

## BBI is unconstitutional, Court of Appeal rules

*Joseph Wangui / Saturday, August 21, 2021*

Court of Appeal throws out BBI appeal

Courts have dealt President Uhuru Kenyatta and ODM party leader Raila Odinga another blow after declaring the Building Bridges Initiative Constitutional Amendment Bill (2020) illegal.

In the judgment on Friday, the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the High Court to find the three-year quest by President Kenyatta and Mr Odinga to amend the Constitution through the BBI as unconstitutional.

The process started in March 2018 following a political truce between the two leaders.

The judgment, in which the second highest court was heavily critical of President Kenyatta and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, stated that the BBI bill was unconstitutional and usurped the people's sovereign power.

The seven-judge bench also issued a permanent injunction restraining the IEBC from processing the Bill or subjecting it to a referendum. The Bill had already been approved by parliament.

The judges also upheld the High Court's finding that the President has no authority to promote amendment of the Constitution through a Popular Initiative and that he can be sued in respect to his actions or omissions in the constitution.

"The popular initiative cannot be used by the government or the people's representatives. Popular initiative is for ordinary Kenyans," said the judges.

The judges also threw out contentions by the government and the BBI secretariat that the Kenya's Constitution does not have a basic structure.

"Civil Court proceedings can be instituted against the President or a person performing the functions of the office of President during their tenure of office in respect of anything done or not done contrary to the Constitution," said the judges.

They held that the popular initiative cannot be used by the government or the people's representatives.

"The President does not have authority under the Constitution to initiate changes to the Constitution, and that a constitutional amendment can only be initiated by Parliament through a Parliamentary initiative under Article 256 or through a popular initiative under Article 257 of the Constitution," stated the court.

Promote BBI bill

They stressed that President Kenyatta was the promoter of the process as they dashed claims that Suna East MP Junet Mohammed and former Dagoretti South MP Dennis Waweru were the promoters of BBI bill. Further, that BBI task force and the steering committee had no capacity to promote the BBI bill.

"No nexus was established between the BBI process and the Secretariat chairpersons Junet Mohammed and Dennis Waweru. In any case Mr Mohamed is an MP, hence not qualified to promote the BBI bill as a popular initiative. The Bill was executive driven, the promoter was the President," the court said.

In the judgment, the judges also threw out contentions by the government and the BBI secretariat that the Kenya's Constitution does not have a basic structure.

"The basic structure of the Constitution can only be altered through the Primary Constituent Power which must include four sequential processes namely: civic education; public participation and collation of views; Constituent Assembly debate; and ultimately, a referendum," said the court.

It was also found that the IEBC does not have the requisite quorum for purposes of carrying out its business relating to the conduct of the proposed referendum, including the verification whether the initiative as submitted by the Building Bridges Secretariat is supported by the requisite number of registered voters in accordance with Article 257(4) of the Constitution.

President Kenyatta partially won after the court set aside declarations made by the High Court against him.

The appellate court overturned the High Court declaration that the President had contravened Chapter 6 of the Constitution, and specifically Article 73(1)(a)(i), by initiating and promoting a constitutional change process contrary to the provisions of the Constitution on amendment of the Constitution.

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**Reactions**

GOD,our heavenly FATHER has come THROUGH for Kenya & STOPPED the COALITION of the known, the mighty, & the powerful from destroying our CONSTITUTION.Our GOD,help the ALLIANCE of the unknown, the jobless,the Hustlers & struggling farmers to now ENGINEER our ECONOMY from BOTTOM UP.  
[pic.twitter.com/R0mDihQaa6](https://pic.twitter.com/R0mDihQaa6)

James Orengo says the proponents of BBI will find other avenues to resolve the stalemate

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Senior Counsel John Khaminwa reacts on BBI appeal verdict

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Celebrations in Eldoret after Court of Appeal BBI appeal verdict

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Senator Irungu Kangata reacts after BBI appeal verdict

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*End of BBI is unconstitutional, Court of Appeal rules*

## BBI: Read the full Appellate Court judgment

*Unknown Author / UnKnown Date*

Court of Appeal throws out BBI appeal

### DISPOSITION

1] Having determined all the issues that we considered germane in these consolidated appeals, the final orders of the Court are as follows:

A. We uphold the judgment of the High Court to the extent that we affirm the following:

- i. The basic structure doctrine is applicable in Kenya (Sichale, J. A. dissenting).
- ii. The basic structure doctrine limits the amendment power set out in Articles 255-257 of the Constitution (Okwengu & Sichale, JJ. A. dissenting).
- iii. The basic structure of the Constitution can only be altered through the Primary Constituent Power which must include four sequential processes namely: civic education; public participation and collation of views; Constituent Assembly debate; and ultimately, a referendum (Okwengu, Gatembu & Sichale, JJ. A. dissenting).
- iv. Civil Court proceedings can be instituted against the President or a person performing the functions of the office of President during their tenure of office in respect of anything done or not done contrary to the Constitution (Tuiyott, J. A. dissenting).
- v. The President does not have authority under the Constitution to initiate changes to the Constitution, and that a constitutional amendment can only be initiated by Parliament through a Parliamentary initiative under Article 256 or through a popular initiative under Article 257 of the Constitution.
- vi. The Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Building Bridges to a United Kenya Taskforce Report (The BBI Steering Committee) has no legal capacity to initiate any action towards promoting constitutional changes under Article 257 of the Constitution.
- vii. The Constitution of Kenya Amendment Bill, 2020 is unconstitutional and a usurpation of the Peoples exercise of sovereign power.
- viii. The Constitution of Kenya Amendment Bill, 2020 cannot be subjected to a referendum in the absence of evidence of continuous voter registration by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Sichale, J.A. dissenting).
- ix. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission does not have the requisite quorum for purposes of carrying out its business relating to the conduct of the proposed referendum, including the verification whether the initiative as submitted by the Building Bridges Secretariat is supported by the requisite number of registered voters in accordance with Article 257(4) of the Constitution (Sichale, J.A. dissenting).
- x. At the time of the launch of the Constitution of Kenya Amendment Bill, 2020 and the collection of endorsement signatures there was neither legislation governing the collection, presentation, and verification of signatures, nor an adequate legal/regulatory framework to govern the conduct of referenda (Sichale, J.A. dissenting).
- xi. County Assemblies and Parliament cannot, as part of their constitutional mandate, change the contents of the Constitution of Kenya Amendment Bill, 2020 initiated through a popular initiative under Article 257 of the Constitution.
- xii. The second schedule to the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2020 in so far as it purports to: predetermine the allocation of the proposed additional seventy constituencies, and to direct the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission on its function of constituency delimitation, is unconstitutional (Sichale, J.A. dissenting).
- xiii. The Administrative Procedures for the verification of signatures in support of the Constitution Amendment Referendum made by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission are illegal, null and void because they were made without quorum and in violation of Sections 5, 6 and 11 of the Statutory Instruments Act, 2013. (Sichale, J.A. dissenting).
- xiv. A permanent injunction be and is hereby issued restraining the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission from undertaking any processes required under Article 257(4) and (5) in respect of the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

**BBI: Read the full Appellate Court judgment**

*Unknown Author / UnKnown Date*

B. We hereby set aside the following declarations and orders of the High Court:

- i. That President, Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta has contravened Chapter 6 of the Constitution, and specifically Article 73(1)(a)(i), by initiating and promoting a constitutional change process contrary to the provisions of the Constitution on amendment of the Constitution.
- ii. That Article 257(10) of the Constitution requires all the specific proposed amendments to the Constitution be submitted as separate and distinct referendum questions to the People. (Nambuye, Okwengu & Kiage, JJ.A. dissenting).
- iii. The BBI Steering Committee established by the President vide Kenya Gazette Notice No. 264 of 3rd January 2020 and published in a special issue of the Kenya Gazette of 10th January 2020 is an unconstitutional and unlawful entity.

C. The Cross appeals fail and are hereby dismissed.

2] This being a public interest matter, the parties shall bear their own costs in these appeals and in the High Court.

Dated and delivered at Nairobi this 20th day of August, 2021.

D. K. MUSINGA, (P) JUDGE OF APPEAL

*End of BBI: Read the full Appellate Court judgment*

**BBI: Court of Appeal judges give verdict | Nation**

*Unknown Author / UnKnown Date*

The Court of Appeal is giving its verdict on the President's controversial three-year quest to change the constitution, a ruling that could shake up the political landscape less than a year before elections.

President Uhuru Kenyatta argues his proposed modifications to the 2010 constitution will help end repeated cycles of election violence, a hot-button issue that has divided the political elite.

Read: Justice Sichale: President is not immune from civil suits

Ruling offers grounds to impeach President Kenyatta

BBI ruling: 'Disappointed' Raila Odinga vows to appeal

The reforms came about following a rapprochement between Mr Kenyatta and his erstwhile opponent Raila Odinga and a famous handshake between the two men after post-election fighting in 2017 left dozens of people dead.

The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) seeks notably to dilute the current winner-takes-all electoral system blamed by Mr Kenyatta for poll unrest, and create new posts including one of prime minister.

Follow the BBI liveblog here

Download a copy of the BBI report here: [bbi-report](#)

*End of BBI: Court of Appeal judges give verdict | Nation*

## The BBI journey: From start to finish?

*Silas Apollo / Friday, August 20, 2021*

To change or not to change the Constitution? That is the question many Kenyans have been grappling with since the onset of the BBI process seeking to amend the key document ahead of next year's General Elections.

Initially conceived as a political truce between President Uhuru Kenyatta and ODM leader Raila Odinga through the March 2018 handshake, the amendment process has been tedious and sometimes divisive, pitting the political class against one another, and against the electorate.

Read: How Uhuru-Raila handshake killed the Opposition

Download a copy of the BBI report here: [bbi-report](#)

Central to this fight are the divisions between those who support the initiative and those opposed to it, with Mr Kenyatta and Mr Odinga on one hand and Deputy President William Ruto, his allies and some members of the civil society on the other.

Mr Kenyatta and Mr Odinga, alongside their allies, have argued that the amendment process aims to unite Kenyans and redistribute leadership positions and resources equally and equitably across the country.

Read: Raila: We won't take BBI case to Supreme Court if we lose appeal

Divisive

But Dr Ruto, his supporters and some in civil society have termed the process as unconstitutional and illegal, and whose intention is to create a top-heavy Executive that rewards a select few with leadership positions.

Some commentators and pundits now believe that while the process may have been noble at inception, its implementation has achieved the opposite of its desired goal, with politics and legal hurdles disrupting its full realisation.

Lawyer Adrian Kamotho, an advocate of the High Court and a commentator on governance issues, said the BBI process has for the past three years suffered both political and legal consequences, leading to the collapse of its intended purpose.

When the process kicked off, the intentions were noble. The handshake pacified the nation. However, issues began arising on subsequent processes of implementation, where divergent opinions began to unfold, he said.

Mr Kamotho reckons these divergent opinions arose from some of the processes used by its initiators to identify areas in the law that needed changing, the collection of views, opinions and the goodwill of a majority of Kenyans, and even the political class, turning a process that was meant to unite the country into a divisive one.

Changing the Constitution has always been an emotive and contentious subject. And so when you have a process that proposes close to 70 amendments, some of which have little impact on the issues dividing Kenyans, then issues arise, he said.

Another point of concern for others was the process used in identifying these changes and the fact that attention was not given to how the changes would be approached. These are the issues that triggered the litigation.

But others, like Herman Manyora of the University of Nairobi, believe that the process has all along suffered the political consequences of the Kenyatta succession in 2022.

He argues that the divisions, which have led to the litigation, have all been nothing but a derailment of the process by those who fear being left out or who believe that the process may curtail their political ambitions.

This is a process that was celebrated by many. Friends and foes came together. But then politics and the politics of succession came in, and that is why we saw people like Deputy President William Ruto openly opposing the process and some of its provisions. Issues like the legality of the secretariat of the task force were merely procedural issues, he said.

Championed as the beginning of a new political dispensation, the handshake gave birth to what would be the team responsible for initiating the amendment process, otherwise known as the Building Bridges to Unity Advisory Task Force, which was gazetted by President Kenyatta in May 2018.

While announcing their new aspirations for the country at the steps of Harambee House in Nairobi, Mr Kenyatta and Mr Odinga identified what they termed as the nine-point agenda highlighting some of the issues they said were ailing the country, and which the team would address.

## The BBI journey: From start to finish?

*Silas Apollo / Friday, August 20, 2021*

In November 2019, the task force came up with an interim report detailing recommendations that they identified as the issues Kenya needed to address and which they said would require a constitutional amendment.

The President would again in January 2020 gazette the Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Building Bridges to a United Kenya Task Force, comprising 14 members and a secretariat drawn from representatives of both Mr Kenyatta and Mr Odinga.

The committee was directed to submit its comprehensive review of BBI by June 30, 2020. Meanwhile, proponents of the BBI embarked on a popularisation tour all over the republic as activist Okiya Omtatah filed a petition in court seeking to stop the President from extending the mandate of the 14-member team.

During the popularisation tours, several issues arose, including constitutional changes, the need to have a united country and the creation of the position of a prime minister. While the issues raised included legal, policy and administrative, it is the legal reforms that became the most contentious.

Economist David Ndii and four other activists would in September 2020 moved to court to challenge the drive, even as the taskforce launched its report at the Bomas of Kenya, culminating in the collection of signatures, their verification and later the publication of the Constitutional Amendment Bill.

Read: Uhuru, Ruto and Raila launch BBI report at Bomas

Mr Manyora reckons the future of the initiative, and any other plans to amend the Constitution, are open for debate.

What the rulings by both the High Court and the Court of Appeal would do is that they will have major implications on the countrys political future going forward, and even into 2022. It may mark the end of the BBI or even create a new lease of life for others, he said.

Follow the liveblog tracking BBI Court of Appeal judgment [here](#)

Watch the live proceedings below:

BBI: Court of Appeal judges give verdict

BBI: Court of Appeal judges give verdict

*End of The BBI journey: From start to finish?*

## MP alleges bias in quest for Chinese visas

*Samwel Owino / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichungwa has complained about denial of visas and work permits to Kenyans seeking to travel to China despite producing valid vaccination certificates.

Mr Ichungwa said Kenyans seeking to travel to the Asian country were being asked to show proof that they had received a Chinese jab.

The MP said the travel condition was being imposed on Kenyans despite Astrazeneca, which is being used for mass vaccination in the country, having been fully approved by the World Health Organization.

The lawmaker, who spoke on the floor of the National Assembly, demanded a statement on why Kenyans intending to travel on business and other purposes were being treated unfairly despite Chinese nationals enjoying unfettered entry into the country.

In his statement, which was committed to the Defence and Foreign Relations committee, the Kikuyu lawmaker wants the committee to investigate and report back to the National Assembly why Chinese traders and middlemen were being allowed to set up shops to sell goods they have shipped into the country while importation from China and selling of such goods by their Kenyan counterparts is disallowed.

How many Chinese nationals have visited Kenya either on business or work visas from the advent of the pandemic to date and what work and businesses have they been permitted to come and do in Kenya? Mr Ichungwa demanded to be told.

What is the volume of imports brought in specifically by Chinese businessmen and middlemen into Kenya compared to imports by Kenyans? added Mr Ichungwa.

Further, the MP wants the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to state the number of Kenyans that have been issued with visas to do business or work in China from March 2020.

National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi committed the petition to the committee of Defence and Foreign Relations, which is supposed to investigate the matter and report back to the House within 21 days as stipulated in the Standing Orders.

However, the report could take longer as the House is from today proceeding on a month-long recess.

[email protected]

*End of MP alleges bias in quest for Chinese visas*



## Taliban revenge fears grow in Afghanistan

*AFP / Friday, August 20, 2021*

The Taliban are going house-to-house searching for opponents and their families, according to an intelligence document for the UN, that deepened fears Friday Afghanistan's new rulers were renegeing on pledges of tolerance.

After routing government forces and taking over Kabul on Sunday to end two decades of war, the hardline Islamist movement's leaders have repeatedly vowed a complete amnesty as part of a well-crafted PR blitz.

Women have also been assured their rights will be respected, and that the Taliban will be "positively different" from their brutal 1996-2001 rule.

But with thousands of people still trying to flee the capital, the report for the United Nations confirmed the fears of many.

The Taliban have been conducting "targeted door-to-door visits" of people who worked with US and NATO forces, according to a confidential document by the UN's threat assessment consultants seen by AFP.

The report, written by the Norwegian Center for Global Analyses, said militants were also screening people on the way to Kabul airport.

"They are targeting the families of those who refuse to give themselves up, and prosecuting and punishing their families 'according to sharia law'," Christian Nellemann, the group's executive director, told AFP.

"We expect both individuals previously working with NATO/US forces and their allies, alongside with their family members to be exposed to torture and executions."

The German public broadcaster Deutsche Welle also reported that the Taliban had shot dead the relative of one of its journalists while searching for the editor.

"The killing of a close relative of one of our editors by the Taliban yesterday is inconceivably tragic, and testifies to the acute danger in which all our employees and their families in Afghanistan find themselves," DW director general Peter Limbourg said.

Frantic Afghans continue to flood Kabul airport and the roads leading to it, searching for a way to leave the country as foreign embassies carry on with chaotic evacuations.

A German civilian was shot on his way to the airport, a spokeswoman for the German government said Friday, adding his life was not in danger.

The Taliban have repeatedly said their fighters are not allowed to enter private homes.

Nazar Mohammad Mutmaeen, a senior Taliban official, insisted this remained the policy, though he conceded some of their fighters were breaking into properties.

"Some people are still doing this, possibly in ignorance," he said in a Twitter post.

"We are ashamed and have no answer for it."

Stoned to death

The Taliban have also insisted women have nothing to fear under their new rule.

During their first stint in power, women were excluded from public life and girls banned from school.

People were stoned to death for adultery, while music and television were also banned.

A video posted online by a high-profile woman journalist this week for a government-run television station offered a different reality to the Taliban's new image of tolerance.

"Our lives are under threat," Shabnam Dawran, an anchor in state-owned broadcaster RTA, said as she recounted being barred from the office.

"The male employees, those with office cards were allowed to enter the office but I was told that I couldn't continue my duty because the system has been changed."

There have been isolated signs of opposition to the Taliban in parts of Afghanistan this week.

Small groups of Afghans waved the country's black, red and green flags in Kabul and a handful of suburbs on Thursday to celebrate the anniversary of Afghanistan's independence -- on occasion in plain sight of patrolling Taliban fighters.

Taliban fighters fired guns to disperse dozens of Afghans in Jalalabad who waved the flag on Wednesday.

## Taliban revenge fears grow in Afghanistan

*AFP / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Russia also emphasised on Thursday that a resistance movement was forming in the Panjshir Valley, led by deposed vice-president Amrullah Saleh and Ahmad Massoud, the son of a slain anti-Taliban fighter.

"The Taliban doesn't control the whole territory of Afghanistan," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

In the Panjshir Valley northeast of Kabul, Massoud, the son of Afghanistan's most famed anti-Taliban fighter Ahmed Shah Massoud, said he was "ready to follow in his father's footsteps".

"But we need more weapons, more ammunition and more supplies," Massoud wrote in the Washington Post.

The United States said Thursday that it had airlifted about 7,000 people out of Kabul over the past five days.

A video on social media showed Afghans at the airport lifting a crying baby above a desperate crowd and passing it to a US soldier.

An Afghan sports federation announced a footballer for the national youth team had died after falling from a US plane he desperately clung to as it took off.

*End of Taliban revenge fears grow in Afghanistan*

## Covid-19: Kenya records 1,414 new cases, 31 deaths

*Amina Wako / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Kenya has recorded 1,414 new Covid-19 infections, from a sample size of 10,235 tested in the last 24 hours.

According to a press statement from the Ministry of Health released on Friday, the new infections, which posted a 13.8 per cent positivity rate, push the countrys total of confirmed infections to 227,077.

From the cases 1,380 are Kenyans while 34 are foreigners comprising 733 females and 681 males. The youngest is a five-month-old infant while the oldest is 99 years. Kenya has so far tested 2,297,678 samples.

1,670 recoveries

In terms of distribution per country, Nairobi registered the highest number of new infections in the last 24 hours with 419 cases followed Kiambu 203, Nakuru 90, Machakos 68, Kitui 63, Muranga 53, Uasin Gishu 40, Nyandarua 34, Kajiado 33, Garissa 31, Kilifi 30, Meru 28, Embu 26, Mombasa 25, Makueni 21, Kirinyaga 20, Tana River 19, Marsabit 19, Migori 17, Laikipia 17, Kisii 16, Nyeri 16, Nandi 15, Baringo 14, Bungoma 14, Lamu 12, Busia 9, Mandera 9, Narok 9, Kakamega 9, Siaya 6, Kisumu 7, Homa Bay 5, Turkana 4, Kericho 4, Vihiga 3, West Pokot 2, Elgeyo Marakwet 1, Samburu 1, Tharaka-Nithi 1 and Trans Nzoia 1.

Health CS Mutahi Kagwe announced that 1,670 recoveries were reported with 1,484 from the Home-Based Isolation and Care programme while 186 were from various hospitals across the country. Total recoveries now stand at 209,839.

At the same time, Kenyas Covid-19 death toll hit 4,435 following a report of 31 deaths. One of them in the last 24 hours while 30 are late deaths were late deaths reported after conducting facility record audits in the month of July and August 2021.

Supplemental Oxygen

A total of 2,066 patients are currently admitted to various health facilities countrywide, while 9,323 are under the Home-Based Isolation and Care programme. 167 patients are in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), 75 of whom are on ventilatory support and 92 on supplemental oxygen.

Another 792 patients are on supplemental Oxygen with 734 of them in general wards and 58 in High Dependency Units. Some 2,290,801 vaccines had been administered across the country as of August 19 according to data from the Health ministry.

Of these, total first doses are 1,517,734 while second doses are 773,067. The uptake of the second dose among those who received their first dose is at 50.9 per cent with the majority being males at 55 per cent. Proportion of adults fully vaccinated is 2.8 per cent.

*End of Covid-19: Kenya records 1,414 new cases, 31 deaths*

## Amason Kingi's dalliance with One Kenya Alliance raises eyebrows | Nation

*Anthony Kitimo / Friday, August 20, 2021*

After Kilifi Governor Amason Kingi announced he had ditched Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), One Kenya Alliance (Oka) has begun talks with him to spearhead its campaign in the Coast.

The governor met Oka principals yesterday at Tamarind Hotel in Mombasa, in what was said to be initial talks as the alliance seeks to consolidate its support in the region ahead of next year's polls.

Oka leaders Musalia Mudavadi of Amani National Congress (ANC), Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper) and Ford-Kenya leader Moses Wetangula met Mr Kingi, once an ODM pillar in the region, before addressing journalists.

Though Mr Mudavadi did not want to talk more about the talks with Mr Kingi, Mr Musyoka said they welcome new members.

Ukiona vyaelea, jua vyaundwa, said Mr Musyoka, meaning Governor Kingi was there for a reason.

ANC deputy party leader Ayub Savula told the Nation that they had been looking for Mr Kingi to join their camp.

Finally, our principals met him and he is welcomed. Once he has been welcomed by the principals, we give them backing to welcome more leaders into our camp, Mr Savula said.

**Regional political outfit**

The principals will discuss and agree whether to have him as part of them to represent the Coastal region. As ANC, we have given our party leader the mandate to seek a coalition with like-minded parties and individuals.

Last week, leaders of five main Coast political parties from which Mr Kingi was seeking support to form a regional political outfit turned their backs on him, saying he could only negotiate with them once he acquires a political party as he had ditched ODM.

That happened just a few weeks after Mr Kingi was ousted as Kilifi ODM chairperson and his position taken by Ganze MP Teddy Mwambire due to poor leadership and friction with Mombasa Governor Hassan Ali Joho. Immediately after yesterday's meeting, Mr Kingi confirmed on his Twitter page that he had met with Mr Mudavadi, Mr Musyoka and Mr Wetangula and had held talks with them.

Bumped into some of the principals of the Oka team in Mombasa; had a brief, impromptu discussion and that there is a need for further and structured engagement, Mr Kingi said.

Though he left the table after speaking with the media, the move to Oka is seen as his alternative to survive politically to reassure his supporters that he still pulls the political strings after completing his second term as Kilifi governor next year.

Mr Kingi accepted ODM's move to fire him and wished the party well in the next general election but decried betrayal by the party. Early this week, leaders of two of the five political parties, said talks with Mr Kingi collapsed a while back, and they will only allow him if he sings to their tune.

**Bigger national cake**

The five political parties, which united ahead of the next year's polls include Shirikisho Party of Kenya, Kadu-Asili, Republican Congress Party of Kenya, Umoja Summit Party of Kenya, and the Communist party of Kenya to form a coalition dubbed the Coast Integrated Development Initiative (CIDI).

Kadu-Asili secretary general Gerald Thoya said they are yet to come up with a name of the political party and its colours which will be unveiled soon.

It should be known that we are not working with Governor Kingi since he came in asking us to fold our parties and form new party, but we felt there was a trap. Since then, we continued with our agenda and we shall soon unveil our party, said Mr Thoya.

He added, We have asked him (Kingi) to come on the table to talk to us if he has a political party and not as an individual.

Shirikisho Party of Kenya leader Adam Mbeto said the talks with Governor Kingi could not move further since he came in without a political party.

We welcome him since he is for the idea, but he should know we have our own rules which he must abide to. He cannot come in as individual since he does not have the party and ODM Party is not with us, said Mr Mbeto.

## Amason Kingi's dalliance with One Kenya Alliance raises eyebrows | Nation

*Anthony Kitimo / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Mr Mbeto was optimistic the new coalition will help save Coast people and have a bigger national cake in the next government.

*End of Amason Kingi's dalliance with One Kenya Alliance raises eyebrows | Nation*

## Embu brothers died the day they started a butchery business

*George Munene / Friday, August 20, 2021*

The two slain Kianjokoma brothers Benson Njiru and Emmanuel Mutura were no idlers.

Despite coming from an economically stable family, the young men believed in generating their own income. They ran a butchery business but as fate would have it, they never got to enjoy the proceeds of their first day at work.

While on holiday before their deaths after being arrested for violating the night-time curfew, the two had prevailed upon their father, Mr John Ndwiga, to set up a business for them.

Mr Ndwiga rented a pork butchery at Mbui Njeru market, four kilometres from his home for his sons.

On August 1, the brothers embarked on selling meat in their butchery to raise pocket money. In the evening after a good day of sales, they cleaned the premises and closed the business.

On arriving at Kianjokoma town some 200 metres from home, they met police officers who were enforcing curfew laws. They were arrested and bundled into a police vehicle together with nine other suspects.

They were whisked off towards Manyatta Police Station but two days later, their bodies were found at Embu Referral Hospital Mortuary.

Interviews with family members indicate they also set up the business to help their father pay their school fees.

Njiru studied at Don-Bosco Technology Training Institute in Nairobi where he pursued an engineering course while Mutura was a law student at Kabarak University.

A family Spokesman, Felix Nthiga Njagi said the butchery closed soon after the demise of the brothers.

They never lived to see their business take off. They desired to empower themselves and relieve their father some of the financial burdens but their dreams were shattered," he said.

Residents loved our sons and when they opened business the first day, they flocked there and the sales were high. But the same day they started operating the business, they were murdered," said Mr Njagi, an uncle to the victims.

The family claimed their sons were robbed of Sh15,000 and phones.

"We found them in the mortuary without the cash as well as phones. Police should explain who took the cash and phones from the deceased persons," said the brothers uncle.

Some of the neighbours told Nation.Africa that they were shocked by the deaths of the two brothers. Reports of the tragic deaths rattled the usually busy Kianjokoma market with angry residents rioting to demand justice.

The protests paralysed business in the usually busy town for two days. During the demonstrations, a police vehicle was set ablaze and a man killed.

Mr Ndwiga described his sons as good people who didn't deserve such a painful death.

"I have lost everything. Since my children died I have known no peace and those responsible for the death of my sons should not go unpunished," he told mourners during a funeral service held at Kianjokoma Primary School.

Already six police officers who were on duty when the brothers went missing have been arrested and arraigned in court.

A post-mortem revealed that the brothers succumbed to head and rib injuries inflicted with a blunt object.

*End of Embu brothers died the day they started a butchery business*

**Armed bandits torch school belonging to Kuki Gallman**

*Steve Njuguna / Saturday, August 21, 2021*

An Education Centre belonging to conservationist Kuki Gallman was on Friday set ablaze by suspected bandits.

The institution located at Laikipia Nature Conservancy was torched at around 10:30am, according to the institutions director Sveva Gallman.

"Over 20 armed bandits were seen entering the institution by our security officers later, a huge fire was reported at the institution," Ms Gallman told Nation.Africa on phone.

She said that they had established the institution which helps children from the pastoral communities in the areas neighbouring the vast ranch.

"It took our workers over three hours to put off the fire. The children have been left with nowhere to learn as several classrooms were badly damaged," she added.

On 2018 a cottage at the ranch was set blaze by armed bandits.

"Last year, they had attempted to set ablaze classrooms at the institution but we managed to put off the fire," she added.

Laikipia County Commissioner Daniel Nyameti has said that security officers were pursuing the criminals.

The attack on the ranch comes amidst a heightened security operation to flush out illegal herders and bandits from private property.

[email protected]

*End of Armed bandits torch school belonging to Kuki Gallman*

## Two suspects convicted of ivory trafficking

*Brian Ocharo / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Two suspects, including a university student, charged with trafficking in 8.5kg of elephant tusks have been convicted. Chief Magistrate Edna Nyaloti ruled that prosecutors had proved their case against Ibrahim Samson Ali and Japheth Bakari Mbuguni for offences they committed in Mombasa three years ago.

I have considered the evidence tendered by the prosecution and submissions by the accused persons. It is my finding that the suspects are guilty as charged, the magistrate said.

Mr Alis bond was cancelled and he will be remanded in custody pending his sentencing.

Mr Bakari, 27, has been in prison since 2019 after failing to post a Sh50,000 bond. He also failed to provide evidence that he was a Moi University student at the time he was arrested and charged.

Since his arrest in 2019, he had made various claims in court to seek sympathy.

Earlier this year, he told the court that his father had died on March 15 and wanted to be allowed to attend his funeral.

Police investigated and reported to the court that Mr Bakari's father, who resides in Kwale County, was alive and healthy.

Yesterday, Ms Nyaloti explained to Mr Bakari that he had been kept behind bars since 2019 for his own security.

I did not want to release you on bond and then after a few days, we get a report that you have been killed. Your security is part of the reasons we kept you in prison, she said.

Japheth Bakari Mbuguni before Mombasa court. He has been convicted of a similar offence. The two have been remanded at Shimo La Tewa Maximum prison pending jailing on August 23

Mr Bakari has asked the court to consider the three years he has spent in prison when it sentences him.

Mr Ali and Mr Bakari are accused of possessing nine pieces of ivory weighing 8.5kg and worth Sh850,000

Police discovered the elephant tusks hidden in a white 50kg sack of dry maize.

Mr Ali had previous criminal records, the court heard. A letter from Interpol shows that he was convicted of a similar offence by a Ugandan court.

Key witnesses in the current case had feared for their lives, were put under police protection and used aliases when they testified.

The order to hide their identities came from the High Court after they told Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji that they could only testify if they were put under witness protection.

In his many court appearances, Mr Bakari maintained that the charges against him arose from his romantic relationship with an undisclosed tycoon's daughter.

He alleged that his girlfriends father was the owner of the elephant tusks that they were arrested with.

He claimed he had been framed by the tycoon, whom he has not named and who allegedly warned him against the love affair.

I found myself in this problem because of the love affair. Her father did not approve of the relationship because of my poor background, he claimed in court in 2019.

The two will be sentenced on August 23.

[email protected]

*End of Two suspects convicted of ivory trafficking*



## Relief for Kilifi OCS as court dismisses petition

*Philip Muyanga / Friday, August 20, 2021*

A senior police officer can breathe a sigh of relief after a Mombasa court threw out a petition, which sought to have her declared unfit to hold public office and cancellation of her appointment.

The High Court dismissed the petition filed by the Commission for Human Rights and Justice (CHRJ) against Ms Victoria Mutuku, the officer in charge of Kijipwa Police Station (OCS), saying if allowed, it will deprive her the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

CHRJ had claimed that it received a complaint that the officer had been making unreasonable demands to the public, and soliciting for bribes contrary to the conduct of the code of conduct of a state officer.

Justice Nyakundi said there was no requirement under the law for a complainant to pursue multiple ways to seek reliefs from court through different legal agencies on the same cause of action.

He said that before a criminal complaint can be dealt under the leadership and integrity test, the required exhaustion mechanism must be demonstrated to an extent that the complainant was unable to secure remedies sought in other forums.

The court added that the case was unique as proceedings touching on the officer are active and ongoing.

It also noted that the proceedings afford a chance to be pursued in other agencies like the National Police Service Commission, Independent Policing Oversight Authority, the Attorney General, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the office of the Director of Public Prosecution.

A complaint of this magnitude premised under the constitution is inadmissible if other judicial or quasi-judicial body is considering or has an inquiry as to the merits of making of the decision on the same matter, said Justice Nyakundi.

Justice Nyakundi disagreed with CHRJ that there was a blanket policy by the agencies tasked with crime investigation and prosecution to shield the officer from being taken to court.

The court said there are different perspectives touching on culpability of offences allegedly committed by the officer and it was clear that the complaint was being investigated by various constitutional agencies, with the view to either prosecute or take disciplinary action against her.

The presumption of innocence until the contrary is proved under the principle of fairness in the criminal law under Article 50 of the constitution means the current petition has to wait the doctrine of exhaustion on the side of the agencies probing into the issues, said Justice Nyakundi.

CHRJ had claimed that the officer had been using her office to harass, and intimidate members of the public, and to engage in illegal activities, thus eroding public confidence in the office and station she is commanding.

On her part, Ms Mutuku told the court that she has never made demands for donations at Kijipwa Police Station.

The officer told the court that any donations to the station are documented, and her superiors informed.

Ms Mutuku said allegations that she had received a bribe of Sh18,000 were untrue, as the money was a donation to the station for purchase of paint.

The officer said that for the 13 years she has been in service, she has upheld the rule of law, abided by the constitution, the law and the police service standing orders in discharge of her duties. She sought to have the case dismissed.

The Inspector General of Police said that they received a complaint from CHRJ for the alleged misconduct of the OCS, and that Director of Internal Affairs Unit was instructed to conduct investigations and submit the enquiry file for perusal and directions.

The IG, who was a respondent in the petition, said CHRJ did follow up to know the progress of the investigations, but filed the petition disregarding the laid down procedures for conducting criminal investigations into complaints against a police officer.

According to the IG, the petition undermined the independence of the IG and was filed in bad faith, and the court ought not to decide in favour of CHRJ.

[email protected]

*End of Relief for Kilifi OCS as court dismisses petition*

## Kwale releases schedule for Covid-19 mass vaccination

*Siago Cece / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Kwale County has officially begun a rollout of vaccines to members of the public to boost its efforts to curb the spread and deaths because of Covid-19.

To reduce crowding at the vaccination centres, the county has slotted specific days to different groups of people, even as the number of health workers in vaccine uptake remain low.

As we aim to vaccinate the entire population, precautions need to be taken to minimize overcrowding in vaccination sites, Health Chief Executive Francis Gwama said in a public notice.

The public will be vaccinated all Friday as security personnel are slotted for Mondays, those working in educational institutions on Tuesdays, health workers on Wednesdays and other civil servants on Thursday.

Public facilities issuing the vaccination are Msambweni Referral hospital and Kwale Sub-County hospital in Matuga. Residents who want to be vaccinated are required to register online on the Ministry of Health portal.

The government early this week made it mandatory for all civil servants to be vaccinated.

Kwale has in the recent past lost prominent leaders like former Kwale Women Rep Zinab Chidzuga who was buried last week and Hassan Chitembe, a county ODM leader, both of whom died due to Covid-19 related complications.

This comes as the number of Covid-19 deaths in Kwale remains unreported, something Health Chief Officer Salim Mbete said was because most patients are seeking traditional treatment for the deadly disease. For this reason, he said the number of deaths in the past six weeks has not surpassed five.

With all diseases, there is an element of self-medication, so even when people die, this will not be in any records, he said in an interview with nation.africa.

He added that due to cultural barriers, that do not allow post-mortems to be conducted, many health conditions end up unrecorded.

It has also emerged that more Covid-19 patients are moving to Mombasa County from Kwale to seek medical assistance, hence their data is recorded in Mombasa County. This has made it difficult for Kwale to track and ascertain the numbers of people affected by the pandemic.

So far, the County Government has slowed down on its activities, advising most of their staff to work from home to reduce infections.

Residents have also been urged to put on their masks and maintain hand hygiene to protect themselves from getting the virus.

*End of Kwale releases schedule for Covid-19 mass vaccination*

## Nyeri court dismisses Rev Richard Gitari's Sh85m compensation suit against KAG

*Mercy Mwende / Friday, August 20, 2021*

A Nyeri court has dismissed a suit by a Kenya Assemblies of God (KAG) church pastor who is seeking Sh85 million compensation after he was kicked out of the church.

Rev Richard Gitari, the presiding pastor of the KAG Kagio Church in Kirinyaga moved to court to protest what he termed unlawful dismissal from his pastoral duties.

But in his judgment, Justice Njagi Marete of the Employment and Labour Relations Court ruled that the pastor did not prove that he was employed by the church.

The judge said that the claimant did not sign any contract of employment with the church, an issue that would have otherwise proven that the management acted against the contract.

The court cannot declare that there was a breach of the contract of employment because in the first place there is no proof of employment, said the judge.

According to the judge, the cleric did not receive any salary for his pastoral duties during the 21 years he served at the church.

The 57-year-old pastor moved to court last year seeking for Sh50 million compensation for unlawful termination, Sh5 million damages for loss earning and Sh15 million as terminal benefits.

Sh2 million

He also sought another Sh2 million as damages incurred for harassment as he was being fired, Sh5 million for a loss of good health and hospital bills he had to pay after he was fired, Sh1 million damages for denial of a hearing before the management and Sh7 million compensation for acquiring a plot and putting up a church at Kagio.

He said that on November 23, 2020 he was conducting a service at Kagio in Kirinyaga when he was interrupted by his Bishop Benson Irungu who requested to hold a private discussion outside the church.

The bishop was accompanied by two pastors, two police officers and a journalist.

Bishop Irungu told him that he had been sent by the church's chief superintendent to take over the church immediately.

He said that I will not conduct any services at the KAG churches for three months because I had been suspended, said Rev Gitari in court papers.

But the bishop did not provide any letter from the church management to explain the reasons for his suspension.

Pastor Gitari said he was forced to dismiss his congregants following the disruption.

Two days later, he says he fell sick after the suspension and was hospitalised twice on different occasions.

He also requested the court to order the church to compensate him for searching and acquiring a piece of land to construct the church at Kagio.

The pastor claimed that, after the suspension, he lost his Sh40,000 monthly salary.

He added that according to the KAG constitution, he would have served the church until he attained 70 years.

Tithes

Upon my death, my wife would have continued receiving 50 per cent of the stipend I was getting as a pastor, said Mr Gitari in court documents.

But General Superintendent Philip Kitoto, Bishop Irungu and pastors Peter Mwangi and William Wachira, who are listed as the first, second, third and fourth respondents in the suit, denied all claims made by the pastor.

They said church policies required pastors to be supported by their congregants through the offerings and tithes.

This is not a salary but some sort of allowance given to the clergy and it is only subject to availability, said the respondents in their application to the court.

They claimed that it was the community that contributed to the church construction and not the pastor.

They said they were not liable for the pastor's sickness as they had invited him for a meeting to discuss his suspension but he refused to attend the meeting before he was sacked.

[email protected]

*End of Nyeri court dismisses Rev Richard Gitari's Sh85m compensation suit against KAG*

**Mombasa court sets free alleged terror suspects**

*Brian Ocharo / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Three suspects arrested last week on suspicion of being members of an undisclosed terror group have been set free. Mohamed Shendy Elhosseiny, Mustafa Abdi Saidi and Mohamed Mohamed Abdullahi were released Friday due to lack of evidence.

The respondents are hereby set free unless lawfully held, Mombasa Senior Resident Magistrate Vincent Adet said. State prosecutor Hillary Isiaho had asked the court to set the three free, noting that the Anti-Terror Police Unit (ATPU) had found no evidence linking them to terrorism.

But the prosecutor said Mr Shendy and Mr Saidi will be arraigned at the Rabai Police Station on drug-related charges. Last week, the ATPU told the court that they suspected the three had links to a terrorist group with members in Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and Egypt.

Police told the court that an intelligence report indicated Mr Shendy and Mr Saidi were being sought by Egyptian and Somali authorities for undisclosed offences.

Mr Shendy is an Egyptian while the other two are Kenyans of Somali origin.

Mr Shendy and Mr Abdi, police said, travelled to Mombasa on July 5 using a black Mazda Demio (KCQ 082P).

They booked rooms at Tawakal Hotel in Mazeras, with Mr Shendy using his passport and Mr Abdi his national identity card.

The two were with Samuel Wambugu, a man police claimed was an accomplice that they were still seeking.

Their alleged suspicious activities were reported to the Rabai Police Station.

Mr Abdullahi was arrested for hosting Mr Shendy and Mr Abdi at his Majengo residence.

Mobile phones seized from the three had been forwarded to ATPU headquarters for a forensic analysis. The findings were, however, not produced in court.

Police had told the court that the Mazda Demio was suspected to bear a home-made bomb.

But the ATPU reported back to the court that there was no evidence linking the three to terrorism.

[email protected]

*End of Mombasa court sets free alleged terror suspects*

## Taita parents push for completion of secondary school

*Lucy Mkanyika / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Work on a new Sh230 million Voi Girls Secondary School in Taita Taveta has stalled because the contractor is owed more than Sh70 million.

Parents had asked the government in 2015 to move the school to another site to provide a better learning environment.

The school, in Tanzania village, will be relocated to Vindo to escape noise pollution from trains on the Standard Gauge Railway. Parents blame students poor grades on the noise.

The old Voi Girls was set up to accommodate students from low-income families in Voi constituency. It has more than 600 students.

The new campus, whose construction started in 2019 and is 95 per cent complete, is yet to be connected to electricity and a reliable water source.

The grounds have not been levelled. Final touches also need to be applied in the kitchen and dining room.

Speaking at the site, parents, led by chairperson Juma Kombora, said the old school sits near the SGR line and this disrupts learning.

We call upon the government to fast-track this project so that our children can come and learn here. The current location is unconducive to learning, he said.

An excavator machine lying idle at the new Voi Girls Secondary School in Taita Taveta County. The contractor has left the site due to slow payment by government.

The project was to be completed in March last year but it has stalled. It was a one-year contract so it has delayed for over a year.

He said the new school is expected to accommodate more girls and provide a conducive and safe environment for the students.

The old school is congested and lacks the necessary learning infrastructure. We are pushing for this new school because it will be larger with modern learning facilities and will take in more students, he said.

He said the students lose up to two hours of learning time daily because of noise pollution from trains.

Another parent, Doreen Msagha, said students score poorly in examinations because of noise and congestion.

Our worry is that we don't know when the school will be completed to enable our children to learn in a conducive environment, she said.

Lucia Chao urged leaders in the area to push the government to pay the developer, Jedy General Contractors Ltd, so that construction can resume.

We want our children to relocate here next term. We are giving the government an ultimatum of two weeks to disburse the funds, she said.

Entrance of new Voi Girls Secondary School in Vindo, Taita Taveta County. The school which is currently located in Tanzania will be shifted to the new area after the completion of the project.

Voi MP Jones Mlolwa said he will push Kenya Railways Corporation to pay the contractor.

I will follow up with the necessary institutions to ensure that the contractor is paid. I'm aware of the challenges the students are facing and I promise to follow this matter to the end, he told the parents.

The ultra-modern school will have four streams for each class and will accommodate more than 1,000 students.

It will also have more classrooms, teachers houses, laboratories, a library, an administration block, a dining hall and a modern kitchen, as well as playgrounds for various sports.

[email protected]

*End of Taita parents push for completion of secondary school*

## Kilifis first high school for teen mothers raises hopes of dropouts

*Maureen Ongala / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Teenage mothers seeking to return to school after giving birth face shame, stigma and an unfriendly and unsupportive learning environment. But a new school offers hope to dropouts.

The national governments 100 per cent transition policy requires schools to readmit all girls who become pregnant and drop out of school to give birth.

One constituency in Kilifi County that has recorded high numbers of early pregnancies and marriages among schoolgirls is Ganze.

To help girls continue with their studies after giving birth, education stakeholders in Ganze resolved to convert Kafuloni Secondary School into a model high school for teen mothers.

The construction is funded by the Ganze National Government Constituency Development Fund.

In an interview with the Nation, Ganze MP Teddy Mwambire said the school will help address the barriers preventing young mothers from resuming their studies.

**Stigmatised**

Girls who decide to go back to school after giving birth are always stigmatised in the mainstream secondary schools and that's why we want to build a secondary school where admissions will only be given to those who got pregnant while in school and are willing to continue with their education, he said.

The school will offer frequent counselling sessions to girls so they can cope with their new life as mothers and students.

There will also be a breastfeeding centre for nursing young mothers.

The community has always victimised young girls who become pregnant. This has made them feel like outcasts in the community and hopeless in life as if they do not have a future, Mr Mwambire said.

**Official launch**

The MP officially launched the construction of the school in January. The work is supposed to be completed by the end of this month.

Already we have girls who have registered for enrolment at the school. Learning will commence once we officially put everything in place because we do not want to have anything that will disrupt the classes, he added.

Moving the Goalposts (MTG), a sports development organisation in Kilifi, observed at a forum that the community lacks information on the education re-entry policy and many parents do not see the value of returning teenage mothers to school.

There is a need for the information on the education policy to be disseminated to everyone including the girls themselves, said MTG education and livelihood team leader Doreen Sirya.

**Challenges**

She cited a lack of resources and poor infrastructure in secondary schools in remote parts of Kilifi as another challenge affecting girls' education.

Vulnerable girls, she said, need to be given hope in education to achieve their dreams.

The girls should not be made to feel like giving birth is the end of life. We need to provide a conducive learning environment for them at all levels, she said.

She noted that a majority of the girls in MTG's education programme were yet to report to school after giving birth.

Education stakeholders in Kwale have also lauded the programme, saying it will give girls a second chance in a stigma-free environment.

**Married off**

Many girls in Kilifi drop out of school or are married off at an early age after they become pregnant.

Some girls are brave enough to become professionals and they can achieve their dreams in a good learning environment though they are mothers. This is a noble idea and it shows that we are now getting to grapple with the problem, said Kwale County Commissioner Joseph Kanyiri.

But he said cultural, religious and political factors are likely to undermine the programme.

## Kilifis first high school for teen mothers raises hopes of dropouts

*Maureen Ongala / Friday, August 20, 2021*

People might not take it positively, as much as it is a noble idea. It is, however, important that different stakeholders discuss and find appropriate ways to curb teen pregnancy, he said.

Ganze Sauti ya Wanawake chairperson Judith Uchi said the government should invest more in girls.

No support

The constituency, she said, has many girls who dropped out of school due to pregnancy and have not been accorded the necessary support by the government and the community.

Many teenage mothers are wandering in the society. They have realised that life is not easy without education and they want to go back to school, but the big issue is where they learn without being subjected to victimisation, she said.

Kafuloni Secondary, she said, will help fight the high level of illiteracy in the area.

She cited the case of a young mother in Mwaeba village who was defiled aged 15 years and 13 years later, she has joined Form One.

After 13 years of being out of school, the lady decided to go back to school to have a bright future. We have many who might be willing but shame has forced them to stay at home, she said.

This story is part of a series examining teen pregnancies in Kenya's Coastal counties. Also Read:

Coast experiences steep rise in teen pregnancies

Joy as nursing teen joins Form One

*End of Kilifis first high school for teen mothers raises hopes of dropouts*



## Hichilema win a lesson for despots

*Magesha Ngwiri / Saturday, August 21, 2021*

Right now, Kenyans are caught up in the throes of a premature campaign period for an election that won't happen until next year. A great deal is bound to occur in that period and one hopes that whatever does will be peaceful and conclusive.

In that light, we should count ourselves lucky that there will be a transition at all, for it does mean that democracy has gradually taken root, something that has proved elusive in many parts of Africa. In other words, we should not regret our electoral turbulence too much; it could be a sign of rude political health.

In this, we are in good company. Early this week, Zambians proved that a peaceful handover of power to the opposition is possible, however difficult it may be to some rulers. They elected themselves a brand new government, sending home an administration they feel has not served them well in the past six years, and pinning their hopes on a new one doing a much better job.

After five failed attempts, Mr Hakainde Hichilema ended up winning the presidency, defeating the incumbent, Mr Edgar Lungu. There should be a lesson here for all the rulers in Africa with a Messiah complex.

There are a lot of historical similarities between Kenya and our landlocked, copper-rich, dirt-poor landlocked neighbour to the south. Kenya and Zambia struggled for independence in a similar manner almost seven decades ago and their founding fathers, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, shared a great deal in their mistrust of democracy, practising the kind of benevolent authoritarianism that did not brook opposition. They found ways of turning their countries into one-party states by co-opting the opposition following a well-trodden path in Africa.

Removed by force

Today, the two countries still have a great deal in common, the only major differences being that Mzee Kenyatta died in office after 15 years, while Dr Kaunda overstayed his welcome, failing to read the signs of the times and suffering ignominious defeat at the hands of a trade unionist, Frederick Chiluba. This happened at the crest of the multiparty wave of the 1990s.

There was no real reason for one man to rule a country for 27 years, but this was quite normal with African founding fathers, many of whom had to be removed by force. Since the onset of multiparty democracy, Zambia has had five presidents, starting with the vertically challenged Chiluba, whose ego was said to be quite healthy and morality rather weak.

For years after his term of office, Dr Chiluba had to fight corruption cases in the United Kingdom (where he was indicted), and at home, where he was eventually exonerated by the courts because his buddy, Mr Rupiah Banda, had become president and did not want to pursue the matter. The only saving grace is Dr Chiluba did not seek to extend his two-year term, setting a good precedent that has been studiously ignored by many African leaders.

The other curious thing is that Dr Chiluba's troubles with the law were not caused by a successor from the opposition; his bogeyman turned out to be the same man he had picked as his vice-president. President Levy Mwanawasa started his career by fighting corruption, and went on to improve the country's economy through enlightened policies, becoming the darling of his countrymen, international financial institutions and other world leaders. It is no surprise then that when he died of stroke in 2008, the accolades he received proved greater than those accorded Dr Kaunda, who died in June this year.

African dictators

The leaders who followed Mwanawasa – Mr Banda and Mr Sata – are, to outsiders, quite forgettable. As for President Lungu, perhaps what will be known of him is that he had his opponent, Mr Hichilema, arrested on treason charges and tortured heinously from April to August 2017. Mr Hichilema was only released after great internal and external pressure. By employing such tactics to silence his political opponent, an insecure President Lungu could not have known that he was sowing the seeds of his own defeat.

Similar tactics have been employed by a number of African dictators who simply won't let go, in the mistaken belief that they are indispensable to their countries' existence, while in actual fact they are only intent on looting their treasuries dry or just hanging on lest they be made to answer for past misdeeds.

They are quite a number, but perhaps the most notorious are Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema Basogo (43



**Hichilema win a lesson for despots**

*Magesha Ngwiri / Saturday, August 21, 2021*

years), Paul Biya of Cameroon (39 years), Dennis Sassou Nguesso of Republic of the Congo (36 years), and our good neighbour in Uganda, Yoweri Museveni (35 years).

Most of these leaders citizens have never known any other president in their whole lives. The despots have used various tactics, including brutalising their opponents and blatantly stealing elections. However, there is little the world community can do to evict them from power unless they commit provable genocide, and only the subjugated masses themselves can kick them out using whatever means available. The rest of the world can only commiserate with them over their predicament.

Mr Ngwiri is a consultant editor; [email protected]

*End of Hichilema win a lesson for despots*

## Macabre symbolism of LSK police drama and the ugly face of impunity

*Eric Ng'eno / Saturday, August 21, 2021*

Events at the Law Society of Kenyas Gitanga Road headquarters have rightly elicited unkind criticism from a disillusioned public. The consensus rues the dramatic decline of an iconic organisation that has stood the country in good stead during the struggle for freedom and democracy.

The LSK towers majestically above dedicated political and civil society organisations. Its record of achievement, consistency and commitment to democracy, the rule of law and justice is incomparable. This is as it should be, since the entire membership of the society is committed under solemn oath to uphold the rule of law and the administration of justice, and to perform their duty as advocates without fear or favour.

We were reminded of this oath as we observed sorrowful vigils following the shocking and brutal abduction, torture and murder of our noble colleague, Willie Kimani.

Lest you forget, Kimani took up the case of Josephat Mwenda, a boda-boda rider who had been shot and tortured by a police officer. Despite serious setbacks, including obstruction and threats to his life, Kimani defended Mwendas rights.

That is when he and his client were abducted together with their taxi driver, Joseph Muiruri, and killed. Their killers subsequently stuffed their bodies in gunny bags and threw them in a river.

What began as an alarm among the human rights community rapidly turned into a desperate search by the entire legal fraternity, culminating in the grim discovery, protest and mourning.

It is not over yet; the quest for accountability in court remains unresolved, but the society has not relented in its pursuit of justice for Kimani, Mwenda and Muiruri.

### Extrajudicial killings

In the meantime, the society consecrated its headquarters as a temple of justice, rule of law and defence of freedom and human rights by installing a commemorative bust of our fallen colleague on the lawn of its Gitanga Road premises. The cap of the pedestal on which it is mounted bears the inscription:

"In memory of the fallen heroes of justice and victims of extrajudicial killings, a reminder of the extent of humanitys selflessness and sacrifice for attainment of justice."

This Serenity Corner is a fairly solemn space; a reminder of what we stand for as a professional society, the values that inspire us as an intellectual movement and our mission as a moral community.

We have taken a categorical stand against the corruption, crime and abuse that arise from the extrajudicial deployment of police power, because that is the monster that has devoured and continues to haunt and torment countless Kenyans.

Beyond the scandal of fetid carryings-on at the LSK, the irony of its ugliest public spectacle so far has been staggering.

A functionary at LSK who is expected to epitomise the best attributes of Kenyan lawyering revels in exhibiting patronage in the form of access to extralegal police consideration. In impetuous displays of power, contingents of armed policemen are routinely procured on the basis of personal ties and paraded around LSK headquarters for effect.

The spectacle of cops breaking into the compound and storming the garden where we honour a famous victim of precisely this genus of police impunity, is outrageous.

### Moment of infamy

In a moment of particular infamy, police presence facilitated a rampaging band of goons as they lay siege to the LSK headquarters.

Here was a revealing showpiece of black market violence in action.

Such shady understandings and the exploitation of informal personal relationships substantially accounts for police impunity and extralegal escapades.

These underhand connections of reciprocity embolden officers to operate outside the law.

On the basis of improper considerations, police non-responsiveness, negligence and abuse are coordinated through such tacit pacts.

There are Kenyans who need only make one call and an entire operation is mounted in their interest.

Millions of others are ever frustrated by the grinding tedium of police processes, demands of bribes, delays and general lack of professionalism.

## Macabre symbolism of LSK police drama and the ugly face of impunity

*Eric Ng'eno / Saturday, August 21, 2021*

Heartless abuse

As a result, some become untouchable and molest their fellows with impunity, while horrific crimes daily go uninvestigated, and justice for the underprivileged remains a distant dream.

Countless instances of heartless abuse, like the Kianjokoma murders of Benson Njiru Ndwiga and his brother, Emmanuel Mutura Ndwiga, are enabled by this informal framework of quotidian impunity, coordinated by corrupt elements within and without the police service.

Relationships that enable civilians to significantly influence police action create corrupt command dynamics. They violate the integrity of the service and compromise its norms and standards.

Every time a random official has police officers at their beck and call, vulnerable Kenyans are victimised without redress.

The macabre symbolism of the LSK break-in, therefore, summons us to re-examine our commitment to the values of justice, human rights and the rule of law.

We have desecrated the LSK and betrayed Willie Kimani.

Shame!

The writer is an advocate of the High Court and a former State House speech writer; @EricNgeno

*End of Macabre symbolism of LSK police drama and the ugly face of impunity*

## Hunger enjoying the same VIP treatment locusts got

*Gabriel Oguda / Saturday, August 21, 2021*

Kenyans woke up this week to the news that more than two million people in 12 counties have reported to the police that hunger has been knocking on their doors, saying it will break in if the government doesn't send a rescue team to kick it out of their compounds.

When interrogated further on why it was trespassing on people's homesteads, hunger said it received a report from the locusts that the government treated them well the last time they flew across the country chewing food crops of helpless farmers, and they have no choice but to come and see for themselves.

Those who went to school to study weather patterns are now warning that should we fail to receive enough rainfall in the next few weeks, Kenya risks having photos of her starving people shown in international media for the world to categorise us as a failed state, and the guy sitting on our United Nations Security Council seat surrounded by his colleagues who wouldn't want to see him starve while conducting UNSC duties.

We wouldn't be in this situation had the Galana-Kulalu irrigation project not been murdered by cartels whose maize importation businesses were threatened by crops that have never even hurt fall armyworms.

Bad seeds and fake fertilisers

These maize barons are the same ones who collude with unscrupulous traders to sell bad seeds and fake fertilisers to farmers, out of jealousy over happy harvest and greed for sad money.

Instead of taking medicine for their insatiable greed and starting a new walk to Damascus, those bad people have gone to mega dams and left with all the construction materials resting in their stomach.

Governors aren't spared either. Every year, they are allocated an emergency kitty with the warning that it be used only in critical emergency times, only for them to pluck the fund every time they want to visit the birds in the sky and check how the clouds woke up that morning.

Multinational agencies have been warning us since the discovery of the alarm bell that locusts would eat up small holder farms and leave their owners with premium tears; only for the government to seriously take the advice of health experts and choose sound sleep over staying awake all night and day.

While Kenyans wouldn't want to see their government suffer burnout, or sleep on the job and blame the dog for eating its homework. There are many countries where rainfall is only seen on TV but their citizens have never been spotted waving placards at the gates of grain stores asking the government to stop hiding food and let it come out and address them.

Plight of suffering Kenyans

Every year, government officials use public cash on food-security benchmarking trips. They travel first-class, are accorded VIP accommodation and paid comfort allowances that are enough to construct a village water pan, only to spend more time sampling cologne inside duty-free shops than with their notebooks at project sites.

A first-time visitor will tell you Kenya has immense potential but is hampered down by a worrying drought of visionary leaders. The silly political season is on and the politicians are busy confirming to Kenyans that water is wet and the Pope is Catholic.

We can't be running to international donors all the time when hunger and starvation visit our home. Or reminding foreign powers how we are a sovereign nation when we cannot even provide food to the most vulnerable when they need it.

We write these things every week, but the money our leaders should've used to pay attention to the plight of suffering Kenyans is being used to spread Covid-19 at political rallies where they promise voters heaven as if any of them would even qualify to go there.

The writer comments on topical issues; [email protected]

*End of Hunger enjoying the same VIP treatment locusts got*

## The youth need support, not social ridicule

*Njoki Chege / Saturday, August 21, 2021*

It has been a tough couple of weeks for Kenyan youth. Between senseless killings and a tough economic environment, there is often very little to smile about these days for the average Kenyan youth.

In spite of the gloomy times, this week I stumbled on an inspiring story of a young Kenyan who recently beat all odds to become an advocate.

Going by the name Mutua Mugambi Mimaana on Twitter, the young man announced via Twitter that he had passed his Bar exams and bagged the 9Ps.

Your taxi driver is going to be an advocate, he said.

Mutua has previously documented his journey on Twitter, specifically on June 29 when he posted; Here is one story that I will definitely tell to my children (sic) how I paid my school fees by working as a taxi driver. Now that it is all done, I can only look back and smile. I have done over 90,000kms on this little beast.

Accompanying the tweet is a photograph of himself next to the little beast the taxi he has been driving for the past couple years to raise school fees.

What a story!

It is easy to underestimate Kenyan youth, downplay their potential and assume the worst regarding them. The national attitude towards young people, at least going by recent horrific atrocities, has been that Kenyan youth are a rowdy bunch in need of controlling by force especially if they are dressed in a certain way or wear their hair in a particular way.

Affinity for digital media

It is easy to dismiss them just by one look at their sagging trousers, their affinity for digital media and their happy-go-lucky approach to life. I think Kenyan youth are the most misunderstood demographic in this country. Nobody really knows what they want and few especially those in power bother to take time to understand young people.

However, it is inspirational stories such as Mutua's journey that tell the real story. Kenyan youth are ambitious, resilient and ready to put in the hard work if given the opportunity and support they need. Our default assumption that Kenyan youth are evil and the subsequent criminalisation is a fundamental flaw that our society needs to address.

While there are bad apples among them, a majority of Kenyan youth are diligent and genuinely good folks who mean well. They are running successful small hustles to see themselves through school and pay school fees for younger siblings.

They are innovating in business and technology like 28-year-old Anthony Muthungu from Kirinyaga County who is manufacturing mobile charging and USB cables. They are manufacturing leather bags and shoes to supply both local and international markets. They are in Gikomba, Toi Market and Muthurwa putting in an honest day's work selling second-hand clothes and shoes. They are scrapping together their little savings to import clothes and handbags from China to sell at a profit to raise money for university.

That is the true face of Kenyan youth and they need our support not suppression.

The writer is the Director, Innovation Centre, at Aga Khan University; [email protected]

*End of The youth need support, not social ridicule*

## Leave out youth at your own peril

*Mutuma Mathiu / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Does anybody know where the offices of the Njuri Ncheke are? I'd like to apply to join that august body so that I can dress politicians in wet skins and promote them to elders, sit in judgement of wayward husbands, eat roast and boiled goat given as fines by land thieves, give advice at weddings, speak at funerals and generally enjoy great food, stress-free assignments and sitting under a tree where the air is clean and views gorgeous.

As the father of a teenager on the verge of adulthood, I can join any council of elders. I can join the Kikuyu Council of Elders and receive applications for the presidency from sixth-tier politicians, the Luo Council of Elders and spend the rest of my life speaking a lot of English with the same message (yup, its Tinga), the Kalenjin Council of Elders and hang out with ex-military bigwigs or the Kaya elders in Kilifi and do voodoo in forest shrines.

Three-quarters 75 per cent of the population of this country are aged 35 and below. A full 40 per cent are 15 and below. Only three per cent are 55 and above. When Kenyans talk about representation, they are thinking about tribe. How many parliamentary seats are being created in Mandera, how many new seats for Central, and so on. Nobody ever thinks about the most important representation of all: Generational.

Your stage in life is everything. It determines your ambitions, your dreams, your perspectives, your priorities. There is no such thing as shared goals: It depends on your priorities, and they are different at various points of your life.

Without a future

I had planned to write about failure and disappointment but when I saw the One Kenya Alliance good folks and the plans to link up with the Jubilee-ODM axis to form one grand, happy coalition, I changed my plans. I thought, Kenyan politics is like a fixed interview process: It gives you the wrong outcome, irrespective of the talent you feed into it.

William Ruto, 54, Raila Odinga (76), Kalonzo Musyoka (67), Moses Wetangula (64), Musalia Mudavadi (60) and Gideon Moi (57) have a combined political experience of 168 years. If you combine their ages, 376 years, you are operating in the Methuselah zone. Demographically, they represent about three per cent of the population.

Am I promoting ageism? How can I? I am making the point that our political process, fixated on preserving the established political class and its hold on the teat of state largesse, is missing the most important variable of all: The seething fury and disappointment of that 75 per cent of the population, the one that feels misunderstood and neglected, the one that feels hopeless and without a future, the one that feels that they will never find a job, the one that fears that the country is set against them.

Dr Ruto is looking like a hero because at least he talks about the youth. But his idea of a wheelbarrow as the symbol of economic rescue; how do you think those dreaming of being lawyers on Wall Street, actors on Broadway and doctors in Chicago are going to receive the news that their presidential candidate is dreaming of a future full of pushing wheelbarrows for them? They are thrilled, right?

Mr Musyoka is a nice guy and good leader, first elected 36 years ago. He has been in office longer than 75 per cent of the population has been on this earth. This is not a bad thing. But the question is, if he is still fighting for the job, when will the young ones get a chance to try their hand at it?

Recycling glorious past

A young country should not be led by old people; it should be led by a mix of old and young people with the young ones being more than the old ones. The profile of leaders should approximate the profile of the population. The trouble with Kenya is that old people like me have all the jobs and the young people are out in the cold.

Age is not just a number; it is also the psychological, social and physical being. Your age determines what you think, what you need and how invested in the future you are. The trouble with our old leaders is that they have not modernised their thinking. They have nothing in common with the majority of the citizens not even wheelbarrows.

In the old days, warriors were forced to retire and sit down and let younger braves take over the job of making trouble and rustling cattle. Older elders were also retired from decision-making to rolling the condemned down a hill in beehives.

Our politics should be a process of transmitting leadership to the youth, not recycling the glorious past. If Mr Odinga is a candidate brilliantly reciting the national anthem and talking about South Korea and Malaysia in 1963, I'll wake up to vote only if it is mandated by the Njuri Ncheke. I do know for a fact that my daughter will not vote in that election, not

**Leave out youth at your own peril**

*Mutuma Mathiu / Friday, August 20, 2021*

for that or the wheelbarrow stuff, no matter how many dresses I buy her.

[email protected]

*End of Leave out youth at your own peril*

## Nangulu: Youthful derision is driving low Covid-19 vaccine uptake

*Moses Nangulu / Friday, August 20, 2021*

I had a frank discussion with my second-year students about the Covid-19 vaccine uptake in Kenya. Out of 50 students, only five opened up about their experiences with Covid-19.

Their family members, either close or extended, friends and anyone in their social circles had contracted, recovered or succumbed to the disease.

For the rest, their only experience is through media, especially social media platforms. None of them has been vaccinated or fallen ill due to Covid-19 in the entire university.

These students told me that they found wearing face masks bothersome and social and physical distancing an inconvenience, yet they are the likely super-spreaders, as studies have shown. It is a generation that is blissfully ignorant.

One or two will listen to the Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe's press briefing on the Covid-19 situation in Kenya by sheer chance if only the Brenda-Brian memes are trending.

The sick online humour that ensued on the Brenda-Brian recovery and discharges from Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) isolation ward did not make matters any better among the Kenyan university students perception of the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic among the Kenyan youth and Kenya in general.

### Youthful population

Nonetheless, the majority of Kenya's youthful population boast higher immunity levels because of their youthfulness. Unlike Europe's ageing population, Africa constitutes the youngest population but with low life expectancy. Kenya is the seventh most populous country, with a population of about 53 million people. From the 2019 Census, we are a youthful country teeming with a youthful rural population of 35.7 million Kenyans (75.1 per cent) below 35 years, of which 32.73 million (68.9per cent) live in rural areas.

Kenya's rural population is relatively homogenous in their respective cultural inclinations and highly cynical and averse to medical messaging that threatens masculinity and femininity. Would such a vast segment of our population readily accept the Covid-19 vaccine? A paltry three per cent is 65 years and above while 4per cent is those in the 55-64 age category.

### A risk factor

Most academic staff in Kenyan universities are over 35. To the academic staff, the student community is indeed a risk factor. Imagine you have five courses to teach, notwithstanding the aversion students hold towards social and physical distancing. Furthermore, unlike boarding schools, these students commute from different residences in and around Kenyan urban areas.

The multiplier effect of infection and transmission of Covid-19 in the event of an asymptomatic patient among the university community is unimaginable.

With this in mind, I took the jab. As did most of my colleagues at the university. On the first day, I experienced slight fatigue and a headache. On day two, I had a slight fever.

That was all for me as far as side effects go. Unlike most of my students, I know many people who have had Covid-19 and have recovered, but some have succumbed to it.

The emotional, physical and financial strain is excruciating.

The worst is stigma, though. Back at home in Bungoma County, a friend was taken ill due to Covid-19 though she already had the first jab. An ambulance went for her with its blaring sirens at night. This roused the whole village. She went into the intensive care unit and pulled through. On returning home, she found a zoo. From inside the house, she could see villagers stopping and gesturing towards the house. They would pretend to mind their business and walk on when she stepped outtypical rural Kenya.

As for the unexplained side effects of the vaccine in three years, it is a medical deep-end. There is no data available.



**Nangulu: Youthful derision is driving low Covid-19 vaccine uptake**

*Moses Nangulu / Friday, August 20, 2021*

This is how I think of it: There's no existing data either on the impact of consuming vegetables and nduma grown using sewage water, GMO chicken and beef and their products, bootlegged liquor, over the counter viagra, beauty products, especially skin lightening ones etc. This does not stop anyone.

In the words of a colleague on vaccine hesitancy and efficacy, maybe the vaccinated might have a better death than the unvaccinated ones.

*End of Nangulu: Youthful derision is driving low Covid-19 vaccine uptake*

## Uganda suspends 54 NGOs including prominent rights group

*AFP / Friday, August 20, 2021*

The Ugandan government announced on Friday it had halted the activities of 54 non-governmental organisations, a major escalation of its efforts to tighten control over civil society.

One of the groups affected is the country's most prominent rights organisation, Chapter Four. The National Bureau for NGOs, part of the ministry of internal affairs, said in a statement the shutdown was ordered "with immediate effect".

It said the decision was made because the groups had failed to comply with legislation covering their activities, including operating with expired permits, failing to file accounts or failing to register with the authorities.

Some of the organisations ordered to close had taken part in an election monitoring operation on polling day in January which was raided by security forces and several of their leaders arrested.

The election saw President Yoweri Museveni returned for a sixth term in office after a violent campaign marked by the harassment and arrest of opposition figures, attacks on the media and the deaths of several dozen people.

Chapter Four executive director Nicholas Opiyo confirmed his group had received the government's order to close and described the situation as "serious".

*End of Uganda suspends 54 NGOs including prominent rights group*

## Cameroon violence kills 32 as thousands flee

*Ndi Eugene Ndi / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Clashes between fishermen and herders in Cameroon have killed 32 people and forced thousands to flee to neighboring Chad for safety, the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said Thursday.

What has been described as the worst intercommunal violence in the country in contemporary times started between Choa Arab herders and Mousgoum fishermen and farmers over agricultural, fisheries and pastoral resources in the Logone Birni district of the Far North region on August 10.

At least 32 people were killed and 74 injured and 19 villages burned down, UNHCR said in a statement.

The UN body said Chadian authorities have reported the arrival of 11,000 people fleeing violence to seek refuge in Chad while an additional 7,300 were displaced within the country.

It said about 85 percent of those who have fled to neighboring Chad are women and children, and most of the men are elderly.

"UNHCR calls on the governments concerned to do everything possible to reduce the intercommunal tensions that have caused this displacement and to ensure the safety of people forced to flee," the UN Agency's Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Millicent Mutuli said.

The UNHCR said those who have fled to Chad are in urgent need of shelter, especially during the rainy season, explaining that many of them are sleeping under trees while some have found shelter in schools or with host families.

There is an urgent need for temporary shelter because most of the new arrivals are women and children exposed to a wide-range of protection risks, UNHCR Deputy Representative in Chad, said Iris Blom was quoted in the statement.

Authorities in Cameroon have since been working on restoring calm and provide assistance to the victims.

Unlike in neighboring Chad and Nigeria, deadly clashes between communities like that of August 10 are relatively rare in Cameroon. The latest however occurred in a region already facing serious security challenges with repeated attacks from Nigerian-based Boko Haram jihadist group. Analysts say the intercommunal violence could complicate the country's fight against the group.

*End of Cameroon violence kills 32 as thousands flee*

## Burkina Faso once more in mourning after jihadist massacre

*AFP / Friday, August 20, 2021*

The impoverished Sahel state of Burkina Faso was plunged once more into mourning on Thursday, as the toll of people killed by suspected jihadists the day before climbed from 49 to 80, including 65 civilians.

The national flag was lowered to half-mast for three days of mourning at the parliament, presidency and government offices in the capital Ouagadougou, an AFP journalist saw, while the heavy casualties raised fresh doubts about the country's armed forces.

Several television and radio channels changed their programming, mostly broadcasting songs paying tribute to the defence and security forces.

Newspapers and online media placed a black edging of mourning around their front pages, although some raised pointed questions over the country's security crisis.

"Over the past five years, the days have come and gone but look the same to the Burkinabe public," said the online outlet Wakatsera.

"The flags are raised and then almost immediately dropped to half-mast to mourn new dead, civilians and/or troops, in attacks by armed individuals who are usually never identified," it said.

"This time, the mourning will last 72 hours. What about tomorrow?"

**Bloody toll**

The landlocked country has been battered for the past six years by jihadist attacks from neighbouring Mali -- the epicentre of a brutal insurgency that began in 2012 and has also hit Niger.

Thousands of soldiers and civilians have died in the three countries, while according to UN figures, more than two million people have fled their homes.

In Burkina Faso itself, the toll stands at more than 1,500 dead and 1.3 million displaced.

In Wednesday's attack, 65 civilians and 15 gendarmes were killed near the town of Gorgadji in Burkina's Sahel region, communications minister and government spokesman Ousseni Tamboura said late Thursday.

The location is in the so-called three-border area, where the frontiers of the three countries converge -- and gunmen linked to Al-Qaeda and the so-called Islamic State roam.

The security forces killed 58 "terrorists" and the rest fled, according to the government, which on Thursday offered its "congratulations to the defence and security forces" for the action.

**Struggling military**

It was the third major attack on Burkina troops in the past two weeks, placing a spotlight on the country's poorly equipped and ill-trained armed forces against a highly mobile foe.

Since the start of August, more than 90 people have died in attacks in the north and northeast of the country.

Overnight on June 4, gunmen killed at least 132 people, including children, in the northeast village of Solhan. It was Burkina's deadliest attack in the history of the insurgency.

"With each new attack, we say we've hit bottom, but then another one comes along, reminding us that there is always something worse," said Bassirou Sedogo, a 47-year-old businessman.

"We observe national mourning, but we also wonder how an ambush against a military convoy... can leave so many casualties.

"If they can kill so many civilians who are under escort, that means no one anywhere in the area is safe from these killings."

The police and volunteers in the Gorgadji attack had been providing a security escort for civilian victims of preceding assaults who were going back to their homes elsewhere in the region, the authorities say.

On Niger's side of the "three-border" region, more than 450 people have been killed since the start of the year.

On Monday, armed men arriving on motorbikes killed 37 civilians in the village of Darey-Daye as they worked in the fields. Four women and 13 children were among the dead.

*End of Burkina Faso once more in mourning after jihadist massacre*

## Two killed, five injured in Mogadishu suicide bombing

*AFP / Friday, August 20, 2021*

At least two people were killed and five wounded Thursday after a suicide bomber detonated a device inside a cafe in the Somali capital Mogadishu, police and witnesses said.

The suicide bomber targeted a tea shop near a crowded junction in northern Mogadishu which was reportedly frequented by members of the Somali security forces as well as civilians.

The Al-Qaeda-linked group Al-Shabaab claimed the attack through their Shahada News Agency, according to the US monitoring group SITE.

The early-evening attack, which sent debris flying outside, killed two members of the security forces and injured five people, said Mohamed Ali, a traffic policeman who was at the scene.

"Pieces of metal and destroyed plastic seats were strewn around the whole area," said Abdukadir Sagaalle, an eyewitness.

Al-Shabaab, which is fighting to overthrow Somalia's internationally-backed government, regularly attacks government and civilian targets in Mogadishu.

Last month, the jihadists claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing on a crowded tea shop in Mogadishu that killed at least 10 people and wounded dozens.

The group controlled Somalia's capital until 2011 when it was pushed out by African Union troops, but still holds territory in the countryside.

*End of Two killed, five injured in Mogadishu suicide bombing*

## Classy Chepkoech glides to steeplechase gold

*Ayumba Ayodi / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Jackline Chepkoech destroyed the field to uphold Kenyas dominance in womens 3,000m steeplechase, winning the race in personal best of nine minutes and 27.40 seconds at the ongoing World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Nairobi.

Chepkoech, who bolted out early with only one lap intact, dragged along the pack with only her compatriot Faith Cherotich and Ethiopias Zerfe Wondemagegn taking the challenge but not for long.

Cherotich and Wondemagegn engaged in the battle for silver but it's the Ethiopian, who eventually prevailed in 9:35.22 as the Kenyan settled for bronze in 9:44.76.

Kenya's Jackline Chepkoech celebrate after winning the women's 3,000 metres steeplechase during the World Athletics Under-20 Championships at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on August 20, 2021.

Chepkoech retained the title which fellow countrywoman Celliphine Chespol won in the last two editions in 2016 Bydgoszcz and 2018 Tampere both in championship records.

That saw Kenya stay on the top of the medal standings with six medals; three gold, a silver and two two bronze.

From left: Kenya's Faith Cherotich (bronze), Ethiopias Zerfe Wondemagegn (silver), Jackline Chepkoech (gold) pose for a photo after the women's 3,000 metres steeplechase during the World Athletics Under-20 Championships at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on August 20, 2021.

Finland moved to second with three medals; two gold and a silver followed by Ethiopia with five medals; one gold, three silver and a bronze.

*End of Classy Chepkoech glides to steeplechase gold*

## Kenyan sprinters hunt for elusive medals at Kasarani

*Bernard Rotich / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Day four of the 2021 World Athletics Under-20 Championships at the Moi International Sports Centre will be a very busy one for Kenyas Kennedy Kimeu and Peter Kithome.

Kimeu qualified for the final in the mens 400m race and will fancy his chances of a medal in the one-lap race Saturday afternoon.

But before he can think of going for individual glory Kimeu will have to do duty for country in the 4x400m relay where he will team up with Kithome, Joshua Wanyonyi and Elkanah Kiprotich. The Preliminary rounds will start at 11.55am.

Kithome will in turn have a few hours rest before turning up for the 400m hurdles semi-finals.

Talking to Nation Sport, Kimeu said that the relay, if run well, will give him the momentum to make an assault on gold in the flat race late in the day.

I have prepared well and from the heats we ran, I know what to do because competition is stiff. I want to be in the medal bracket and I believe I will achieve my target, said Kimeu.

During the 2018 edition in Tampere, Finland Belgiums Jonathan Sacoor bagged gold with a national junior record time of 45.03 sec ahead of Jamaicans Christopher Taylor (45.38) and Chantz Sawyers (45.89).

Kithome, who has a personal best time of 51.31, will be competing in heat two against decidedly faster opponents the likes of Dennis Novoseltsev, an Authorised Neutral Athlete, who has his personal best time of 50.54 and Slovakias Matic Ian Gucek with a best time of 50.99.

The third heat in the hurdles will feature Allocius Kiprotich who has expressed his desire to emulate the late Nicholas Bett. Kiprotich boasts of a personal best time of 51.41.

Looking at the times it is really competitive here and my target is to get into the finals so that we can execute a plan for medals, said Kiprotich.

It will be a real test for Sylvia Chelangat when she lines up for the final of the womens 400m. Kenya has never won a medal in this discipline in the history of the championships.

Chelangat could not hide her desire to take on the rest of the world at this level.

I did my personal best time of 53.49 and Im sure I will be able to improve on that when we get to the final. It is tough but I will give my best so that I can win a medal for my country, said Chelangat.

Indias Hima Das won in Tampere 2018 with Adreas Miklos from Romania and Taylor Manson from USA bagging silver and bronze respectively.

*End of Kenyan sprinters hunt for elusive medals at Kasarani*

## Gold and silver! Gateri leads Yego to a 1-2 Kenyan sweep in 3,000m

*Ayumba Ayodi / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Teresiah Muthoni led compatriot Zenah Jemutai to a 1-2 sweep of gold and silver in the 3,000m final at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on Thursday.

The Kenyans showed their might, relegating Ethiopia's Melknat Wudu to bronze in 9:00.12 on the wet track at Kasarani on the second day of the World Under 20 Championships.

Muthoni chalked 8:57.78 to win Kenya's second gold at the championships with Jemutai coming home second in 8:59.59.

Kenya's Teresia Muthoni crosses the finish line to win the women's 3,000 metres final during the World Athletics Under-20 Championships at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on August 19, 2021.

Benson Kiplangat had given Kenya her first gold medal of the championships after scorching pre-race favourite Tadesse Worku in the men's 5,000m moments before the women's 3,000m final.

The Kenyan youngsters worked as team in the race and were rewarded for their brave run which ended the long drought in womens 3,000m.

Muthoni's victory is the first by a Kenyan since Mercy Chebwogens exploits in 2012 Barcelona, Spain.

After an explosive exchange between the Kenyan duo and Ethiopians Melknat Wudu and Prisca Chesang from Uganda, it's Muthoni who hit the front at the bell.

Kenya's Teresia Muthoni (centre) leads Ethiopia's Melknat Wudu (left) and Kenya's Zenah Jemutai in the women's 3,000 metres final during the World Athletics Under-20 Championships at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on August 19, 2021.

Wudu then tried to go past the Kenyan but the Japan-based youngster refused to bulge as Jemutai stayed third in check.

Then Muthoni moved clear to win which was a good revenge from the Kenyan women after their male counterparts lost to Ethiopians in a similar fashion on Wednesday.

"Zenah was an outstanding team player. Our good team work destroyed our rivals game plan and I am happy she bagged silver. It's such a good feeling to win on my first championship event," said Muthoni, adding that Obiri's consistent performance inspired her to victory.

Besides defending her World 5,000m title in 2019, the year she also won the World Cross Country Championships title, Obiri once again won silver in 5,000m at Tokyo Olympics.

Jemutai was over the moon after settling for silver, a great improvement from 2018 Tampere where she finished fifth over the same distance.

"We were yearning for revenge after they beat our men's team in 3,000m on Wednesday. Personally, it feels good after improving from the previous outing," said Jemutai.

*End of Gold and silver! Gateri leads Yego to a 1-2 Kenyan sweep in 3,000m*



## Etiang, Kibet ready to do Kenyan job in metric mile race

*Ayumba Ayodi / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Since Moncton, 2010, Kenya has only missed winning mens 1,500m once at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships. This was in Barcelona 2012.

After Caleb Mwangangi's exploits in Moncton, Canada, Jonathan Sawe reclaimed the title for Kenya in Eugene 2014 (USA) before Kumari Taki and George Manang'oi extended that dominance at Bydgoszcz 2016 (Poland) and 2018 Tampere (Finland) respectively.

It's an honour Vincent Kibet and Kamar Etiang would like to protect when they take the field in the metric mile race today at 4.30pm at the Moi International Sports centre, Kasarani.

Kibet and Etiang threw down the gauntlet at the rivals, winning their respective first round events in the two fastest times in the heats of 3:42.35 and 3:44.75 respectively.

Elsewhere, Harrington Wanyonyi and Margaret Gati are out to do the unthinkable today: win Kenya its first medals in mens and womens 10km race walk starting at 9.15am and 10.20am respectively.

Just like the other middle and long distances races at the championships, the metric mile race will once again turn into a supremacy battle between long term rivals Kenya and Ethiopia with Eritrea and Uganda also out to take a dig at glory.

Ethiopians Melkenh Azize and Wegene Addisu, who lost to Keter and Etiang, returning 3:44.81 and 3:44.86 respectively, can't be underrated.

Abderezak Suleman from Eritrea and Ugandas Peter Maru will also be in the mix.

"The title is ours to lose the title will definitely remain in Kenya," said a confident Keter.

He added that he could have gone under 3:35 in the first round but with no real challenge he kept his foot off the accelerator.

Keter said it was not possible to predict the tactics he would use in the final.

If the pace is slow, it will go down to a sprint finish but there are those who will plan to go out fast. But either way we are up to the task," said Keter.

Etiang said they have to keep calm and plan as a team.

"I know Kenyans are watching me and they should not worry. I am okay now and I'm focused," said Etiang, who has put behind him the disappointment of failing to attend the Tokyo Olympics.

"After the world junior event, I want to continue with my preparations for next years World Championships in the USA," said Etiang.

Despite having the slowest time in the field, Wanyonyi (45:47.5) hopes to do well, perhaps, at least, better than compatriot Dominic Ndigizi's seventh place finish in Tampere.

India's Amit Khatri is the fastest in the field with a personal best time of 40:40.97 but Bryan Matias from Guatemala (41:04.38), who came to Nairobi with the second best time, is another walker to watch alongside Algerian Sohail Abderahmana (41:23.24) and Cristhian Juarez Lopez (41:59.90) from Mexico.

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*End of Etiang, Kibet ready to do Kenyan job in metric mile race*

## Owili upbeat as Kenya Morans fly to Kigali for AfroBasket finals

*JOSEPH KANYI / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Kenya Morans were scheduled to fly out of Nairobi early Saturday morning for Kigali for the 30th edition of the Fiba AfroBasket Championships.

Morale is high in the Kenyan team as the turn to Africas premier basketball competition for the first time in 28 years.

In my ten years playing for the national team, there has been no better feeling than fighting for our flag at the highest level in the continent, said Morans centre Desmond Owili.

The centre, 33, who plays for Diamond Valley in the Australian League, has trained for two days after landing in Kenya from his base Down Under.

The African finals tip off at the impressive Kigali Arena on Tuesday and run until September 5.

The prolific player averaged 5.7 points and 2.3 rebounds per game on the international scene before suffering an injury against continental giant Angola in the second round of qualifiers.

The journey to Kigali started in 2018 and it has been a good experience as we waded through the qualification rounds. We have done what many thought was impossible and we face the championship with full confidence, said Owili.

According to Owili, Morans believe in themselves soared after they defeated Angola 73-74 in Yaoundé, Cameroon in February.

It has taken a lot of sacrifice to get to this level. We have had dreams to make an impact for our nation. Beating Angola in that qualifier match was as a result of concerted effort by everyone in the team. It was a magical moment, he added.

Morans assistant coach Sadat Gaya acknowledged the effort by Owili to build the team together saying that the centre was responsible for mobilizing the diaspora players.

Owili said the key to success in Kigali was for Morans to play as a team and stick to the game plan.

*End of Owili upbeat as Kenya Morans fly to Kigali for AfroBasket finals*

## Zhoya explodes to world record as Kenya's Wambua bows out

*Ayumba Ayodi / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Frenchman Sasha Zhoya Friday set a new Under-20 World record in the 110 metres hurdles after clocking 12.93 seconds to win Heat 2 of the semi-finals at the ongoing World Athletics Under-20 Championships.

Zhoya, 19, is now the fastest man over the distance this season and remains a huge favourite for the gold medal.

He will however face stiff competition from Jamaica's Vashaun Vascianna who won Heat 1 in 13.35 seconds.

Sasha Zhoya of France clears a hurdle in Heat 2 of men's 110 metres hurdles race during the World Athletics Under-20 Championships at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on August 20, 2021.

Meanwhile, Kenya's Jonathan Wambua bowed out of the competition after finishing eighth in Heat 1 of the 200 metres semi-finals.

Wambua, who had posted personal best time of 21.43 seconds to qualify for the semis, lowered his PB to 21.13 seconds but it wasn't enough to proceed to the final.

Botswana's Letsile Tebogo won the first heat in 20.31 to boost his chances of a double after winning the 100m gold.

*End of Zhoya explodes to world record as Kenya's Wambua bows out*

## Vihiga Queens face Ethiopia's Commercial in Champions League qualifiers

*Victor Otieno / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Vihiga Queens were on Friday included in Group "B" of the Cecafa zonal qualifiers for the inaugural Confederation of Africa Football (Caf) Womens Champions League.

The competition, bringing together eight women football clubs from the Cecafa region, was rescheduled for August 28 to September 9 in Nairobi.

Initially, the three-time Kenya Women Premier League (KWPL) champions were pooled in Group "C" alongside Rwandas Scandinavian and Djiboutis FAD Club.

But Scandinavian pulled out of the competition due to Covid-19 restrictions, forcing Cecafa to conduct a mini-draw on Friday to find new opponents for Vihiga and FAD.

FAD have been pooled in Group "A" which also has Ugandas Lady Dove FC, Burundis PVP FC and Tanzanias Simba Queens.

In Group B, Vihiga under the tutelage of coach Alex Alumira, will face Commercial Bank of Ethiopia and South Sudans Yei Joint Stars.

The winner of the Cecafa Zonal qualifiers will clinch the sole ticket to the Caf Womens Champions League reserved for the region.

The competition will take place in Egypt in November and December.

Each of the CAF Zones including Cecafa, Council of South African Football Association (Cosafa), Union of Football Federations of Central Africa (Uniffac), West African Football Union (Wafu), Union of North African Football Association (Unaf) will organise qualifiers tournaments that will produce the six top teams. Afterwards, two other teams will be added with one from the host nation and the other from the combined CAF Zones tournaments best loser, arriving at a total of eight teams. The final eight teams will then be divided into two groups of four teams each for a face off for the Champions League title.

Egypt will field a team by virtue of being hosts.

We are very hopeful that this will be a very competitive tournament as we get the best team to represent the zone in the inaugural Total Energies Womens Champions League final to take place in Egypt, said Yusuf Mossi, the Cecafa Competitions Director.

Vihigas opening match in the qualifiers will be against Commercial Bank of Ethiopia on August 28. The group matches will end on September 3rd, before the semi-finals are played on September 6th and final three days later.

Before Vihiga broke camp in July following the postponement of the qualifiers, coach Alumira had made it clear of his sides intention to triumph in the competition.

For us (Vihiga), we always believe that when we suffer a setback, we must have a comeback, which must be greater than the setback. So having lost the league (to Thika Queens), I think it is a motivating factor because we have to win this one, said Alumira then.

Draw

Group A

Lady Dove FC (Uganda), PVP FC (Burundi), Simba Queens (Tanzania) and FAD FC (Djibouti)

Group B

Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (Ethiopia), Yei Joint Stars (South Sudan) and Vihiga Queens (Kenya)

*End of Vihiga Queens face Ethiopia's Commercial in Champions League qualifiers*

**Bandari enter partnership with Austrian club**

*Abdulrahman Sheriff / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Bandari and FC Retz of Austria have struck a partnership to identify talented youngsters and nurture them into football stars.

Bandari and FC Retz officials met at Bahari Hotel in Mombasa on Thursday and decided to finalise the agreement on Sunday.

The two clubs intend to work together in scouting talented young players from Mombasa and Coast region and train them to become big players.

Bandari Media Officer Steven Heywood said FC Retz, which participates in Austria's Third Division League, has agreed to provide equipment and pay for education expenses for the young players who will receive football training under the auspices of Bandari.

"Bandari and Retz have agreed to start the project in the next three weeks and are expected to finalise the full plans for the project by Sunday," said Heywood who added that the youngsters needed are between the ages of 14 and 18.

Officials representing Bandari FC at the meeting were the club's board member Herbert Mwachiro, Chief Executive Officer Edward Oduor, Deputy Coach Daniel Mshamba Lenjo and Heywood.

Retz was represented by Franz Weber and Catherine Weber.

*End of Bandari enter partnership with Austrian club*

## Serem, Kiprop make statement to storm 3,000m steeplechase final

*Ayumba Ayodi / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Kenyans Amos Serem and Simon Koech gave a sneak preview of what to expect in the final, winning their respective 3,000m steeplechase first round races on Friday at the ongoing World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Nairobi.

Serem warmed up the paltry crowd when he overtook Ethiopias Tadesse Takele just after the last water jump to take the second heat in eight minutes and 29.98 seconds.

Tadesse, who led at the bell in 7:29.78 with Serem breathing on his neck, settled second in 8:30.47 as Ugandas Leonard Chemutai came in third in 8:42.71 to also qualify for the final due Sunday.

Koech left nothing to chance in the slow race, guiding the pack through the bell in 7:50.15 before claiming the first heat in 8:52.43. Ethiopias Samuel Firewu came in through second in 8:52.87 followed by Eritreas Simon Behrahtu in 8:54.08.

Kenya's Simon Koech (left) clears a hurdle ahead of Ethiopia's Samuel Firewu in Heat 1 of the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase during the World Athletics Under-20 Championships at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on August 20, 2021.

Serem and Koech will be looking to recapture the title Kenya lost to Ethiopia in 2018 Tampere.

Its Takele Nigate, who beat Kenyas Leonard Bett to the title in Tampere with the Kenyan settling for silver as Nigates compatriot Getnet Wale took bronze.

Kenya had only missed winning the title during the inaugural 1986 Championships in Athens.

We wanted to pass a strong message that Kenya is still strong in the steeplechase and will remain a powerhouse, said Serem. I realised my Ethiopian rival was slow at the water jump and that is the weakness I used to crush him, said Serem.

I shall have a chat with Koech to see how we shall handle the final, said Serem.

It was all about testing my opponents by staying behind them. I realised that I was in good shape and Kenya should expect a gold from us, said Koech, who was inspired by two-time Olympic champion Ezekiel Kemboi to take up the event. I want to tell Kenyans to expect nothing short of victory.

Kenya's Simon Koech (right) clears a hurdle ahead of Ethiopia's Samuel Firewu in Heat 1 of the men's 3,000 metres steeplechase during the World Athletics Under-20 Championships at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani on August 20, 2021.

Kenya's dominance in the 3,000m steeplechase was broken at the Olympics after Soufiane El Bakkali bagged gold in Tokyo at the recently concluded Games. Benjamin Kigen settled for bronze in the race that saw Kenyans miss out on gold for the first time since 1968.

But Friday's performance by Kiprop and Serem, both only 18 years old, will serve to restore confidence of local athletics fans that the steeplechase is still a Kenyan speciality.

*End of Serem, Kiprop make statement to storm 3,000m steeplechase final*

## Unbeaten Strathmore face Thika, NCPB prey on JKUAT in handball league

*Agnes Makhandia / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Strathmore University coach Peter Mwathi is optimistic his charges will not crack under pressure when they put their unbeaten run on the line against Thika on Sunday in the Kenya Handball Federation National League at the Nyayo National Stadium.

Strathmore will battle Thika in one of the six matches on the cards as the leaguereturns after taking a break last weekend.

The varsity said are placed second on table with 16 points from eight matches same as National Cereals and Produce Board(NCPB) but Cereals have played one more match.

"Being the only team that is yet to lose a match in this competitive season at this stage is rewarding but also it has it's fair share of pressure. I hope we dont crack," said Mwathi.

Thika are placed sixth with 11 points from nine matches in the 20-team men's league.

"We have had a good run and I don't see why we should falter against Thika. Thika have shown improvement and therefore we will give the match the seriousness it deserves," said Mwathi, who doubles up as the men's national team coach.

Thika coach Julius Berege remained optimistic of a good outing.

"Hopefully we will be the one to break the unbeaten streak. Strathmore have good players who are agile and their game is also organised and therefore it will be a match to look out for," said Berege, who plays for the former champions Kenya Defence Forces.

Leaders NCPB battle newcomers Vickers, as on-form Buccaneers face Technical University of Kenya (TUK).

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agricultural and Technology (JKUAT) will face-off with General Service Unit (GSU) in other men's matches.

In the only women's match of the day, back-to-back champions Nairobi Water will be chasing their sixth win in a row when they take on JKUAT.

Nairobi Water, who lead standings with 10 points from five matches and are unbeaten, play a JKUAT side that has won only one match and are seventh on table with two points.

Nairobi Water coach Jack Ochieng was eager ahead of the tie.

"JKUAT is an upcoming team. But there is nothing that makes me happy than seeing how my players turn up against not so well known opponents," said Ochieng, who is also the national women's coach.

Fixtures

Saturday

Gunners v Kahawa 9am

JKUAT v GSU 10:30am

JKUAT v Nairobi Water(W) 12pm

TUK v Buccaneers 1:30pm

NCPB v Vickers 3pm

Thika v Strathmore 4:30pm

*End of Unbeaten Strathmore face Thika, NCPB prey on JKUAT in handball league*

## History-girl Wawira targets 'memorable' Paralympics bow

*Victor Otieno / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Powerlifter Hellen Wawira Kariuki is just six days away from making history.

When the bronze medallist at the 2015 All Africa Games in Congo takes to the stage at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics in Japan on August 26, she will become the first Kenyan female powerlifter to ever compete at the Games.

And she is determined to make her first appearance at the big stage a memorable one.

I am very happy to get the opportunity (to compete at the Paralympics). Of course I am a bit under pressure because all eyes will be on me but it is something I know that I will deal with. It will be tough because I will be competing with the best in the world but I will do my best, said Wawira, who is the world number two in the under-41 kilogrammes category.

She will depart for Japan on Saturday - being the first athlete among the nine in Team Kenya to jet out for the Tokyo Games that will be held from August 24 to September 5.

A section of the Kenya National Paralympics Committee officials had last Thursday flown out for the Games.

Wawira, who took up powerlifting in 2014, qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics thanks to a bipartite commission invitation.

The powerlifter from Embu said that going by her improvement in training thus far, her target in Japan is to lift 95kg.

If I compare my performance now and when I was training at home, I can say that I have improved a lot because I have been managing 80kg in eight rates. At home, I could only manage 80kgs in four rates. If by Gods grace I manage 95kg in Tokyo, I will be so proud of myself, she said.

Wawira's other successes in powerlifting include gold medal in the 2020 Nigeria Para Powerlifting World Cup and bronze in the 2016 International Paralympics Committee Powerlifting World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

[email protected]

*End of History-girl Wawira targets 'memorable' Paralympics bow*



## Mozzart Bet donates medical equipment worth Ksh3 million to Nyamira County

*Unknown Author / UnKnown Date*

On Friday, August 20, 2021, gaming firm Mozzart Bet donated medical equipment worth slightly over Ksh3 million to Nyamira County, in aid of the fight against Covid-19.

The equipment included personal protective gears, wheelchairs and ICU beds.

The county has witnessed a stubborn rise in Covid-19 infections despite concerted efforts by both national and the devolved authorities to curb its spread.

Mozzart has lent its support to Nyamira County by ensuring that medics who are the first-line responders are protected from the virus.

At hand to receive the equipment was Gladys Momanyi, the Nyamira County Executive in charge of Health. She was accompanied by other dignitaries.

This is a good gesture, especially when we have been attacked by this pandemic. We do not take this initiative for granted. On behalf of the Governor of Nyamira County Hon Amos Nyaribo, I thank Mozzart. We will ensure everything is transparently used to benefit the people of Nyamira.

This is the best time to be your brothers keeper, and as Mozzart, we have done exactly that since the pandemic struck early last year, said Mozzart Bet Country Manager, Sasa Krneta.

We are therefore very pleased to present our donation of equipment worth Ksh3,015,500 to Nyamira County to help them curb the spread of coronavirus. It is our hope that all health facilities in the county will benefit from this as we continue to fight the deadly virus, he added.

Mozzart has spent over Ksh53 million in supporting healthcare facilities in different counties in the last three years. The company has also spent Ksh15 million so far in digging freshwater wells in various parts of the country.

The company paid tribute to the government for creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive even during tough times as currently witnessed. Mr Sasa vowed to continue the companys Community Social Responsibility (CSR).

We will always be ready when called upon to support various projects within Kenyan communities, he said.

*End of Mozzart Bet donates medical equipment worth Ksh3 million to Nyamira County*

## More animals, fewer sandstorms as Tibet greens

*Unknown Author / UnKnown Date*

Dondrup, 42, still has an article he wrote over two decades ago in high school about his aspirations.

My grandma told me that 30 years ago, there were forests all around my village, and there were bears, deer and other wild animals, said Dondrup, born in a village in the city of Shannan, southwest Chinas Tibet Autonomous Region.

Due to the destruction of vegetation, not only the number of wild animals decreased but villagers had to travel far away to get firewood, the Tibetan wrote.

With less vegetation on the mountains, there will surely be fewer animals. Thus, I decided that in the future, I want to become a forestry worker to protect our forests, the letter reads.

His dream has come true. In 2010, he began working in Shannans forestry and grassland bureau, where he takes part in organising tree-planting activities every year.

With continuous government investment and unremitting efforts from various sides, Tibetans are enjoying a constantly improving environment, and Tibet has become one of the regions with the best ecological environments in the world.

Samten Norbu, head of Shannans forestry and grassland bureau, said that after the tree-planting efforts over the past decades, the city has built a 160km green belt along the Yarlung Zangbo River.

The environment has improved. Dusty days have decreased year by year, and peoples sense of happiness, gain and accomplishment is on the rise, said Samten Norbu.

Tibet had invested a total of 81.4 billion yuan (\$12.55 billion) in the area by the end of last year. In 2020, the forest coverage reached 12.3 percent, and the comprehensive vegetation coverage of natural grassland grew to 47 percent, according to a white paper released in May.

The improvements are witnessed and also contributed to by Paljor, 62.

Since 2004, Paljor has turned more than 400 mu (about 27 hectares) of barren and desert-like land in Shannan into a nursery garden by planting over 70 types of trees.

Under the support of the local government, his nursery garden now has an annual output of about four million yuan, employing more than 70 full-time workers.

As the environment greens, wild animals are returning. In Paljors nursery, roe deers are seen playing in the woods. He recalled the deers were first spotted in the garden around 2010, and there are also foxes and birds.

Every afternoon, different kinds of colourful birds will gather in my garden, and I can hear their merry chirps, Paljor said with pride.

The biodiversity improvement came as wild animals and their habitats have been better protected. The population of the endangered black-necked cranes has increased from no more than 3,000 in the 1990s to more than 8,000 now, and the population of Tibetan antelopes is around 300,000, the white paper said.

Thanks to favourable government policies, the vegetation protection in my hometown is getting better and better. As a forestry worker, Im proud, Dondrup said.

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### SIDE-BAR

Plateau railway propels Tibets development to new heights

A train running on the Qinghai-Tibet Railway passes by the Nyainqentanglha Range in southwest Chinas Tibet Autonomous Region, March 1, 2020.

Sangye Puncog, 22, never saw a train until his high school graduation tour to Lhasa, capital of southwest Chinas Tibet Autonomous Region.

Fascinated by the steel giant, Sangye Puncog, a Tibetan hailing from the rural Nyingchi City, was inspired to major in transportation and went on to study at Southwest Jiaotong University.

Financially aided by the government, he graduated in 2019 and is now in charge of passenger loading and unloading at the Golmud Railway Station, a railway hub in Qinghai Province neighbouring Tibet.

I didnt know I would work here when I passed through it on a train to the university, Sangye Puncog said with a smile.

In July 2006, the railway section connecting Golmud and Lhasa went into operation, marking the opening of the worlds

## More animals, fewer sandstorms as Tibet greens

*Unknown Author / UnKnown Date*

highest and longest plateau railroad the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

The railway, the first connecting Tibet with the rest of China, has stimulated the development of the plateau region by bringing tourists, materials, and business opportunities.

By the end of June, the railway transported 29.63 million passengers and 68.35 million tonnes of cargo from and to Tibet, according to the China Railway Qinghai-Tibet Group Co Ltd.

Hu Xiaodi, a 57-year-old tourist, headed for Lhasa on the Z6801 train. He and five of his relatives planned to hire a car in Lhasa for a road trip in Tibet.

Tourism in Tibet is so popular that we can hardly book enough tickets for us to the Potala Palace, said Hu, from the city of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province.

Tibet received 1.8 million tourists from home and abroad in 2005, one year ahead of the opening of the landmark rail link. It received more than 35 million tourists in 2020 despite the impact of COVID-19.

Due to the unavailability of train tickets to Lhasa because of high demand, Ma Yuxiu, who was travelling with her four-year-old daughter, had to transfer twice from Xining, the capital of Qinghai and starting point of Qinghai-Tibet railway. She was there to meet her husband, who is a crane driver and has worked at different construction sites in Tibet for three years.

Considering that he is too busy, we have to meet him every year and travel around, said Ma, 26, adding that they have visited several destinations in Tibet like the Potala Palace and the Yambdrol Lake.

Built at an altitude of more than 4,500 metres, the Nagqu railway station in the city of Nagqu is the worlds highest railway station combining passenger and cargo transportation.

The annual number of passenger trips handled by the railway station surged from 16,000 in 2006 to 310,000 in 2020.

The waiting hall, which opened to the public in 2006, is so small that many passengers have to stand during peak season, said Dong Shenggang, head of the station.

The station handled 518,000 tonnes of cargo in 2020, skyrocketing by 619 percent from 2006.

Construction materials such as steel, cement, timber, as well as daily necessities like grains and salt have been among the major goods delivered up here, Dong said.

The Chinese central government made a cumulative investment of 1.63 trillion yuan (about \$253 billion) in the 70 years after the peaceful liberation of Tibet, showed figures released in May.

Over 590 billion yuan of the total investment went into the construction of major projects that have significantly driven the regions economic development, including the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and Qinghai-Tibet Railway.

The regions gross domestic product soared to more than 190 billion yuan in 2020 from 34.2 billion yuan in 2006.

Xu Guoming, who had just left Lhasa by train for Xining, is amazed by the mushrooming buildings and infrastructure projects in Lhasa.

The entrepreneur in truck transportation from east Chinas Shandong Province first came to Lhasa in 2013.

Compared with my first trip there, I could hardly recognise the street I had lived in, said Xu, 42, adding that he is optimistic about his business prospects in Tibet.

To meet the rising demand for passenger transport, the old Golmud station measuring 500 square metres has been replaced by a new one covering nearly 15,000 square metres. It can accommodate 2,000 passengers in the waiting hall at the same time.

The Golmud station worker Sangye Puncog is also delighted as a new railway section connecting Lhasa and his hometown Nyingchi went into operation last month.

The 435km line, the first electrified railway in Tibet, has shortened the travel time between Nyingchi and Lhasa to three and a half hours from some seven hours by bus.

Arranged by Sangye Puncog, his father, a rice farmer, took a train trip for the first time in his life to Lhasa. His mother, who was then in poor health, did not go.

Im planning to take my mother on board a train when Im on vacation. My parents are proud of me, he said.

**More animals, fewer sandstorms as Tibet greens**

*Unknown Author / UnKnown Date*

*End of More animals, fewer sandstorms as Tibet greens*

*Unknown Author / UnKnown Date*

Since its establishment in 1973, the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) has consistently supported the empowerment of communities across the country. Most of the Company's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programmes and projects, which are executed through its philanthropic arm KPC Foundation are aimed at enhancing inclusivity and equity, especially among vulnerable individuals, needy and disadvantaged groups.

In line with the national development goals, KPC management has ensured inclusivity is at its core, as one of the operating service principles, which the company has demonstrated by dedicating at least one percent of its profits to CSI. KPC's empowerment initiatives are categorised under key themes, including Inclusive Education, Health and Sanitation, Empowerment of Youth, Women and Persons with Disability, Provision of Clean Water, Sports, Energy Conservation and Environmental Restoration, among others.

**Inuka Scholarship Programme**

The Inuka Scholarship programme is a flagship scheme for needy and disabled children across all the 47 counties in Kenya. Implemented in partnership with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), Inuka resonates well with the Ministry of Education's Strategic Plan 2017-2021, titled, Education for all, Embracing Change, Securing the Future. The first cohort of Inuka students joined Form One in January 2016.

The Inuka Scholarship involves the selection of two of the best performing primary school students with disabilities from each county every year, making a total of 94 students per year. One boy and one girl are selected from each county and receive scholarships to attend secondary school.

Since the inception of the Scholarship, the Company has spent Ksh56 million to cater for 376 students who have so far joined the programme.

Now in its 5th year and with the pioneer Inuka students graduating from secondary school, KPC is proud of the impressive results posted by the beneficiaries, in the recent Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE).

Miriam Kipkemboi Chepleting of Moi Girls High School Eldoret scored top marks countrywide in the special needs education category, and was singled out for praise by Education Cabinet Secretary, Prof George Magoha, after she scored an A of 84.88 points.

Born in June 2002 in Uasin Gishu County, Miriam lived a normal life until 2014 when she was diagnosed with Osteogenic Sarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer, which resulted in the amputation of her right leg. She, however, defied the odds and scored an impressive 403 marks in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE).

KPC engages in various other initiatives and investments towards promoting social inclusion. The details are captured in this downloadable PDF.

*End of Champion of Inclusion: When KPC stretches its philanthropic hand, many lives get transformed*

## Reclaiming our voices: Young Kenyans' take on politics

*COLLINS KARIUKI / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Throughout history, the youth have been the spark that has started numerous revolutions, challenged the existing status quo and brought a change in their communities.

From the Soweto uprising in 1976, the velvet revolution in 1989, Arab Spring in 2010, to the black lives matter movement, which started in 2013 and is still very active, when the youth united and spoke in one voice, change happened.

According to the 2019 census in Kenya, 75 per cent of Kenyas population is under the age of 35, meaning most of the population is youthful. Whereas the majority of the population is youthful, the leadership in the country bears no correspondence with a majority of positions held by senior citizens. It, therefore, begs the question, do the youth in Kenya have a voice? If so, what are they saying? What do they stand for, and are they being listened to?

This week, we spoke to young people involved in politics and policy to unravel this mystery.

Suzanne Silantoi Lengewa

For many, the early twenties are marked with confusion and a struggle to figure out what to do with your life. However, Suzanne Silantoi, a policy analyst and content creator, is cut from a completely different cloth.

Her early twenties were marked by the frustration of what was happening around her, clarity of what needed to be done and the resolve to do it herself.

While working in the health sector, I had a first-hand experience of how poor healthcare is in the country. I was very disappointed by the failure of the government to provide decent health care services and the never-ending corruption cases. I was a Kenyan who was frustrated by the government, and I decided to do something about my frustration, she says.

In 2017 when she was just 23 years old, Suzanne got into active politics. She vied to be the senator for Nairobi county as an independent candidate.

During that election, even though she did not win, she managed to get over 32,000 votes, which greatly motivated her and gave her hope because there were people willing to listen to a different type of politics and those people placed their faith in her.

Suzanne Silantoi Lengewa.

Whereas weve witnessed movements, such as End SARS and not too young to run in Nigeria, Rhodes must fall in South Africa, and Black Lives Matter, globally which are all led by young people and have proven the power of young people in making changes in our communities, Kenyan politicians views young people as tools to be used and disposed of after every election.

Young people are not being heard enough, and it is a lot more difficult to assert our space in politics. A young person needs to work a lot harder to be taken seriously, she says.

According to Suzanne, one of the main issues preventing the voice of youth from being given the attention it deserves is the lack of a united voice for young people. According to her, this should ideally be done by the National Youth Council if it worked as provided by the National Youth Policy of 2007. If we can have a centralised voice in the country, this would translate into greater bargaining power favouring young people.

In as much as we champion the inclusion of young people in leadership, it is important to understand that being youthful is not a valid qualification on its own. It must be accompanied by other qualities such as empathy and compassion, which make a good leader. These qualities will allow leaders to get into the shoes of those we seek to represent, and they are qualities lacking in some young politicians we see today. Some of them glorify wealth, regardless of how it is acquired, and this is not only misleading to other young people, but it also derails them from the work a leader should perform, she says.

Another challenge that I see today with leadership is the political parties. Political parties are the main channels to elective office. For as long as our parties are centred around specific people and led by older people, young people will never have a fair shot at carrying a plan in the spaces they occupy.

As much as her first shot at an elective office wasnt successful, it served as a teacher with lots of lessons to offer. The mere act of getting into politics served to solidify her belief that indeed solutions lie with us. As much as we are all

## Reclaiming our voices: Young Kenyans' take on politics

*COLLINS KARIUKI / Friday, August 20, 2021*

waiting for someone to do something about our communities, in reality, the world is waiting for us to step in and do something.

Suzanne, who holds a masters degree in public administration and public policy from the University of York, started a civic education platform on YouTube and on her podcast, *Is That So? With Silantoi*, where she breaks down complex policy issues for young people to understand how the government works and their role in improving governance. She has also worked with organisations such as the African Union in different capacities, including working in short-term observation missions in Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Additionally, she has spoken to over 52 heads of electoral bodies in Africa concerning the participation of young people in electoral processes and created a training manual on the same.

In her words, more civic education needs to be done to help young people understand that politics affects every aspect of our lives, and nothing should be done for us without us.

Kiprotich Ngetich

Kiprotich Ngetich is a political activist and a champion for youth inclusion in political processes where they don't just participate as spectators but make meaningful contributions as the leading players.

According to him, the sad state of affairs in the country can be corrected if the young people who are the majority of the population and are the major victims of unemployment and poverty get organised and take the front row in governance and political decisions made in this country.

Kiprotich Ngetich.

In his words, the youth must refuse strategic relegation to youth leagues where their decision-making input is peripheral.

Whereas we might ask whether the youth are being heard or not, the million-dollar question is, are youth issues being given the attention they deserve? I think not. The youth in Kenya are being heard, but lip service is given to their concerns. Ask yourself, does the president need a constitutional amendment to give young people a tax holiday? Does he need a constitutional amendment to effect the HELB Moratorium? All these are things that can be affected through the existing legal framework. Still, because of political dishonesty, young people must continue to suffer while being used as pawns in larger political schemes, he says.

As we speak, the National Youth Council (NYC) has not been constituted for more than six years now. Worse still, the council currently operates only with a heavily underfunded secretariat. I was even surprised to see the cabinet secretary in charge of youth affairs appoint a youth advisory board, which has no purpose. According to the law, the board is supposed to advise the council, not the secretariat. This only goes to show that the government is handling youth issues in a very pedestrian manner.

Ngetich's interest in leadership and the political scene traces back to his high school days as a prefect and college when he served as a student leader. However, his road to Damascus moment happened when he attended a youth devolution symposium organised by the Emerging Leaders Foundation (ELF). The symposium's clarion call, let's stop agonising and start organising is what started a spark in him, which has driven him to rise and be the change he wants to see. After the symposium, he enrolled on a leadership development program with ELF and graduated as a fellow. The lessons from the program are what shaped his understanding and view of policy, politics and leadership in the country.

I believe and stand for a free society in which people live in harmony and with equal opportunities, as Nelson Mandela put it. That is an ideal I hope to live for and achieve, and if need be, I am prepared to die for. The society we live in Kenya is unjust, unequal, and skewed in terms of opportunities and distribution of resources. The gap between the rich and the poor is beyond what JM Kariuki foretold in 1975. Clearly, progress as a country is pegged on us making a radical shift in economic policies, he says.

For instance, heavy investment in infrastructure such as standard gauge railway, though important for economic takeoff, has no direct bearing on the improvement of livelihoods of the common person. We must therefore reshape our economic models and come up with balanced policies that directly touch on low-income families to help alleviate poverty.

To start effecting change in his small way, Ngetich joined the Youth Serving Organisations - consortium (YSO), which comprises more than 16 youth-focused organisations. As a member of the organisation, he has honed his leadership



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skills, especially in youth advocacy issues and has represented the consortium in engagements with the Kenyan parliament, the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA) and was the secretary-general for the youth against the building bridge initiative has severally given press statements on the consortiums stand on the issue.

They say the wearer of the shoe is the only one who knows where it pinches. When it comes to unemployment and poverty, we, as youths, are the majority of the victims. We are, therefore, the best placed to come up with solutions to these problems. Whereas it has been argued that young people are the disorganised majority led by the organised minority, I believe we can end that trend. That is why I have decided to get into party politics, and I am a registered aspirant of leadership positions within the United Democratic Alliance party, first as County Chairman then Regional Chairman and God willing one of the Positions at the National Level.

Nerima Wako Ojiwa

The first time I ever appeared on television was in an interview with Larry Madowo. I received a phone call from him asking whether I was as good at speaking as I was at writing, a question I responded to with a yes, and he said hed put me on his show that night and told me what we were covering. Immediately I ended that call, I became so nervous and almost threw up. I remember before we went on air, I was seated with two other professors who were on the panel with me. I was so tiny, and my feet were dangling, and I couldnt help but wonder whether I was supposed to be here.

Nerima Wako Ojiwa.

As we were waiting, one of the professors looked at me and asked if I was in the right place. He told me we are about to discuss politics and not entertainment. I presume he might have said that because of how my hair looked, and it shattered me. I couldnt help but wonder if this is what a professor can tell me; what does he tell the young women in political science in his class?

Nerima Wako Ojiwa is the executive director for Siasa Place, a youth NGO that was registered in 2015. Her experience is not unique and clearly shows the hurdles young people have to go through to get their voices heard. According to the elder generations captured by the professors views, young people should discuss entertainment and leave politics to senior citizens, an opinion which Nerima strongly disputes.

Starting Siasa Place was a very ambitious thing, and some people even laughed when they heard the name of our organisation which they thought was unique but silly. However, we chose Siasa because young people often think that politics only happens during elections, which is not necessarily true. Politics is every day, and all decisions are political and young people need to realise that. It shouldnt be that we only engage and participate during a general election or a by-election. Engagement with politics should be throughout. When I say political, it is not just campaigns but also budget cycles in counties, public participation and more. Therefore, theres a need for young people to completely look at politics differently, hence the inspiration behind our name.

Through Siasa Place, Nerima and her team focus on educating the youth on the constitution and engaging them on how to participate meaningfully on electoral processes and understanding the avenues of engagement with the government. This entails educating young people on why they need to engage in public participation and helping them understand the institutions that exist as far as governance goes and how they can engage with the government rather than complain on the outskirts.

According to Nerima, complaining or raising issues through the wrong avenues makes the voices of young people go unheard. The only way young people can make positive change is by meaningfully engaging with the right leaders.

As Siasa Place, weve had tremendous results and have made an impact. I particularly feel proud seeing young people weve worked with entering boards, getting appointments or engaging communities and the community, encouraging them to enter politics. We have a few wholl enter political leadership in the coming elections. Weve also seen impact like dispensaries being equipped and people caring about the kind of medications within these health facilities because of what the youth highlighted in Facebook Live and were able to get the attention of county governments. Weve seen sewer lines being fixed that had destroyed land, and weve seen roads being built inwards because young people complained. The proudest moment for us, however, was taking a certain matter to court. We were concerned with the presidents appointment with the National Employment Authority board chair. We felt like unemployment is a big issue



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with young people, and we needed the right people to come up with solutions.

The fact that the courts heard us and agreed with us was a huge achievement and showed that young people could take petitions and win.

*End of Reclaiming our voices: Young Kenyans' take on politics*

## Take 5 with Ngwatilo Mawiyoo

*Abigail Arunga / Friday, August 20, 2021*

Ngwatilo Mawiyoo made her debut as a writer/director and producer with her short film, *Joy's Garden* in 2021.

She received a Docubox production grant for it. The film had its World Premiere at Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) in 2021. Its lead, Melvin Alusa, won the award for Best Actor. Ngwatilo is also a respected poet and performer, the author of two poetry collections, *Blue Mothertongue* and *Dagoretti Corner*.

She has twice been shortlisted for the Brunel University African Poetry Prize and twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize. In 2016, Ngwatilo received her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia.

1. The world of applying for grants can be a bit complicated. How, as a writer and filmmaker, do you navigate that? Is there a WhatsApp group? What do you think people need to know as they apply? I'm definitely on the journey trying to learn the ins and outs of this as well. Please add me to the WhatsApp group too! What I've observed from people experiencing far more success is there's relentlessness in the searching; it also requires and rewards generosity.

Often you find things that aren't relevant to the particular area you're working in and it's great use of energy to share it with someone for whom it may be more relevant.

That positive energy ricochets back at you one way or another.

2. Tell us about your film and why you decided to make it. Where can we see it? *Joy's Garden* is a short film about a little girl who sets out to recreate her old garden when she arrives at her estranged father's bachelor pad, wrecking his comfortable home life. You hear a lot about absent or unavailable dads. Women know or are made to feel that they have to transform into motherly figures when they have children.

Others have spoken about that pressure. I wanted to see what it might look like for the most ill-equipped "cheers baba" to learn to show up for his child.

Picture the dude who has a child somewhere; he hasn't seen her for the last year. Perhaps he sends money for upkeep once in a while. That's the person the child in my story has left in the world, and he has to find it in himself to show up.

The second thing is the idea of a garden in the film also represents a type of magic, the enchantment of a child, and how she can enchant and create the world she needs, even in her dad. I wanted the film to walk that line. In the spirit of sharing opportunities, I made it after receiving a 2,500 \$ micro-production grant from Docubox East Africa Film Fund. They have these types of opportunities every so often. The film just had its world premiere at Zanzibar International Film Festival in July. It showed at the Almagro International Film Festival in Spain at the beginning of August. So it's travelling at the moment. In Nairobi, it showed at a recent Shorts, Shorts and Shots screening (by Docubox). But as the situation in the country improves, I hope to have a screening in an actual Nairobi cinema. 3. It must be exhausting to always be asked when the next volume of poetry is coming out (but your poetry is so great, we can't help it!). What made you foray into film and create in this different way? And...will there be another poetry volume? I used to do a lot of acting, so I suppose the TV and film bug bit me back then.

For some reason, though, I haven't been writing roles for myself to play. I've just been craving some different stories. If I compare my poetry and film work, I think the motivation is the same. Still, the medium allows for a different set of possibilities. It's not been easy by any means; I'm like a child all over again, learning and growing and occasionally sitting in puddles. There will be another poetry volume. I have to get better at multi-tasking. I've been working on a short collection of love poems. I was hoping to get it out by the end of the year we'll see how that goes.

4. How important were prizes and being nominated for prizes to you in your career? Are they important overall for writers? They are a double-edged sword. They exist; one makes one's peace with that, because they function as reader discovery, as a way for creatives to acknowledge each other, and as a way to distribute resources. They are also good for bragging rights - for instance, I don't mind letting you know that my lead, Melvin Alusa won the Best Actor prize at ZIFF! He also plays lead in [the new film] *MISSION TO RESCUE*. I think as long as one's identity isn't wrapped up in awards and they're not getting in the way of your impetus to create then that's fine. It's damaging when we get the idea that only "award-winning" so-and-sos are worth our time. As a Kenyan poet, there aren't many Kenyan or African awards to vie for. Does that mean Kenyan poets don't exist and aren't working and thinking in their communities? Not in the least. Perhaps the structure of the poetry industry here doesn't look like it does in markets where awards are more prevalent. What would such an award mean for readers, for prospective award winners? What would it enable or

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disable?I've appreciated the acknowledgement I've received when shortlisted or even simply published or reviewed. Sometimes it's about trying to find a piece of work for the best possible platform.

5. Is there any other film you're burning to make?I've been developing a new short film set in Ukambani about a young woman forced to heal a rift with her dead grandfather, a rift as old as she is. I'm excited about it and working with Barbara Minishi and Ivy Kiru as Director and Producer, respectively. We're hoping to secure some funding soon, and I'm excited about the idea of making a film predominantly in Kikamba. Send Kamba speaking actors and prospective actors my way!

*End of Take 5 with Ngwatilo Mawiyoo*