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# LOWER EASTERN TIMES

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Weekly e-Paper.

Opening the third eye.

# The Sixth?

THE TSEIKURU DECLARATION



Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka on Thursday convened a meeting with key opposition figures at his rural home in Tseikuru, Kitui County, in what insiders described as a crucial planning session ahead of the 2027 General Election. [Pg.2](#)



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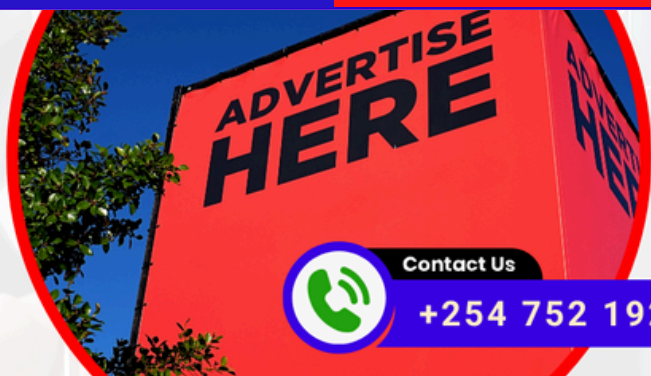
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## Wiper Leader Rallies Support in Bid for Kenya's Presidency



*Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka & Ex-DP Rigathi Gachagua in Tseikuru on Thursday. Image: HANDOUT*

Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka on Thursday hosted a major political gathering at his Muuna home in Mwingi, Kitui County, bringing together national figures and grassroots supporters in a bold step toward the 2027 presidential race.

The high-profile meeting focused on uniting the Kamba community and broader opposition forces, setting the stage for a powerful coalition to challenge the ruling Kenya Kwanza government.

Addressing a massive crowd, Kalonzo issued a stern warning against electoral malpractice and affirmed the opposition's commitment to transparency and good governance.

“We are here with a clear message: no election rigging, no betrayal of our coalition, and no compromising our children's future. We are determined to deliver a better Kenya

—with quality education and responsible leadership,” Kalonzo stated.

He challenged President William Ruto to brace for a fair contest in 2027 and warned the government against using state power to intimidate opposition leaders. Referring to internal tensions, he cautioned, “Arresting Rigathi Gachagua could ignite public outrage.”

Kalonzo revealed that the opposition would soon unveil a new coalition and stressed the urgent need to reform the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to ensure credible elections.

He also urged young people to acquire national IDs and register as voters, emphasizing the power of numbers in politics.

Backing Kalonzo, former Deputy President and DCP party leader

Rigathi Gachagua confirmed ongoing talks among opposition parties to rally behind a single presidential candidate.

“We've agreed that unity is key. The opposition must come together to defeat Kenya Kwanza. Let's be patient as we finalize our coalition,” Gachagua said. He encouraged the Kamba community to recognize their political influence, saying, “It's time to use your numbers. Show up and vote.”

Former Public Service Cabinet Secretary and National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi also threw his weight behind the opposition movement, citing corruption, human rights abuses, and government interference with institutions like the Attorney General's office.

DAP-K leader Eugene Wamalwa echoed these sentiments and made a direct appeal to ODM leader Raila Odinga to support Kalonzo's 2027 presidential run.

“Kalonzo stood by you in three elections. It's time to return the favor. Stealing an election is playing with fire,” Wamalwa cautioned.

He also praised Ukambani governors, senators, and MPs for standing firmly with Kalonzo and the Wiper Party. Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti declared that the Kamba community had made a collective decision to support Kalonzo's presidential bid.

The Tseikuru gathering marked a turning point for the opposition, signaling the beginning of an organized and determined push to unseat the Kenya Kwanza administration—potentially setting Kalonzo on the path to becoming Kenya's sixth president.

## Aga Khan Hospital Partners with SHA to Offer Free Surgeries.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale. IMAGE/MOH

Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi has entered into a partnership with the Social Health Authority (SHA) to provide complex medical procedures—such as kidney transplants and heart surgeries—at no cost to patients.

The agreement was signed on Wednesday during a ceremony at Aga Khan University's Nairobi campus by Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and the hospital's CEO, with Vice Chancellor Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin in attendance.

Under the deal, SHA will evaluate and approve patients eligible for specialized care at the hospital. Each approved patient will be fully covered up to Sh700,000, which includes both the procedure and post-operative treatment, as outlined in the national healthcare package.

SHA committed to ensuring transparency in patient selection and timely coordination with the hospital for efficient service delivery.

Aga Khan University Hospital, on its part, will provide quality surgical care in line with national clinical standards, maintain comprehensive patient records, and adhere to SHA's invoicing and reporting guidelines. Follow-up and aftercare will also be included.

The hospital will further submit regular updates to SHA, including treatment outcomes and other relevant data.

“This collaboration furthers our goal of Universal Health Coverage by making critical healthcare services accessible to all Kenyans, regardless of income,” said CS Duale. “By working with institutions like Aga Khan and leveraging programs such as the Patient Welfare Program, we are improving access to life-saving care for vulnerable populations.”

The initiative will also benefit from AKUH's Patient Welfare Program, which provides revolving financial aid to patients who can't -

afford specialized treatment—reflecting the hospital's ongoing commitment to health equity and social responsibility.

### World Bank: Workers Under Sh32K Shouldn't Pay SHIF, Housing Levy

The World Bank is urging the Kenyan government to exempt employees earning less than Sh32,333 per month from contributing to the housing levy and the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

The proposal aims to ease the financial pressure on low-income earners by increasing their disposable income.

According to the World Bank, these deductions have proven unpopular, even though President William Ruto has strongly supported them as part of his agenda to expand access to affordable housing and universal healthcare.

The levies have reduced workers' net salaries and raised employer wage bills, as businesses have been required since June 2023 to match the 1.5 percent housing levy on workers' salaries.

In light of growing public dissatisfaction over increased taxation, the World Bank suggests that lower-income earners should be excluded from these specific deductions.

## Maanzo: Ruto Should Clear Gen Z Hospital Bills to Prove His Apology is Sincere.



**Makueni Senator Dan Maanzo. IMAGE/FILE**

Makueni Senator Dan Maanzo has challenged President William Ruto to take tangible action if his apology to the youth is truly heartfelt.

Maanzo said Ruto should cover the medical expenses of young people injured during the 2024 anti-tax demonstrations to demonstrate genuine remorse.

Speaking on Citizen TV on Thursday, Maanzo dismissed the president's remarks during Wednesday's national prayer breakfast as insufficient, arguing that many young protestors were either left with life-altering injuries, remain unaccounted for, or lost their lives—without any support from the state.

“There are about 600 bodies of young people at City Mortuary linked to that period. At Kenyatta Hospital, some are suffering from spinal injuries and gunshot wounds. These are the people the president should be addressing directly,” he said.

Maanzo added that, rather than

proceeding with his development tour in Homa Bay, President Ruto should have instead visited victims at Kenyatta Hospital and families at City Mortuary, offered them an apology in person, and mobilised government resources to help them.

He also urged the president to meet the family of Rex Masai—one of the young men allegedly killed by police during the protests—and engage with others who lost their loved ones.

“If the apology is to be meaningful, it must go further than words,” Maanzo insisted. “He should reach out personally, especially to those still grieving, and offer compensation as a step towards reconciliation.”

President Ruto's apology, made as part of his message that Kenya is on a path of renewal, was directed at the youth—who have had a tense relationship with his administration since the 2024 protests.

“To our children, if there were any missteps, we apologize. We want to build a relationship that will strengthen our nation,” Ruto said.

However, Maanzo noted that many incidents of violence and assault during the 2024 protests remain unresolved, making the apology feel incomplete without further action.

## Ruto's Apology to Gen Zs Draws Mixed Reactions.

Political leaders are divided over President William Ruto's public apology to Kenya's Gen Z, following the 2024 anti-government protests in which the youth clashed with authorities.

On Wednesday, May 28, 2025, the President extended an olive branch by asking the youth for forgiveness—a move widely seen as strategic as the country heads toward the 2027 general election, where young voters are expected to form the majority.

During a national prayer breakfast at Safari Park Hotel, Ruto stressed the value of national cohesion, saying, “Where there is unity, God commands a blessing.”

## Celebrated Works That Defined Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's Literary Legacy.



**Prof Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. IMAGE/COURTESY**

Kenyan literary icon, academic, and activist Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o passed away on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, with his family describing his life as one well-lived and full of purpose.

Widely regarded as Kenya's most significant author and one of Africa's foremost literary figures, Ngũgĩ produced a vast body of work—ranging from novels and plays to essays and memoirs—that delved into the complexities of colonialism, independence, culture, and language in African societies.

Born in Limuru in 1938, Ngũgĩ gained international acclaim for his unflinching critique of colonial and post-independence systems.

His decision to write in Gikuyu rather than English was a defining moment in his career, signaling a firm commitment to cultural authenticity and resistance against linguistic imperialism.

### Early Breakthrough and Themes

Ngũgĩ's literary journey began with *Weep Not, Child* (1964), the first major English-language novel by an East African writer. Set during the Mau Mau uprising, the story follows a young boy, Njoroge, whose aspirations are shattered by the brutality of British rule.

The novel introduced core themes Ngũgĩ would explore throughout his career: colonial oppression, cultural conflict, and the transformative power of education. His second novel, *The River Between* (1965), focused on two villages divided over the introduction of Christianity. Through the character of Waiyaki, who seeks to bridge the divide, Ngũgĩ examined the challenges of leadership and the tension between modernity and tradition.

*Petals of Blood* (1977) marked a turning point in his critique of post-independence Kenya. Centered on the lives of four people implicated in a fire in a fictional town, the novel explores how the ideals of liberation were undermined by greed, corruption, and inequality.

The book was banned by the government for its scathing political commentary.

### Imprisonment and Shift to Gikuyu

In 1977, Ngũgĩ's political engagement reached a peak when he co-wrote *Ngaahika Ndeenda* (*I Will Marry When I Want*) in Gikuyu. Staged with local villagers, the play exposed social injustices and drew the attention—and wrath—of the Kenyan government. He was arrested and held without trial for a year.

During his imprisonment, Ngũgĩ made a radical decision to abandon writing in English altogether. He wrote *Devil on the Cross* in Gikuyu on prison-issued toilet paper. His memoir *Detained: A Writer's Prison Diary* (1981) reflects on this time and his evolving understanding of language as a form of resistance.

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## Celebrated Works That Defined Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's Literary Legacy.

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### Exile and Continued Impact

After enduring continued state harassment, Ngũgĩ left Kenya in the early 1980s and settled in the United States, where he continued his work as a writer and professor.

One of his key novels during exile was *Matigari* (1986), the tale of a revolutionary who returns to a still-oppressed homeland. Like some of his earlier works, it was banned in Kenya due to its political message.

His autobiographical works, such as *Dreams in a Time of War* (2010) and *In the House of the Interpreter* (2012), offered rich insights into his early life under colonial rule and his education in a British missionary school.

In 2020, Ngũgĩ was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize for *The Perfect Nine*, an epic retelling of the Gikuyu creation story, written in his native language and self-translated into English.

### Championing African Languages

Ngũgĩ's most enduring contribution to literature may well be his fierce defense of African languages.

In seminal works like *Decolonising the Mind* (1986), he argued that language plays a central role in -



the struggle against colonial domination, and that African writers must embrace their indigenous tongues to reclaim their identity and truthfully represent their communities.

Throughout his life, Ngũgĩ garnered global recognition, prestigious awards, and academic honors. But for readers across Africa, his real legacy lies in his fearless storytelling, cultural pride, and unwavering belief in the power of words to inspire change.

## Ruto's Apology to Gen Zs Draws Mixed Reactions.

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He addressed the youth directly, saying, "To our children, if we have made any missteps, we apologise."

Former West Pokot Senator Samwel Poghisio, speaking on

Citizen TV the next day, praised the President's gesture, calling it a sign of humility.

"It takes courage to say sorry publicly. If someone wrongs you, apologizes, and then repeats the same mistake, that would suggest insincerity. But for now, we should give him the benefit of the doubt," Poghisio said.

In contrast, Makeni Senator Dan Maanzo said words alone are not enough. He urged the President to back his apology with meaningful actions, such as initiating a reconciliation process and compensating victims.

"If the President genuinely regrets what happened, he should visit Kenyatta Hospital, meet the injured youth personally, apologise, and clear their medical bills," Maanzo said on the same program.

He added that Ruto should take the apology further by visiting not just hospitals but also the families of those who died during the demonstrations.

Meanwhile, Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah dismissed the President's apology altogether. Posting on X (formerly Twitter), he stated that the youth were unlikely to accept it.

"They expect us to forgive and forget—we are doing neither. The apology is not accepted," Omtatah wrote.



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## Ford Recalls Nearly 1.1 Million Vehicles Over Rearview Camera Software Glitch.



Ford Motor Company is recalling close to 1.1 million vehicles in the U.S. due to a software malfunction that may prevent rearview cameras from displaying images, posing a heightened risk of accidents.

The recall affects select models from 2021 to 2024, including the Bronco, F-150, and Edge, as well as the 2023-2024 Escape, Corsair, and F-series trucks from F-250 to F-600.

Other impacted models include the 2022-2024 Expedition, 2022-2025 Transit, 2021-2023 Mach-E, Lincoln Nautilus, 2024 Ranger and Mustang, and the 2022-2024 Navigator, according to a report Ford submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on Wednesday.

NHTSA said the issue could cause the rear camera feed to freeze, delay, or fail to display entirely. Ford has linked the issue to a minor crash that caused property damage.

The automaker began investigating after NHTSA raised concerns in January about over 30 complaints related to F-150 camera failures from model years 2021-2023.

In April, Ford engineers were able to replicate the malfunction and identified specific software versions as the root cause.

To fix the problem, Ford plans to update the vehicle software remotely through over-the-air updates. The affected software controls the vehicle's infotainment system, including apps and navigation displays.

Owners will receive initial notifications about the defect by June 16, followed by a second notice when the fix becomes available later in the year.

Ford also issued two separate recalls in April covering around 289,000

vehicles for similar camera problems, in which rearview cameras will be replaced. Previously, in November, Ford agreed to pay a \$165 million civil fine after an NHTSA probe found the company delayed recalling vehicles with faulty rear cameras.

That investigation began in August 2021 after Ford's initial 2020 recall of 620,000 vehicles, which was later expanded in 2022 and again in March 2025 to include another 24,000 vehicles.

### Safaricom to Invest Sh66 Billion in East Africa AI Push

Safaricom will invest Sh66 billion over the next three years to expand artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure across East Africa. The plan focuses on digital systems, tech partnerships, and AI skills development.

Key sectors set to benefit include healthcare, agriculture, education, and finance.

"This investment will drive innovation and boost economic growth," said Chief Enterprise Business Officer Cynthia Kropac at the Connected Africa Summit.

Safaricom has already trained 5,000 employees in AI basics and is pushing for Africa to shift from simply using AI to actively developing it.