's scientific and intellectual potential inspire you, or does it concern you?

— In every case, I rejoice. It inspires me.

— How would you assess the literary and cultural ties between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan?

How can these relations be taken to a new level?

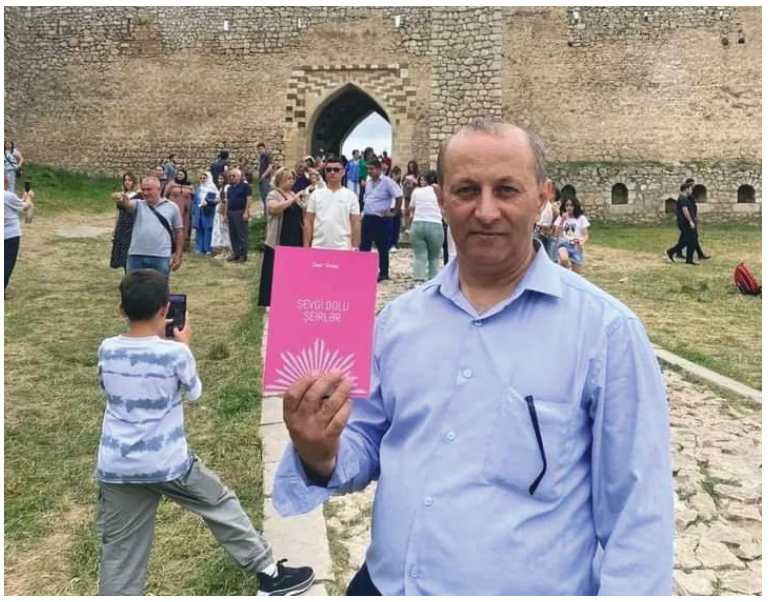
— Our nations are truly brotherly. Our languages are one, our traditions are one.

Throughout history, there were attempts to divide us or present us as strangers —

but the very fact that we are having this conversation today proves they failed.

Undoubtedly, the future will be even brighter. We will form even closer ties in all areas.

— A poet is always in a state of searching, feeling loss, feeling deeply…



Zaur USTAJ

What kind of poems have your own losses become?

— That's a thoughtful and meaningful question.

Especially the loss of our brothers like Həmdəm Ağayev, Vüqar Ağayev, Şükür Həmidov, and İlqar Mirzəyev,

who gave their lives defending and liberating our lands — that affected me deeply.

I have a series of poems dedicated to İlqar.

Most recently, my poetry book "40 Days – 40 Poems" was published — a dedication to our martyrs.

— How does Zaur Ustac listen to his own heart?

How do you maintain inner dialogue with yourself?

— I am a very sensitive person. Sometimes it burdens me. I suffer.

I am as calm as I am passionate. One might say that I have lived until now entirely by the voice — the dictation — of my heart.

I only turn to my mind when doing mathematical calculations.

My dialogues with my soul are always fruitful.

I know myself very well.

Jakhongir NOMOZOV is a young poet and journalist from Uzbekistan. He is also a Member of the Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan and the World Young Turkic Writers Union.

Sports >> ***Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca says the decision to suspend the Club World Cup last-16 tie with Benfica for two hours because of extreme weather was "a joke" and said the US is "probably not the right place to do the competition".**

'Not Football' – Maresca Questions Club World Cup Hosts After 'Joke' Delay

Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca says the decision to suspend the Club World Cup last-16 tie with Benfica for two hours because of extreme weather was "a joke" and said the US is "probably not the right place to do the competition".

"This is not football" was how the Italian described the situation after the 4-1 extra-time victory in a match that lasted four hours and 39 minutes in Charlotte and finished at 01:39 BST on Sunday.

It was the sixth game of the tournament that has been suspended because of seasonal summer thunderstorms.

Players, staff and supporters were immediately pulled indoors because of extreme weather, in this case because thunderstorms were detected within an eight-mile radius of the venue, in line with US safety regulations.

The weather has been one of the Club World Cup talking points a year out from the US co-hosting the 2026 World Cup, with extreme heat also affecting games.

"I think it's a joke, to be honest," said Maresca.

"It's not football. It's completely something new; I struggle to understand.

"I can understand if it's security reasons but if you suspend seven or eight games then it's probably not the right place to do the competition.

"It's not normal to suspend the game. In a World Cup, how many games are suspended? Zero probably. In Europe how many games get suspended? Zero.

"We've been here two weeks and they've already suspended six or seven games. There is some problems for me personally."

What happened in the match?

Here is how the game unfolded at the Bank of America Stadium:

09:00 BST: Kick-off

22:53: In the 85th minute the match is suspended with Chelsea leading 1-0 through Reece James' 64th-minute goal

00:47: Match restarts

00:54: VAR check for a Benfica penalty in the 92nd minute

00:57: Angel di Maria scores the penalty to equalise in the 95th minute

01:01: Full-time

01:39: End of extra time – Chelsea win after scoring three goals in extra time through Christopher Nkunku, Pedro Neto and Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall, while Benfica youngster Gianluca Prestianni is sent off

How Chelsea coped with the stoppage

Chelsea players Marc Cucurella, Levi Colwill and Tosin Adarabioyo were furious when pulled off the pitch – as was Maresca – having been on course to win with only five minutes of normal time remaining.

After re-entering the operations and dressing room area, players took turns to cycle on exercise bikes to keep their muscles warm and did kick-ups to stay fresh.

Maresca explained the mood and why it impacted performance, saying: "So two hours inside – people speak with the family outside [to check] if they were good with the security. People eating, laughing, talking on their mobiles. It was two hours. That's why I said it's not football.

"For 85 minutes we were in control of the game. We didn't concede anything; we created chances enough to win the game. And then after the break the game changed completely."

James added: "It was quite disruptive when you're in the flow of the game. Lots of substitutions – trying to get warm and stay warm. It was difficult and the climate was very hot and humid."

A senior Chelsea official admitted to confusion and relief around the senior staff after the match.

Defender Trevoh Chalobah saw the funny side, posting on social media: "Game started Saturday and ended Sunday."

Is US in the summer suitable?

This was the second longest stoppage of the tournament, with Benfica having had another two-hour stoppage delaying the start of their match against Auckland City.

There have been six similar stoppages in five different cities, including Mamelodi Sundowns against Ulsan HD, which also happened in Orlando, because of heavy rain and storms.

And there were long pauses in the second half of Palmeiras v Al-Ahly in New Jersey (40 minutes), Salzburg v Pachuca in Cincinnati (90 minutes) and Boca Juniors v Auckland City in Nashville (50 minutes).

Chelsea players celebrate their goal against Benfica. PHOTO/CHELSEA FC .

Chelsea are also one of many teams to fall victim to extreme heat. Maresca said it was "impossible" to conduct a normal training session at their previous base in Philadelphia.

Some of the best stadiums in the US and Canada have roofs, like Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium, but many do not.

Atlanta is the only ground selected with such a covered roof in the Club World Cup but further stadiums in Vancouver, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles and Toronto are covered for next summer's World Cup.

However, that tournament has been expanded to 48 teams, meaning these events will likely happen next summer.

Possible solutions could include moving the World Cup to winter months, as Qatar did in 2022, but severe cold is also an issue in parts of the US and Canada.

Head of Fifa's technical study group Arsene Wenger addressed stoppages from its base in Miami.

He said: "It's not ideal, I agree, because you want the flow of the game from the first to the last minute but, as well, when you organise a competition you have [to put] security first."

Fifa also issued a statement at the time of the incident which read: "Due to adverse weather conditions in Charlotte, including the risk of lightning in the vicinity of Bank of America Stadium, the Fifa Club World Cup match between SL Benfica and Chelsea FC has been suspended. Fifa will follow the established safety protocols, and the match will resume as soon as it's safe to do so."

Fifa has been asked for a response to Maresca's comments.

BBC

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> ***Kibera Soccer Women FC are the new FKF Women's Cup Champions after beating Vihiga Queens 1-0 in a tightly contested match played Saturday at Afraha Stadium in Nakuru.**

Kibera Soccer FC Crowned 2025 FKF Women Cup Champions

Kibera Soccer Women FC are the new FKF Women's Cup Champions after beating Vihiga Queens 1-0 in a tightly contested match played Saturday at Afraha Stadium in Nakuru.

Super-sub Stellah Odhiambo found the back of the net in the 90th minute after connecting with a well-placed cross from Yvonne Idagiza, sending the Kibera bench and fans into wild celebrations.

Earlier in the game, Kibera had a golden chance to take the lead in the 14th minute through Faith Mboya, but her powerful strike hit the crossbar, sending the game into the break goalless.

Vihiga Queens' late push for an equalizer proved futile, as Kibera maintained relentless pressure and attacking intent right up to the final whistle to secure a hard-fought 1-0 win.

Speaking after the match, Kibera head coach David Busego praised his team's resilience saying " I am really proud of my girls. It was a tough match. We missed several chances in the first half, but in the second half, we corrected our mistakes, improved our attack, and got the result. Thanks to the organizers and betPawa for supporting women's football. Since the introduction of the LBR, the players have shown great motivation."

On the other hand, Vihiga Queens' head coach Boniface Nyamunyamu admitted that a lapse in concentration cost them the match. He said, "We lost a bit of concentration in the final minute, which led to a punishment. It was a great game though, as both teams played well. We will go back to the drawing board, review our mistakes and hope to come back stronger next season.

Kibera's Faith Mboya was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP), while Diana Cheron of Vihiga Queens claimed the Golden Boot. Vihiga's goalkeeper Vivian Khayati walked away with the Best Goalkeeper award.

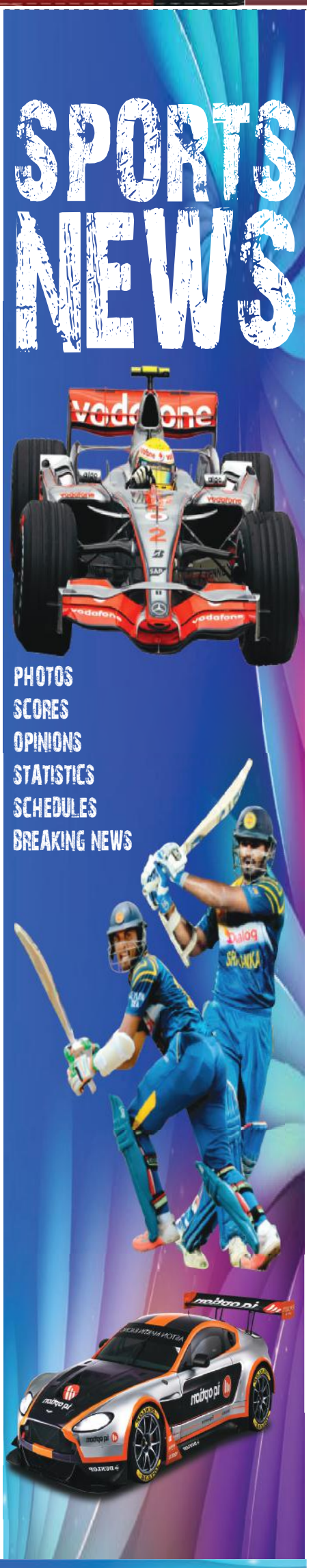
Kibera Soccer took home KSh 650,000, while Vihiga Queens received KSh 100,000, courtesy of betPawa.

Both Kibera Soccer and Vihiga had booked their spots in the final after overcoming Kenya Police Bullets and Bungoma Queens respectively in the semifinals.

Also speaking at the event, betPawa Kenya partner Cynthia Onyango commended the level of play, stating "Today, we witnessed world-class football from our ladies. Both teams were outstanding, showing just how much talent exists in women's football in Kenya. We remain committed to supporting and growing the women's game."

This year, the tournament is powered by betPawa, and it has witnessed 32 teams participate. Through the Locker Room Bonus (LRB) initiative, betPawa has injected KES 4.3 million in direct rewards to players and technical staff, a move aimed at supporting, empowering, and motivating players, while contributing to the growth of women's football in the country.

Capital Sport



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Meet Halila Siham, A Trailblazing Journalist, Model, and Actress

By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Through her tireless work and dedication, Halila Siham has become a shining example of excellence and empowerment. Her passion for storytelling, fashion, and advocacy has inspired countless individuals around the world. As she continues to break barriers and push boundaries, Siham remains a true icon in her field.**
- **With her multifaceted career and commitment to making a difference, Halila Siham is a name that will undoubtedly continue to make headlines for years to come. Her legacy serves as a testament to the power of hard work, determination, and a passion for pursuing one's dreams.**

Halila Siham is a multifaceted personality who has made a significant impact in the world of journalism, modeling, and entertainment. As the CEO of The Buzz Magazine, an international publication that covers celebrity news, fashion, and stories, Siham has established herself as a leading voice in the industry. Her company, Mosaic Com, specializes in entertainment and production, further solidifying her position as a creative powerhouse.

Siham's journey to success began with her crowning as Miss Nations Union of Morocco, a title that would pave the way for her future endeavors. She is set to represent her country in India next May, showcasing her poise and charisma on the international stage.

As an ambassador for numerous brands and associations worldwide, Siham has demonstrated her versatility and appeal. Her work as a model has taken her to new heights, with her being chosen as the Super Model of the Year in 2022. This achievement is a testament to her hard work and dedication to her craft.

Siham's commitment to excellence has earned her numerous accolades. She was honored with an honorary doctorate from Asalam's Academy in Germany, a prestigious recognition of her contributions to the field. Additionally, she was named the Best Journalist in the World in 2019, a distinction that speaks to her exceptional skills and passion for storytelling.

As a Goodwill Ambassador for the Arab Dream Association, recognized by the United Nations, Siham continues to make a positive impact on the world. Her work with various organizations and foundations has cemented her status as a leader and advocate for important causes.

Halila Siham

Some of Siham's notable achievements include:

- Winner of the Fashion Hero TV Series in 2021
- Winner of the United Nations Pageants of the Year
- The face of Louboutin's Shoes Series of the Year 2021
- International Director of Miss Africa 2022
- President of WIO Arabic Countries in Morocco
- Honored Spokesperson by WIO Academy in 2022
- Member of the Arab Youth International Model United Nations
- President of Ekoham Foundation
- Awarded the Exclusive and Extraordinary Inspirational Icon Award in 2022
- President of APDH Association in Morocco
- Genetic Engineering Hero of the Year 2022 by Amino Foundation
- Awarded the Best Medal in the World by UNESCO
- Global Women Awards 2022 Ambassador

Through her tireless work and dedication, Halila Siham has become a shining example of excellence and empowerment. Her passion for storytelling, fashion, and advocacy has inspired countless individuals around the world. As she continues to break barriers and push boundaries, Siham remains a true icon in her field.

With her multifaceted career and commitment to making a difference, Halila Siham is a name that will undoubtedly continue to make headlines for years to come. Her legacy serves as a testament to the power of hard work, determination, and a passion for pursuing one's dreams.

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