MaDaFu

The Socio-Economic Newspaper with Anything & Everything from Kenya

Issue 078 / JULY 2026 | Complimentary Distribution - Free | Registered at the G.P.O as a Newspaper

PHOTO STORY

Jigger Archive visit

Ahadi Kenya Trust CEO Stanley Kamau demonstrates to learners from primary schools in Murang'a County how the traditional kerosene lamp was used to do homework during their visit to the Jigger Archives Centre in Murang'a County on Saturday, August 8th, 2026. Opened in May, the centre has archived jigger fleas for future research and documented the organization's two-decade countrywide fight against the flea menace.

Today, the 9th July 2026, at the National Police Service, Coast Regional Headquarters Mombasa - The IPA COAST SECTION supported the NPS Coast Tourist Police Unit with 20 Police Branded Reflector Jackets for the Coast TPU Officers; as they carry out their mandate on the ground. The IPA Coast Chairman Mr. Jimmy Kimaro handed them over to Madam Patricia, the head of the NPS Coast TPU. When our visitors to Kenya are safe and well managed, we build a strong nation together via the tourism boom. Looking on are the IPA Coast Region Members. Servo Per Amikego - Service through Friendship! • Madafu Newspaper Update • Photo by Mr. Chimera

MaDaFu Newspaper is Owned & Published by -: Madafu Publications Ltd. P. O. Box 80518 - GPO 80100, Mombasa, Kenya. Email: editor@madafu.biz www.madafu.biz

Ruto: Kenya to Become Upper-Middle-Income Country in 10 Years

President William Ruto has exuded confidence that Kenya can be an upper middle-income country in the next 10 years. The President said the country is not where it should be, pointing out that Kenyans should aspire to be a first-world economy in one generation.

Addressing members of the Friends Church (Quakers) at State House Nairobi on Monday, he said such an economy would ensure creation of millions of jobs, production of enough food for domestic consumption and export, and implementation of universal healthcare.

The President pointed out that a national vision for the country is important, proposing that it be canvassed broadly in a similar way to Constitution 2010.

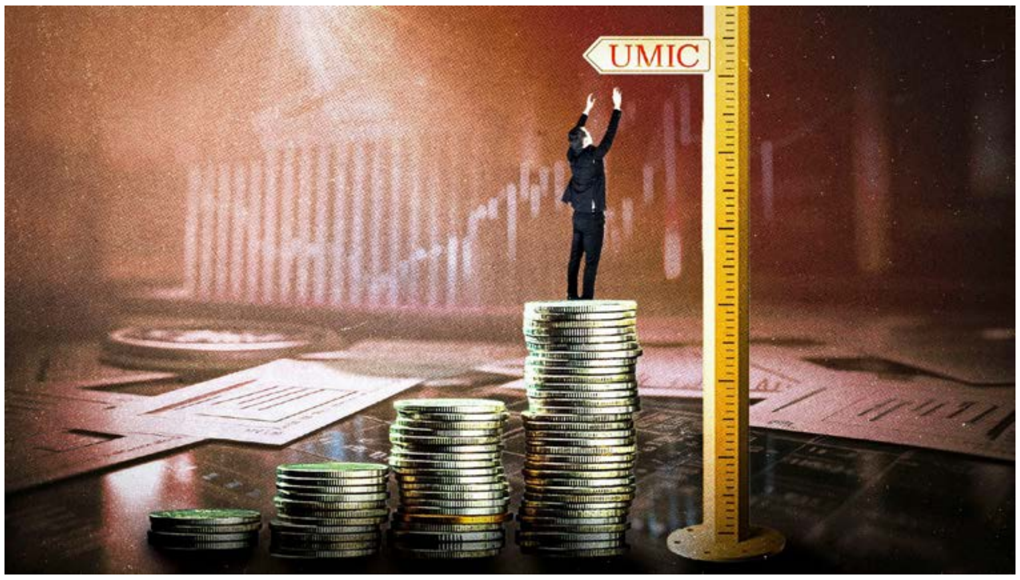
“Without a national vision, Kenya will continue with the game of guesswork, President Ruto pointed out.

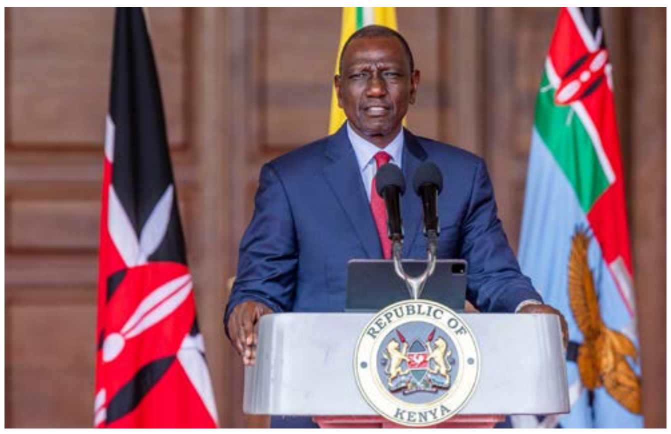
He regretted that Korea was at a similar economic level with Kenya at independence in the 1960s, but left the country behind.Additionally, China was equally behind Kenya but it has since bypassed the country.

President Ruto pointed out that Kenya is a robustly democratic country, but it should also become a wealthy and prosperous country. He said the Government’s achievements in the past four years have shown that it is possible to change Kenya.

“We have implemented affordable housing, universal healthcare, new funding model for higher education, and hired 100,000, with an extra 20,000 teachers to be hired this year,” the President said.

At the same time, he said Kenya has made steady economic and social progress and is in a stronger position than it was in 2022 despite the numerous challenges the country has faced over the years.The President expressed confidence in the reforms his administration has undertaken in housing, education and health, saying they have improved livelihoods and stabilised the economy.





“We have fixed the economy. We have expanded programmes in health, housing and education, among others, and it is time as Kenyans to plan a better destiny for our country,” he said.

President Ruto also defended the Government’s affordable housing programme, saying it is a right guaranteed under the Constitution.

The President noted the Government’s development agenda is guided by the Constitution, particularly in ensuring Kenyans have access to housing, healthcare, adequate food and education.

“The work we have done in the past two years can be seen. The roads can be seen. The teachers we have employed can be seen. The transformation in agriculture can be seen. The houses we said we would build can be seen. The markets can be seen. The hostels can be seen,” he said.

Meanwhile, President Ruto urged Kenyans to ignore leaders who have no development record come the 2027 General Election.

He noted that voters should choose leaders based on their development record, clear policy visions, and verifiable service delivery rather than empty rhetoric.

“Everyone should show the work they have done. The Bible says faith without works is dead,” he explained.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi told Kenyans to ignore leaders who have embraced tribal politics at the expense of national unity.

“Our democracy should not be reduced to an ethnic poll. It should be about the 55 million Kenyans,” Mr Mudavadi said.

Mr Stephen Magwilu, Presiding Clerk of the Friends Church of Kenya (Quakers), condemned goonism being perpetuated by some politicians.

“Our youth should not be misused by politicians to engage in goonism to achieve their selfish ends, “ said Mr Magwilu.

Present were Bungoma Governor Ken Lusaka, Kakamega Deputy Governor Ayub Savula and MPs Didmus Barasa (Kimilili), Maungu Oyugi (Luanda), John Waluke (Sirisia), Fred Kapondi (Mt Elgon), Beatrice Adagala (Vihiga Women Rep) and David Ndakwa (Malava).

Others were MPs Elsie Muhanda (Kakamega Women Rep), Fred Ikana Shinyalu), Mary Emase (Teso South), Kakai Bisau (Kiminini), Charles Gimose (Hamisi) and Omboko Milemba (Emuhaya).

SATURDAY CLUB

On 20th June 2026, Saturday Club hosted Dr. Sundeep Chavda as a guest speaker at The Mombasa Club. Dr. Sundeep Chavda who is a renowned Consultant Surgeon and Urologist with abundant experience and expertise, presented a talk on Prostrate Management and Urology.

Dr. Sudeep’s presentation and the question-and-answer session that followed enriched the knowledge and understanding of the members and guests present on the Prostrate and Urology issues being faced on regular basis.

After the presentation we had a celebration for members celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries in June. This was followed by dinner and fellowship.

Dr. Sundeep during the presentation.

Dr. Sundeep being awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Vice Chairman Saturdonian Rajesh Chavda.

Members.

NEWS

Ruto urges Kenyans to reject tribal politics

President William Ruto has urged Kenyans to shun tribal politics and those who preach it, saying national unity is the foundation of a strong and prosperous society.

The President said the Government was focused on unity-driven development, noting that economic progress depends on collective effort and trust among Kenyans.

Speaking at the Full Gospel Church Gatunduri in Manyatta Constituency, Embu County, Sunday, President Ruto said he would not allow tribal politics to thrive in the country.

"I will not allow tribal politics to thrive in Kenya. No one will be allowed to divide Kenyans on a tribal basis," he pointed out.

He termed those dividing the country along tribal lines as enemies of development.

The President told Kenyans not to be bothered by such leaders, noting that "empty vessels make the most noise".

"Politicians should know that Kenyans will elect leaders depending on their development record, and not on the basis of the public outbursts they blurt out," the President explained.

He also made it clear that no individual delivered the Mt Kenya vote to him during the 2022 General Election, insisting that he personally campaigned across the region and directly sought the support of residents.

"I came here and asked you to vote for me. And you did. Do you remember? You saw

me looking for votes here, including in your churches, and I asked you to pray for me. And you subsequently gave me your votes," President Ruto told the congregation.

He said it was misleading for some leaders to claim they single-handedly persuaded the people of Mt Kenya to support his presidential bid.

"I hear some people arrogantly saying they are the ones who asked you to vote for me. They imply that I did not come to seek for votes in Embu, and they are the ones who looked for votes for me," the President pointed out.

At the same time, the President took the opportunity to enumerate the achievements of his administration in the past three and half years.

On education, he explained that pointed the Government has undertaken major initiatives that are transforming the sector, including the hiring of 100,000 teachers, building 23,000 classrooms at Junior and Senior schools and streamlining the financing of higher education.

He noted that the Government is determined to eliminate barriers that hinder the provision of quality education so that all learners get equal opportunities in school.

"This financial year, the education sector will receive KSh784 billion, the highest allocation in the country's budget history, from KSh500,000 in 2022. Education remains an equaliser for all Kenyans," President Ruto explained.

Additionally, the President pointed out that since the establishment of Social Health Authority (SHA) in October 2024, more than 31 million Kenyans have been registered.

He commended the residents of Embu County, under the leadership of Governor Cecily Mbarire, for mobilising them to register with SHA. The President said the county is among the top five counties nationally in SHA registration.

"In Embu County, 72 per cent of the population is registered with SHA. The hospitals in the county have also been paid KSh2.5 billion in the past 20 months for the various services they have offered," he said.

President Ruto noted that the Government has increased funding for the purchase of drugs in public hospitals across the country from KSh13 billion in the last financial year to KSh19 billion in 2026/2027.

On the Affordable Housing Programme, he noted housing units, modern markets and student hostels are being built across the country, including Embu County.

He explained that the programme has created jobs for close to 700,000 Kenyans in affordable housing and boosted manufacturing in the building and construction sector.

At the same time, the President announced that KSh350 billion has been mobilised for the National Infrastructure Fund (NIF), noting that the Kenya Pipeline Company Initial Public Offering raised KSh106 billion and the Safaricom share sale KSh244 billion.

With these funds, the NIF will leverage private capital that will drive mega infrastructure development projects across the country, he said.

In agriculture, President Ruto said the cost of agricultural inputs had reduced significantly while reforms in the coffee sector had improved farmers' earnings.

"We agreed that we would reform agriculture. You know the price of fertiliser has reduced. We also promised to improve coffee prices, which we have done. A kilo of coffee cherry in Embu is selling at between KSh140 and KSh150 up from KSh60 in 2022," the President said.

The dairy sector has also grown substantially, with Kenya producing 5.4 billion litres of milk up from 4.5 billion in 2022 and making it the largest milk-producing country in Africa.

Governor Mbarire and local MPs praised the Government for giving priority to development projects that have a direct impact on the lives of l Kenyans.

Ms Mbarire said Embu County is benefitting from the construction of 300km of tarmac roads during President Ruto's three years in office compared to 80km during former President Uhuru Kenyatta's period.

"I also want to particularly thank President Ruto for the plans to have the Italian Government build a Level Five Hospital in the county at a cost of KSh1 billion. We don't take it for granted," Ms Mbarire said.

The leaders assured the President of their support for his re-election next year, saying he was the only who has a plan to transform Kenya and make it a first-world economy.

THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared.

Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed

the nearest kid and pushed him up against parked car shouting,

'What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?' The young boy was apologetic.

'Please, mister...please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do,' He pleaded. 'I threw the brick because no one else would stop....' With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. 'It's my brother, 'he said 'He rolled off the curb & fell out of his wheelchair & I can't lift him up.' Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, 'Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me.' Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat... He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh

scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. 'Thank you and may God bless you,' the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words,the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door.

He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: 'Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!' God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us.

It's our choice to listen or not.

Thought for the Day

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring. He sends you a sunrise every morning Face it, He is crazy about you!

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.

Govt to insure 107,000 Community Health Promoters under SHA

President William Ruto has announced that the Government will this month begin paying medical insurance for all the 107,000 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) under the Social Health Authority (SHA).

The President said this is a recognition of the indispensable role the CHPs are playing in the country's plan to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

Under the plan, the National Government will provide KSh390 million, with the President saying counties will contribute a similar amount.

Consequently, Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja released more than KSh30 million for the initiative.

President Ruto said CHPs are at the heart of Kenya's primary healthcare system and assured them of continued Government investment in their welfare, including sustainable remuneration, training, digital support and provision of medical equipment.

"Those who dedicate themselves to the health of the nation must also enjoy the dignity of health cover for themselves and their families," the President pointed out.

Speaking at State House Nairobi on Saturday, during a meeting with about 8,000 Community Health Promoters from Nairobi County, he described the frontline health workers as the backbone of Kenya's healthcare system and central to the country's preventive health strategy.

Present were Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni, Governor Sakaja, several MPs and other leaders from Nairobi County.

President Ruto said Kenya has built one of Africa's strongest community health systems by placing communities at the centre of healthcare delivery through close collaboration between National and County governments.

The Government, he noted, has shifted the healthcare model from curative to preventive, with CHPs playing a critical role through household visits, health education and early intervention.

"Community Health Promoters are the first point of contact between Kenyans and their health system. Before patients reach a dispensary, health centre or hospital, they first meet you in their homes," he said.

President Ruto said the National Government will continue working with counties to establish a sustainable remuneration framework for healthcare workers while strengthening professional training, digitising community health services and equipping medical staff with the tools needed to deliver quality healthcare at the grassroots.

He highlighted the progress made since the CHPs programme was launched in October 2023, noting that about 9.4 million households, representing more than 30 million Kenyans, have been enrolled in the electronic Community Health Information System (e-CHIS).

The President said the programme has become a cornerstone of the Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda and the strategy to achieve universal healthcare through strengthened primary healthcare.

As SHA expands across the country, President Ruto said CHPs will play an even greater role in educating households, facilitating registration and enrolment, conducting referrals and promoting preventive healthcare to reduce treatment costs.

"You are not simply supporting healthcare reform. You are leading it from the frontlines," he told the health promoters.

At the same time, President Ruto urged leaders not to politicise healthcare reforms, saying the success of SHA should be judged on its impact rather than political rhetoric.

He maintained that the medical insurance has significantly outperformed the defunct National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), stating that CHPs are best placed to assess whether the reforms are working.

To illustrate SHA's impact, the President cited a health facility in Pangani, Nairobi, whose monthly revenue has risen from about KSh100,000 a month under NHIF to KSh1.5 million under SHA, while the number of patients served has increased from about 10 to 150 daily.

Riruta Level 4 Hospital, which was upgraded from level 3 under SHA, now generates more than KSh6 million a month compared to about KSh200,000 under the defunct NHIF.

President Ruto criticised calls to reinstate NHIF, noting that the former scheme had eight million registered members and disbursed KSh5.6 billion in three months, compared with SHA's average monthly disbursement of KSh12 billion.

By next week, he disclosed, hospitals will have received KSh12 billion for services rendered this month.

"Those asking us to return to NHIF are threatening the health of our people. If they want to know whether SHA is working, they should ask the Community Health Promoters," the President explained.

He added that medical equipment worth KSh10 billion have been procured and installed under the Government's health reforms.

President Ruto commended Nairobi residents for embracing SHA, saying 2.8 million people, representing 65 per cent of the county's population, have registered.

In the past one and a half years, he noted, KSh170 billion has been disbursed to health facilities nationwide under SHA, with Nairobi hospitals receiving the lion's share of KSh32 billion.

Turning to politics, President Ruto urged Kenyans to judge leaders by their track record and development agenda rather than political rhetoric.

He criticised politicians opposing Government programmes such as affordable housing and modern markets, saying the projects are intended to improve livelihoods.

"They want Kibera to remain a slum so that people continue living without proper roads, electricity and sanitation. They want to stop the construction of modern markets so that traders continue operating in muddy and dusty conditions," he said.

The President also appealed to Kenyans to reject tribalism and all forms of division in favour of national unity.

Mr Duale said Kenya's UHC programme has earned international recognition, with the World Health Organisation and several African countries looking up to Kenya as a model.

The Health Cabinet Secretary explained that the CHPs' initiative has become a benchmark for other countries seeking to strengthen primary healthcare systems.

He added that previous governments had attempted to implement UHC without achieving the current level of success, adding that CHPs have enabled early detection of conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and obesity through household screening.

On his part, Governor Sakaja said investing in primary healthcare significantly reduces overall healthcare costs.

"For every $1 spent on primary healthcare, about $14 is saved in the overall health budget," he pointed out.

He added: "For a long time, people used to go to hospitals. Today, Community Health Promoters are taking healthcare to the people."

NEWS

Donation Drive To Boost Education In Tharaka

547 learners at Iruma Primary receive shoes and sanitary packs

Be.cause International Kenya Programs Manager Hariet Njenga (2nd left) and Ahadi Kenya Trust Campaign Ambassador Cecilia Mwang i, assist learners fit in their new pair of shoes during the distribution of "growing shoes" to each of 547 learners and sanitary towels to girls at Iruma Primary and Junior School, Tharaka Nithi, on Thursday, July 16, 2026.

More than 500 learners at Iruma Primary and Junior School in Tharaka Nithi County are set to benefit from improved access to education after receiving shoes and sanitary packs through a donation drive led by Ahadi Kenya Trust in partnership with be.cause International.

The initiative saw 547 learners receive expandable shoes designed to support their growth, while adolescent girls were provided with sanitary supplies aimed at reducing absenteeism and ensuring uninterrupted learning.

Speaking during the exercise, Ahadi Kenya Trust Campaign Ambassador, Cecilia Mwangi, said the programme seeks to restore dignity to children by giving them the confidence to remain in school and pursue their dreams, adding that every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn and succeed.

School administrators welcomed the initiative, noting that many learners come from vulnerable backgrounds and often lack essential school items.

The donation will therefore boost learners' self-esteem, improve attendance and create a more conducive learning environment.

Sub-County Education Officer Douglas Muthami, lauded the programme and called on more partners to support similar initiatives across the country, saying investments in children's

welfare remain critical to improving learning outcomes.

The donation exercise brought together education stakeholders, community leaders and development partners in a renewed effort to support children and expand access to quality education in underserved communities.

Giants Group Twiga & Premchandbhai Foundation Mega Food Ration & Mosquito Nets Donation

Giants Group Twiga with the support of Premchandbhai Foundation distributed Ration Packs to 900 families and 504 Mosquito Nets to 504 People IN Turkana County.

Distribution was done around ILLERET , which lies on the tip of Lake Turkana near the Ethiopian border.

Lake Turkana is a salty lake and as water is scarce the community drinks this water along with their cattle.

To reach the area it takes over 20 hours. Giants Twiga is always in areas which are the most venerable and where poverty is at its peak. The distribution was done around 3 areas , Illeret village, Sielucho and Dimu manyatta .

Giants Group Twiga continue their Journey of service continues to areas affected by poverty .

Viksit Bharat 2047: A Roadmap To Become A Developed Nation

It is creditable that the Government of India has set for itself and the nation a crucial goal: That India should become Viksit Bharat by 2047, which would be the one hundredth year anniversary of India's independence. While there is general agreement that the term Viksit Bharat denotes a developed country, it is still necessary for public policy purposes to break the concept down to know what it entails. What follows is an attempt to do so.

A 10 trillion-dollar economy

While India can be legitimately proud of being the fourth largest economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the world, the fact remains that for a population that is approaching 1.5 billion, the present GDP of $4.5 trillion is a little below par. So, if India must become "Viksit" in the real sense of the term, the GDP must grow significantly to attain the figure of at least 10 trillion dollars. This is entirely achievable if we can do a couple of things. First, 40 per cent of our GDP is foreign trade, so our share of international trade must simply double. In particular, our share of global exports, which hovers around 2 per cent, should rise to 10 per cent. Second, our Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which for the latest year is a little short of $ 100 billion, must also grow manifold. In order for the above two things to happen, Government of India must carry out deep seated economic reforms in areas such as land, labour, power, agriculture, infrastructure and regulatory obstacles.

Inclusive Economic Growth

While there is no question that the GDP must accelerate, as mentioned above, that alone is not enough. Growth must be inclusive which is to say that it must percolate to the downtrodden people who are at the bottom of the pyramid. The government has conceived excellent schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. But going beyond that, job creation for the youth must become a national mantra for both the Central and State Governments. Since it is not possible for the Government alone or even the organized sector to provide all the jobs that are necessary, it is vitally important to enable an ecosystem where the youth become entrepreneurs and job creators rather than be mere job seekers. Present levels of economic inequality are unsustainable and efforts must be made to make the society much more egalitarian.

Skilling

It is well recognized that our education system relies heavily on rote learning and it churns out thousands of graduates every year who may not be immediately employable. In this context, skilling and re-skilling of graduates becomes crucial. The idea of vocational training, industry-academic collaboration and imparting tech skills (including Artificial Intelligence) for our graduates must assume mission-mode importance. Spending on education, in both the public and private sector must increase exponentially, especially in states that lag the national average. In parallel, Research and Development must be given prime importance in all relevant institutions. It is indeed true that a population that is close to 1.5 billion can be a demographic dividend for India. But that is true only if the population is skilled enough to face the challenges of a knowledge economy.

Health

India's healthcare system is undergoing dramatic transformation, driven by digitalization and by infrastructure expansion. But challenges remain on account of rising medical costs and a growing chronic disease burden. Government has undertaken significant efforts such as Ayushman Bharat and Ayushman Arogya Mandir schemes which have made a big impact on providing healthcare in the country. Medical college seats have more than doubled since 2014, in an attempt to bridge the doctor-patient gap. Successful attempts have also been made to promote India as a global hub for medical tourism. Despite all this, serious challenges remain. Public spending on healthcare still lags desired levels. India also runs the risk of becoming the global capital for heart disease and diabetes. India therefore needs to continue its massive transformation of public health infrastructure to make it accessible, affordable and quality-driven for the vast majority of its population. The National Health Mission is doing a commendable job. It simply needs to be strengthened and streamlined.

Sustainable Development: India must not emulate the ways of either the industrialized countries which followed a high-carbon pathway to development or indeed that of China, which even today burns more coal than the rest of the world put together. India is the only major economy today which potentially has the possibility of following a low-carbon pathway to a high-income economy based on sustainable development. And India must do it not just because the world wants it to, but because the people of this country deserve it as a matter of right.

Conclusion

India is indeed well positioned to become Viksit Bharat by 2047. But the country needs to be on mission-mode and a whole-of-government approach is required to make sure that no stone is left unturned in this national endeavour. By any reckoning, the next twenty years will be the most crucial period in India's history.

Dr Mohan Kumar is a former Indian Ambassador to France and currently Dean/Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University. Views are personal.

Giants Group Twiga & Premchandbhai Foundation Food Ration Distribution

Giants Group of Nairobi Twiga in association with Premchandbhai Foundation distributed Ration Packs to 750 families living in 4 Villages around Amboseli National Park - Kimana Gate .

The community around the Park face various issues, as rainfall is minimal. The elders of the villages appreciated the generous donation.

At the same area two Schools where the children of these villages study were given library books and mathematical sets. A pledge was done to the Area Elders of giving Library Books to more schools Giants Group Twiga Thank Atua Enkop Group - Elephant Gorge lodge for the logistics support. And a big Assante Sana to Dipesh Galani ofAfrican Bush Destination for the Land Cruiser at a special rate.

Giants Group Twiga have embarked on Donating Library books to Schools to promote National Literacy and Reading Culture .

India's Space Sector: A Launchpad for Global Partnerships

By Gurjit Singh, former Ambassador and author

Growing competition in outer space provides India with a unique opportunity to shape a narrative in which collaboration, rather than confrontation, drives space exploration. Recognised as a trustworthy and cost-effective spacefaring nation, India is now well placed to transform its technological advances into enduring international partnerships that contribute to scientific progress, economic growth, and sustainable development.

India's journey into space has been distinctive. Unlike many space programmes that emerged from Cold War rivalries, India's programme was conceived as an instrument of national development. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai anchored India's space vision in practical applications that would improve the lives of ordinary people. Under his leadership, satellites were developed to strengthen communications, weather forecasting, disaster management, healthcare, agriculture and education. This development-oriented philosophy remains central to India's space programme and resonates strongly with the needs of countries in the Global South, which seek practical applications of space technology rather than prestige alone.

Today, India's achievements extend beyond developmental applications. The Chandrayaan missions, the Mars Orbiter Mission, the Aditya-L1 solar observatory, and the forthcoming Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme have established India as a nation capable of executing sophisticated and reliable space missions. Chandrayaan-3's successful soft landing near the Moon's south pole placed India among an exclusive group of space powers while demonstrating that world-class innovation can be achieved at comparatively modest cost.

India's growing credibility comes at a time when the global space economy is expanding rapidly. Valued at over US$600 billion today and projected to approach US$1.8 trillion by 2035, the sector is increasingly driven by commercial activity in satellite communications, Earth observation, navigation, climate services, broadband connectivity, and emerging fields such as in-orbit servicing and lunar exploration. Many countries aspire to participate but lack indigenous capabilities. They seek dependable long-term partners rather than merely launch providers.

India possesses the capabilities to meet these requirements. The liberalisation of the space sector in 2020 transformed the ecosystem by opening it to private participation. The establishment of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), the expanding commercial role of NewSpace India Limited, and the growth of private enterprises have created one of the world's most dynamic emerging space ecosystems. Indian startups are developing launch vehicles, satellite platforms, geospatial applications and propulsion technologies that are attracting global investment and customers. Companies such as Skyroot Aerospace, Pixxel and Agnikul Cosmos have demonstrated that Indian private enterprise can compete internationally in advanced space technologies.

The next step is to internationalise this ecosystem.

Rather than positioning itself only as a low-cost launch destination, India will offer comprehensive partnerships encompassing satellite design, launch services, mission operations, ground stations, astronaut training, capacity building and downstream applications in agriculture, disaster management and maritime security. Such integrated partnerships would be valuable for countries across the Global South and the Indo-Pacific seeking affordable, customised and reliable technologies to meet their development priorities.

India has demonstrated the diplomatic value of such cooperation. Through the South Asia Satellite, it provided communication and developmental benefits to neighbouring countries. Indian launch vehicles have successfully placed hundreds of foreign satellites into orbit for governments, universities and commercial operators around the world. India's decision to join the Artemis Accords reflects its willingness to participate in the peaceful exploration of the Moon through international collaboration. Cooperation with NASA, the European Space Agency and JAXA has strengthened India's scientific and technological capabilities.

These partnerships reinforce India's standing as a leading voice of the Global South. India offers development partnerships based on affordability, reliability and mutual respect rather than creating technological dependence. Space cooperation has therefore become an increasingly important instrument of Indian diplomacy, strengthening bilateral relationships while delivering tangible developmental benefits.

To realise its full potential, India will aim to sustain the momentum of reform. Faster regulatory approvals, greater access to venture capital, stronger intellectual property protection, and closer collaboration among research institutions, industry and academia will be essential. Public procurement policies would continue supporting Indian startups, enabling them to scale up, innovate and integrate into global supply chains.

India is positioned to play a larger role in shaping the governance of outer space. Orbital congestion, space debris, responsible resource utilisation and equitable access to emerging space opportunities are becoming pressing international concerns. As space activities expand, there will be an increasing need for countries capable of building consensus on responsible norms and practices. India's long-standing commitment to the peaceful uses of outer space, combined with its growing technological capabilities, equips it to contribute meaningfully to the development of rules that promote transparency, sustainability and equitable access.

The coming decade will determine not only which countries lead in space but also how space is governed. With its scientific capabilities, entrepreneurial ecosystem and international credibility, India is uniquely placed to bridge the gap between established and emerging space nations. By building collaborative partnerships founded on inclusivity, mutual benefit and innovation, India can transform its space programme into a major pillar of its global engagement.

In an increasingly divided world, India's space sector offers a powerful reminder that the greatest achievements in space are those that bring nations together. That may well become India's most enduring contribution to humanity's next frontier.

India and Africa: Relations Beyond Rhetorics

(Amb Anil Trigunayat, Former Ambassador of India to Jordan, Libya and Malta)

India and Africa have a historic and umbilical relationship. It makes a good talking point during speeches but will need an objective assessment of the extent and depth of our engagement to stand scrutiny for devising better policy choices. It is also a fact that India has consistently, even if occasionally in ad hoc manner, engaged with the African countries. It emerged as a strong voice for their emancipation from the colonial yoke and from then on through Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) and has stood for and advocated the core concerns of the African countries especially the Least developed Countries (LDCs) in the international fora be it GATT/WTO, UN/CHOGM or the Climate Change negotiations and now in the reformed UNSC. In her G20 presidency in 2023 India made sure that African Union (AU) becomes a permanent member of the of G20. This has been widely appreciated and earned India an immeasurable affection quotient across Africa.

Besides India through its extensive capacity building assistance and "share and Care" approach helped the continent a great deal in creating skilled manpower, modern institutions and infrastructure both in the field of education and defence. Indian teachers and professors were widely respected especially by those who studied during 1960s to 1980s. Unfortunately, this very effective mode of engagement dried out and needs to be revived. Several African leaders fondly recall their Indian teachers even after 40-50 years. Dozens of military officers trained in India rose to become Heads of government and Heads of State in their countries.

Thousands of Africans have been trained under the fully funded ITEC programme and have risen to responsible positions. Another important capacity building effort is to train about 80 women every year to work on solar panels who are fondly called as "Solar Mamas" as they, on return, electrify the communities and at least 50 houses each. Now technological competency initiatives in sunrise sectors through Centers of excellence and bilateral, regional and sub regional and trilateral formats with likeminded countries like France, Japan and UAE have been mooted across the economic spectrum.

One of the most important connectivity and capacity building programme launched by India pursuant to the vision of former President APJ Abdul Kalam was the Pan-Africa e-network initiative that focused on tele -medicine, tele-education and e-governance or connectivity among Heads of State across 48 countries. It entailed five Indian ace universities offering courses and 12 super specialty hospitals providing consultations and medical education and was fully funded by Indian government under NEPAD.

The programme has been further upgraded and expanded under the Modi government under the rubric of e-Vidya Bharti and e-Arogya Bharti. Reportedly over 7000 students completed their studies. Since the 1950s India has been encouraging African students through scholarships for higher education, training and capacity building in Indian Institutions. According to estimates currently there are more than 55,000 students from various African countries in India.

India also has a long history of cooperation in the defence capacity building in various African countries and participating in the UN Peace Keeping Operations starting in 1960 in Congo. Their role has been broadly appreciated especially in preventing genocide in South Sudan. Similarly, India women police personnel did a remarkable job in Liberia that was rather unique and President Sirleaf was all praise for them.

Currently India trains a large number of Africans not only in its defence institutions but also in the peace keeping operations and maneuverability in addition to conducting counter terrorism and insurgency operations. India had set up National Defence colleges in several countries including Nigeria. It would also be useful to align our engagement with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) devised by the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to deal with African problems like genocide and ethnic cleansing. India has also been very active in anti -piracy operations on the East Coast of Africa especially Somalia and Gulf of Aden to Mozambique Channel to ensure free lines of trade and communications. Indian navy successfully escorted around 2500 vessels. Like the US Africom, New Delhi needs to also strategically look at Gulf of Guinea and other maritime domain awareness initiatives. In the wake of US-Iran and Israel war and closure and blockade of choke points it has become imperative for New Delhi reorient its energy security efforts in a mutually beneficial manner towards the African continent and to secure Sea lanes of Communications through collaboration and capacity building.

The Diaspora helps a great deal in building bridges at people-to-people level and in turn contributes to the growth of bilateral relations, especially in the economic field as well as through the leadership positions acquired by them as a result of exposure and experience in a particular country. India has 3 million people of Indian origin people across the African continent who are highly successful. The Indian community has begun to synthesize with the socio-economic needs of the local communities by rendering various services like education, medical treatment, job creation and employment. No wonder the former President of Nigeria stated more than once that "That the Indian industrialists are the second biggest employment providers after the federal Government in Nigeria". Time is ripe to also institutionalize with African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while speaking at the Parliament in Kampala in July 2018 outlined his Africa vision through his ten guiding principles which include : Africa is among top priorities for India and momentum of cooperation will be sustained through regular exchanges ;development partnership as per African priorities; preferential access to Indian markets for African products; assist in harnessing digital revolution in Africa ; improve Africa's agriculture potential; fight climate change together; work together to keep oceans and maritime lanes free for all; Africa instead of becoming a theatre of competition should become nursery for its youth; and aspire and work together for a just , representative, democratic global order. These are ideal, achievable and collaborative policies that dictate a paradigm shift compared to other big powers who are trying to get into the 'Gold Rush' for exploitation by way of neo-colonialist approaches. India–Africa relations have developed into a multifaceted partnership encompassing political engagement, trade and investment, development cooperation, capacity building, healthcare, education, digital connectivity, ICT, AI, defence cooperation, space, critical minerals, food and energy security, renewables and multilateral collaboration.

The 4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) was postponed due to Ebola crisis and needs to be held at the earliest to focus on current issues, challenges and solutions. India -Africa engagement will be decisive in the emerging world order as their combined synergies of natural and human resources and capital and human centric approaches can be aligned for the global good through combining the Agenda 2063 and Viksit Bharat 2047. The partnership focuses on innovation, resilience, and inclusive transformation for sustainable development.

YOUTH

A Partnership That Can Unlock Mombasa's Youth Dividend

By Andrew Mwangura

Mombasa is Kenya's gateway to the world—a bustling centre of trade, logistics, tourism, maritime services, and the blue economy. Yet beneath this economic promise lies a troubling paradox. While the county's economy continues to expand, nearly half of its young people remain without work. Recent labour market assessments place youth unemployment at approximately 44 percent, making Mombasa one of the counties with the highest rates of youth joblessness in Kenya. With the county's economically active population projected to reach 935,728 by 2027, the urgency for decisive action has never been greater.

Against this backdrop, the County Government of Mombasa has taken an important step by proposing a strategic partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to strengthen technical and vocational skills development. This initiative is not merely another development programme; it is a timely investment in the county's greatest asset—its young people.

Turning a Demographic Challenge into an Economic Opportunity

Mombasa's demographic profile presents both immense opportunity and significant risk. The county's population is expected to reach approximately 1.42 million by 2027, with young people aged between 15 and 35 years accounting for nearly 37 percent of the population. Properly equipped with relevant skills, this youthful population could become the engine of sustained economic growth and innovation.

However, that demographic dividend remains largely unrealised.

The county's overall unemployment rate stands at approximately 17.6 percent, while youth unemployment is substantially higher. Although the service sector accounts for more than 70 percent of employment and industry contributes roughly 27 percent, many employers continue to report difficulties finding workers with practical, industry-ready skills.

The reasons are well known. Limited access to affordable and high-quality vocational education, outdated training infrastructure, weak links between training institutions and employers, inadequate apprenticeship opportunities, and persistent skills mismatches continue to prevent many young people from securing meaningful employment. These challenges are even more pronounced for young women and youth living in informal settlements, who often face multiple barriers to entering the labour market.

Without targeted intervention, these structural challenges will continue to undermine both economic growth and social stability.

A Partnership Built Around Practical Solutions

The County Government's proposed collaboration with the ILO focuses on three strategic interventions that directly address these longstanding challenges.

The first is the Skills Mtaani Programme, an ambitious initiative designed to train 10,000 unemployed and vulnerable youth across all wards of Mombasa County. Targeting young people from low-income households who are unable to access technical education because of financial constraints, the programme combines vocational skills training with industrial attachments and entrepreneurship development. This integrated approach prepares participants not only for formal employment but also for self-employment and enterprise creation.

In a county where hundreds of thousands of young people continue to struggle for economic opportunities, Skills Mtaani has the potential to become a transformative model for inclusive skills development.

The second intervention involves establishing new Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in underserved sub-counties, including Mvita, Jomvu, Changamwe, and Kisauni. At present, Mombasa has only two fully operational public VTCs, leaving many young people without accessible training facilities. Expanding this network will reduce geographical barriers while ensuring that every sub-county has access to modern vocational education.

The third priority focuses on equipping both existing and new training centres with modern, industry-standard equipment. This investment is particularly significant because it aligns training with emerging opportunities in the Blue Economy. Courses in outboard engine maintenance, marine electrical systems, aquaculture, fisheries technology, maritime safety, and related disciplines will position Mombasa's youth to benefit directly from Kenya's expanding maritime sector.

As the county's principal seaport and maritime gateway, Mombasa is uniquely positioned to become a regional centre of excellence for blue economy skills development.

Aligning Local Action with National and Global Priorities

One of the partnership's greatest strengths is its alignment with broader national and international development priorities.

Nationally, it supports the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which places skills development, youth employment, and enterprise creation at the heart of Kenya's economic transformation. The Government has set ambitious targets of increasing TVET enrolment to one million trainees by 2026 and two million by 2027. Mombasa's initiative contributes directly to achieving these objectives.

The programme also advances the aspirations of Kenya Vision 2030, while contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). At the county level, it supports the implementation of the Mombasa County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023–2027, which prioritises expanded access to quality technical and vocational education.

The ILO's participation further strengthens the initiative. The organisation has consistently supported skills development in Kenya through programmes that promote modern teaching methods, digital learning, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships. Mombasa's growing reputation as a regional centre for skills development was further reinforced when it hosted the Second Regional Conference on Quality Skills and Apprenticeships in 2025, bringing together more than 100 stakeholders from 24 African countries.

From Vision to Implementation

Strong concept notes do not automatically translate into successful programmes.

The success of this partnership will ultimately depend on sustained political commitment, adequate financing, transparent implementation, and measurable outcomes.

The County Government has pledged leadership, coordination, policy support, and co-investment. These commitments must now be matched by active participation from development partners, employers, educational institutions, and civil society.

The private sector, in particular, must move beyond being a beneficiary of skilled labour to becoming a genuine partner in designing curricula, providing industrial attachments, and creating apprenticeship opportunities. Employers understand changing industry needs better than anyone and should therefore play a central role in shaping vocational education.

Equally important is recognising the informal economy, where a significant proportion of Mombasa's youth currently earn their livelihoods. Improving technical skills, productivity, and entrepreneurship within this sector could substantially increase incomes while expanding opportunities for decent work.

There is also an urgent need to transform public perceptions of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). For far too long, vocational education has been viewed as a second-choice pathway for students who fail to pursue university education. Nothing could be further from reality.

Modern economies increasingly depend on highly skilled technicians, artisans, mechanics, electricians, marine engineers, welders, digital specialists, and other technical professionals. As Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has rightly observed, Kenya must build "a generation that values excellence and integrity." That vision cannot be achieved without elevating vocational education to its rightful place as a respected and rewarding pathway to professional success.

Conclusion

Mombasa stands at a defining moment in its development.

The county can either continue watching thousands of talented young people struggle to find opportunities in an economy that urgently requires their skills, or it can make bold investments that unlock their full potential.

The proposed partnership between the County Government of Mombasa and the International Labour Organization offers exactly that opportunity.

The statistics speak for themselves: 44 percent youth unemployment; 10,000 young people targeted through the Skills Mtaani Programme; and an economically active population projected to exceed 935,000 by 2027. Yet behind every one of those numbers is a young woman or man with ambition, talent, and the determination to build a better future.

If implemented with discipline, innovation, and sustained commitment, this partnership could become one of the most consequential youth employment initiatives in Kenya's coastal region. More importantly, it could transform Mombasa's youthful population from an underutilised resource into the driving force behind the county's economic future.

The County Government has presented a compelling vision. The responsibility now rests with the ILO, the private sector, development partners, and all stakeholders to turn that vision into measurable impact.

Mombasa's youth have waited long enough. The time to invest in their future is now.

The writer is a Mombasa-based Public Intellectual and Maritime Affairs Analyst.
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Buying Or Selling A Business In Kenya

The Mergers and Acquisition area of practice has expanded in Kenya with more and more investment in SMEs. this is no longer the purview of blue-chip corporates or publicly listed companies only. Every Investor would like to ensure thy are on strong legal footing when investing or outright purchase of an existing business.

Simply speaking a Merger occurs when two or more companies combine to form a single new entity, or when one company absorbs another and they operate as one. While and acquisition is An acquisition occurs when one company purchases and takes over another. The acquiring company becomes the owner of the target company; as a subsidiary or may be fully integrated.

The purpose of mergers and acquisition is to secure market share or increase profits. It is part of growth strategy for the buyer and return of equity and investment for the builder of the acquired company.

Typically, the buyer company may seek to acquire another company for financial or market share reasons.

What does an SME or company looking to sell their company to an investor generally require to be investor ready?

a. Registration of the business as a legal entity

b. Relevant licenses, permits and certifications

c. Financial records including cash flows, management accounts and Audited Accounts

d. Customer schedule and analysis

e. Human Resource records

f. Registration and Records of Company Assets and warranties including Intellectual properties

As the company being acquired or merged you need to ensure teh following is captured in the process;

a. The agreed price is commensurate to value of the company (there are various models and tools for this), goodwill and brand strength.

b. Human resource; either integrated or properly let go

c. Taxes and statutory payments are up to date

d. Communication with customers and stakeholders

e. Compliance with Anti Money Laundering Requirements

f. Necessary approvals from board, shareholders and regulators e.g. Competition Authority etc

g. Clear handover and takeover dates and procedures

h. Data protection and confidentiality measures

i. Clear dispute resolution

For the Investor or acquiring party there are key points to look out for

a. Verified Registration and licensing

b. Financial records, cashflows, leveraging and tax history (analysed by an advisor)

c. Analyse Culture, financial strategies, customer lists, marketing strategies, litigation etc especially in case of a merger

d. Registered assets including Intellectual Property

e. All necessary consents from shareholders, regulatory and government agencies

f. Communication with stakeholders and customers

g. Branding or re branding

h. Confidentiality and Non-disclosure

i. Non-compete clauses

The valuation and structure of the Contract will depend on the bargaining power of the parties. However, all parties should invest in transaction advisors to ensure the best bargain and legal completion of the transaction.

The general transaction cycle is,

a. Strategy and decision by the company to proceed with the merger or acquisition

b. Targeting

c. Deal negotiation, structuring and phases

d. Due diligence and Disclosures

e. Contract implementation

f. Post contact review to ensure all objectives are achieved

Through the cycle apart from the financial considerations, there are various legal and compliance safeguards and requirements necessary to protect the parties. Standard contracts are a good guide but every transaction has industry and strategy specific requirements and issues that need to be addressed.

The process of mergers and acquisition are quite long, expensive and invasive for each party therefore the process of termination and returning the parties to their initial state is often very difficult and may cripple one or both parties. It is therefore prudent to have transaction advisors from the conceptual stage to the post-contract stage.

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Employment: Does Desertion Of Duties Mean Termination?

Section 44 of the Employment Act, provides that an Employer can terminate an Employees contract without notice on the following grounds;

(a) without leave or other lawful cause, an employee absents himself from the place appointed for the performance of his work;

(b) during working hours, by becoming or being intoxicated, an employee renders himself unwilling or incapable to perform his work properly;

(c) an employee wilfully neglects to perform any work which it was his duty to perform, or if he carelessly and improperly performs any work which from its nature it was his duty, under his contract, to have performed carefully and properly;

(d) an employee uses abusive or insulting language, or behaves in a manner insulting to his employer or to a person placed in authority over him by his employer;

(e) an employee knowingly fails, or refuses, to obey a lawful and proper command which it was within the scope of his duty to obey, issued by his employer or a person placed in authority over him by his employer;

(f) in the lawful exercise of any power of arrest given by or under any written law, an employee is arrested for a cognizable offence punishable by imprisonment and is not within fourteen days either released on bail or on bond or otherwise lawfully set at liberty; or

(g) an employee commits, or on reasonable and sufficient grounds is suspected of having committed, a criminal offence against or to the substantial detriment of his employer or his employer's property

Previously, an Employer would use this Section of the Law to unilaterally terminate an Employee's employment without notice. In particular, where an employee deserts duty the employer

The ELRC court has shifted the burden to the Employer who needs to prove the following before termination due to failure to attend work. That;

a. The employee did not attend work e.g through the Muster Roll etc

b. The Employer tried to reach out to the Employee to establish why he did not report to work.

c. The Employer should conduct a hearing to ascertain that the Employee has indeed intentionally abandoned work.

In James Okeyo v Maskant Flowers Ltd (2015) eKLR the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) held

"In this sense, the employee who deserts employment does not dismiss himself, so to speak. The decision to formally end the employment relationship should come from the innocent party. Where an employer alleges desertion, it must prove the ingredients of desertion. A primary ingredient of desertion to be proved by the employer is that the employee has no intention of returning to work. The employer must also demonstrate that it accepted the repudiation (the same would apply to an employee who asserts an employer has repudiated a contract). Establishing the intention not to return to work will depend on the facts as presented in evidence."

In the case of ROMAGECO KENYA LIMITED VS HUDSON KIDAHAH KISIGWA, CA NO.205 OF 2020 the Court of Appeal in a decision dated and delivered on 12th June 2026 reinforced this responsibility on an Employer to reach out to an Employee and ascertain reasons why they are not at work. The Court stated in paragraph 28

" The critical consideration is that an employer invoking desertion as a defence to claim of unlawful termination must demonstrate tangible efforts to reach out to the employee. With the objective of notifying them that termination of this ground is under contemplation. It is insufficient for an employer to merely invoke the term "desertion" without substantiating it through action and evidence. "

The Court has borrowed heavily from the South African Courts which go further to distinguish desertion from absence without leave. The South African decision in Seablo vs Belgravia Hotel (1997) 6 BLLR 829 (CCMA) defined desertion as follows;

"…desertion is the distinguishable form absence without leave, in that the employee who deserts his or her post does so with the intention of not returning or having left his or her post, subsequently formulates the intention not to return. On the other hand, an employer may deduce the intention of not returning to work from the facts of the case and should demonstrate the same. The facts may include a lack of communication from the employee, duration of absence and attempts made to reach out or establish the whereabouts of the employee. Show cause notice to explain absence may also be a factor to consider." (emphasis mine)

The COK2010 has reinforced the right to Fair Administrative Action hence the Employers need to update their policies and procedure to factor in the need to ensure any termination is not unfair or unlawful in its procedure or reasons.

In the current Employment framework Employers are required to;

a. Keep proper Records as set out in Section 74 of the Employment Act

b. Record all disciplinary issues e.g. complaints, warning letters, PID etc

c. Conduct Disciplinary Hearings

d. Communicate effectively with Employee

For any unfair or wrongful termination, the ELRC may award up to 12 months salary as damages. Any defence should be supported by facts and evidence. To avoid adverse judgments, an Employer should ensure they follow a fair termination process namely,

a. To have Justified grounds

b. Lawful procedure which includes Notice to Show Cause and Disciplinary hearing properly constituted

c. Communication of decision and Appeal process

d. Letter of Termination and payment of dues

e. Certificate of Service

Due to the constant interpretation of the Law by the Courts based on various facts, an employer is should keep updated on the emerging legal decisions on employment issues.

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MATERNITY

Fight Against Premature Births Steps Up

Ushiriki Wema donates neonatal incubators to four counties

Efforts to improve newborn survival in Kenya received a major boost after the Ushiriki Wema Foundation handed over neonatal incubators to hospitals in Narok, Kajiado, Kericho and Bomet counties under its Okoa Malaika programme, an initiative aimed at reducing deaths among premature and critically ill infants.

Addressing the gathering, the Foundation's Patron, Her Excellency Madam Tessie Musalia Mudavadi, described premature birth as one of Kenya's biggest maternal and child health challenges, saying every child deserves a healthy start to life.

She noted that the Okoa Malaika programme is restoring hope to families by equipping hospitals with life-saving neonatal equipment and strengthening the capacity of healthcare workers to care for vulnerable newborns.

Narok County First Lady Agnes Ntutu welcomed the partnership between the county government and the Ushiriki Wema Foundation, noting that increased investment in maternal and newborn healthcare is key to improving child survival and expanding access to quality healthcare services.

Ushiriki Wema Foundation Patron Tessie Musalia (2nd right) during the officially hands over the Okoa Malaika program state-of-the-art neonatal incubators from the to the 29th-32nd counties namely Narok, Kajiado, Kericho, and Bomet on Thursday 2nd July 2026 at Narok County Referral Hospital. The Okoa Malaika program aims at strengthening newborn care, reduce neonatal mortality, and give every premature and critically ill infant in Kenya a healthier start to life. The county Ladies from left are: Seline Barchok (Bomet), Betty Mutai (Kericho), and Dr. Agnes Ntutu (Narok).

Okoa Malaika Brand Ambassador, Njoki Mambo, said the initiative represents hope for mothers and families across the country, adding that no child should lose the chance to live because a hospital lacks the equipment needed to provide specialized care.

The Foundation says the programme continues to expand its reach to public hospitals across the country as part of efforts to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare and give every Kenyan child an equal chance at life.

PHOTO STORY

Partnerships & Resource Mobilzation. Network of Entrepreneurial Institutional Leaders (NEIL) Yvonne Njeri (2nd right) listens to members of the Sino Tech from left Kelvin Mulei, Yvonne Mogeni and Duane Biketi as they explain their innovation, an AI powered esport technology that connects gaming lounges, players, tournaments, and gaming communities, when she toured their exhibition stand during Du-Brains Pre-Conference Innovation Festivals 2026 at Daystar university in Nairobi on Wednesday July 14, 2026.

SBM Bank Holdings Group Chairman Mahendra Vikramdass Punchoo (2nd left) presents a token of appreciation to Simba Corp CEO Dinesh Kotecha during a reception in Nairobi on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. The event was held to welcome Mr. Punchoo is on his first visit to Kenya since his appointment as Group Chairman in September 2025. Also pictured are SBM Bank Kenya CEO Bartesh Shah (left) and SBM Group CEO Raoul Gufflet.

MADAFU NEWSPAPER

Madafu Newspaper is owned and Published by Madafu Publications Limited.

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Website: www.madafu.biz

For Advertisements, Articles, Notices, Distribution, Sales and General Inquiry you may contact the above address for now.
Design by: Madafu Publications Team

Printed By: Nation Media Group Ltd - Nairobi

CONTRIBUTORS:
Cover Photo / Event Photos by
Various, Mr. Andrew Kilonzi & Mr. Titus Musau
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Just Five More Minutes...

By Safia Mohamed Bashir

The dinner is done and you sit down relaxed with a sigh of relief as the day comes to an end.

Most tasks of the day were accomplished, others left for the next day.

"Let me check the phone, reply to a few messages and I will go to bed" is usually a thought everyone has before retiring to bed.

The brain is tired, no more excessive thinking is taking place and it's ready to go off to sleep mode.

But here is when the journey begins... a journey of just five more minutes which may go on to hours.

Firstly, the start is from the WhatsApp messages – 230 unseen messages – Wahh that's too many. "Let me check quickly, won't open all of them" (that's a lie of course). Several unanswered private messages, some relevant others irrelevant. ... in a few minutes those are replied to since they need the utmost attention. As we move on we come across several group chats – work related, friends, family, businesses, some job hunting and so on - too many to be mentioned. Priority is work and family. So, when the work-related WhatsApp groups are opened, workflow and tracking happen – there are complaints and other mere follow ups which must be followed up. Work related issues all digested, others shall be handled in the office tomorrow.

Next come the family groups. We have groups for close family members, siblings, cousins, and even extended family groups that bring together uncles, aunts, grandparents, and everyone in between. These groups can be quite tricky. Take, for example, the retired uncle who has just discovered TikTok. With plenty of free time, he spends the whole day forwarding funny reels to the family group. By the end of the day, you see 15 unread messages waiting. Excitedly, you open the chat, only to find... a collection of forwarded TikTok videos. Then comes the next family gathering, where this same uncle asks, "Why don't you ever reply on the family WhatsApp group?" And there you are, silently thinking, "What exactly am I supposed to reply to those reels?"

Sometimes, two aunties decide to catch up on life right there in the family group. Oh dear! Please take the conversation privately instead of turning the group into a 50-message chat.

Then there are those moments when someone starts discussing or gossiping about a certain friend. Simply irrelevant to you, but now a thought starts processing and you ignore it.

Next, you check the business groups. These are usually filled with people advertising and selling their products. At first, you ignore them—after all, it's just another distraction. But then your eye catches a colourful poster or an interesting word, and curiosity makes you open the chat.

Suddenly, you are looking at pictures of delicious food—shawarmas, biryani, pani puri, ice creams, juices, and much more. "Oh, I've just eaten and I'm full, but maybe we can order this over the weekend," a thought immediately pops into your mind.

Remember, your brain was ready to switch off, but now you have given it another task to process. Then come the posters of exhibitions, clothes, gadgets and other items for sale. Once again, the thought appears: "Maybe we should visit this place over the weekend."

Slowly, your brain starts creating a list of things to do, places to visit and things to buy—even things you never planned for.

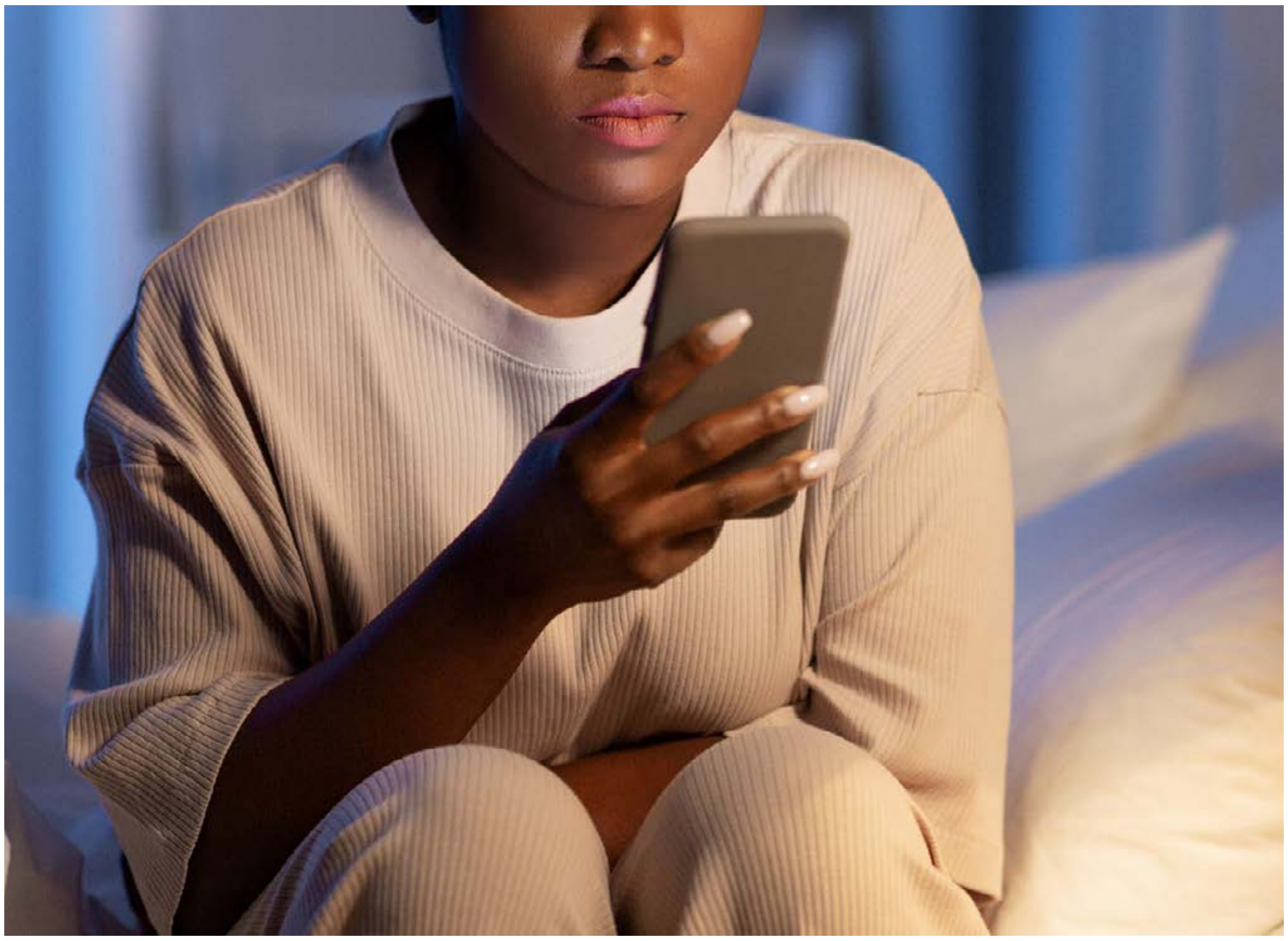
Then come the friends' groups. These are usually the most tempting because they bring a sense of connection and curiosity. A simple "hello" can quickly turn into a long conversation, jokes, old memories, forwarded videos and discussions about plans for the weekend.

Someone shares a funny story, another sends a meme, someone else starts discussing a new restaurant and before you realize it, 30 minutes have passed. You may not even have anything important to discuss, but the fear of missing out keeps you checking and responding. Staying connected with friends is important, but these constant conversations add to the endless flow of information, leaving the brain with little time to slow down and rest.

What was supposed to be a simple check of WhatsApp has now become another mental task.

Finally, WhatsApp is done. Your eyes are tired, your brain is slowly entering rest mode and then comes the thought...

"Hmmmm... let me just check my Instagram messages."



Firstly, you check the messages received. Forwarded reels from friends, siblings or work colleagues. Some make you laugh, some may even touch your emotions and leave you feeling sad. You react with a few emojis and you are done.

But in those few minutes, your brain has already been activated. The next thought comes naturally—"Let me just scroll through a few feeds for JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES."

And of course, those five minutes are the biggest lie we tell ourselves. Somehow, five minutes turn into 15, 30, 45 to 60 minutes. Fingers keep scrolling, eyes remain fixed on the screen and the brain continues absorbing a mixture of content.

Soon, the mind becomes a cocktail of emotions—happiness, sadness, anxiety, anger, helplessness and distress. Slowly, these constant negative inputs can shape our thoughts and affect our mental well-being.

This has become the norm for many of us. We often fall into the trap of doom scrolling unknowingly and without even realizing how much it is affecting our mental health.

What Is Doom scrolling?

Doom scrolling is the habit of continuously scrolling through negative or distressing news and content. Since much of the media is filled with alarming stories, we end up consuming information that can leave us feeling anxious, worried or upset.

Ironically, many people turn to their phones hoping to relax or feel better, only to find themselves feeling even more drained and overwhelmed.

Excessive exposure to negative news has been linked to increased stress, anxiety, fear, sadness and even depression. Physically, doom scrolling contributes to headaches, muscle tension, neck and shoulder pain, reduced appetite, fatigue, irritability, poor concentration and difficulty sleeping.

Late-night doom scrolling is particularly harmful. The blue light emitted by smartphones suppresses melatonin—the hormone that regulates sleep—and disrupts the body's natural circadian rhythm. Over time, this can lead to poor-quality sleep, daytime fatigue, reduced concentration, mood changes and a decline in overall well-being.

Why Is Doom Scrolling So Addictive?

Doom scrolling traps your brain in a cycle driven by dopamine, the brain's "feel-good" chemical that rewards you for discovering something new.

The cycle works like this:

- The Trap: Negative headlines instantly grab your attention because your brain is wired to notice danger.
- The Reward: Every swipe releases a small amount of dopamine, making you want to keep scrolling.
- The Gamble: Like a slot machine, you never know what the next post will bring, so you keep chasing the next "reward."
- The Cycle: The brief dopamine rush is quickly replaced by anxiety, leading you to scroll even more—trapping you in a cycle that is hard to break.

So how to Break Free from Doom scrolling?

- Practice discipline – Take control of your phone instead of letting it control you.
- Set healthy boundaries – Limit screen time, 1 to 2 hours especially before bed and after waking up.
- Keep your phone out of reach – Avoid having it by your bedside, at the dining table or within easy reach while working.
- Reduce distractions – Turn off unnecessary notifications and unfollow content that fuels anxiety.
- Choose positivity – Balance negative news with uplifting content and meaningful offline activities.
- Be present – Spend more time with family, friends, hobbies, exercise, meditation, nature rather than endless scrolling.

Those five minutes seem harmless, but they can quietly steal hours we can never get back.

A five minutes check of messages turns into endless scrolling, leaving our minds overloaded and our precious time consumed by things that often add little value to our lives.

Technology is a wonderful tool, but we must remember that our devices are meant to serve us, not control our time and habits.

The next time we reach for our phone and say, "Just five more minutes," let us pause and ask ourselves: Are these five minutes truly adding value to my life, or are they taking away from the moments that truly matter? And if you say just five more minutes, then use just five.

Sometimes, the best way to give our minds a break is to simply put the phone away.

Thank you & Best Regards,

Safia Mohamed Bashir
0718 853 335
Nairobi

FAITH

The Ancient Warning Every Faith Still Needs to Hear

By Jamleck Kibet

A Warning Written for the First Century, Read in the Twenty-First

It begins, as so many of these stories do, with someone searching for certainty. A young professional discovers a wellness account online promising clarity, discipline, and belonging — if only she gives up entire food groups and, eventually, the friends who question the plan. A grieving widower finds a congregation that offers warmth on his worst nights, then slowly narrows his world until the group's leader is the only voice he trusts. Neither story is unusual. Both are, in miniature, the same story religious texts have been telling for thousands of years.

Nearly two thousand years ago, a letter to a young church leader carried an uneasy prediction: a time would come when some would drift from genuine faith, drawn in by deceptive spirits and hollow doctrines. The passage, found in 1 Timothy 4:1-4, describes teachers who lie with a straight face, whose consciences have grown numb to their own dishonesty. Their method is telling — they impose harsh restrictions, forbidding marriage, banning certain foods, dressing up control as holiness. The response offered is just as telling: everything made by God is good, and nothing should be rejected when it is received with gratitude and a clear conscience.

A Pattern, Not a Single Religion's Problem

Strip away the specific vocabulary of first-century Ephesus, and what remains is a pattern that shows up in every religious tradition, every century, and — increasingly — every social media feed.

Islam has its own vocabulary for this danger. The Quran and Hadith literature repeatedly warn against extremism in religion, known as ghuluw, and against those who make lawful things forbidden without divine sanction. Hinduism's scriptures caution against adharma disguised as righteousness — teachers who exploit devotion for personal gain. Buddhism names it directly: wrong view and wrong livelihood, monks or gurus who use spiritual authority to manipulate rather than liberate. Judaism's prophetic tradition is full of confrontations with false prophets who spoke smooth words while leading people astray. Even secular ideologies are not immune — history's cults and authoritarian movements have used the same playbook: manufacture fear, impose arbitrary restrictions, and position the leader as the only reliable interpreter of truth.

The details differ. The mechanism does not. Deceptive teaching rarely announces itself as deceptive. It arrives wrapped in devotion, discipline, and the appearance of higher standards. That is precisely what makes it dangerous — and precisely why a warning written for one religious community nearly two millennia ago still reads like a diagnosis of the present.

What the Research and the Records Show

Historians of religion note that manipulative movements across cultures share measurable traits: isolation from outside relationships, escalating restrictions on ordinary behavior, and a leader who is positioned as beyond question. Comparative religion scholarship has long observed that these features recur across faith traditions and centuries, suggesting a human vulnerability rather than a flaw unique to any one belief system. Meanwhile, researchers who study misinformation online describe a strikingly similar structure in digital spaces — content that manufactures urgency, discourages outside verification, and rewards unquestioning loyalty with a sense of belonging.

Voices From the Field

"What unites these movements, ancient and modern, is not their theology but their tactics," says a comparative religion scholar who studies coercive control in faith communities. "They isolate first, then restrict, then reframe the restriction as devotion. Once someone accepts the reframing, questioning it feels like questioning God."

A licensed counselor who works with people recovering from high-control religious groups puts it in psychological terms. "The conscience doesn't disappear overnight," she explains. "It's worn down gradually, one small compliance at a time, until the person genuinely can't feel the line they've crossed. That's what the ancient text means by a conscience seared, as if with a hot iron."

A digital literacy researcher draws the line straight to the present feed. "The algorithm doesn't care whether the authority figure is a preacher, a guru, or an influencer," he says. "It rewards certainty and punishes nuance. That's a business model, but it's also, unfortunately, the exact shape of the warning in 1 Timothy."

Causes, Challenges, and the Trends Behind Them

Why does this pattern persist across so many centuries and cultures? Scholars point to a simple, uncomfortable truth: uncertainty is uncomfortable, and certainty is for sale. A leader who offers clear rules, a clear enemy, and a clear reward taps into a very old human need. The challenge is that the same hunger for certainty that draws people toward healthy community and genuine faith can just as easily be exploited by someone offering counterfeit versions of both.

The trend lines are shifting, though. Where deceptive authority once required a physical congregation or a printed pamphlet, it now scales instantly through video platforms and group chats. A single influencer can reach more people in an afternoon than a historical false prophet reached in a lifetime. That scale is the central twenty-first-century challenge layered on top of an ancient problem.

The opportunity, researchers and faith leaders agree, lies in education rather than suppression. Media literacy programs, interfaith dialogue, and renewed teaching on discernment — across mosques, temples, churches, and synagogues alike — are being credited with helping communities recognize manipulation before it takes hold, rather than only treating the damage afterward.

A Practical Guide: Testing What You're Being Taught

Faith leaders and counselors interviewed for this piece offered a shared checklist for recognizing the pattern before it takes hold:

1. Ask whether good, ordinary things — food, rest, relationships, money — are being forbidden without clear justification.
2. Notice whether questions are welcomed or treated as betrayal.
3. Watch for escalating isolation from family, old friends, or other communities.
4. Check whether gratitude and joy are present, or whether fear and guilt are the primary motivators.
5. Seek a second, outside perspective before accepting any teaching that demands total obedience.
6. Return, regularly, to the core texts of your own tradition rather than relying solely on one teacher's interpretation.

The Industry Angle: Faith, Media, and the Business of Certainty

There is also a market dimension to this story. Wellness, self-help, and prosperity-gospel content now represent a substantial share of online engagement, and platforms are structurally rewarded for amplifying confident, simple claims over cautious, nuanced ones. That creates a business incentive that runs directly counter to the discernment faith traditions recommend.

At the same time, a counter-industry is emerging: fact-checking ministries, interfaith media literacy initiatives, and licensed counselors who specialize in high-control group recovery are growing fields. Publishers are also seeing renewed appetite for accessible scholarship on comparative religion and discernment, suggesting a public hungry not for less faith, but for steadier footing within it.

What Comes Next

Experts expect the tension between algorithmic certainty and traditional discernment to intensify before it eases. As generative technologies make it easier to produce persuasive, tailored spiritual content at scale, several scholars predict a renewed public interest in the original texts themselves — people returning to primary scripture, across traditions, specifically to check what they are being told against what has actually been written.

Interfaith educators also anticipate more collaboration across traditions on shared media literacy resources, on the theory that the warning in 1 Timothy 4, the Quranic caution against ghuluw, and the Buddhist teaching on wrong view are, in practice, teaching the same lesson to different audiences — and are stronger for being taught together.

The Takeaway

This is not a call to distrust religion, or to distrust any particular faith. It is a call to recognize a very old, very human vulnerability: the desire for certainty makes people easy to lead, and the people most willing to lead them are not always the ones who deserve to be followed.

The world does not need fewer believers. It needs more discerning ones — people, of every faith and none, who can receive what is good with gratitude, question what demands blind obedience, and recognize a familiar old trick no matter what century, or platform, it shows up on

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National Read Aloud Fuels Literacy Drive

Teachers call for curriculum-based books and more school libraries

More than 600 learners at Kaharati Comprehensive School in Murang'a County joined over one million pupils across Kenya in the National Read Aloud 2026 World Record Attempt, an initiative by StoryMoja Publishers aimed at strengthening reading culture and improving literacy among young learners.

The nationwide exercise, organized by Storymoja Africa and Start A Library Trust, saw learners in more than 1,000 schools read the same text simultaneously as Kenya sought to set a new world record while promoting reading beyond the classroom.

Teachers at Kaharati welcomed the initiative, saying it has boosted learners' confidence and encouraged a stronger reading culture. However, they noted that while many learners can read fluently, comprehension remains a major challenge, underscoring the need for greater investment in reading resources and learning support.

Education stakeholders also used the event to highlight the shortage of school libraries, calling on the Teachers Service Commission and well-wishers to support the establishment of well-equipped libraries in public schools.

Artist Johnnarto Gikonyore (left) Ahadi Kenya Trust CEO Stanley Kamau (centre) and Sarah Makau, English language teacher at Kaharati Primary School in Maragua sub county, Muranga County leads learners in the National Read Aloud 2026 World Record Attempt, an initiative by StoryMoja Publishers, on Friday, July 10, 2026. Learners at the school read an excerpt from _The Boy and the Lion_ by Kenyan Maasai game ranger *Mike Saitoti* as part of a nationwide effort that brought together more than one million learners in over 1,000 schools to promote foundational literacy under the theme of Human-Wildlife Coexistence. Kamau called on communities to equip schools with libraries.

They further urged donors to stop treating school libraries as dumping sites for irrelevant books, saying donations should consist of age-appropriate and curriculum-based reading materials that directly benefit learners.

School administrators also appealed for more teachers and improved learning infrastructure, saying adequate staffing and access to quality reading resources are critical to achieving the goals of the Competency-Based Curriculum.

The National Read Aloud aims to nurture a lifelong reading culture while improving literacy and critical thinking skills among learners across the country.

PHOTO STORY

Simaba Corp CEO Dinesh Kotecha, talk to visiting SBM Bank Holdings Group Chairman Mahendra Vikramdass Punchoo and the bank's Group CEO Raoul Gufflet, at a reception cocktail in Nairobi. The event marked Mr. Punchoo is on first visit to Kenya since his appointment as Group Chairman in September 2025. Mr. Punchoo previously served as Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius.

Mi Vida hands over new houses to owners

Mi Vida Homes Chief Executive Officer Samuel Kariuki (left), new homeowner Eunah Thinwa (centre) and Mi Vida Homes Chief Commercial Officer Kelvin Waweru (right) during the handover ceremony for 120 completed homes at Amaiya Block C within Garden City, Nairobi. The delivery marks the second major residential completion within the Garden City development as Mi Vida continues the rollout of its KES 8.9 billion residential masterplan.

New homeowner Eunah Thinwa (left) is shown around her apartment at Amaiya Block C by Mi Vida Homes Chief Executive Officer Samuel Kariuki (right) during the handover of 120 completed homes at Garden City, Nairobi. The handover marks the latest milestone in Mi Vida's KES 8.9 billion Amaiya residential masterplan and reinforces investor confidence in integrated mixed-use developments that combine housing, retail, commercial and lifestyle amenities.

In The Wings of Love

For some of love is a gift, it is a emotion that is visible and evident in poetry and human life. Sidharth P K's collection of poetry, "The soulful Melodies", speaks about love, the universal settings, beauty and truth. Love is a sentimental and deep emotion that is portrayed in the collection. The meaning is found out in the beauty and the use of imagery that is created.

The young poet Sidharth draws his inspiration from poets like Lord Byron, Pablo Neruda and P B Shelley. The poems in this collection focuses on the themes

of love, having to fall in love or wait for such a love. "It was hardly difficult for me to understand the meaning, but my mother and teachers helped me to decode it using dictionaries", says Sidharth.

Sidharth's journey as a writer began while he was in school. He started to write poems when he was in 6th standard and even in those days, Sidharth was eager enough to get his works published. But his attempts didn't regain success at the initial stage, recalls Sidharth. He was motivated by his school teacher Fr Thomson, to read the works of Shakespeare, Tolstoy and Rumi. The author is a teacher and is a resident of Kochi. His works are available in Amazon and Flipkart.

POLITICS

Kenya's Goon Economy Is A Risk No Side Should Take

A shared problem across the political divide, and a shared responsibility to end it

In many Kenyan towns, hiring a crowd for a political event has quietly become as easy as hiring a caterer. Researchers who studied the practice found an informal rate card, with young men describing fees of around five hundred shillings to work for a local councillor and closer to a thousand shillings for higher-profile clients.

This is not a fringe activity confined to one corner of the country or one political camp. Supporters of the governing Kenya Kwanza coalition and supporters of the opposition have each accused the other of organising and paying groups of young men to disrupt rallies, intimidate rivals, and, in some cases, cause serious harm.

The incidents reported in recent months illustrate how serious this has become. Senator Godfrey Osotsi was attacked and hospitalised in Kisumu earlier this year in what he described as a politically motivated assault.

A church service in Kakamega was disrupted and a political aspirant was forcibly removed from the building.

A rally in southwestern Kenya was overwhelmed by armed men, and one person died in the resulting violence, with police reportedly present but not intervening.

These events have drawn concern from human rights organisations, religious leaders, and members of parliament from across the political spectrum, several of whom have publicly acknowledged that the reliance on hired groups is not unique to any single party.

It is understandable why a politician facing a difficult contest might see an advantage in this approach. Hired support can be arranged quickly, can be denied if questioned, and can feel like a shortcut compared with the slower work of persuading voters.

Yet settling a political disagreement through paid force does not actually resolve that disagreement.

It sets a precedent that intimidation, rather than argument, decides outcomes,

and that precedent tends to outlast the moment it was created for.

During the remaining months of the campaign, the effects are likely to be felt in a few specific ways.

Public meetings and rallies may become harder to hold safely, which narrows the space available for genuine debate as people understandably choose to stay away from gatherings they fear could turn violent.

Confidence in the police may also come under further strain, as footage continues to circulate showing officers standing near armed groups without intervening, which many Kenyans reasonably interpret as a sign that enforcement is uneven.

There is also a risk that ordinary disagreements between neighbours or supporters begin to be settled in similarly confrontational ways, since communities tend to absorb the norms modelled by their leaders.

The risks do not end when voting does. Groups of young men who have been organised and paid for political work during a campaign do not simply disband once results are announced.

Kenya's own history offers a caution here, since the same pattern of unemployed youth being drawn into political violence contributed to the unrest that followed the 2007 election, in which an estimated 1,500 people lost their lives.

A network built for one campaign can persist afterward, sometimes turning toward extortion or land disputes, or remaining available for the next period of tension. Should any dispute arise over the outcome of the vote, it would arise in a country that has spent months treating organised intimidation as a normal part of politics, which is a genuinely concerning combination.

There is still time to change this trajectory, though the window is narrowing. Political leaders across all parties could do more good by publicly distancing themselves from anyone in their own camps who finances or organises these groups, rather than limiting themselves to general statements of concern.

Police leadership would build more public trust by investigating and prosecuting attacks consistently, regardless of who appears to benefit politically. Civil society groups, religious leaders, and the media can continue the valuable work of documenting these incidents so that patterns remain visible.

It is also worth recognising, with some compassion, that many of the young men involved are drawn into this work by real economic hardship rather than conviction, which means genuine paid alternatives from county governments and development partners could meaningfully reduce the pool of recruits available to organisers.

Kenya's existing laws against incitement and assault already cover this conduct. What would make the greatest difference now is the consistent will to apply them, before arrangements made for this campaign become a harder problem to manage afterward.

Major (Rtd) Dr. Mohamed Morowa is a security consultant who has a PhD in Governance, Peace, and Security, an MA in Security Studies and Conflict Resolution, an MBA, a BSc in Computer Science, and a Diploma in Certified Security Management Professional. With over 35 years of extensive experience, he is an expert in this field, yet his rates are budget-friendly. He can be reached on 0722 262639, 0733 215351 or via email at morowa@msn.com.

Kenya's Car Market Hits New KSh 1M Price Reality

The vehicle market has entered a new pricing reality, according to data by Jiji Kenya. The data shows that average vehicle listing prices have risen significantly over the past two years from approximately KSh 797,000 in 2024 to KSh 1.37 million in 2026.

The increase reflects a significant change in Kenya's vehicle market, with buyers navigating higher costs while seeking reliable vehicles at fair prices. As prices rise, consumers are becoming more deliberate in comparing options, researching market value, and looking for ways to maximise their purchasing power. Despite the overall increase, about half of all vehicle listings on Jiji remain below KSh 2 million, demonstrating that buyers still have access to a wide range of vehicles across different price points.

As buyers place greater emphasis on value, they're increasingly turning to alternatives that offer more choice and price visibility. Direct-to-owner marketplaces top this as they enable consumers to compare car options across models, price points, and locations, while connecting them directly with sellers. This gives buyers greater confidence as they navigate one of their largest financial commitments.

This trend towards more informed decision-making is also being shaped by Kenya's growing automotive culture. Online communities and content creators are driving interest in vehicle ownership, maintenance, and buying decisions through reviews, comparisons, and ownership experiences across platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook.

In June 2026, Nairobi's maximum retail price for petrol was KSh 214.03 per litre, while diesel was KSh 222.86 per litre, according to the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA). This wider cost environment makes factors such as fuel

Maxim Makarchuk Chief Operating Officer, Jiji Africa.

efficiency and long-term running costs increasingly relevant when consumers compare vehicles.

Changes affecting the cost of imported used vehicles are also influencing the market. In July 2025, the Kenya Revenue Authority introduced a new Current Retail Selling Price (CRSP) schedule for used motor vehicles. This is used in the computation of customs value for imported cars and other vehicle types. Against this backdrop, pre-owned vehicles remain an attractive option for many buyers, offering access to a wider range of models at different price points.

Jiji's data further shows that the median listing price for locally used vehicles has moved from just under KSh 1 million to just over it, reinforcing the emergence of a new KSh 1 million benchmark in Kenya's vehicle market. By comparison, foreign-used vehicles have an average listing price of approximately KSh 4.5 million. Locally used vehicles on the other hand average about KSh 1.5 million, making imported models nearly three times more expensive on average. Across all vehicle listings on the platform, the average asking price stands at approximately KSh 2.5 million, which reflects the broad mix of vehicles available in the market.

Among all vehicle listings on Jiji, the Toyota Prado remains the most listed model, accounting for just over 5% of all listings. This underscores its continued popularity among Kenyan buyers and sellers.

One Jiji buyer said:

"Nilikua na specific budget, but I didn't want to rush kubuy the first vehicle I found. Nilicompare different models na prices online, which helped me understand what was available kwa market. Doing so ikanifanya nimake a more informed decision."

– Frank, Buyer on Jiji

Another factor influencing how consumers shop for vehicles is Mobile-first technology. It allows them to conveniently research prices, compare options, and connect with sellers online on platforms like Jiji, before completing transactions offline.

According to the Communications Authority of Kenya, mobile subscriptions reached 84.1 million as at March 2026, with mobile penetration reaching 157.7%. The continued expansion of mobile connectivity is making digital platforms like Jiji an increasingly important part of how Kenyans access information, discover products, and make purchasing decisions.

Speaking on the findings, Maxim Makarchuk, COO, Jiji Africa, said:

"Vehicle ownership remains deeply embedded in Kenya's economic and social aspirations. As the market matures, the opportunity doesn't just stop at selling more vehicles, but making the entire ecosystem more efficient. Improving how people discover, evaluate, exchange, and ultimately unlock value from vehicles. Digital marketplaces are central to this transformation in this category. When we bring greater visibility, choice, and connectivity to the market, we can help ensure that more value remains within the economy and assets continue to serve people productively throughout their lifecycle."

– Maxim Makarchuk, COO, Jiji Africa

As Kenya's vehicle market continues to evolve, greater access to information, choice, and direct connections will play a significant role in helping buyers and sellers navigate the changing economics of vehicle ownership.

A note from a mother!

My dear children,
Listen to this: each one of you is precious to me,
Be the first, second, third, fourth, fifth or the last,
It does not matter when you came,
What matters is that you are part of me,
My blood, my flesh and my soul,
I may push you, nag you, scold you and annoy you,
But it is just because I want the best for you,
Success in this world and the hereafter,
May health, wealth and prosperity be with you always.
Be known for your good character, integrity, sincerity, kindness and the love you spread,
Being called my children, for all the good things you do; is my reward,
For I know I did my best in molding you to be your best,
Spread your wings and fly high, never step back, keep moving forward,
Go for it, I trust you and yes, you will do it - are my words for you.
And when I'm long gone, remember to be there for one another—
Support, help and be kind to everyone; never forget the basics of being human.
This is not just from me, but from all the mothers to their children.
All mothers are different, but their love is the same—
Unconditional and everlasting.
A love that will remain forever.

Composed by,
Safia Mohamed Bashir

Thank you & Best Regards,
Safia Mohamed Bashir
0718 853 335
Nairobi

JULY 2026

MCCUSA Holds Successful AGM, Elects New Leaders

AGM & Elections — Coast Gymkhana, Mombasa, 8 August 2026.
Left to right: Jasmeer Singh (Co-opted Member), Jay K. Thakur, Mohamed Harazi, Shiraz Giga, Vishram H. Halai (Chairman), Subhash Modi (Returning Officer), Kutub Gulamabbas (Hon. Match Management Secretary), Jay Kothary (Hon. Secretary) and Bhavin Panchal (Hon. Treasurer). Photo Courtesy Jasmeer Singh Marwa.

The Mombasa County Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association (MCCUSA) successfully held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and elections on Saturday, 8 August 2026, at Coast Gymkhana, Mombasa. The meeting was conducted in a peaceful, respectful and orderly manner, reflecting the Association's commitment to good governance, unity and the continued development of cricket officiating in Mombasa County.

Subhash Modi Oversees Elections

The elections were conducted under the supervision of Mr. Subhash Modi, Former International Cricket Umpire and former Chairman of the Kenya Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association. His experience and impartial oversight helped ensure that the electoral process was conducted transparently and professionally.

Appreciation to Coast Gymkhana

MCCUSA expressed its sincere appreciation to the Chairman and Management of Coast Gymkhana for making the Club's facilities available for the AGM. Special appreciation was extended to Mr. Bhavin Panchal, also a Trustee of Coast Gymkhana, for his kind assistance in facilitating the use of the venue. The Association also thanked Mr. Vishram Halai for providing drinks and light refreshments for those attending the meeting.

Members Not Present in the Photograph

Mr. Umesh Vakeria — participated in the meeting online;

Mr. Joseph Owino; and Ms. Lynda Adhiambo Arodi.

The newly elected leadership takes office with a clear mandate to strengthen umpiring and scoring standards, promote professionalism among match officials, and support the continued growth of cricket in Mombasa County.

Issued by: PR TEAM — MOMBASA COUNTY CRICKET UMPIRES AND SCORERS ASSOCIATION

New MCCUSA Office Bearers

Position Elected	**Official**
Chairman	**Mr. Vishram Halai**
Hon. Secretary	**Mr. Jay Kothary**
Hon. Treasurer	**Mr. Bhavin Panchal**
Hon. Match Management Secretary	**Mr. Kutub Gulamabbas**
Lady Representative	**Ms. Lynda Adhiambo Arodi**
Co-opted Member	**Mr. Jasmeer Singh**

Man City accept bid from Barcelona

Man City have agreed to sell Rodri to Barcelona for £65.4m; the 30-year-old won the World Cup with Spain; City broke the British transfer record to sign £116m Elliot Anderson this summer and are interested in £120m Enzo Fernandez at Chelsea and Lille's Ayyoub Bouaddi

Man City have accepted a £65.4m bid from Barcelona for their star midfielder Rodri.

The Spain World Cup winner and former Ballon d'Or holder, who helped City to four Premier League titles and a Champions League triumph, will now head to Barcelona to complete his transfer after seven seasons in Manchester.

The 30-year-old had one year left on his contract and while Man City wanted him to stay and sign an extension, Barcelona's third offer proved to be too good to turn down. He has agreed a four-year deal with Barcelona.

Last week Barcelona had an initial offer in the region of £40m knocked back, returning with a £55m bid, which was also rejected.

City boss Enzo Maresca said "All teams need a player like Rodri" when asked about the player after the 3-0 Community Shield defeat to Arsenal on Sunday, which Rodri missed after only returning to the club's training ground on Friday, following minor surgery on his back after the World Cup.

Maresca also encouraged City to move quickly for their transfer targets. They hold interest in Lille's Ayyoub Bouaddi and Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez - although City missed Chelsea's Friday 5pm deadline to make a £120m bid for Fernandez.

Rory McIlroy finishes 66th at FedEx St. Jude Championship

The six-time major winner, who succesfully defended his Masters title earlier this year, has played a limited schedule since, with a couple of tied-seventh finishes at the PGA Championship and Scottish Open his best showings and only top-10s in seven tournaments.

McIlroy, who went into the first of three FedExCup Playoffs 12th in the standings, is bidding to win a record-extending fourth season-ending title, but posted rounds of 74, 70, 72 and 72 to finish eight over.

CINEMA

wh@ts on mombasa & coast - event guide AUGUST 2026 - all data without warranty - www.whats-on-mombasa.com

WEEKLY LIVE MUSIC

Tuesdays
Safari Inn Shanzu Serena Rd
Maranda & Band
Wednesdays
Sky Lounge Bamburi
Julio Diatos with Big Band
Thursdays
Kusini Tavern Kilifi
The Muziki Band
Club Mios Bamburi Mtambo
Ambro La Musica Live
Fridays
English Point Marina
Live Band Fridays with Solitaire The Band
Country Club Mtwapa
Ohangla Night with Citizen Jaborder
Club Legend 2.0 Mtwapa
Ricky Mulolo & Idologia Musica

WEEKLY LIVE MUSIC

Fridays
Bigtree Beach Bar Bamburi Beach
All White Full Moon Mega Foam Party with The New Dawn Live Band
New Jambo Restaurant Bamburi
Amitié Musica Band
Saturdays
Safiya Hotel Diani
Live Music with Black Pulse Band
The New Bigtree Bamburi Beach
La Festa with Mombasa Roots Band
Club Costa Rica Kilifi
Petty Makambo And The Mambo Heritage Band
Saturdays
Apollo Club Changamwe
Ohangla Saturdays with Mtu Saba & Afrobeat Band

WEEKLY LIVE MUSIC

Sundays
Kusini Tavern Kilifi
The Muziki Band
Club Costa Rica Kilifi
Mambo Heritage Band
Club Tamasha Downtown
New African Sounds Band

ART FESTIVAL

Saturday 22 | 08
Changamwe Sub County
Kiota Art FestivaL 7th Edition

THEATRE

Friday 21 | 08
Nyali Cinemax
On The Uselessness Of The Professor by Dr Fred Mbaga

NIGHTLIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 08 | 08
lub Bisaros Mariakani
Titigo Night with Andrew G & Bahari Int'l Band
Club Trucks Inn Kwachocha Malindi
Bango Night with Yehu Sound Band & Kay Smart
Planet In Gongoni
Kimidzi Night with Kimidzi Band | Papa Onessy | Yehu Sounds Band | Kay Smart
Saturday 15 | 08
The Deck 270 Mombasa
Bollywood Night - The Debut In Mombasa
Kllifi
Swahili Soul Sessions

www.whats-on-mombasa.com

SHOPPING

27 & 28 | 08
Kusini Kilifi
Soko na NNE

SPORTS

22 & 23 | 08
Mombasa Sports Club
Driftwood Rugby 7s 2026

FESTIVAL

Sunday 16 | 08
Kesra Grounds Nyali Links Rd
Mombasa Colour Festival Third Edition

ART EVENTS & EXHIBS

15 | 07 to 14 | 10
Peponi Hotel Lamu
Art Exhibition by Derrick Munene

wh@ts on nairobi & surroundings - event guide AUGUST 2026 - all data without warranty - www.whats-on-nairobi.com

SHOWCASE / LIVE ACTS

Saturday 08 | 08
Masshouse Ngong Racecourse
Matata Live At masshouse
Friday 14 | 08
Alliance Française
Horizon & Friends The African Dream Tour
Saturday 15 | 08
Aspire Centre
Garden of Groove • Felo Le Tee Live
Arena One Football Turf & Ozone Lounge
Darkline X Fiesta 26
Padel Point Ngong Road
Till Dawn
Carnivore Grounds
Nameless @ 25 LIVE
Sunday 16 | 08
Gig Dynamics Limited
Kitu Simpo III
Koda Kenrail Towers
Drumetic Boys

SHOWCASE / LIVE ACTS

Saturday 22 | 08
Muze Club Westlands
Hometown Heroes with Afu | Hiribae | J-A. Dave | Njeri Wa Babaa | Santa | Tina Ardor | Vidza | Wandat
Saturday 29 | 08
Muze Club Westlands
Angani with Sdloh Jnr | Peekay Mzee | arkkfruit | IV | sendat | Tugi
Hooyos Kitchen & Poetry
Verses & Vibes

COMEDY

20 to 22 | 08
Alliance Française
The African Dream with Maina Munene, Emanuel Kisiangani, Alita Jack, Justine Wanda, Nelly Wangech

FAIRS & EXPOS

20 to 22 | 08
Sarit Expocentre
Interplastpack Africa 2026

CONFERENCE

Saturday 15 | 08
KICC Nairobi
Men's Conference 2026 Live In Nairobi

MOTOR SPORTS

Sunday 16 | 08
Whistling Morans Ltd Athi River
Time Attack DMSC Round 3

DANCE COMPETITION

Saturday 22 | 08
Garvey's Restaurant George Padmore Road
Unity Art Collective Pres. Dance Battle

FESTIVAL

Saturday 08 | 08
ASK Arena
Nairobi Street Food Festival
Friday 14 | 08
Uhuru Gardens
Kenya Food Festival

ART EVENTS & EXHIBS

30 | 07 to 25 | 10
The Mall Munyu Space
Exhibition: The Great Repair
30 | 07 to 22 | 08
The Holmes Á Court Gallery @ Afrika House
Exhibition: Threads of Resilience - Stories from Ethiopia's Garment Manufacturing Industry
18 | 07 to 08 | 08
The Kobo Trust Foundation Riara Rd
Exhibition & Open Studio by Seven Artists
15 | 07 to 29 | 08
Circle Art Gallery Victoria Square Riara Rd
Exhibition: Gestures of Presence by Birhane Worede
15 | 07 to 29 | 08
Circle Art Gallery Victoria Square Riara Rd
Exhibition: A Line Of Thought by Anita Kavochy

ART EVENTS & EXHIBS

27 | 06 to 20 | 08
Red Hill Art Gallery
Humanimals by Al naim (Sudan) | The Sorrow f Exile by Rashid Diab (Sudan)
12 | 06 to 16 | 08
African Arts Trust Victoria Square
'In this Valley of Dying Stars by Jess Atieno
Sunday 30 | 08
Nairobi National Park
ArtFest - Art In The Wild

CONCERT

Sunday 16 | 08
C.U.Shah Jain Bhavan
20th Anniversary Concert: Then, Now, Forever

SPORTS

Saturday 15 | 08
RFUEA Grounds Ngong Rd
George Mwangi Memorial Kabeberi 7s • Rugby Sevens

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