



NKOSI SIKELEL' IAFRICA: FROM A CHILD OF KENYA TO A SON OF AFRICA

“Welcome to ARTICLE 19,” she said inviting me in to the warm tastily furnished office. “I am Claudia Motswane. I am the office manager.”

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P. 12. Confidence should not only be in our imaginations but it should also be manifested in our actions. We should be able to identify its benefits and appreciate them.

“The plan also aims at ensuring that public sector institutions adopt a value chain development framework by properly defining their strategic directions and making appropriate decisions on resource allocation towards implementation of priority policies and programmes,” said Jabane.



ICT Secretary of Administration Mohammed Jabane

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AFYA YANGU

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Azimio Ditches Parliamentary Bipartisan Talks, Issues Fresh Demands

By: Margaret Kalekye



Opposition leader Raila Odinga was flanked by co-principals Kalonzo Musyoka and Martha Karua .

Worth Noting:

- The opposition leader Raila Odinga had earlier indicated that the bipartisan talks should be similar to those held by the late UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2008.
- “Any reasonable observer of happenings in the last few weeks will agree with us that Kenya Kwanza has no intention whatsoever to hold any dialogue at all, let alone one that is honest, transparent and bipartisan. They have exhibited absolute bad faith from the beginning” the Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka said.

Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition has announced it will not take part in proposed parliamentary bi-partisan talks.

In a statement read by Kalonzo Musyoka in Nairobi on Tuesday, the coalition which accused Kenya Kwanza of ‘bad faith’ said a purely parliamentary process may not fully achieve the intended objectives.

Instead, the Raila Odinga-led coalition which gave varied reasons for their last-minute decision is rooting for an extra-parliamentary dialogue. The unanimous resolution was en-

dorsed during a meeting held in the morning bringing together, the leadership of the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition Party including those from the houses of Parliament is not a surprise.

The opposition leader Raila Odinga had earlier indicated that the bipartisan talks should be similar to those held by the late UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2008.

“Any reasonable observer of happenings in the last few weeks will agree with us that Kenya Kwanza has no intention whatsoever to hold

any dialogue at all, let alone one that is honest, transparent and bipartisan. They have exhibited absolute bad faith from the beginning” the Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka said.

He further accused President William Ruto side of dictating the process alleging that there was a plan to set up a joint select committee in Parliament.

“Last evening, we learned of a motion drafted by Kenya Kwanza leadership allegedly aimed at setting up a joint selection, the motion is in absolute bad faith because we have

insisted on an extra-parliamentary process, we will therefore not participate in any such parliamentary process,” he said.

He added that the motion is disguised as a product of bipartisanship when in fact the leadership of Azimio in Parliament was neither aware nor consulted in its drafting.

“The motion purports to name members of the Minority Party to the so-called select committee without any reference to the Minority leadership in violation of the Standing Orders of both houses,” he said.

The coalition maintained it remains committed to an extra-parliamentary dialogue that is honest, transparent, meaningful and bipartisan in conception and execution.

“We have instructed the Chairperson of our team to formally invite the Kenya Kwanza team for a meeting to set the ground rules for the talks” said Kalonzo.

The coalition which has vowed to resume its weekly protests after Ramadhan wants the government to clear the hospital bills of all those who were injured during the protests that were put on hold to pave way for talks.

“Our issues remain what we said they are: reduction in cost of unga, fuel, electricity and school fees; opening & audit of IEBC servers; bipartisan reform and reconstitution of IEBC, reinstatement of the four IEBC commissioners, and end to the buying of MPs which threatens multiparty democracy” Kalonzo said.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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Laikipia Butcheries On The Spot Over Sale Of Uninspected Meat

By: Muturi Mwangi

@themkenyatimes

Authorities in Laikipia County have launched investigations into sale of uninspected meat in local trading centres.

This follows public outcry over theft of sheep and goats from their farms.

Laikipia County Commissioner Joseph Kanyiri said unscrupulous traders were taking advantage of the cheaply available stolen livestock to make huge profit margin without regard of public health guidelines.

“It is believed that those who steal livestock, slaughter and stock in local butcherries without subjecting the product for mandatory inspection, thereby exposing members of the public to the risk of contracting diseases. This must stop,” warned Kanyiri.

He noted that those found with unstamped meat in their butcherries, will be charged in a court of law.

“We will be inspecting slaughter houses to ascertain the stamp from the meat inspectors. If not stamped, the seller will have a case to answer,” said Kanyiri.

The incident comes after irate residents from Matanya village, Laikipia central sub county over the weekend, set ablaze a Toyota Probox suspected to have been involved in the transportation of the missing livestock.

During the incident, Commissioner Kanyiri told journalists that the suspects reportedly threw the stolen livestock through the windows of their vehicle while escaping the wrath of the angry mob who were baying for their blood. However, administrator cautioned residents against taking law into their own hands and let the police handle the matter.

The County Commissioner said that 45 sheep belonging to Martha Gathinji from Marura sub-location were also stolen on the wee hours of Sunday morning and after the police search, eight lambs were recovered



Joseph Kanyiri.

at Mountex along Nanyuki River.

This comes barely two weeks after a Nanyuki-based butchery owner was arrested after 43 suspected stolen sheep were found at his homestead

at Ruai village on the outskirts of Nanyuki town.

Kanyiri said a racket involving theft of livestock and sale of uninspected meat within Nanyuki town has been

going on for a while.

He further warned against transportation of livestock at night in Laikipia County.

Unga Prices To Drop Further From Ksh155, President Assures

By: Margaret Kalekye

The Government will intensify the efforts to bring down the cost of food in the country.

The Cabinet appreciated the fact that the government’s interventions have started to bear fruit, with the prices of basic commodities reducing significantly.

At the Cabinet meeting held Tuesday at State House, Nairobi, President William Ruto said: “Cabinet notes with satisfaction that the interventions have brought down the price of maize meal to an average of Sh155 from a high of Sh230.”

The meeting was optimistic that food prices will continue dipping as a result of the ongoing rains and the arrival of imported maize in the country last week.

The meeting reaffirmed the government’s policy of subsidising production and not consumption, and lauded the continued provision of affordable farm inputs, including subsidised fertiliser, across the country.

With enhanced production coupled with the government’s strategic policy measures, the Cabinet pointed out that Kenya will soon become self-sufficient in food.

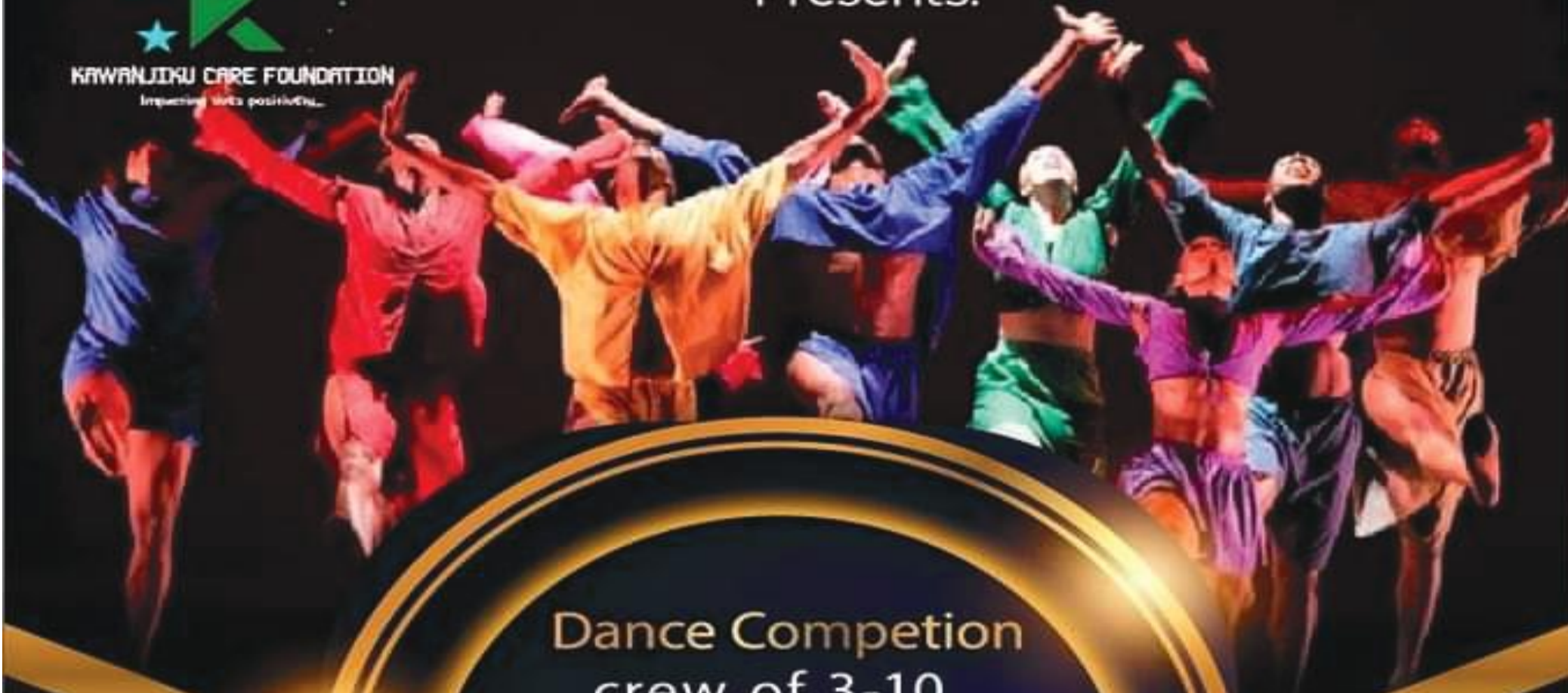
Other issues that the Cabinet considered included the ratification of the resolutions of the 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, approval of the Fisheries Policy and the adoption of the resolutions of the East African Community Council of Ministers that seeks to enhance integration in the region.



Maize meal brands .



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Residents Propose Reintroduction Of NYS Training For Varsity Students

By: Ann Salaton
@themkenyatimes

Residents of Narok County want students set to join local Universities to undergo National Youth Service (NYS) training to inculcate discipline and patriotism at the institutions of higher learning.

The proposal was made to the NYS reforms task force meeting held at the Narok North Youth Empowerment Hall where speakers recommended the reintroduction of the mandatory enlistment to the service to help the young people mature emotionally, psychologically, socially and physically before resuming their classwork.

Narok Principal Chief Moses Dapash said indiscipline cases reported from tertiary institutions were rampant and could be curbed if the learners first underwent the NYS training.

“In the 1990’s, the students would pass through NYS colleges for training before they joined universities. This made the students resilient in the many challenges they face in their education hence produced high quality graduates,” he said.

The Principal Chief proposed the establishment of NYS colleges in all the regions in the country to avoid congestion in the few institutions that are already existing.

The Narok Boda Boda Chairman Lemayian Punyua recommended an NYS Training Center to be built in Narok County citing the expansive land and high levels of illiteracy.

Punyua said the presence of NYS training institutions in every region



Some of the participants

Worth Noting:

- The Principal Chief proposed the establishment of NYS colleges in all the regions in the country to avoid congestion in the few institutions that are already existing.
- The Narok Boda Boda Chairman Lemayian Punyua recommended an NYS Training Center to be built in Narok County citing the expansive land and high levels of illiteracy.
- Punyua said the presence of NYS training institutions in every region will create job opportunities for many young people and more youths will benefit from the training.

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Narok Peace Chairman Joseph Kileu stressed the need of youths who successfully complete the NYS training to be absorbed in the job markets so that they can get an opportunity of building the nation.

He reiterated that many NYS graduates end up engaging in criminal activities like drug abuse and theft because of frustrations after the six months training.

Narok Persons with Disability Chairman Paul Ole Sophia asked the government to admit physically

challenged persons to NYS training institutions as they too have unique talents.

Ole Sophia also recommended for the entry point to NYS colleges to be lowered from a D plain to below E so as to accommodate all youths who did not have an opportunity of completing school.

The task force was led by former Interior Secretary Moffat Kangi and Elizabeth Mueni who promised to present the views of the people in their final recommendations.

In March this year, President Dr. William Ruto extended the term of the Police Reforms taskforce by two

months to include NYS.

The taskforce is mandated to identify the legal, policy, administrative, institutional and operational constraints on effective service delivery by the National Police Service (NPS) and Kenya Prisons Service (KPS) to review and recommend improvement of the terms and conditions of service.

The taskforce is led by former Chief Justice David Maraga. Others are John Ole Moyaki, Ibrahim Guyo, Richard Kirundi and Rosaline Odede.

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Karumo Beats Odd To Scoop Award

By: Dickson Mwiti
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- “We are very glad that we emerged the best in the country in terms of performance contracting which incorporates various issues. We are not taking this for granted and we can only attribute it to teamwork, dedication and above all to God,” said Ms Kanyua.
- She explained that in performance contracting, an institution is expected to set targets at the beginning of a financial year and at the end of the period, it is rated on the basis of whether it managed to achieve the set targets.
- “In our case for instance, we achieved almost all the targets we had set in the year 2021/2022 starting with academic performance which we had set at 67 per cent but surpassed this to score 73 per cent,” said Ms Kanyua.



Karumo TTI Principal Ms Florah Kanyua addressing journalists.

Little known Karumo Technical Training Institute was named the best performing Tertiary Institution in the country going by the just released ratings for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Tacked in the interior of the semi-arid Tigania West sub-county in Meru County, the institution beat odds to scoop the coveted price from a list of at least 135 other institutions.

The awarding ceremony took place during the release of the report on Evaluation of the Performance of Ministries, State Corporations and Tertiary Institutions for the 2021/2022 Financial Year presided by President William Ruto at KICC on Tuesday last week.

This, according to the institution's Principal who spoke during an event to celebrate the win, was not a mean achievement for the young institute which held its inaugural graduation ceremony two months ago.

Speaking to journalists, the elated Principal said the main secret behind the remarkable performance was teamwork and dedication among all the members of staff in the institution.

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“In our case for instance, we achieved almost all the targets we had set in the year 2021/2022 starting with academic performance which we had set at 67 per cent but surpassed this to score 73 per cent,” said Ms Kanyua.

She added that they had also said that they will construct some classes which they did, as well as committing to giving internship opportunities to young people among other targets.

The institution's overall performance stood at a mean score of 78 per cent.

“The key thing is that once we set the targets, we sensitise all the staff

members on the same and so each of them is aware of what is expected of us to achieve at the end of the year.

We have seen this work because every trainer owns the exercise and we are attributing this to strong teamwork,” said Ms Kanyua.

She added that their qualified trainers who understand what is expected of them also set their individual targets which are usually higher than what they set in the performance contracting and this has helped them to meet their overall targets easily.

Location of the institution in a rural area, she added, is a plus to the institution as it gives learners a conducive environment for their studies. “Unlike in the urban areas, this helps our students concentrate on their studies because once you have lesser obstructions you are able to perform well in classwork,” said Ms Kanyua

adding that a secure environment, as well as disciplined students were also factors that contributed to their win of the award.

She added: “We also participate in co-curricular activities meaning that the institution is holistic which provides opportunities for those who perfect in these activities.”

Nevertheless, the institution has been facing challenges including lack of enough learning facilities as well as infrastructure, and inadequate water.

“Considering that our institution is a day school, we have no hostels despite having students from far flung areas. As a result, the students rent houses from outside and with the high demand the rent fee is also high. This forces the students to look for houses as far as six kilometers from the institution,” said Ms Kanyua.

She is requesting the residents to construct more houses to accommodate the increasing student population.

“I appreciate them since they have really tried to take up that initiative but I am encouraging them to do more,” she said.

She added that the institution has only 30 trainers employed by the public service commission with more than 70 others being under the board of governors which translates to a huge wage bill for the growing institution.

“If we have the 70 trainers absorbed by the government, we would channel the money we use to pay them to other development projects,” said Ms Kanyua.

She encouraged parents to take their children to such institutions regardless of the grade they scored in their secondary school examinations adding that they will end up being molded to important people in future.



Judiciary Unveils Mentorship Program For Advocates

By: Elizabeth Mugo
 @themtkenyatimes

The Judiciary in partnership with the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has launched a mentorship program to prepare budding lawyers into the mainstream profession.

The Pilot program is set to run for one year, during which the assessment will be conducted for effectiveness where those undertaking the initiative are expected to pay an honorarium of Ksh 30,000.

Speaking in Nairobi during the launch of the Young Advocates programme, Chief Justice (CJ) Martha Koome stated that mentorship program will cascade to budding advocates.

She said the program which will contain two components in which the first batch would be designed and executed by the judiciary and the LSK.

Koome added that the program was

structured to ensure that young advocates shall practice pro bono work through a pro bono legal age scheme while the second component shall address the skills and knowledge gaps in the profession.

The CJ expressed optimism that the program was tailored to tip upcoming advocates to gain much needed experience in the profession.

“We will be relying on senior counsel to mentor young lawyers that is why I urge legal stakeholders to support the initiative in nurturing the next generation of legal practitioners” she said.

Koome further adds “Investment in our future is a testament of our commitment to social justice.”

The president of the Law Society of Kenya, Eric Theuri underscored the challenges facing the profession occasioned by poor remunerations and encouraged the judiciary to intensify such initiatives to upgrade the skills of budding practitioners.

He said “the efficiency of the judiciary largely relied on the bar,” and



Chief Justice Martha Koome.

challenged young advocates to embrace technological changes to cope with ever changing dynamics of globalization.

Senior Council Philip Murgor while backing the initiative however raised concern over the large numbers of graduates’ lawyers flooding the mar-

ket without jobs.

Communications Authority, ICT Authority Sign Pact For Last Mile Fiber Connectivity To 19 Counties

By: Capital Correspondent

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) and the ICT Authority (ICTA) on Monday signed an agreement on the deployment of last mile fibre optic cable connectivity across 19 unserved and underserved Counties.

The Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA) will see the CA support the deployment of fibre in the identified Counties at a cost of KSh. 5 billion through the Universal Service Fund (USF). This move is in line with the USF objective of facilitating roll out of infrastructure and communications services in unserved and underserved areas.

The project supports the Government Digital Transformation Agenda (GoDTA) on the deployment of 100,000 kilometres of fibre, as part of efforts to enhance access to broadband across the country. The Coun-

ties targeted in this project include Turkana, West Pokot, Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Samburu, Marsabit, Mandera, Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, Kitui, Laikipia, Isiolo, Garissa, Wajir, Kitui, Makeni, Kajiado and Narok.

“What we are doing today is phenomenal and will greatly transform the country in the years to come,” said CA Director General Mr. Ezra Chiloba at the signing ceremony.

ICTA Chief Executive Officer Stanley Kamanguya hailed the partnership with CA which will go a long way in the attainment of the digital transformation agenda.

“It is an interesting time to begin the 100,000 kilometre journey,” he observed.

The Project shall be implemented within a maximum period of three (3) years. The agreement gives effect the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two institutions in December 2022.



CA Director General Mr. Ezra Chiloba (Right).

Prayerful Intercession



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

will share her experienced injustices, cruelties, and disappointments. You will experience her upsets, insecurities, and despairs. But, of course, you will also know an index of joys beyond the range of the unloving. You will ride through some dark valleys, but you will also soar among the stars!

On the evening Christ gave Himself up for us, John 17 tells us, He prayed in succession for Himself, for His twelve disciples, and for all of us who would later believe. When He finished praying for His future bride, He went to the cross. Then came HIS DEATH, HIS RESURRECTION, HIS ASCENSION, AND HIS ENTHRONEMENT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER, where He constantly makes intercession for us. Thus we understand that giving ourselves for our brides involves prayerful intercession.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, NOW AND FOREVER: AMEN.

References:

The Living Bible
Discipline of a Godly Man(Book

When Christ “gave himself up” for us, He not only died, He suffered. And His suffering was not only the cross, but it was and is suffering which comes from identification with His bride, the Church. This is why Saul, who was fanatically persecuting the Church, suddenly heard Jesus cry, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” (Acts 9:4). Christ suffers with His bride, and husbands ought to suffer with and for theirs.

Men, when you properly hitch your life to another, you are in for a wild ride with huge ups and downs. Just as when you really love God you will undergo difficulties foreign to an unloving heart, so it is in marriage. You



by Kent Hughes)
Evangelist Eric Musa:
(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written;

“NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

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Raila's Push For Opening Of Election Servers An Excercise In Futility



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leaders.

Worth Noting:

- Soon after the IEBC national returning officer declared the final results and the winner, Raila commenced the legal process of challenging the outcome.
- In a petition he filed at the Supreme Court of Kenya, he failed to prove claims that he had won this election but he was rigged out in a broad light.
- So, one would expect him to heed their call. Shelve the demand for opening of servers and instead focus on piling pressure on Kenya Kwanza government to address three other main issues; High cost of living; one man, one vote, one shilling and Minimum Guaranteed Return.
- Allow me to say this. I have been listening the views of a cross section of Kenyans.

A fortnight ago, I read a story featured by one of the mainstream newspapers (read The Standard) that focused on the push by the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga to have the 2022 presidential election servers opened and subjected to forensic audit.

The big question here stood as: Does Raila stand any chance of overturning the election's outcome that saw Dr William Ruto declared as the winner?

The story had been built from the viewpoints of a cross section of legal and electoral experts.

Most of them had concurred. Raila was engaging in a futile exercise and hence wasting his time and energy.

He cannot reverse the outcome even if in an unlikely scenario it emerges he had won the elections.

President William Ruto will serve his entire term of five years.

In justifying and reaffirming their position, the experts, who had been interviewed separately, asserted.

Soon after the IEBC national returning officer declared the final results and the winner, Raila commenced the legal process of challenging the outcome.

In a petition he filed at the Supreme

Court of Kenya, he failed to prove claims that he had won this election but he was rigged out in a broad light.

He had presented to the court voluminous documents that were ferried by a lorry and it turned out none of them passed the test of the law.

After a thorough scrutiny, it was discovered some of the documents had misleading information and others contained data of previous elections.

The judges were closely monitoring these developments and captured everything into their laptops.

If a lawyer for any of the parties to the case made an argument that was not clear, they would immediately seek clarifications.

So, the bench had already formed their opinion by the time the hearing ended.

Come the day of judgement, the judges in unanimous decision ruled: The Azimio petition had been built from a cocktail of propaganda, rumors, half-truth, forgeries and perjury. Consequently, they dismissed all the Azimio prayers terming them as 'hot-air' and upheld Dr William Ruto's victory.

As Raila prepared to file the petition, he had assured his supporters that Azimio will respect The Su-

preme Court final verdict.

Well, this is not the first that Raila would shift the goalposts after he failed to have his way.

He had made similar moves after losing the elections of 2007, 2013 and 2017 respectively.

In the latter two polls, his petitions were again dismissed.

If you read and analyse all these judgements, there is a common thread. The judges of the apex court cited the same grounds.

Back to the legal experts, their opinions were guided by the law and constitution.

So, one would expect him to heed their call. Shelve the demand for opening of servers and instead focus on piling pressure on Kenya Kwanza government to address three other main issues; High cost of living; one man, one vote, one shilling and Minimum Guaranteed Return.

Allow me to say this. I have been listening the views of a cross section of Kenyans.

They aver that Raila is surrounded by highly qualified lawyers and so he fully understands the law.

But listening to him, he sounds hell-bent on using extra-legal and extra-constitutional means to install himself as the president.

He had tried this before but his bid to stage a civilian coup would not bore the fruits.

Why does he think he can succeed this time? My unsolicited tip to him: If you are planning this, don't dare.

President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua are a no-nonsense, tough and hardened leaders.

You cannot compare them with Presidents Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

So, they cannot allow you to use unconstitutional means to topple their government.

For now, Raila has only one option: Accept election defeat and move on. President Ruto has been rallying you to support his proposal for the creation of the Office of Official Leader of Opposition.

I urge you to rethink your position and cede hardline stand.

If created, you will automatically become the pioneer holder of this office. This will give an opportunity to champion the course of Wanjiku (ordinary Kenyans) inside and outside parliament.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a writer and political analyst based in Nairobi

Boosting Confidence While Speaking To Public

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- •
- While speaking to public confidence should be taken with seriousness as it affects the quality of your speech, the way audience perceives you in their minds, see you in their eyes and hear you in their ears.
- Knowing that you are conversant with topic of discussion, pronunciation, volume and tone gives you sufficient confidence to comfortable stand in front of people and make your presentation.
- Your body posture may help you gain and portray confidence like leaning back in the chair and having your hands and legs stretched apart while standing. These postures also help to increase the levels of testosterone boosting your confidence and decrease cortisol which minimizes nervousness.

Confidence should not only be in our imaginations but it should also be manifested in our actions. We should be able to identify its benefits and appreciate them.

When armed with confidence especially while making a public speech you attract the attention of your audience and appear truthful in the subject that you are discussing.

While speaking to public confidence should be taken with seriousness as it affects the quality of your speech, the way audience perceives you in their minds, see you in their eyes and hear you in their ears.

Confidence promotes positive attitude and happy mood.

Lucky enough all of us have confidence within us, all we need is to build it up and strengthen it so no one should complain lack of it.

A good public speaker should know how best to use clauses to create patterns

Some ways that you can use to show confidence while speaking include the following.

Groom well

Wear presentable clothing depending on the occasion.

Thinking that you are smart removes all doubts from your mind and brings comfort to you.

Dressing speaks for itself, shows how organized you are, how bright, dull and confidential you are.

Regular Practicing

Prior testing to check your ability to speak in public helps you to identify areas which need further tuning.

As the idiom says practice makes perfect, repetition of an activity results to proficiency.

Through regular practicing you will not only gain confidence but also test volume and clarity of your speech.

Practicing will also help you to counter check the correct pronunciation of various words in your speech. Practicing what to talk assist you to familiarize with the contents of your speech.

You may record your speech and later on listen to it to verify that all aspects of your speech are up to required standards.

Knowing that you are conversant with topic of discussion, pronunciation, volume and tone gives you sufficient confidence to comfortable stand in front of people and make your presentation.



Moderate the pace of your speech

Not talking at too fast or too slow pace helps your audience to hear you clearly and with no strain.

Too fast pace in your speech will lead to your audience missing some parts of your speech.

Speaking at a very slow pace will bore your audience and make some of them drowsy.

Sign language

In front of audience nonverbal language is as important as verbal communication.

Some of the nonverbal signs which portray confidence are initiating interactions with your audience, good eye contact, smart dressing, effective gestures and good tone.

A lot of physical movements when making speech shows that you have a lot of space and your levels of confidence are high.'

Holding your head up high and moving your shoulders makes you look confident and improves your voice

Nodding at the response of you audience shows that you are confident, you can hear your audience feedback and you are well connected to them.

Standing upright help you to take deep breath and improve your voice which boosts your confidence levels.

Your body posture may help you gain and portray confidence like leaning back in the chair and having your hands and legs stretched apart while standing. These postures also help to increase the levels of testos-

terone boosting your confidence and decrease cortisol which minimizes nervousness.

Use of persuasive terms instead of doubtful language

When public speaking you should show direction with firmness instead of expressing doubt and gaps in your speech.

This will instill confidence in the mind of your audience

In a presentation, you should not keep on blaming yourself and regretting rather you need to show confidence and the best direction to take.

Keep hydrated

Regular consumption of beverages for speakers helps in moisturizing and soothing the vocal cords.

Good levels of hydration will help you maintain proper health and feel more comfortable.

Pausing during the speech

Pausing between major parts of your speech helps audience to process and digest the information.

The speaker should observe a silence between major points.

The speech should be divided into the head, main body and conclusion. The main body should further be subdivided into main points.

Pauses also show confidence of the speaker because he or she does not fear forgetting some parts during the speech.

Asking a question then keeping si-

lence allows the audience to think.

Each time you pause during a speech you catch the attention of your audience as they try to figure out what have happened for you to pause and eagerly wait to see and hear what next.

While opening a presentation a pause of 5-10 seconds is a great way of breaking the preoccupation of audience and drawing their attention towards what you are going to teach them.

Pausing during a speech helps in controlling your speech.

Include smile in your speech

Smile during the speech brings warmth and openness

It shows friendliness and signifies approachability.

It is well known that smile is contagious so if you smile the audience will smile back at you creating a positive mood.

Expression of thankfulness

When the speaker appreciates the audience, they too reciprocate and a feel happy mood is created. The traffic becomes two way hence the speaker's morale and confidence are boosted.

Kakuzi Avocado Harvest And Exports Are Set For Mid-Next Month To Guarantee Quality



Kakuzi PLC Quality Control Inspector Esther Nyambura Mwaura preparing an avocado for a maturity test.

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Listed superfoods grower Kakuzi Plc Hass Avocado harvests and exports to China and European markets will only commence mid-next month as part of a quality assurance commitment, the firm has confirmed.

The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), through its Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD), announced that the 2023 avocado harvesting season officially opened on March 24th, but cautioned growers against immature fruit harvesting.

To maintain superior quality standards, Kakuzi Plc Managing Director Chris Flowers said recent maturity tests have confirmed that the firm's current crop grown at its Makuyu, Murang'a County Orchards are yet to attain the necessary maturity and related quality standards for international export.

The firm, he added, is also providing free maturity test services for smallholder farmers to ensure that only avocados with a minimum dry matter standard of 24% are harvested. Harvesting and exporting immature fruit, Mr Flowers said, is detrimental to our national avocado

development initiatives as it will erode our brand value and positioning in an international market featuring quality-conscious countries such as Colombia, Chile and Peru.

"Maturity testing has been ongoing with the important parameters of dry matter content being closely monitored on our orchards and affiliated smallholder farmers. Whilst maturity can vary from growing region to growing region at Kakuzi, the minimum dry matter we export at is 24% up to a maximum maturity of 35%, which we reach by mid-September," Mr Flowers said.

He added, "By measuring that the dry matter content, and hence oil content, is correct before we export, we can provide our customers with the best eating experience of quality avocados. No one wants to buy an avocado you can't eat. Our dry matter content is only 19%, so we have another month before our fruit reaches an export quality."

According to HCD, avocados should be harvested when they reach maturity, which is determined by a minimum dry matter standard of 24%. In a public notice, the Directorate added that harvesting avocado at the recommended stage of maturity of more than 24% dry matter content reduces the fruit's susceptibility to mesocarp bruising.

Residents Propose Reintroduction Of NYS Training For Varsity Students



Some of the participants.

By: Ann Salaton
@themkenyatimes

Residents of Narok County want students set to join local Universities to undergo National Youth Service (NYS) training to inculcate discipline and patriotism at the institutions of higher learning.

The proposal was made to the NYS reforms task force meeting held at the Narok North Youth Empowerment Hall where speakers recommended the reintroduction of the mandatory enlistment to the service to help the young people mature emotionally, psychologically, socially and physically before resuming their classwork.

Narok Principal Chief Moses Dapash said indiscipline cases reported from tertiary institutions were rampant and could be curbed if the learners first underwent the NYS training.

"In the 1990's, the students would pass through NYS colleges for training before they joined universities. This made the students resilient in the many challenges they face in their education hence produced high quality graduates," he said. The Principal Chief proposed the

establishment of NYS colleges in all the regions in the country to avoid congestion in the few institutions that are already existing.

The Narok Boda Boda Chairman Lemayian Punyua recommended an NYS Training Center to be built in Narok County citing the expansive land and high levels of illiteracy.

Punyua said the presence of NYS training institutions in every region will create job opportunities for many young people and more youths will benefit from the training.

Narok Peace Chairman Joseph Kileu stressed the need of youths who successfully complete the NYS training to be absorbed in the job markets so that they can get an opportunity of building the nation.

He reiterated that many NYS graduates end up engaging in criminal activities like drug abuse and theft because of frustrations after the six months training.

Narok Persons with Disability Chairman Paul Ole Sopia asked the government to admit physically challenged persons to NYS training institutions as they too have unique talents.

Ole Sopia also recommended for the entry point to NYS colleges to be lowered from a D plain to below

E so as to accommodate all youths who did not have an opportunity of completing school.

The task force was led by former Interior Secretary Moffat Kangi and Elizabeth Mueni who promised to present the views of the people in their final recommendations.

In March this year, President Dr. William Ruto extended the term of the Police Reforms taskforce by two months to include NYS.

The taskforce is mandated to identify the legal, policy, administrative, institutional and operational constraints on effective service delivery by the National Police Service (NPS) and Kenya Prisons Service (KPS) to review and recommend improvement of the terms and conditions of service.

The taskforce is led by former Chief Justice David Maraga. Others are John Ole Moyaki, Ibrahim Guyo, Richard Kirundi and Rosaline Odede.

MOTHER

Mother like none others
 Nor will be
 Word's not enough to describe her love
 Worship mother same worship god
 as mother god to all
 None other like mother
 One for whom we exist
 One for whom we're child always
 One to smile with us
 escaping her tears in heart
 None other like mother
 one to give us our needs
 Sacrificing her needs
 shapes our future
 sacrificing her present
 None other like mother
 Most hurt on our neglect
 But never neglect us
 As nothing precious to her than us
 Kibalama Rajab
 #PenKnight
 rajabvpaige5@gmail.com
 +256708153274
 @facebook;
 Rajab Pen Knight



Life and work of Zulfia Israilova



By: Adiba Pardabayeva
 Zulfia Israilova is a famous and talented Uzbek poetess. A brilliant artist, a woman who keenly felt the heart of an ordinary person – a hardworking woman who valiantly fought for the equal rights of Eastern women in society. The influence of Zulfia's poetry is the true expression of our luxurious complex, its originality, the image of the heart and personal life of our contemporaries. Zulfiya Israilova, a famous and honorable representative of the Uzbek people, a well-known community leader, a herald of the struggle for international peace, is the recipient of the international "Nilufar", Jawaharlal Nehru and State awards. Zulfiya Khamim Israilova was born in 1915 in the ancient Degrez quarter of Tashkent city. First, she studied at a scholarly school, then she studied at a land of educated women and girls. In 1935–1938, she studied at the graduate school of the Institute of Language and Literature of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. After that, she worked in various publishing houses. From 1935 to 1980, she was the editor-in-chief of the "Saodat" women's and girls' magazine, widely distributed in our republic in about thirty languages. Zulfiyakhanim Israilova

is married to Hamid Olimjon. while they were living a life full of dreams, in 1944 she lost her wife in a car accident. Popular poems such as "In the Moon", "Without You", "Heart", "Falak", "Spring came to question you", "Don't steal my pen for a day", "Bum-bosh kalibdi ir varaka koz", "My son, war won't end" Her poems such as "Mushaira" are famous. He is the author of lyrical and lyric-epic epics such as "He was called Farhad", "Sunny pen", "Broken pieces of memory". In 1935, she married the poet Hamid Olimjon and wrote many sad poems after her untimely death. She translated samples of the works of Pushkin, Lermontov, Nekrasov, L. Ukrainka, V. Inber and many other poets into Uzbek. Zulfia's poetry is filled with passionate love for nature and humanity, its integral part and highest peak. In her poems, nature is embodied in light colors, bright colors and symbols. I am interested in the life and work of Zulfia Israilova. In fact, I consider the most beautiful Uzbek woman to be Zulfiyakhanim.

Adiba Pardabayeva
 Surkhandarya region, Termiz city

My Country

There is a lively melody in the soft wind,
 Not a single moment passed with you.
 You are my fatherland, my motherland,
 If I am awake, my night will pass, too.

Your land is holy, you are holy,
 I don't care for those who don't
 appreciate you
 Oh my motherland, my paradise,
 My heart is full of light with you.

Living in you is the essence of beautiful
 happiness,
 Every time comes to be enchanted the
 moon,
 My land of wonders, my land of miracles,
 Those born in you are a great generation.

Thank you Allah

Open your eyes, life is beautiful,
 Enjoy your time, even you may dance or
 sing.
 The life you have been given is blessing,
 Thank you Allah for everything.

Your imagination appears in my brain,



Like a new bride, nature is amazing,
 There is no dust, world is clear due to
 rain,
 Thank you Allah for everything.

When I draw your picture as a designer,
 The Moon is queen and the sun is king,
 When the stars in the sky shine lighter,
 Thank you Allah for everything.

Sherova Orziqul Alisher qizi

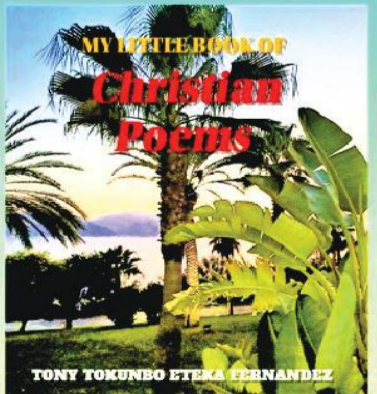
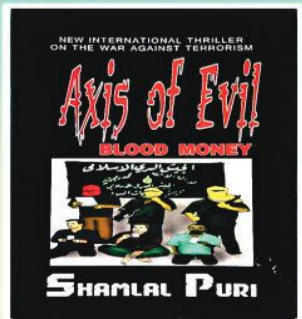
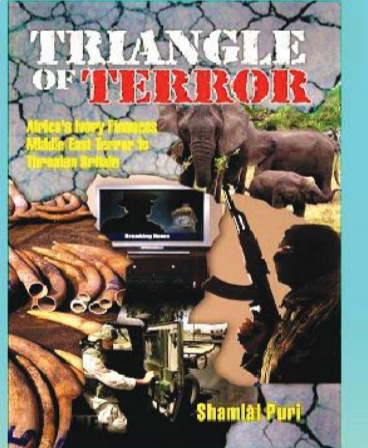
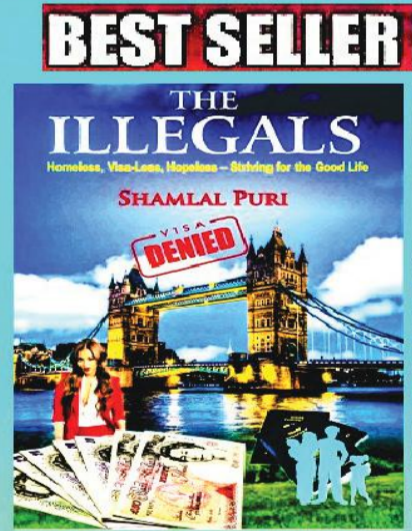
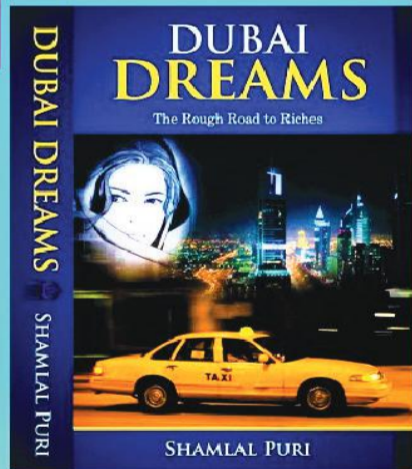
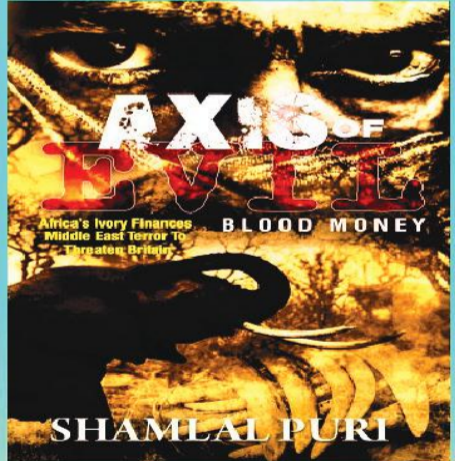
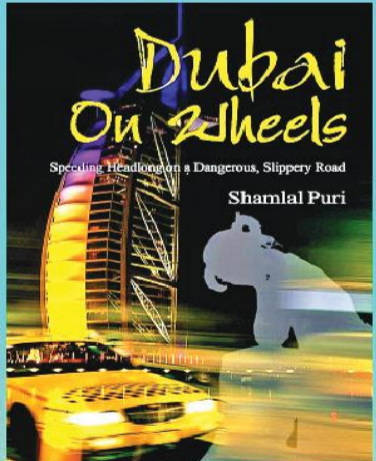
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BUSINESS

Mizizi Initiates Buy We Build

By: John Kariuki

Mizizi Africa Homes, the leading real estate developer, has initiated a buy we build initiative

According to the Company’s founder and chief executive officer George Mburu, the initiative empowers the home owner in the sense that he is able to access credit.

“Under the buy we build initiative, the client is handed the title deed of the plot first. He then contracts the company to build for him the house of his choice. This is a very good step because the plot owner can use the title deed as collateral and access credit.”

Mr. George spoke during the projects handover of Peacock Phase 1 which he has constructed using the flat roof design.

“The flat roof has several advantages as opposed to the iron sheet model. The iron sheets are expensive

alongside the gypsum and the fitting works, so when we did the math, we settled for the flat roof. The flat roof can be utilised as a meeting space thereby giving the client value for money,” he concluded.

Mizizi Africa Homes CEO George Mburu.



City Hall, Buenos Aires To Commence City To City Relations In Agribusiness, Youth

By: Capital Correspondent

Nairobi City and Buenos Aires will soon commence city to city relations and mutual partnerships in various sectors, including agribusiness ventures for the youth of Nairobi, health and disaster management.

This was discussed when the Argentine Ambassador to Kenya, Gabriela Martinic, paid Nairobi Governor, Sakaja Johnson a courtesy call at City hall.

Governor Sakaja praised Argentina for its continued partnership and strong relations with Kenya as well as the commitment to pursuing a deepening of ties through various county/Municipal programmes.

“Congratulations on your countries World Cup triumph. It is my prayer that the Jules Rimey trophy will

come to Africa. For any city or municipality to thrive, it is important for it to develop relationships with bigger cities for continued progression and growth. Nairobi is currently the transport, communication, and transport in Africa. It will take you eight (8) hours to get to any European destination and 4 giurs to an Africqn destination. We sent to take advantage of this as a leading city inorder to continue thriving,” he stated.

Martinic lauded the partnership and expressed confidence of its success.

“Nairobi is the place to be in since your inauguration. I am looking forward to a fruitful relationship with your city. Nairobi’s landscape has changed; The city is now opening more to embrace other cities as well as conducting business and partnerships with other like-minded cities all aimed at uplifting the quality of life and living standards of Nairobi-ans.”



Argentine Ambassador to Kenya, Gabriela Martinic, paid Nairobi Governor, Sakaja Johnson a courtesy call at City hall.



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NKOSI SIKELEL' iAFRICA: FROM A CHILD OF KENYA TO A SON OF AFRICA

By: Njonjo Mue



Lawyer Njonjo Mue .

to the interview and the subsequent job offer, I had been at the frontline of demonstrations in Nairobi as we pushed for a new constitution.

Our movement comprising grassroots activists, civil society organisations, progressive academics and opposition politicians held march after march in the city under the slogan “No Reforms, No Elections!!”

We intended to make it clear to the Moi regime that without comprehensive constitutional reforms, we would not allow the country to hold the general election scheduled for December 1997 because that would mean going into an election with a playing field that was so tilted in his favour that only President Moi could win.

The government banned all our demonstrations. No sooner would we announce a planned demo than the police would declare it illegal and warn of dire consequences for anyone who dared to defy their ban. But that would not stop us from marching.

This resulted in an inevitable clash as the police violently dispersed our demonstrations with rubber bullets, batons and teargas. I had gotten so used to the adrenalin rush that I knew I would miss it terribly when I relocated to Johannesburg.

My father on the other hand, was horrified by my participation at what he considered to be dangerous misadventures.

“You have a special gift, Njonjo” he would tell me. “You write so well that your articles are regularly carried in the press. Why don’t you offer those skills to the struggle and let others go to the streets?”

Hi angst was understandable for no parent would approve of his child getting shot or their skull cracked by our trigger-happy riot police.

However, in the end, he and I never got to agree on his proposed division of labour. I decided that I would continue to write and offer intellectual support to the struggle as well as march as a foot soldier with Wanjiku.

Despite my reluctance to leave all the action behind in Nairobi, eventually the time for me to relocate to South Africa came.

After a month of orientation at the London head office of ARTICLE 19, I arrived in Johannesburg on a rainy Friday evening.

I checked into the Devonshire Hotel in Braamfontein where I had stayed during my earlier visit for the interview.

It was the day before Princess Diana’s funeral was held in London on 6th September 1997. Although I did not have a particular interest in her funeral ceremony, I followed the proceedings on television because it rained heavily in Johannesburg and I was stuck in my hotel room all day.

The cold, rainy weather in those early days of my stay in South Africa would not dampen the sheer excitement I felt to call this country my new home.

During this first weekend in Johannesburg, my mind frequently went back to the 1970s and 80s. During those years of growing up in Kenya, we had only one radio station, the Voice of Kenya (VoK), which would frequently report on the brutal and racist apartheid rule in which a small minority of white people ruled and suppressed the majority black Africans of South Africa who were denied their most basic rights.

VoK news reports from South Africa, as well as Rhodesia and South West Africa, which also were ruled by minority white racist regimes, made it very clear on whose side we were. The white rulers were referred to as Kaburu so an so e.g. Kaburu Botha, Kaburu Vorster, and so on.

While Kaburu simply means a white settler of Dutch origin (Boer), in those days at the height of apartheid, it came to denote a derogatory term that meant not only a white person, but a colonialist, an imperialist, even a barbarian.

Ian Smith, who had unilaterally declared independence under white settler minority rule in neighbouring Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) was given the pre-name Mhaini, meaning traitor.

Conversely, the leaders of the freedom struggle were referred to in glowing heroic terms: Mzalendo Oliver Tambo, Mzalendo Steve Biko, Mzalendo Sam Nujoma, Mzalendo Robert Mugabe.

Mzalendo is the Kiswahili term for Patriot. There were many Wazalendo in the struggle, but there was only one Shujaa: Nelson Mandela.

The Kiswahili dictionary states that the term Shujaa means hero, but in our young minds, hero did not even begin to describe the larger than life mythical figure of the man who had spent all our lifetime in prison on Robben Island for his courageous stand against apartheid.

As we were growing up, Shujaa Nelson Mandela and his co-convicts from the Rivonia Trial were serving a life sentence on the island. No photos of them were permitted and

Worth Noting:

- Our movement comprising grassroots activists, civil society organisations, progressive academics and opposition politicians held march after march in the city under the slogan “No Reforms, No Elections!!”
- We intended to make it clear to the Moi regime that without comprehensive constitutional reforms, we would not allow the country to hold the general election scheduled for December 1997 because that would mean going into an election with a playing field that was so tilted in his favour that only President Moi could win.
- The government banned all our demonstrations. No sooner would we announce a planned demo than the police would declare it illegal and warn of dire consequences for anyone who dared to defy their ban. But that would not stop us from marching.

For six months after I returned from taking my exams in Oxford and re-joining the ICJ – Kenya team as a volunteer with no salary, our hard work was finally rewarded when a couple of donor grants were approved and the organisation reinstated me on the payroll. This was in February 1997.

A month later, I applied for a job with the London-based NGO ARTICLE 19. It had recently opened its first ever regional office for Africa based in Johannesburg and was seeking to recruit an international lawyer as head of office and legal advisor to its Africa Programme.

I was invited to travel to Jo’burg for interview in mid-April.

The South African Airways flight that took me from Nairobi to Johannesburg landed at Jan Smuts International Airport late one Sunday afternoon. The airport was easily three times the size of our Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and resembled many of the airports I had travelled through in Europe.

I took a cab to The Devonshire Hotel in the Braamfontein neighbourhood of Johannesburg.

The following morning after breakfast, I took a taxi to the ARTICLE 19 office on 87 Juta Street, only to realise that it was just a couple of blocks away from the hotel and I could have easily walked the distance in less than ten minutes. In my experience traveling around the world, it seemed to be standard practice that taxi drivers never volunteered to their client information that would deny them business.

I took the elevator to the fifth floor where the ARTICLE 19 office was located. When I knocked on the

door, a well-built African woman with short hair and a big smile answered promptly as if she had been expecting me and was just waiting on the other side of the door to let me in.

“Good morning, my name is Njonjo Mue” I introduced myself. “I am here for a 9.00 a.m. job interview,”

“Welcome to ARTICLE 19,” she said inviting me in to the warm tastily furnished office. “I am Claudia Motswane. I am the office manager.”

Claudia and I hit it off almost from the first moment that we met. I learned later that she had been employed a few weeks before to manage the new regional office. She offered me a cup of rooibos tea and we made small talk as we waited for the two members of the interview panel to arrive.

Shortly thereafter, we were joined by Richard Carver, the head of the Africa programme who had travelled from London for the interview, and Jody Kollapen, a commissioner with the South African Human Rights Commission, who was also a board member of the newly registered ARTICLE 19 Africa office.

The interview went smoothly and I spent one more day sightseeing and shopping in Johannesburg before returning to Nairobi.

A few days later, I was offered the job with a start date of 1st August 1997. I was to spend the month of August undergoing orientation at the head office in London before relocating to Johannesburg in September.

Getting the news that ARTICLE 19 was offering me the job as its head of regional office based in Johannesburg was a bittersweet experience for me. In the months leading up

NKOSI SIKELEL' iAFRICA: FROM A CHILD OF KENYA TO A SON OF AFRICA

By: Njonjo Mue

none had ever been published, which made Mandela even more god-like in our young minds.

Listening to these news reports by the Voice of Kenya on the struggle for freedom from Southern Africa made me think that my country, Kenya, was wholly committed to the emancipation of all African peoples. But that was before I grew up and lost my innocence.

“When I was a child, I thought like a child.” But when I grew up and “put childish ways behind me,” I discovered that while such African countries as Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, and other frontline states sacrificially supported the struggle against apartheid to the hilt, providing safe havens to South African exiles and training bases for uMKhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the Africa National Congress, some elements of the Kenyan government, notably the then powerful attorney general, Charles Njonjo, maintained secret ties with the apartheid regime.

Still, I never thought I would live to see Mandela alive, or for that matter, that apartheid would come to an end in my lifetime and South Africa would become a free and democratic country.

Yet here I was at the beginning of my exciting tour of duty as a resident of the new South Africa, the Rainbow Nation, to use a term coined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in celebration of the diversity of the peoples of the land now led by none other than Nelson Mandela himself.

I did not let my being marooned at the Devonshire Hotel by the rain that first weekend dampen my spirits.

Rather, I reminded myself that this was a great turning point on my journey as a social justice advocate. It was also a reminder that I was no longer only a child of Kenya, but I was truly on my way to becoming a son of Africa.

I was therefore delighted to be able to sing along with fellow Africans from the southern tip of the continent the words of Enoch Sontonga’s famous prayer:

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo

God Bless Africa
Raise high her glory
Hear our prayers
God bless us, we her children



Lawyer Njonjo Mue .

The Monday following my arrival in Johannesburg I reported to my new office at ARTICLE 19. Claudia and I spent most of the day discussing administrative matters of the new regional office that we would be jointly responsible for running.

Over lunch time, Claudia told me that she had a budget for my accommodation at the hotel for one week, then I could move to a furnished apartment for three more weeks after which time I should have found my permanent accommodation.

“Have you decided which side of town you would like to settle in?” she asked me over lunch.

“Why, of course in Soweto like you,” I responded enthusiastically.

Soweto, the short form of the South We stern To wnships, had a rich history. It was where most of the black population of Johannesburg lived and had come to symbolize the struggle against apartheid.

It had also been home to many of the struggle icons including Nelson and Winnie Mandela and Desmond Tutu. In fact Mandela and Tutu also gave Soweto the distinction of having the only street in the world to produce two Nobel Peace Prize winners – Vilakazi Street where both of them had once lived.

Soweto had been the hotbed of struggle activities aimed at ending the brutal, racist apartheid rule and was infamous for the June 16 1976 massacre of school children by apartheid forces as the children demonstrated to protest having to be taught in the oppressor’s language, Afrikaans.

This history of South Africa was in-

separable from the story of Soweto and I so cherished the idea of becoming enmeshed in this history by moving into the neighbourhood.

However, when I excitedly announced my preference for living in Soweto, Claudia gave me a pitiful look as if she needed to disabuse me of my obvious naiveté.

“I hate to be the one to tell you this, but I don’t think Soweto will be the place for you,” she said.

Before I could protest, she explained that although Soweto would be a good place to live, some of its residents were not so welcoming to foreigners from other African countries whom they tended to blame for allegedly taking jobs that should have been theirs. They had a derogatory name for us, Amakwerekwere .

Alas xenophobia against Africans from elsewhere on the continent was already taking root in South Africa.

In the end, I had to reluctantly take Claudia’s advice and find a house in a gated compound of townhouses called Montgomery Park in Randburg, eight and a half kilometres from the office in Braamfontein, where most of my neighbours were white South Africans and a small number of the emerging black middle class.

Despite not being able to live in Soweto, I was nonetheless grateful and excited to move to South Africa during a time of great transition.

The country was still breathing the fresh air of the early days of freedom and had recently adopted its new democratic Constitution that had been approved by the Constitutional Court on 4th December 1996 and taken effect on 4th February 1997.

The humble yet iconic Nelson Mandela was at the helm of the government as President. He had already announced that he would serve for only a single term and was content to use it to focus on the task of reconciling the hitherto deeply divided country while leaving the day-to-day running of state affairs to his deputy, the cerebral and philosophical Thabo Mbeki.

My job as regional director of ARTICLE 19 opened a whole new world to me. I maintained a busy travel schedule that gave me the opportunity to visit many African countries and to appreciate the beauty of our rich continent and meet the diversity of its people.

I also visited other parts of the world particularly Europe and the Americas on fundraising missions and to attend various conferences.

While I was initially frustrated at no longer being able to participate in demonstrations back home pushing for a new constitution, I more than made up for it by taking on a leading role in organising Kenyans in the Diaspora to play their role in pressuring the Moi state to accede to a people-driven constitutional reform process.

Part of my job also entailed holding many meetings with senior government officials in the region including members of the South African government.

But important as they were, none of these meetings was as memorable as meeting President Nelson Mandela.

(To be continued...)



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Government To Unveil Strategic Digital Plan



Participants drawn from the Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy, led by Secretary of Administration Mohammed Jabane, attend Technical Committee Strategic Plan workshop held at a Nakuru hotel on April 17, 2023. Photo by Anne Sabuni.

By: Anne Sabuni
@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy is crafting its Strategic Plan (2023-2027) to ensure the ministry's vision of an informed and empowered digital Kenyan Society is realized.

Speaking yesterday in Nakuru after opening a strategic planning workshop of the Ministry's Technical Committee, ICT Secretary of Administration Mohammed Jabane said that the envisioned plan would be aligned to the government agenda, Kenya Vision 2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other National Government priorities.

"The plan also aims at ensuring that public sector institutions adopt a value chain development framework by properly defining their strategic directions and making appropriate decisions on resource allocation towards implementation of priority policies and programmes," said Jabane.

He noted that the Government's major goal of transforming Kenya into a digitalized knowledge-based economy would be realized through enabling other pillars such as health, agriculture, MSME, manufacturing, education and financing as well as enhancing revenue collection.

"The Digital Economy Blue Print, which has five pillars including Digital Government, Digital Business, Infrastructure, Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship, and Digital skills and Values compels the government to leverage on technology to ensure improved service delivery across all sectors of the economy," said the ICT Secretary of Administration.

He pointed out that the ICT sector as projected in the Kenya Vision 2030 is expected to contribute 10 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Kenyan economy.

Jabane outlined that as an enabler, ICT has contributed immensely to improvement in e-government services, e-business, e-commerce, entrepreneurship and digital skills and enhancing market competitiveness of the country's products and services.

ICTs have impacted positively on governance and other sectors of the economy and have effectively played a key role in international and regional economic integration, improved living standards, narrowed the digital divide, as well as improved resource utilization and management.

Director of Planning in the Department of ICT Pamela Ongwae said that during the 2023-2027 Medium Term Period, the government commits to provide an enabling business environment that enhances access to information and spawns a wide range of digitally enabled startups and investments by leading multinational technology companies.

Ongwae noted that this would be driven mainly by continued expansion of the national ICT infrastructure targeting the un-served and underserved areas countrywide.

The Director of Planning, State Department of Broadcasting and Telecommunications Joseph Wambua alluded that the ICT expansion was expected to further raise mobile phone and internet penetration contributing to employment creation through expanded media industry such as publishing in print and digital formats, Video/Film products, Streaming Media and in social media.

"Other business includes cyber cafes, mobile money and mobile banking, internet service providers among others. This will have tangible impacts on Kenya's development and prosperity," said Wambua.

He said the Ministry would collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to finance and ensure successful implementation of identified programmes, projects, policies, legal and institutional reforms.

Bank Promises To Support Farmers In Afforestation Activities



John Gachora while opening a new branch in Murang'a County.

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyatimes

National Commercial Bank of Africa (NCBA) group has promised to continue engaging and supporting farmers in their efforts of increasing tree and forest cover.

The bank's Managing Director John Gachora has noted that afforestation will help in mitigation of negative impact of climate change thus supporting farming activities.

Mr Gachora divulged that since last year, NCBA has supported planting of more than 11, 000 tree seedlings in parts of Nyeri County saying the exercise will be rolled out in others parts of the country.

He observed that as the bank continues opening new branches in counties, the exercise will go hand in hand with planting of trees, stating that the bank also has some programmes aimed at supporting farming to increase food production.

The MD spoke in Murang'a during the opening of two bank branches in Kenol and Murang'a towns.

"Our bank will endeavor in supporting the government's

directive on planting of trees. NCBA will engage farmers to grow trees as a way to mitigate effects of climate change. With ongoing rains, the bank will donate seedlings to various groups," he said.

The MD further called on farmers and business community to take advantage of credit facilities provided by various financial institutions to grow their investments.

"Farmers, those in business should not shy away from sourcing financing from banks among other financial institutions. People should get information from banks on how they can access cheap credit facilities," stated Gachora.

The MD noted that NCBA has been on a branch expansion exercise since 2021 and plans to open an additional 10 branches in 2023.

He noted that the opening of the two bank branches in Murang'a will take services closer to customers who are mainly engaged in agricultural activities.

Murang'a County Executive Committee ((CEC) member for Trade and Industry Paul Mugo who was present said the county administration is working on various incentives to woo investors in Murang'a.

Mugo noted that the presence

of numerous financial institutions in the county will enable business people and farmers to access cheap and competitive credit facilities.

The CECM noted that Murang'a being an agricultural county, there is need to bring in investors to establish agro-industries to carry out value addition of locally produced farm produce.

"Farm produce from this county is sold raw. Our aim as county government is to ensure there are locally established industries to do value addition of the produce. This will not only increase farmers' returns but create employment to scores of young people," he added.

Mugo challenged local financial institutions to come up with programmes aimed at supporting farmers to increase productivity.

"It is my belief that the opening of this NCBA branch will allow farmers to access financing with ease, and will allow the people of Murang'a to inject funds into mechanising their farming activities." Added the CECM.

Sudanese Government Claims Rebels Are Not Committed To Truce



By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes



Smoke in Khartoum

Worth Noting:

- “Accordingly, the Armed forces responded, based on their national duty and responsibility to achieve security and stability in the country, to defeat the attack and expel the Rapid Support Forces from the area surrounding the General Command Head Quarters, as well as other headquarters that those rebel forces tried to seize, such as the Presidential Palace, Khartoum Airport, and the headquarters of the Radio and Television Corporation.”
- In conclusion the government expressed its deep appreciation for all the efforts exerted by Arab, African countries and the international community to support solving of the situation in the country.

The government of Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through a to the public and the international community has told the world that cessation of war is not bearing fruits due to rival group Sudanese Rapid Support Command failure to integrate into the Armed Forces.

“It should be noted clearly that all efforts exerted by national, regional and international actors and mediators to convince the Rapid Support Command to integrate into the Armed Forces has failed and not been accepted by their leaders,” the statement read in part.

While giving update on state of affairs, the government detailed how the attack by Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started at the residence of the President of the Sovereignty Council which is near to the Head Quarters of the Armed Forces General Command which broke on Saturday, April 15, 2023 made it impossible for a meeting that was scheduled between the President

of the Sovereignty Council / Commander in Chief, and the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces to discuss and deescalate the tension to take place.

The statement further said the government was able to neutralize the attackers and secured key government institutions.

“Accordingly, the Armed forces responded, based on their national duty and responsibility to achieve security and stability in the country, to defeat the attack and expel the Rapid Support Forces from the area surrounding the General Command Head Quarters, as well as other headquarters that those rebel forces tried to seize, such as the Presidential Palace, Khartoum Airport, and the headquarters of the Radio and Television Corporation.”

The statement further claims that rebels suffered huge losses and a large number surrendered while the rest flee for their safety however they denoted lives and properties were destroyed in Khartoum.

The attacked led to declaration of the Rapid Support Forces as rebel group by the military government of Sudan which took reign and dethroning President Omar Al Bashir government

“The President of the Sovereignty Council/ Commander in Chief issued a decree to dissolve the Rapid Support Forces and declare it as a rebel group.”

The Sudanese government has assured the general public its commitment to ensure order is restored and eradication of threats posed by the rebel group is achieved.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs assures that the Armed Forces adopted a strategy and measures that aim to minimize losses among civilian, strategic, public and private facilities, although these measures may take some time to end the control of the Rapid Support Forces over some governmental facilities but that is the safest way to end it. Although high measures are taken by relevant authorities to protect diplomatic

missions accredited in Khartoum and their employees.”

In conclusion the government expressed its deep appreciation for all the efforts exerted by Arab, African countries and the international community to support solving of the situation in the country.

In addition, they invited continued support as the matter had assumed proportions that warrant international community attention, “we would like to stress that this matter is an internal matter that should be left to the Sudanese to achieve the required settlement between them, away from international interference.”

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Sports >> *Football Kenya Federation (FKF) says the country's one-year suspension by world football governing body, Fifa, gave match fixers a fertile ground to perpetrate the vice in the country.

How Kenya's Suspension By Fifa Proved A Blessing In Disguise For Match Fixers



FKF president Nick Mwendwa speaks during a meeting with the National Assembly Committee on Sports and Culture. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA.

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) says the country's one-year suspension by world football governing body, Fifa, gave match fixers a fertile ground to perpetrate the vice in the country.

In a report presented to the National Assembly on Tuesday, the federation says the vice thrived due to the disorganization within the sport occasioned by the disbandment of Football Kenya Federation (FKF) by then Sports Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed.

"The period between December 2021 and October 2022 in which the federation was suspended and the football management was undertaken by the Caretaker Committee saw the rise in match fixing cases in our

leagues as there was no regulator with the expertise to address the issues that arose. The match fixers took advantage of this gap to reach out to more players, clubs and match officials," the report, signed by CEO Barry Otieno, said.

The report reveals the federation was making considerable progress in clamping the vice before its disbandment and eventual suspension from world football.

"In 2021, before the Fifa ban, the federation had suspended four match officials and one player implicated in match fixing. The federation has so far, since November 2022, suspended 17 players and three match officials as investigations continue on these and other cases,"

the report adds.

Speaking while presenting the report before the Committee on Sports and Cultural Affairs, FKF president Nick Mwendwa urged lawmakers to initiate legislation criminalising match-fixing to make it easier to nab culprits.

"We have had cases where individuals suspected of match fixing and who are not members of FKF have been arrested and presented in a court of law only for the cases to be dismissed for lack of legislation," he said.

Mwendwa added: "We can only act against members but not against those who are not members of FKF. So, what we need chair, is a law that allows law enforcers to take action against someone who has been found to fix a match. This is what we are

lacking here in Kenya."

The federation's request was embraced by the committee whose chair, Webuye West MP Dan Wanyama, promised to facilitate legislation to make match-fixing a crime.

"We have heard of you and will put in place legislation to criminalise match fixing so that the culprits can be arrested and charged in a court of law," Wanyama said.

Last month, three people, including a Russian, were arrested on suspicion of fixing a match involving Nairobi City Stars.

Capital Sport

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Sports >> *When Erling Haaland takes the field for Manchester City on today in Munich, the Norwegian will face the club who tried to sell the farm to buy him but failed.

On-Fire Haaland Shows Bayern What They Are Missing



Erling Haaland. Photo/TEAMTALK MEDIA

When Erling Haaland takes the field for Manchester City on today in Munich, the Norwegian will face the club who tried to sell the farm to buy him but failed.

Bayern's late first-leg capitulation in Manchester means the six-time winners need to overcome a 3-0 deficit to make it through to the semis.

Not only must Bayern do so against Europe's form team, but they need to somehow find the goals that the toothless front-line have lacked in 2023.

Midway through the second half at the Etihad, Bayern, 1-0 down after a Rodri wonder goal, were dominating possession and had carved out several chances, but failed to put any away.

Then, in a six-minute period, the brutally efficient Haaland showed what Bayern were missing up front, setting up a goal and then scoring another to put City on course for the semi-finals.

While Haaland's flurry likely sunk Bayern's Champions League hopes then and there, the seeds for their struggles were planted late last season, when the German champions tried and failed to sign the Norwegian.

– 'How good is Haaland?' –

Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic was not alone in his desire to sign Haaland, but his open courting of the Norwegian put noses out of joint, particularly that of star striker Robert Lewandowski.

In 2021, a clip emerged of Salihamidzic on the sidelines of a Bayern-Dortmund clash, speaking with an assistant coach after Haaland scored twice in seven minutes.

"How good is Haaland? He's a machine. I'll call his agent tomorrow."

In that match, Haaland had given Dortmund a 2-0 lead, Bayern

fought back to win 4-2 — thanks to a Lewandowski hat-trick.

Bayern were willing to tear up their carefully constructed salary structure to sign the Norwegian in the summer of 2022.

Lewandowski's camp said the striker felt slighted by the German club's failure to offer him a longer-term deal, with Bayern seemingly distracted by their pursuit of Haaland.

Lewandowski had scored more than 40 goals for Bayern in seven straight seasons, scoring a remarkable 344 goals in 375 appearances.

Ultimately, Bayern's wandering eye cost them both Haaland and Lewandowski.

Haaland — who later said he "felt sorry" for Lewandowski, calling Bayern's treatment "disrespectful" — left the Bundesliga altogether.

After Lewandowski's signed with Barcelona, then Bayern manager Julian Nagelsmann

sought to spread the Poland striker's goals across a dynamic front line.

While the approach had immediate effect — Bayern scored 26 goals in their first six competitive matches in 2022-23 — the goals dried up.

Nagelsmann reverted to backup central striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, who again gave Bayern a focal point as the 'Stoke City reject' produced the best form of his career to score 17 in 28 matches.

Choupo-Moting however looks set to miss Wednesday's encounter with back problems.

– 14 goals in six games –

Despite a history of scoring against Bayern — Haaland has six goals and two assists in eight games against the Bavarians — Tuesday's 3-0 victory was the striker's first win against the German champions. He lost seven from seven with Dortmund.

Since moving to City, Haaland has been spectacular, smashing records on the way to scoring 47 goals in 40 appearances.

Coming into Wednesday's clash, the Norwegian has somehow managed to up his form, with a scarcely believable 14 goals in his past six games.

Bayern have eight across the same period, four of which came in one match against a wilting Dortmund.

Big-name signing Sadio Mane has not scored since October and is returning from a one-match suspension for hitting Leroy Sane in the face after the first-leg loss to City.

Instead, Serge Gnabry will likely lead the line, the same Gnabry who said in November he did not consider himself a striker "but it's better than sitting on the bench"

AFP

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Reprieve for Farmers As UK commissions 70 tonne Avocado oil Extraction Facility in Kisii County



By: Elizabeth Angira

The British High Commissioner to Kenya, Jane Marriott, and Kisii County Government have commissioned a 70-tonne avocado oil extraction project in Kisii County.

The newly commissioned factory will utilize avocado sourced locally from farmers to produce avocado oil mainly for the export market.

Speaking during the commissioning of the project in Kisii, the British High Commissioner in Kenya, H.E. Jane Marriott said, the commissioning of this facility is a demonstration that, by working in partnership, it is possible to come up with real opportunities and empower our people to cope with daily challenges.

The facility has a capacity to process up to 70 tonnes of avocados daily which will ripen for a period of 7-10 days before the extraction of the oil.

The extraction facility will provide opportunity for farmers access markets for their produce and reduce wastage witnessed previously experienced due to lack of available markets to sell all the produce hence most of that going bad resulting to post-harvest loss.

The extraction yield will range between 4-10% depending on the varieties of fruits supplied as raw materials. In addition to increasing farm yields, the project will also enhance the existing farmer co-operative societies by providing the necessary training and capacity building to farmers on better farming methods.

The investment project is a partnership between the UK Government and AvoFresh Processors Limited and has been implemented by the UK's Sustainable Urban Economic Development Programme (SUED) in collaboration with Kisii County and Kisii Municipality.

Value addition

Kisii County governor Simba Arati said that his government has negotiated with investors to put up industries particularly in the area of value addition to local produce, as a means of improving earnings to farmers and creating employment.

"The avocado is cultivated in nearly every household in Kisii and it has contributed greatly in improving nutrition and poverty alleviation, "he



British High Commissioner to Kenya Jane Marriot with Kisii County governor Simba Arati during the launch of Avacado industry in Kisii County/Elizabeth Angira.

Worth Noting:

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said.

He said his government continues to prioritize investment in programs that will transform the county into a middle-income economy.

The Governor said his government shall strive to create conducive environment for both local and foreign investors

He pointed out that the county is keen on strengthening the avocado value chain saying that avocado farming was previously done for subsistence purposes and on a small scale.

The Governor noted they had registered the Kisii County Avocado Co-operative in all the sub counties to enable farmers address the possible challenges they experienced in their previous value chain such as getting rid of middlemen.

The factory is expected to process avocado oil that will be used for making cooking oil and cosmetics among other products.

The governor expressed his gratitude to the farmers saying they are the producers of the fruit needed for the processing of the oil and therefore, they will receive the support

they need.

Arati said that his administration will continue coming up with legislation geared towards creating an enabling environment for other investments.

Creation of employment

The Project Manager for AvoFresh Mr. David Gitonga said that over the past few months, they have been working closely with the County to actualize the processing facility by ensuring that farmers within the County are aware of the processing facility.

The UK Government support both technical and financial has enabled us to reach many more farmers by having in place logistical support to reach some of the hard to access farmers across the County.

"We are happy to see the facility work and serve the farmers as envisioned," he said.

The UK Government has played a key role in catalyzing this investment by providing expert advice and Ksh79 million) in seed fund support. The seed fund was utilized in building the logistical framework

to maximize fruit collection in Kisii through the purchase of nine (9) trucks that are used for the transportation of avocado across the county to the facility.

Avofresh has invested Ksh355 million into the extraction facility and will in the first year create 95 direct factory jobs, 100 induced jobs and will work with 1000 farmers, which will increase to 3,000 in subsequent years.

The county has supplied more than 120,000 Hass seedlings to famers. In addition, the County is leasing a go down to Avo fresh on its land at Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) where the extraction facility is located.

The project will additionally create climate resilience in the municipality by promoting circular economy management of solid waste, sustainable land management including enhancement of carbon stocks through agroforestry, as well as the enhancement of post-harvest handling and loss reduction by off taking ripe fruit.