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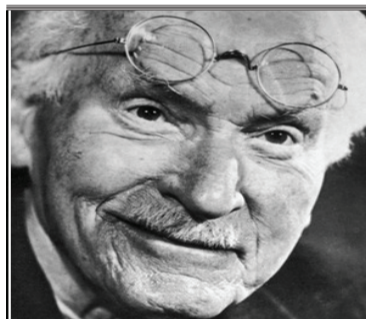
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News>>Finance & Communication Committees Meet More Parties On The Telkom Buyback Probe

P. 8. The Telkom buyback probe continued yesterday with three more witnesses taking the witness stand to give evidence on the transaction.



Motivation>>As you deal with people acknowledge that individual tastes vary

P. 12. The shoe that fits one person pinches another, there is no recipe living that suits all cases.....Carl Jung.

Stage Set For Bipartisan Talks As Committee Names Joint Chairs

The committee noted the concerns raised about its composition, formalization and the nature of talks whether parliamentary or extra parliamentary and resolved to engage the appointing authorities' the statement states.



Azimio la Umoja and Kenya Kwanza coalitions two joint chairs and spokespersons Rarieda MP Otiende Amolo and Tharaka MP George Murugara

STORY ON PAGE 9



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Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima Visits Mama Ngina Kenyatta to Give Thanks

By: Our Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes



Founding First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta (sitted right), former freedom fightee Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima (left) addressing media in Muthaiga yesterday. Standing on the right is former Nairobi gubernatorial candidate and businesswoman Agnes Kagure.

Worth Noting:

- During the occasion which was took place at Mama Ngina's Muthaiga home, the Field Marshal was accompanied by over a dozen member of her immediate family and a handful Kikuyu elders. Also present was former Nairobi gubernatorial candidate and Business woman Agnes Kagure.
- During the short ceremony Mama Ngina received gifts from the family of the Field Marshal that included goats, a pot, a three-legged stool, a traditional tray, a kiondo (African basket) and food from her shamba.

Former Freedom fighter Field Marshal Muthoni Kirima yesterday visited First Lady of Kenya's founding father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta to say thank you to her for her magnanimity towards her and her family. The Field Marshal thanked Mama Ngina for paying her loan balance amounting to KSh4.7M and buying her a home in Nyeri last year. She also thanked Mama Ngina for accepting to travel to Nyeri on April 1, last year to shave her dreadlocks. She cited that the act of cutting her

hair symbolized the end of the struggles Kenya underwent under colonial rule. Cutting her hair meant that end of the era of fighting for freedom was now behind the country. During the occasion which was took place at Mama Ngina's Muthaiga home, the Field Marshal was accompanied by over a dozen member of her immediate family and a handful Kikuyu elders. Also present was former Nairobi gubernatorial candidate and Business woman Agnes Kagure.

During the short ceremony Mama Ngina received gifts from the family of the Field Marshal that included goats, a pot, a three-legged stool, a traditional tray, a kiondo (African basket) and food from her shamba. On her part while registering her appreciation for the visit Mama Ngina observed that when the dreadlocks cut from Field Marshal will be taken to the museums, future generations and visitors from all over the world will be reminded of the sacrifices some Kenyans made for the libera-

tion of Kenya. She also noted that there are many know-it-alls who behave as if Kenya's freedom did not come with a prize. She thanked Field Marshal for setting a good example of giving thanks in honour of a good deed extended to her. This was the first time that Mama Ngina opened up her home for the media.

Editor's Desk

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Public Service Board Grilled Over Ghost Workers



By: Elizabeth Angira



Worth Noting:

- Atika said that he has written to the Kisii county government and requested for information pursuant to article 35 of the constitution of Kenya 2010, and having analyzed the same verily that the Kisii county public service board Jackson Bogonko Ondiba, Patrick Mogusu momanyi, John Machuka Ndege and Judy Omare Nyakerario have diverse dates committed serious violation of Kenya including violation of chapter six
- Atika cited that the board serious violated written law inclusive of the country government act 20132 public finance act ,2013and regulations thereof 2015.
- It also grosses misconduct in the performance of their duties, while carrying out their functions of the office.



Benson Atika a petitioner with his legal team at Kisii County assembly during the ongoing petition. Photo/Elizabeth Angira.

The Kisii Assembly Labour Committee members have wrapped up the grilling of the Public Service Board officials even as Board chair Nancy Nyamwange made a strong case objecting to the petition seeking their sacking.

She said the disbandment of the board cannot be done on the 'low value evidence' submitted by petitioner Benson Atika throughout the two-week sittings.

A similar defence was made by board commissioner, Judy Omac, who said their actions as the board were above reproach.

This was after Benson Atika a resident of Kiamokama petitioned Kisii county assembly to remove Kisii county service board members

On the petition he stated that on september3, 2022 Kisii county governor declared that there were ghost workers leading to a bloated county wage bill.

Atika said that he has written to the Kisii county government and requested for information pursuant to article 35 of the constitution of

Kenya 2010, and having analyzed the same verily that the Kisii county public service board Jackson Bogonko Ondiba, Patrick Mogusu momanyi, John Machuka Ndege and Judy Omare Nyakerario have diverse dates committed serious violation of Kenya including violation of chapter six

Atika cited that the board serious violated written law inclusive of the country government act 20132 public finance act ,2013and regulations thereof 2015.

It also grosses misconduct in the performance of their duties, while carrying out their functions of the office.

He pointed out that the board members have deliberately circumvented the law on recruitment by engaging and converting purported casual employment to contract and subsequently permanent and pensionable.

The board members have made promotions to employees without following the laid down laws and regulations and failed to provide for human resource and career develop-

ment practices.

The board members have failed to comply with the binding constitution and statutory principles of public finance while discharging the mandate.

The board members have failed to file and publish mandatory reports before the county assembly as required by the law.

The chair of the board illegally accepted appointment extending her nonrenewable contract in office

He requested the county assembly to the remove the office of Kisii county service board members pursuant to article 251(1) of the constitution.

Nyacheki Ward MCA Naftal Onkoba the chair of committee and has been presiding the two-week marathon sittings.

Other members in the committee are Onchonga Saizi (Sensi), Peter Otachi (Monyerero), Denis Ombachi (Marani) and Jacob Bagaka (Masige East, also Deputy Speaker

Also in the committee are nominees Lilian Omundi and Celestine Mose.

Atika, through Counsel Paul Nya-

mondi is seeking the disbandment of the board and the subsequent dismissal of the office holders.

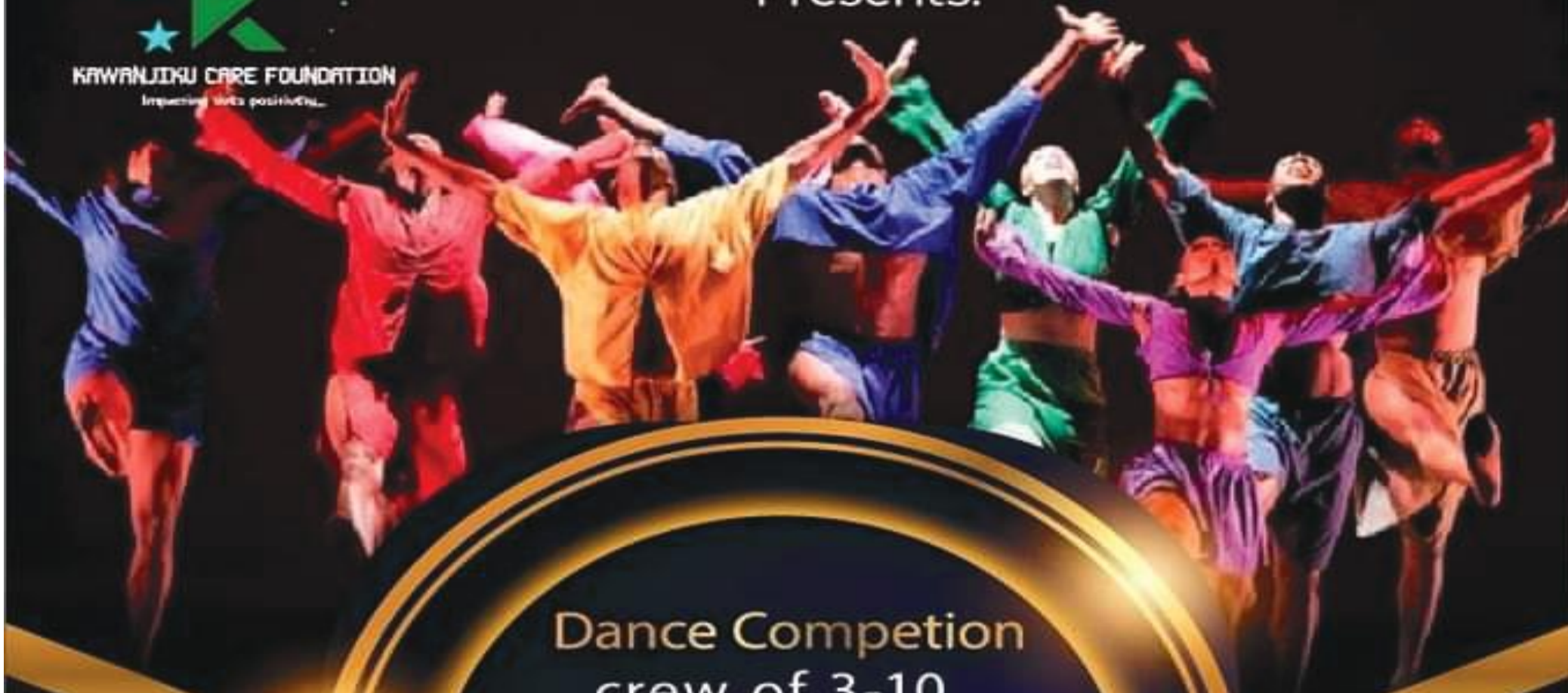
Atika accuses the board of committing illegalities in the re-engaging staff, some who are beyond their mandatory retirement age.

The legal defence led counsel Mogusu Nyamweya asked the Labour Committee to exercise fairness and justice as they retreat to write the report.

Nyamwange, in the hour long grilling vehemently denied the charge of ghost workers in the County.



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Thika Prison Plans To Decongest Inmates Following Cholera Outbreak

By: Muoki Charles
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- While noting that they have managed to contain the virus, the PS said it would have been easier had the facility been not crowded.
- “We have managed to contain the disease. From the over 38 inmates who contracted the virus over the past one week, only seven are still sick. The remaining 30 are stable. However, one is critical and is hospitalized,” she said.
- She also instructed the prison management to ensure new prisoners are screened for the disease before they are allowed at the facility.

Correctional Services Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni in Thika prison yesterday



The government has begun efforts to shift inmates from Thika prison to the nearby Yatta, Ruiru and Murang’a prisons in order to decongest the facility.

This comes after concerns of a cholera outbreak that hit the facility in which 38 inmates contracted the disease in the past one week.

Correctional Services Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni said the facility that has a capacity of 500 is now holding over 1,200 inmates, making it difficult to contain such an ailment on time.

Speaking after touring the facility to assess the cholera status yesterday,

the PS said the decongestion programme would have the numbers reduced considerably to ensure the inmates live decently.

She said they are also working with neighbouring courts of Kandara, Thika and Ruiru to reduce the number of inmates being admitted at the Thika prison.

She said offenders who have been sentenced will be spread across the neighbouring prisons to ease congestion in Thika prison.

While noting that they have managed to contain the virus, the PS said it would have been easier had the facility been not crowded.

“We have managed to contain the disease. From the over 38 inmates who contracted the virus over the past one week, only seven are still sick. The remaining 30 are stable. However, one is critical and is hospitalized,” she said.

She also instructed the prison management to ensure new prisoners are screened for the disease before they are allowed at the facility.

This is after revelations that the disease got into the facility from new offenders who had been sentenced at the Ruiru and Kandara courts.

“Going forward, we want to ensure that before new prisoners are admitted

at the facility, they get tested for cholera. That way, we will end new infections,” she said.

She at the same time said they are working on drilling boreholes and procuring new bowsers to ensure the facility has flowing water even during rationing.

“We also ask the prison management to ensure a high level of hygiene and water flow at the facility. They should also liaise with the local water distributing company Thiwasco to ensure they don’t ration the commodity,” she said.

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Finance & Communication Committees Meet More Parties On The Telkom Buyback Probe

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Dr Joseph Kinyua taking oath yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- “The Cabinet Secretary in the National Treasury is the legally recognized custodian of government assets and the only one who can transact on behalf of the government. Anybody else does not have the authority but can advise the CS. My role was to assist the CS to implement the decision of the National Security Council when the decision was made to buy back the Telkom shares from Jamhuri Holdings at 1 Kenya shilling”, he explained.
- The committee also questioned the former Head of Public Service and Secretary to the Cabinet, Dr. Joseph Kinyua, on several issues including how Helios Investment Partners through Jamhuri Holdings Limited became a majority shareholder in Telkom Kenya.

The Telkom buyback probe continued yesterday with three more witnesses taking the witness stand to give evidence on the transaction.

Engineer Stanley Kamau, the former Director-General, Public Investment Portfolio Management, was the first to appear before the Joint-Committee comprising of the Departmental Committees on Finance and National Planning and Communication, Information and Innovation, which is undertaking the inquiry.

Yesterday’s session was moderated by the Chairperson of the Finance and National Planning Committee, Kuria Kimani from Molo constituency.

The former official told the committee that he was not involved in the negotiations, contrary to Mr. John Ngumu’s assertions when he appeared before the committee on Wednesday. Mr. Ngumu had in his evidence had told the legislators that Eng. Kamau was present during the negotiations.

In his defence, Eng. Kamau said he had never met Mr. Ngumi.

The committee had sought Eng. Kamau’s response on what role he had played in the transaction, in his capacity as an investment advisor to the CS.

“The Cabinet Secretary in the National Treasury is the legally recognized custodian of government assets and the only one who can transact on behalf of the government. Anybody else does not have the authority but can advise the CS.

My role was to assist the CS to implement the decision of the National Security Council when the decision was made to buy back the Telkom shares from Jamhuri Holdings at 1 Kenya shilling”, he explained.

The committee also questioned the former Head of Public Service and Secretary to the Cabinet, Dr. Joseph Kinyua, on several issues including how Helios Investment Partners through Jamhuri Holdings Limited became a majority shareholder in Telkom Kenya.

He recounted to the legislators the history of Telkom Kenya shareholding transactions dating back to 2007.

“In 2007, the government sold 51 percent of it’s shares in Telkom Kenya Limited to Orange East Africa. In 2012, the two shareholders decided to restructure the balance sheet which was carrying debts to shareholders amounting to KSh50.9 billion. This led to Orange East Africa writing off KSh33.5 billion and converting the balance of KSh10.5 billion into equity, while the Government of Kenya converted their entire KSh6.9 billion debt into equity.” he told the committee.

Dr. Kinyua further explained that following the restructuring of it’s balance-sheet and with the govern-

ment’s concurrence to be diluted given that Orange East Africa had agreed to write off its loans, Telkom Kenya’s shareholding changed to 70% for Orange East Africa and 30% for the Government of Kenya.

“It is after this that in 2016, Helios Investment Limited was actualized with government’s approval, on condition that 10 percent of Orange East Africa shares would be transferred to the Government of Kenya at a peppercorn price of KSh1. With this development, the ownership of Telkom Kenya changed to Helios/Jamhuri Holdings at 60 percent; and Government of Kenya at 40 percent,” said Dr. Kinyua.

The former long serving government official affirmed that he was privy to all the transactions because in his capacity as Secretary to the Cabinet, he would prepare minutes and summaries arising from the Cabinet papers presented to the Cabinet on that matter.

The Chair of Finance Committee also sought Dr. Kinyua’s view on what can be done to Kenya’s parastatals to bring them back to profitability.

“It is important to ensure that those engaged to manage these organizations are competent in running the business concerned and can uphold high levels of integrity and good governance,” said Dr. Kinyua.

The committee also heard from Mr. Ben Roberts, the Group Chief Technology and Innovation Officer for Liquid Intelligent Technologies on his capacity as an expert and player in the telecommunication sector.



Some of the committees’ members during yesterday’s session

Stage Set For Bipartisan Talks As Committee Names Joint Chairs

By: Margaret Kalekye
@themtkenyatimes

The Parliamentary leadership from the Azimio la Umoja and Kenya Kwanza coalitions have agreed on a way forward in the bipartisan talks following fears of a stalemate.

The MPs who met Thursday morning amid hardline stances and distrust from both sides settled on Rarieda MP Otiende Amolo and Tharaka MP George Murugara to spearhead the talks.

In a joint communique signed by the two joint chairs and spokespersons endorsed during the meeting, the committee resolved to convene its next meeting on Tuesday, 25th April, 2023 at a venue and time to be communicated in due course.

The 14-member committee revealed it had preliminarily discussed a framework for engagement and agreed that each party will develop its framework for harmonization in the subsequent meeting.

“The committee noted the concerns raised about its composition, formalization and the nature of talks whether parliamentary or extra parliamentary and resolved to engage the appointing authorities’ the state-

ment states.

The committee exuded confidence that a lasting solution to the concerns raised would be found and would not in any way jeopardise the talks.

“The members wish to thank the Principals and fellow Kenyans for entrusting them with the onerous but noble task of resolving pertinent issues that are of national concern. We wish to assure Kenyans that the committee shall endeavour to resolve all the issues that shall come before us for the benefit of all Kenyans” the team assured.

Both coalitions have been warned to refrain from statements that may be counterproductive

“The Committee resolved that its members would do everything to promote and not to undermine or jeopardize the talks. Equally we urge all the political players to refrain from statements that may be counterproductive”

Leader of Majority Kimani Ichung’wah hailed the progress made by the team despite their political differences.

“It was encouraging to see that, despite our different political positions, we were able to come together and engage in open and honest discussions. We look forward to continuing these talks with the same spirit



Azimio la Umoja and Kenya Kwanza coalitions two joint chairs and spokespersons Rarieda MP Otiende Amolo and Tharaka MP George Murugara.

of collaboration and cooperation” he said.

Azimio had announced it won’t take part in bipartisan talks if the process is parliamentary.

The Kenya Kwanza is reported to have ceded ground by filing a notice of motion in the National Assem-

bly proposing the team incorporates non-legislators as well as experts as demanded by Azimio.

The Kenya Kwanza team for the bipartisan talks comprises senators Boni Khalwale (Kakamega), Hillary Sigei (Bomet), Esther Okenyuri (Nominated), MPs Adan Keynan

(Eldas), George Murugara (Tharaka), Mwengi Mutuse (Kibwezi West) and Taita Taveta Woman Representative Lydia Haika.

TIFA: Majority Of Kenyans Believe Ruto Won 2022 Elections

By: Muraya Kamunde

The latest survey by pollster Trends and Insights for Africa (TIFA) has revealed that 48pc of Kenyans believe President William Ruto won the August 2022 Presidential election.

The poll released on Thursday indicated that a majority of the 2,065 randomly selected respondents agreed that President William Ruto-did, in fact, receive the most votes compared to Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga at 48pc-37pc respectively.

Tifa, however, noted that the split on this issue between Ruto and Odinga voters is stark, with nearly

equal numbers expressing the view that he did/did not achieve this (75pc vs. 71pc).

“At the same time, the fact that one-quarter of declared Ruto voters are not convinced that he was actually victorious adds weight to doubts expressed about the integrity of the declared official results,” the TIFA Poll report said.

“Similarly, the fact that about the same proportion of those who say they voted for Odinga are not convinced that he won indicates that the Azimio claims that his election was ‘stolen’ have not (yet?) been entirely convincing even among his supporters.”

On Party popularity, the poll showed that UDA is the most popular political party currently 45pc, followed with Raila Odinga’s ODM at second position with 28pc.



President William Ruto

16pc of the interviewed respondents declined to identify or express support for any party.

According to TIFA, UDA is strongest in Central Rift and Mt. Kenya, a

clear reflection of last year’s election results in those areas.

“Further, the results from Northern are perhaps more significant, just in late July last year TIFA found that

ODM and Jubilee combined were far more popular than was UDA (51pc vs. 31pc),” the TIFA survey noted.

Sanctifying Love Pt 2



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

My fellow Men: those married already, and them that are purposing to get married; (ignoring for the moment our wives' spiritual responsibility to us), do you realize it is your responsibility to seek your wife's sanctification? Even more, honestly, do you accept it? Marriage will reveal something about her which you already know about yourself — that she is a sinner. Marriage reveals everything: her weaknesses, her worst inconsistencies, the things others never see. Loving your spouse is not to love her as a saint, but as a sinner. "If we love her for her saintliness, we do not love her at all,"³ says Ma-

son. You see your wife as you see yourself, and you love her as yourself. You realize your mutual need, and you delve into God's Word, to listen to it with your heart and try, by His grace, to live it out so that she will be encouraged by your life — and thus become an even more beautiful bride for Christ.

This brings up some hard questions: Is my wife more like Christ because she is married to me? Or is she like Christ in spite of me? Has she shrunk from His likeness because of me? Do I sanctify her or hold her back? Is she a better woman because she is married to me? Is she a better friend? A better mother? Men, our call is clear: sanctifying love.

INDEED, GOD, WHO ALWAYS ARMS US WITH STRENGTH, HELP US IN EVERY WAY: AMEN.

References:
 The Living Bible
 Discipline of a Godly Man(Book by Kent Hughes)

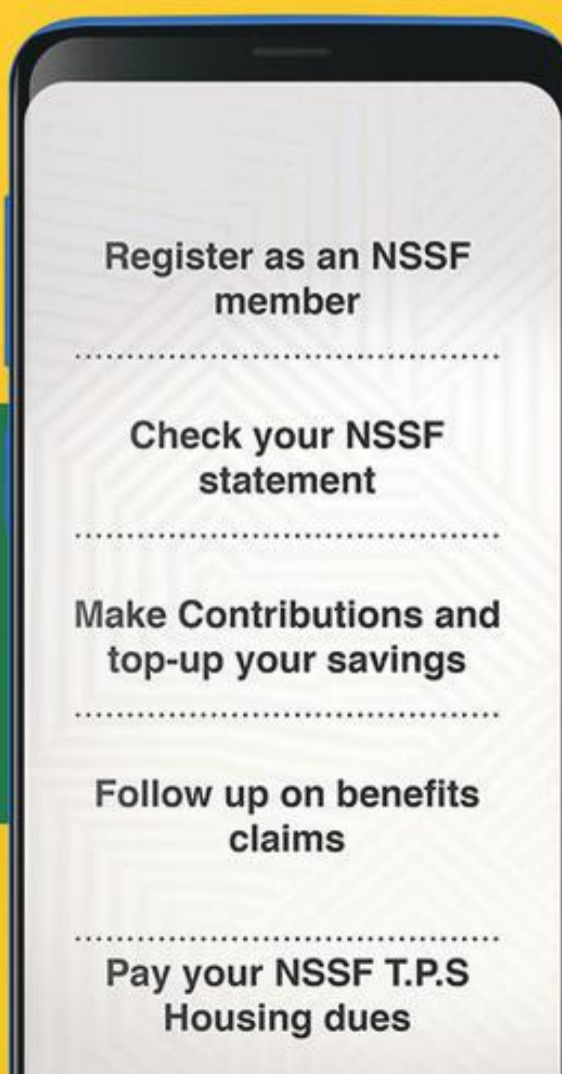
Evangelist Eric Musa:



(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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Why It Is Hard To Sell Unga At A Flat Rate?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- First, the country was reeling from devastating effects of drought and famine, rated as the worst in 40 years. For the first time, we even have raise money to feed wild animals in national parks and sanctuaries.

- Just like other countries across the world, Kenya would also not escape the pain of Russian-Ukraine war.

- Having been the main exporters of wheat, fertilizers and farm machinery, the sanctions imposed caused disruptions and led to acute shortage of these essential commodities.

- For now, there is only one reason why the government has been reaching out to these millers and holding talks with its proprietors. The state has opened the window for them by allowing them to import the duty free maize. This means the cost of the importation is low. This should trickle down to the consumers.

A few days ago, President William Ruto announced that the prices of the 2kg packet of maize flour will come in one week.

He said this is after a big ship carrying maize dock at Port of Mombasa.

When I assumed the power, the cost of Unga stood at Sh230.

Then, the handshake government was at the helm of power and the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga was a core principal.

So, I would expect Raila to be the last person to lecture me on how to reduce the high cost of living and capitalize on this to hit at my government.

Yes, during the electioneering period I promised millions of hustlers that I will address this challenge.

But I'm sure many would agree with me that this is not an issue that we could have been tackled immediately.

First, the country was reeling from devastating effects of drought and famine, rated as the worst in 40 years. For the first time, we even

have raise money to feed wild animals in national parks and sanctuaries.

Just like other countries across the world, Kenya would also not escape the pain of Russian-Ukraine war.

Having been the main exporters of wheat, fertilizers and farm machinery, the sanctions imposed caused disruptions and led to acute shortage of these essential commodities.

Secondly, the cost of farming inputs was all-time high.

Majority of farmers could not afford to buy certified brands of fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and herbicides.

It is worth to recall a 50kg bag of fertilizer was selling at Sh6,500 during the reign of the handshake government.

If elected, Dr Ruto pledged to reduce the price to Sh3,500.

He kept his word as this was the first executive order he issued after taking the oath of office.

The fertilizers were imported and supplied to the farmers.

So, farmers were well prepared by the time when the planting season

Unga

started.

Well, it will take some months before the maize and other crops got mature and are harvested.

But once this happens, Dr Ruto is optimistic the talk of hunger will become a thing of the past. The price of Unga will drop to Sh100.

After Ruto promised recently the price will come down to Sh150 per 2kg packet of Unga, a section of the mainstream media conducted a fact-check after one week lapsed.

According to the stories they aired and published, the president's pledge had not taken not effect. This is because the costs of various brands were varied. The retail price of the cheap ones stood at Sh160.

The prices of other brands ranged from Sh170 to Sh180.

To me, this was a big drop and we know the prices started dropping immediately after Ruto assumed power.

The same packet of Unga was retailing at Sh230 and this time the subsidy programme was in place.

Ruto removed the subsidies on

maize, fuel and electricity. He termed them as conduit of corruption and hence had serious negative impact on our economy.

Well, we must bear this in mind. Kenya is a free market economy. This means the government has no legal mandate to impose a flat rate price on various brands of Unga perse.

The flour is made by private millers. So, you would expect them to sell the brands in different prices.

For now, there is only one reason why the government has been reaching out to these millers and holding talks with its proprietors. The state has opened the window for them by allowing them to import the duty free maize. This means the cost of the importation is low. This should trickle down to the consumers.

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

AS YOU DEAL WITH PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT INDIVIDUAL TASTES VARY

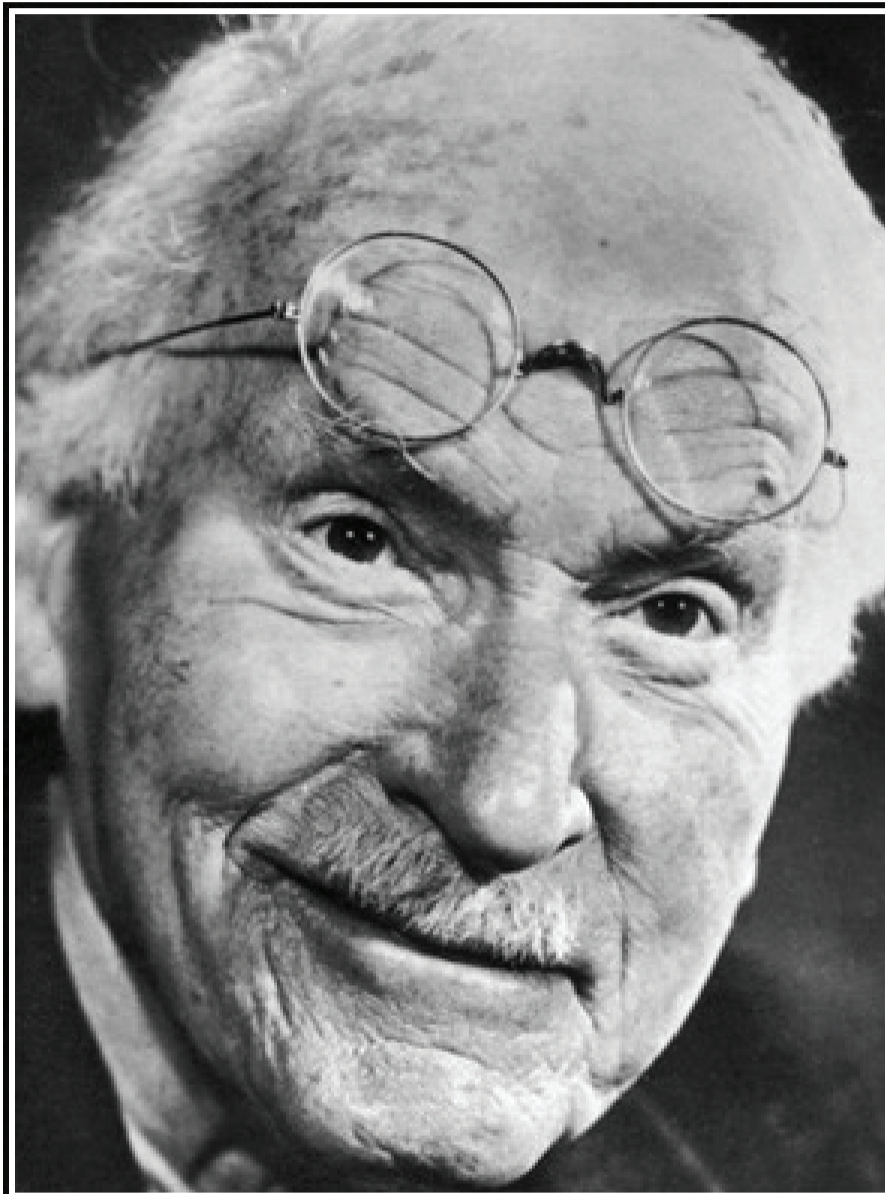
By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Talking to cargo drivers you will hear that some cannot want to be associated with passenger service vehicles as they do not want anyone noisy as they go on with their work whereas passenger service vehicle drivers would narrate how they enjoy interacting with other people and offering them transport services.
- To a teacher or non-security professions they would associate weapons with violence and would avoid having them around whereas the security person would be glad to have weapons claiming that they promote security by making a potential trouble maker to cool down for fear that someone is available and willing to deal with him.



The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases.

— Carl Jung —

The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe living that suits all cases.....Carl Jung.

A sweet is cheap but cannot make you feel full like the person who has consumed other types of food. To an adult giving him a sweet or not will not mean a lot but to a kid it may make him like or hate you.

The same case is to a cigarette among smokers especially in early morning hours or when under stress if your colleague does not have it and upon borrowing it from you or seeking a puff you deny him he will be upset with you unlike when dealing with a nonsmoker who will have no interest with your cigarettes no matter how many packets you have or the price of each stick. Some nonsmokers will even complain whenever you smoke in their presence claiming that they dislike the smoke.

Those you reside in the same area are familiar with it. Though unlikely if they happen to ask you about a certain corner in that area but you

fail to respond to them they would not mind much as they know other people they can seek same information from otherwise they can go to that place and clarify whatever they wished to know.

If you apply same conditions to a stranger who have visited your area for the first time he will feel frustrated as he does not know the area and have to seek information from another person before knowing which direction he is supposed to take.

Talking to cargo drivers you will hear that some cannot want to be associated with passenger service vehicles as they do not want anyone noisy as they go on with their work whereas passenger service vehicle drivers would narrate how they enjoy interacting with other people and offering them transport services.

To a teacher or non-security professions they would associate weapons with violence and would avoid having them around whereas the security person would be glad to have weapons claiming that they promote

security by making a potential trouble maker to cool down for fear that someone is available and willing to deal with him.

Swimmers enjoy refreshing and flexing their muscles under water but those who do not like such sports will wonder why someone is spending time in water yet he has not gone there to take a shower.

Women and girls generally prefer long hairs. To them it is a sign of beauty. When they see bald men or those who shave all their hairs they wonder why the latter does not appreciate the beauty associated with long hairs.

Those who use flight to travel to certain areas have no complains of road network unlike their colleagues who go by bus.

To some gospel music singers listening to secular music is a waste of time whereas to secular musicians they take secular songs as their livelihoods even strive to excel their performances in these areas.

Looking around where you are you

will see people of various heights, skin colours, tones and ages. Posing to them a question you will get various answers according to how everyone of them understands the topic that you are discussing. Despite varying of answers everyone would like to sound correct. This shows you how different we were created and how best we try to fit in varying situations. Wisdom dictates that we learn to enjoy unity in diversity.

Government reinstates budgetary support to Kenya Red Cross

By: PCS

The Government has reinstated its budgetary support to the Kenya Red Cross.

President William Ruto said the move has been informed by the huge humanitarian tasks that the Society engages in.

He announced the new move will begin in the 2023/2024 financial year with an allocation of Sh100 million.

The President noted that the Government will continue supporting the Kenya Red Cross in carrying out its work, especially in disaster and emergency services.

He was speaking on Thursday during the tour of the Kenya Red Cross in South C, Nairobi.

He called upon the partners and donors of the Kenya Red Cross to be part of the journey to support the Society with “multi-year and long-term funding”.

“The project approach — largely short-term — to national capacity enhancement is not working,” the President said.

The President said Kenya was committed to employing better analysis in designing its humanitarian response to emergencies.

This will include predictive analysis where future outcomes can be forecasted.

The new approach, the President explained, will ensure that communities are forewarned, hence adequately prepared to respond to disasters.

“This will reduce the loss and impact.”

The President lauded the Kenya Red Cross for investing in early-warning, early-action in the event of disasters.

“We must act early in order to avoid devastating impacts to lives and livelihoods,” he said.



The President during the tour of the Kenya Red Cross in South C, Nairobi

Detectives Discover 12 Graves In Embattled Pastor Mackenzi's Farm

By: Emmanuel Masha

@themkenyatimes

Homicide detectives have discovered 12 graves believed to be those of followers of embattled preacher Paul Nthenge Makenzi of the Good News International Church.

The graves were discovered in an 800-acre parcel of land that is alleged to belong to the controversial pastor, who is accused of practicing cult-like faith that forced its members to fast till they, according to him, meet Jesus Christ.

They were located in different areas among them thickets, near the homes of the pastor's followers while others were hidden in hard-to-reach areas.

During an operation that took almost the whole of Wednesday, four more badly famished people were rescued and rushed to the Malindi Sub County Hospital where they are receiving treatment.

The operation is being led by the

Director of the Homicide Division of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Mr. Martin Nyaguto, and he said it may take three consecutive days to establish whether there are more graves in the sprawling forest that has been the abode of Makenzi's followers since 2019.

Families of victims who are yet to know the whereabouts of their kin have asked the government to do everything possible to get their relatives, dead or alive.

Pastor Makenzi is being held at the Malindi Police Station after Malindi Chief Magistrate Elizabeth Usui on Monday granted the police 14 days to hold Makenzi and six of his followers to complete investigations.

Seven other ardent followers of the embattled pastor who had refused to eat while in hospital and at the police station were also ordered to remain in police custody to allow the officers' time to get counsellors for them.



Paul Nthenge Makenzi when he appeared before a Malindi court on Monday.

SOMDATTA MITRA

HUMANITY

The million smiles raised their hands,
With a loud cheer .
To embrace the divine spirit,
Whom they call MOTHER dear.
From the streets of Kolkata,
Or from the wretched conditions in the
slums .

Missionaries of Charities and Mother House
sheltered those innocent souls,
And enfolded them in the cover of humanity.
While walking past the footpaths,
When she witnessed despair .
The poor were hungry, And could not avail a
day's meal.

She rescued them and gifted them,
A cheerful and peaceful life and a lodging,
She illuminated lives of those orphans ,
Who were thrown in the dustbin.
Or were lying in the streets bare as a new
born,
She hugged them well and clasped them in
her bosom.
Her vivacity knew no boundaries ,
She embraced abandoned and homeless
children.

She cared for so many women,
As a lady who idolized humanity.
She uplifted their spirits to work ,
And become self - dependent ,
She enlightened each homeless child with a
hope and desire.

To the weak , homeless and the destitute ,
She was the beacon who raised the hope ,
To their desperate existance.
She was a living saint without a doubt ,
Made a massive impact on many people's
lives.

Crossing innumerable barriers she emerged
victorious,
Caring for the sick , poor and disadvantaged.
In a challenge to the world she desperately
broke boundaries ,
And taught us that humanity is the essence
Of a meaningful and most cherished life in its
doctrine.

Love and spread peace with open arms to
adhere to humanity above all,
Mother Teresa was a lady with the lamp like
the nightangale.

Of an Albanian descent and brought up in
Macedonia ,
She founded the Missionaries of Charity in
Kolkata ,
For the blind and the old she encamped them
in seperate chambers.
She touched millions of lives with a healing



hand,
And was extremely compassionate to
enlighten the unloved, uncared and the
crippled.
Agnes Gonhxa Bojaxhiu announced,
Her calling for a religious life as a nun.
Involving herself with Jesuit missionaries she
gained a purpose to live a life of nobility.
Her First vows at Darjeeling Loreto house,
Earned her the name Teresa while she
worked in ST. MARTIN School, Calcutta.

Associating herself with the Loreto Sisters,
Her initial life was engaged in serving to the
soldiers;
Of the First World War and the Bengal
famines.
The novel peace prize winner witnessed a
severe setback where hungry children were
her only concern.

Based on charity and empathy,
She restored lives of the homeless and the
unwanted.
Dressed in a white and blue bordered saree ,
She blossomed each flower who sat on her
lap.

Humanity was the utmost cry during the
Bengal famines ,
She strived hard to uplift the hungry
children.

Love and compassion was her only strength
As she enlivened millions of lives,
Who were deprived of love , care and were
malnourished.

To the whole she was THE MOTHER ,
That one word which seeks a comfortable
lap for comfort.

And a right to embrace where there is no
hesitation to share love in abundance.
She was THE MOTHER of the whole world.
To enthuse the spirits as a peace lover to
move forward in life.

Somdatta Mitra

From One Street Of My
Life Paths...

I remember...My childhood began in a
beautiful place called Mirzaabad and still
continues in the warm embrace of this
place. When I was young, I remember
waiting for my mother's hot loaves in
the oven to be ready...

I have loved books since I was young.
And this light led me to the "Knowledge
Competition" held earlier at school.
Because I fell in love with the book, I
became the absolute winner of the
republican stage of this competition.
It is not surprising that the feeling of
interest in creativity awakened in my
heart even then.

I still remember the first poem I wrote
in my school days:

Hello, my daughter-in-law is Spring
I miss you so much
I was waiting for you to come
You are a beautiful garden.
Here, you entered my beautiful nature
Spreading the scent of flowers to the
green world,

Now don't go to other countries
Your daughter Sitora will miss you.
It's true, maybe this poem, which came
out of my young heart at that time, has
no rhyme, no meaning, but it was the
first melody of a young heart...
Years have passed since then. The golden
pages of the book invited me to Gulistan
State University. I remember my high
school years...

When I was preparing for Oliykhoh, I
read books under an umbrella despite

the snowflakes and raindrops falling.
Perhaps, because of these hardships, I
have achieved the happiness of being a
student...

I would like to thank life and fate for
these great rewards. I bow down a
thousand times to my parents who
stood by me and supported me in my
bold steps. I still have high hopes for life.
Praise be to my God who created me... I
am thankful that my life is beautiful and
bright...

Currently, I am teaching and educating
young people at school 34, Boyovut
district. When I see hope for life and
confidence in the future in young souls,
my interest in life increases. The high
status of "MASTER" coming from their
tongues makes me hope to live yet.
Maybe my life is beautiful with such
memorable moments...

Author of the article: Mamatkasimova
Sitora

Mamatkasimova Sitora Bakhtiyar's
daughter was born on May 8, 2000 in
Mirzaabad district of Sirdarya region.
Currently, he is studying at Gulistan
State University in the field of primary
education. He works as a propagandist
and teacher on creative and cultural
issues in the 34th school of Boyovut
district, Sirdarya region. His favorite
field is his interest in creativity.

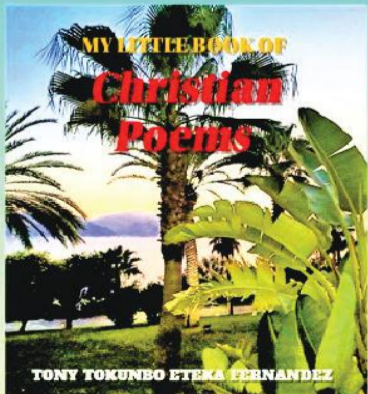
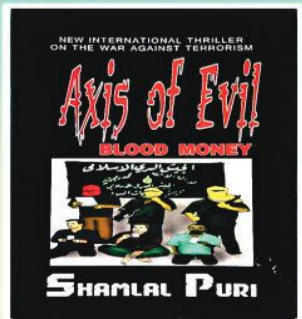
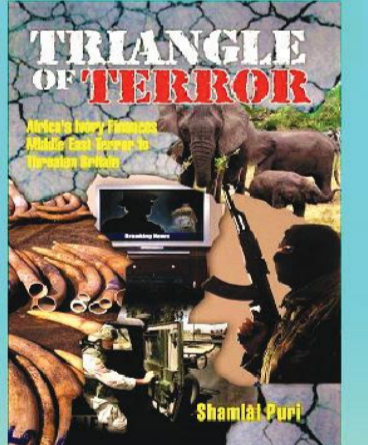
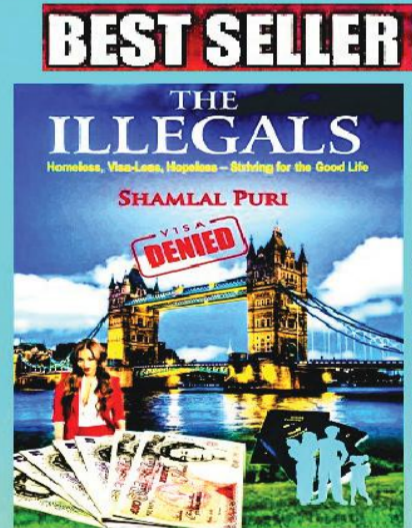
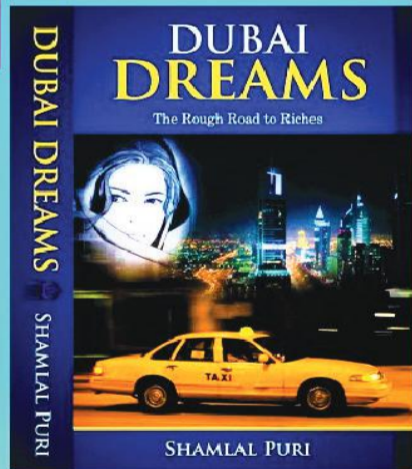
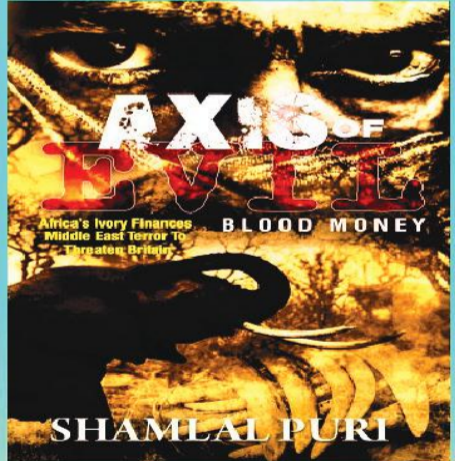
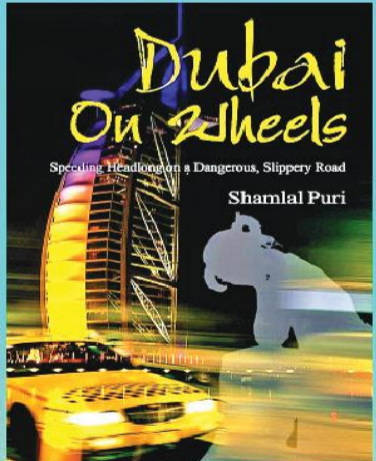
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BUSINESS

Kirinyaga Farmers Reap Big From Egg Hatchery Business

By: Mutai Kipnetich
@themtkenyentimes

Poultry farming groups in Kirinyaga County are reaping big from egg hatchery ventures that have seen them earn over Sh 1 million in the last few months.

Consequently, driven by the increased number of chicken farmers and demand for white meat, the farmers ventured into egg hatching business through the support of County Government, Wezesha Kirinyaga Empowerment program.

The farmers' groups were issued with egg incubators that are supplying chicks to farmers across the County with an estimate of over 10,000 chicks' worth over Sh 1 million.

The 19 groups involved in poultry are part of the 473 community organizations that have been funded by the County Government to un-



Poultry farming groups in Kirinyaga County.

dertake various agricultural projects such as poultry keeping, pig rearing, bee keeping, tomato and avocado farming, fish and dairy farming.

County Government gave out 19 incubators and generators for power back-up in the First Phase of the project. Each of the machines has a

capacity to hatch 1,050 chicks at a go.

The project has economically empowered residents to diversify their agricultural activities, reducing overdependence on Traditional Cash Crops, whose prices are unreliable.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Dr. John Gachara, says that the egg hatching initiative has helped in the sustainability of the poultry keeping project.

Gachara said as a County they are planning to expand by issuing an additional two incubators per-ward so as to get more people to venture into the business.

Additionally, the County will supply free feeds for the poultry for the first six months; thereafter, the farmers are also able to get the feed at a subsidized price.

Miriam Wakuthii of Cera Kimandi Self Help Group says that apart from giving them the incubators, the

county government has also trained them on how to undertake egg hatching business.

"We are very grateful to the County for holding our hand. We have started making profit from this venture. We have increased the hatching success rate to 90 per cent," said Wakuthii.

Another beneficiary of the program, Benard Njeru said the project was not only helping farmers to feed their families, but was also bridging the global food and nutrition security gap, while boosting local economies and providing a platform for educating farmers.

"As a group we had no financial capacity to buy the incubators, but the County Government helped us and we are now reaping the fruits of this investment," said Njeru.

The National Assembly Committee On Special Funds Accounts Turns Away PS, State Department For Crop Development

By: PSCU

The Principal Secretary State Department for Crop Development Mr. Philip Kello Harsama was yesterday sent away by the National Assembly Committee on Special Funds Accounts for failing to submitting documents relating to the queries raised by the Auditor General.

The Zainab Fatuma Mohammed led committee had invited the PS to examine the report of the Auditor General on the audited accounts of the Strategic Food Reserve Fund for the Financial Year 2020/2021.

Some of the issues that were raised in the auditor's report include the unexplained variances between the statements of financial position and changes in net assets, inconsistencies between the statements of

comparison of budget and the actual amounts, the statements of financial performance, unsupported trade and other payables, among others.

The legislators was surprised that despite the PS missing the previous invite as he out of the country and the meeting being rescheduled to yesterday, the PS had not submitted the responses to the issues raised by the auditor general.

It was on this account that the committee took the decision because the office of the auditor had not gone through the responses.

The chair told the PS to handle the matter with the seriousness it deserves more so at this time when the country is faced with food insecurity, and ensure that he respects the Committee's decisions by availing himself when called upon to discuss issues affecting Kenyans.

In his response, the PS apologized to the committee on behalf of the



The committee in session.

ministry for not submitting the documents on time and acknowledged the mandate of the committee in overseeing the State Department.

The Strategic food reserve (SFR)

which was established in 2015 is tasked the main responsibility of ensuring that the country attains enough food stocks through the formation of agricultural policies and

regulations as well as subsidies to farmers.

The meeting was rescheduled to a later date.

Senator Gloria Orwoba Seeks For A Statement On The Need To Protect The Identity Of Kenyans Visiting Public Buildings And Business Premises



Senator Gloria Orwoba.

By: Our Correspondent

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Senator Gloria Orwoba has sought for a statement from the Senate Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations regarding the need to protect the identity of Kenyans visiting public buildings and business premises.

In her request, she wants the committee to justify why many businesses do not protect the identity of members of the public when they require security guards to collect and retain original identification documents at the entrance of buildings they visit rather than noting the

names and ID numbers and returning the documents.

Further, she want the committee in its response to outline the measures being taken by the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to prevent identity theft.

In addition, the legislator wants the committee to state plans by the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to develop an Integrated Population Registration System (IPRS) that can grant companies access to verify the authenticity of an ID number rather than insisting on use of the physical identify cards.

Improve Diaspora Facilitation To Promote Their Participation In Economic Development, Committee Tells Cs National Treasury



Treasury CS Prof Njuguna Ndung'u when he appeared in Parliament yesterday

By: Our Reporter

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Committee on Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers has called on the Government to improve facilitation to the Diaspora community to promote their participation in the economic development of the country.

Speaking when they met the Cabinet Secretary National Treasury Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, the members noted that there is need to create incentives to attract Kenyans living in the Diaspora to invest in the country along other foreign investors that the government is inviting to do the same.

Members cited a number of constraints that the Community faces in their bid to invest locally ranging from lack of information on investment opportunities and government policies, to difficulties in money transfer.

Others are lack of safeguards that guarantee their investments, and harassment by customs officials at the airport.

On his part, Prof. Njuguna informed the committee that his Ministry had put in place policies and programs to attract diaspora remittances over the years. The legislators had called on the National Treasury to facilitate the diaspora community to improve the goal of

their remittances.

He emphasized on the Government's commitment to engage the diaspora and incorporate them in national development.

"The Kenya Kwanza administration has created a new State Department of Diaspora Affairs. Previously, there was only a unit within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dealing with diaspora issues. Going forward, it would be advisable that the government, especially the State Department of Diaspora Affairs, engages the diaspora community through their associations", he noted.

Prof. Njuguna told the legislators that the Ministry had developed wide ranging banking and financial sector reforms to help lower the cost of money transfer. He held that the transformation of the payments ecosystem had been a game changer in enabling Kenyans to send money home.

He cited the M-Pesa service beyond Kenya's borders and the partnership between the Diaspora Association and banks to allow them to handle larger volumes of inflows at lower costs and within a much shorter time frame.

He revealed that as a result, remittance inflows to Kenya had increased significantly over the past decade reaching a record of KSh500 Billion in 2022.

According to the documents he tabled before the committee, the US

remains the largest source of remittances into Kenya accounting for 58 percent.

Remittances are an important source of foreign exchange to the country. The inflows have a positive impact on the livelihoods of vulnerable households.

During the session chaired by the Committee Vice Chair Simon King'ara from Ruiru constituency, the CS disclosed that the Central Bank conducted Kenya's first Diaspora Remittances Survey between 19th March and 17th May 2021 to collect valuable information to improve quality of remittance statistics.

He further revealed that the Central Bank had developed a range of financial products targeting the diaspora including successful infrastructure bonds.

The MPs however noted the need to expand focus beyond Kenyans living in the United States to allow more Kenyans living elsewhere across the globe to benefit from the facilitation already in place for the diaspora.

With regard to policies and measures in place to harness the investment of diaspora remittance inflows, Prof. Njuguna told the Committee that in a bid to mainstream the community into the National Development Process, the government had formulated the Kenya Diaspora Policy in 2014.

Government To Distribute 18.3 Million Insecticide Treated Nets



Insecticide Treated Nets.

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a

[@themkenyatimes](#)

The Ministry of Health is planning to distribute 18.3 million Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) in 28 targeted counties in next year. State department for Public Health and Professional Standards Principal Secretary Dr. Josephine Mburu said that the move is aimed at ensuring households in malaria-risk areas have one net for every two household members, ultimately contributing towards reducing the burden of malaria in the country.

Speaking in Nairobi during the beginning of events leading up to this year's World Malaria Day commemoration, Mburu said that the ministry of health plans to use innovative tools such as the use of drones in larval source management in lake endemic zones.

"The Ministry will also continue to provide prompt malaria diagnosis and treatment through microscopy and the use of quality-assured malaria rapid diagnostic test kits and medicines throughout all public and faith-based health facilities," said the PS.

She added that to further bring services closer to the people and ensure no one is left behind, the ministry will enhance Primary Health Care through which malaria services will be available up to the community level.

"This year's World Malaria Day theme, 'Time to Deliver Zero Malaria: Invest, Innovate, Implement' underscores the urgent need for action and further investment to achieve zero malaria illness and

deaths," said the PS.

Mburu said that Kenya has made progress against malaria through the implementation of several interventions targeted at various areas of the country. "In the last decade, we have reduced the prevalence of malaria by more than 50%, and the number of new malaria cases has also significantly decreased. Several counties have consistently recorded very low incidences of malaria and this provides an opportunity to implement malaria elimination in these counties," she said.

The PS said that the Kenya Malaria Elimination Implementation Plan (2021-2023) outlines the implementation pathway of malaria elimination activities in the country. "In the last year, our efforts together with Ghana and Malawi have resulted in the approval of the malaria vaccine for scale-up which was launched in Kenya last month," said the PS.

She continued: "Indeed, the tremendous progress we have made has not gone unnoticed. I am proud to reiterate, as some of you may already recall, that our President Dr. William Ruto, received an award at the African Union (AU) summit on behalf of the Republic of Kenya in recognition of Kenya's efforts in the fight against malaria, particularly in the effective use of the malaria scorecard for action and accountability."

Mburu said that despite the tremendous investment in malaria, the uptake of malaria interventions at the community and household levels remains below target.

She explained that the key findings from the Malaria Behavior Survey give a better understanding

of the behavioral factors that affect the uptake of malaria interventions and these findings will help in improving designs of social behavior change strategies to reach those most at risk in the communities.

"The financing needs for malaria prevention, control, and elimination are significant. As a country, we must urgently address our financial resource gap, which currently stands at 50% of the resources required to fully implement the Kenya Malaria Strategic Plan," said the PS adding that external funding is either stagnating or declining in an environment of increasing needs.

"I commend the private sector's role in contributing to the fight against malaria through multi-sectoral advocacy and resource mobilization. The recent efforts by the End Malaria Council of Kenya to mobilize an additional one Million US dollars towards the fight are an excellent show of commitment by the private sector.

We are excited as we await the additional malaria clinics promised through this public-private partnership initiated by EMC and SC Johnson, which will go a long way in strengthening malaria control and elimination in Kenya," said the PS.

Mburu said that while challenges remain, the time to deliver zero malaria in Kenya is now, and it will require sustained investment, innovation, and efficient implementation of interventions adding that the progress made in Kenya contributes to the global goal of eliminating malaria by 2030.

Avail Financial Documents To Auditors On Time; PAC Tells State Departments



John Mbadi.

By: PSCU

The Public Accounts Committee has directed State Departments to cooperate with the Office of the Auditor General by availing required financial documents to them on time.

Chairperson John Mbadi said the committee is concerned by an increase in cases where the State Departments delay to submit documents required by auditors.

"Submission of required documents to the auditors by State Departments will minimise the number of audit queries tabled before the Committee," said Mbadi.

The Chairperson made the remarks when the Committee met with Principal Secretary State Department for Wildlife Silvia Museiya, who could not account for Sh10 million disbursed to the Kenya Wildlife Services for purchase of tree seedlings.

The committee was told that the department failed to submit reports to auditors justifying how the funds were spent during the period under audit.

In her response Ms Museiya confirmed to the Committee that the documents were later submitted to the Office of the Auditor General, in which they gave a detailed account for the money.

The PS was taken to task to explain why the department paid Sh40 million in advance to a supplier who won a tender to supply vehicles and other transport equipment contrary to the law.

The PS in her submission explained that the vehicles were purchased by the UNDP and delivered to the Department and so they did not have control over payment.

The Department could also not account for Sh8 million for domestic travel and subsistence and training programme among others.

The Committee was told that the Department could also not confirm Sh56 million grants from their main donor, the UNDP.

The PS confirmed to the Committee that no money was lost in purchase of goods and services and donor grants as the programmes were being undertaken by UNDP which availed documents to that effect.

Meru Hospital Performs First Spinal Surgery



Medics in Meru operating a patient.

By: Muguoung Judy
@themkenyatimes

Patients with spine and head injuries in Meru will no longer be referred to Nairobi for surgery after the county's Teaching and Referral hospital successfully performed the first spinal surgery.

The spinal surgery, also the first in the Upper Eastern region, became a reality after the Meru County government hired a neurosurgeon for the first time early this month.

A team of orthopedic surgeons and other specialists led by the newly hired neurosurgeon Dr Muthoka Mativo conducted two successful operations a fortnight ago, marking a major milestone for the hospital.

According to Dr Mativo, one of the patients, a 23-year-old man, was involved in an accident and suffered a neck fracture while the other patient, an elderly man, has been living with paralysis.

Dr Mativo noted that with the support of the county government, the hospital has all the necessary equipment hence patients will no longer need to travel to Nairobi and outside the country for such services.

He revealed that the referral hospital has a skilled team to help him serve patients who have been travelling far to seek

medical services.

Dr Kinyua Ndegwa, an orthopedic surgeon and head of the surgery unit, said the hospital has been attending to many accident cases that could not be treated before.

He termed success in spine surgery a big milestone for the hospital citing that they have been receiving many cases of head and spine injuries occasioned by road accidents.

He called on residents with spine or head injuries to seek help from the county referral hospital assuring that these cases can now be comprehensively managed.

According to Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital CEO, Dr Gacheri Kathiiri, the successful spinal surgery is a boost to the management's efforts to transform the facility into a specialized hospital.

"We have been referring all our patients with spinal, neck and head injuries to Nairobi and many cases have had poor outcomes due to the distance. We expect another neurosurgeon next year and this will increase the number of patients being treated here," Dr Gacheri said adding the medication of the two cases was paid for by the National Health Insurance Fund.

Dr Gacheri, noted that the hospital is in the process of phasing out walk-in patients as it transits to referrals only.

She added that the hospital is

also working on a one-bed-per-patient policy as well as back-referral, which allows patients to have surgery closer from home and shorten the treatment time.

The specialist pointed out that the hospital receives more than 1,000 patients in its outpatient wing daily adding the institution which has a capacity of 335 beds, admits about 500 patients in its wards at any given time, leading to sharing of beds.

"We would like the public to know that our level four hospitals now have specialists who can handle various conditions. We do not want patients to make the level five hospital the first point of contact. This will enable us to concentrate more on specialized care and referral cases," Dr Gacheri said.

She pointed out that once the one bed policy is in place, there will be no sharing of beds and encouraged residents to take advantage of specialized services being offered at the hospital instead of travelling far to seek same medical services.

Counties Have Not Met Two Thirds Gender Rule In Appointing CECMs And Chief Officers



The committee in session.

By: PSCU

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has pointed out that no County has complied with the two thirds Gender rule in appointing County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) and Chief Officers (CO).

The Commission informed the Senate Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration Chaired by Marsabit Senator, Mohamed Chute, that no county has more women CECMs or COs compared to men.

"It is important to note that in all counties, women CECMs or COs constitute the third (where counties have complied with the not more than two thirds gender principle) "the Commission chair stated.

The Commission also noted that counties have also not complied with other domains of inclusion and diversity such as representation of youth, PWDs, minority and marginalized people.

The Gender Commission was responding to a statement sought by Nominated Senator Beth Syengo, seeking information pertaining to the audit of appointments of CECMs and COs in all counties.

The statement further sought information about the affirmative action being taken by counties in the promotion of women to leadership positions.

While responding to concerns by Senator Syengo, the Commission said that in the last three months, they had also received complaints on alleged discrimination or exclusion in the appointments of

CECMs and COs positions from various quarters.

"The Commission is keenly following on these complaints and we aim to apply alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and appeal to parties to reach mutual but positive resolution directed towards greater inclusions and representation," she told the Senate.

The Commission asked the Senate to work together with Council of Governors to develop guidelines to manage transitions between elections in County Governments.

"There are cases where appointment of CECMs and COs in the County Government are halted unnecessarily for too long due to court injunctions and community acrimony," Mutinda said.

The NGEC further called for support from the development partners to increase investment on gender agenda.

There is also need, the Commission said, for public education directed to the communities to ensure they remain vigilant to protect and claim their right of representation.

Members of the Committee present were Senators Joseph Githuku (Lamu) and Betty Montent. Senator Syengo was also present.

Voices From Exile

By: Njonjo Mue



Lawyer Njonjo Mue.

Worth Noting:

- I also learned lessons from anti-apartheid activists who had worked from exile to mobilize international public opinion against the racist regime, and I became very active in mobilizing advocacy on Kenyan issues among Kenyans in the Diaspora.
- Whenever President Moi or any of his ministers were due to visit South Africa, we would lobby the South African government to cancel such visits and when we failed, we would organise peaceful demonstrations to oppose the visit as well as issue press statements and appear on TV explaining that Moi and his officials had no business celebrating South Africa's young and vibrant democracy while back home they were busy clobbering any group which dared to express a different viewpoint other than their own.

When I relocated to South Africa following six months of heightened civic engagement in Kenya, I felt really lonely and isolated with a serious case of withdrawal symptoms.

There were no more demonstrations, no confrontations with the police, no rubber bullets, no batons, and no teargas.

Then I remembered my father's counsel ahead of the demonstrations when he would beseech me not to participate in street battles with the police but rather contribute to the struggle through my writing.

When I was back home in the midst of all the action, I could not agree with him. But now that I was far from home and was physically prevented from taking part in the action, it occurred to me that I could now actually take his advice, largely because I really had no choice.

I started writing on a whole range of subjects, mainly regarding the politics of Kenya and her current affairs.

There was no social media at the time and so I would send these articles to a few friends by email and they would in turn forward the articles to their friends, and before I knew it most of my writings would go viral with some ending up being published in Kenyan newspapers and sparking off intense debate back home.

I was therefore able, even without intending it, to influence the course of events in Kenya from a distance.

I also learned lessons from an-

ti-apartheid activists who had worked from exile to mobilize international public opinion against the racist regime, and I became very active in mobilizing advocacy on Kenyan issues among Kenyans in the Diaspora.

Whenever President Moi or any of his ministers were due to visit South Africa, we would lobby the South African government to cancel such visits and when we failed, we would organise peaceful demonstrations to oppose the visit as well as issue press statements and appear on TV explaining that Moi and his officials had no business celebrating South Africa's young and vibrant democracy while back home they were busy clobbering any group which dared to express a different viewpoint other than their own.

One day as we were busy planning to disrupt an upcoming visit by a Kenyan minister, I got an unexpected call from a woman who introduced herself as Greta Bezuidenhout. She said that she worked with the South African Intelligence Service and requested me to meet with her at her office a few blocks away from our offices in Johannesburg.

I was apprehensive at first, given the brutal reputation of Kenya's equivalent body, the Special Branch, but she assured me that all she wanted was to chat and to get more details regarding the press statement that we had issued regarding the Kenyan minister's forthcoming visit.

When I got to her office at the Braamfontein Centre on Jorrisen Street later that afternoon, I was warmly welcomed by a tall lean athletic white woman with well cropped reddish hair and a disarming smile.

She looked anything but what I had expected. One would not easily guess that she was in the intelligence service. There was none of the intensity and meanness that I had come to associate with her counterparts back home in Kenya.

"So, what objection do you have against the visit of the Kenyan minister?" she asked after introducing herself and serving me a cup of rooibos tea.

She was holding a copy of our press statement which we had issued just a few hours before.

I explained to her that I was the spokesperson of the Kenyan Democratic Initiative in South Africa (KENDISA) which comprised a number of Kenyans and friends of Kenya in South Africa and that we were doing precisely what South African exiles had done for years in opposition to apartheid rule – mobilizing international public opinion in opposition to a brutal system in place back home.

True to her word, once we had finished our tea and I had explained our campaign, she told me that I was free to go.

Over time, she and I became something of friends of necessity. We agreed that rather than her team

having to invest resources collecting intelligence on us, I would simply routinely inform her office when we were planning an event or campaign since we had nothing to hide and what we were doing was not illegal under the new South African Constitution.

I had grown up in Kenya during the Kenyatta and Moi years, where the state was totalitarian, and its leaders, to borrow the words of Henry Kissinger, "knew how to rule with the help of the secret police, but not with the secret ballot".

The Kenyan security intelligence service, which was then known as the Special Branch, was a very important tool of the government, aimed at repression and control of its own citizens. It achieved this by arbitrary arrests of dissidents, torture in the basement of Nyayo House, prosecution on trumped up charges, imprisonment, even assassination of government critics.

During the time I worked with Ms Bezuidenhout, not only did I grow to admire her for her professionalism, I also learned to appreciate the role of the intelligence service in a democracy, which is to defend the state against genuine threats to its national security.

Siku ya giza

In October 1998, as President Moi was celebrating 20 years in power with no indication that he ever intended to retire, we in Johannesburg organised an event which we called 'Siku ya Giza' (Day of Darkness).

Moi's anniversary celebration coincided with a particularly difficult season for Kenyans back home.

The endemic corruption at the monopoly Kenya Power and Lighting Company had led to a near collapse of the parastatal and seriously compromised its capacity to provide electricity to all its customers. The country therefore suffered severe power shortages that compelled KPLC to ration power to most households.

Siku ya Giza was meant to give Kenyans in the Diaspora an opportunity to stand in solidarity with our brethren back home.

"The first step to resolving a problem is to understand it," we wrote in our explanatory brochure. "And the best way to understand it is to experience it."

We, therefore, invited fellow Ken-

Contd Page 21.

Voices From Exile

By: Njonjo Mue

Contd from Page 20.

Worth Noting:

- I wrote an introspective letter to my friend, Ann Mbuthia, in London expressing some initial thoughts about the city and its history. In the letter, I wrote to her in part:
 - "... It (the city of Cape Town) was the gateway that ushered in not just the Portuguese (at least they just stopped by and passed on), but also the Dutchman Jan Van Riebeeck, the forefather of Africa's only white tribe, the Afrikaners, who landed in 1652 and stayed. I need not recount the sad link between van Riebeeck and Jan Smuts, D.F. Malan, Hendrik Verwoerd, John Vorster, P.W. Botha and F.W. De Klerk, and four hundred years of white domination of black people, and apartheid."

yans in the Diaspora to switch off their electricity, running water and other utilities for a period of 24 hours.

We also invited them to undertake a fast for the same period in order to invite divine intervention in resolving the multifaceted problems facing our country.

At the end of the 24 hours, which happened to be a Friday evening, we encouraged people to meet together in groups of friends and share a meal.

We then invited them to drive to the Kenyan High Commission in Pretoria for an overnight peaceful vigil to protest Moi's presidency and pray for its downfall.

A number of colleagues called me to apologise that they could not take part in the Siku ya Giza vigil because they were, at that time, undocumented migrants and did not want to get into trouble with the authorities. They feared that the South African government would certainly take an interest in our activities and they did not want to get into trouble with immigration, including possibly being deported.

I was tempted to give a knee-jerk reaction to their concerns by telling them that their fears were wholly unfounded, but a higher wisdom prevailed.

"Do you have a car?" I would ask, to which most of them replied in the affirmative.

"Can you offer to drive a number of people to Pretoria and then pick them up at the end of the vigil without having to take part in the vigil yourself?"

Most of them were happy to do so. And so they made a great contribution to the cause without having to take what they considered to be unnecessary risks.

I learned a great lesson that day. If someone is afraid of doing something, instead of arguing with them and telling them that there was nothing to fear, it was more useful to understand and acknowledge their fear from their point of view and to offer them an alternative way to contribute to the struggle without crossing any lines that they were uncomfortable crossing.

An Island of Hope

In November 1998, I visited Cape Town to meet one of our donors. It was my first visit to 'the Mother City', the legislative capital of South Africa where the national Parliament is based.

After I was done with the business



Lawyer Njonjo Mue .

of the trip, I stayed on for a few more days on holiday during which I visited Table Mountain, Cape Point on the southern tip of Africa, and Robben Island.

I wrote an introspective letter to my friend, Ann Mbuthia, in London expressing some initial thoughts about the city and its history. In the letter, I wrote to her in part:

"... It (the city of Cape Town) was the gateway that ushered in not just the Portuguese (at least they just stopped by and passed on), but also the Dutchman Jan Van Riebeeck, the forefather of Africa's only white tribe, the Afrikaners, who landed in 1652 and stayed. I need not recount the sad link between van Riebeeck and Jan Smuts, D.F. Malan, Hendrik Verwoerd, John Vorster, P.W. Botha and F.W. De Klerk, and four hundred years of white domination of black people, and apartheid."

Following my visit to Robben Island, I wrote in my letter to Ann, about "that other place of pain and hope off the Coast of Cape Town.... I made the half hour crossing between Cape Town and Robben Island.... followed by a memorable tour of the island and the prison – including cell number 5 – the womb from which sprang forth the democracy and equality I now enjoy alongside the forty million black and white South Africans.

"Being at Nelson Mandela's cell," I reflected, "is almost a spiritual experience for any human rights activist."

On getting back to the mainland, I had lunch at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront where "the glaring inequalities of modern South Africa returned to haunt me" as I noted that 95% of the shoppers and diners were white, while most almost 100% of the workers were black. And this was replicated elsewhere in South African society.

"Although there is no longer any law telling people where they can or cannot go on the basis of colour," I noted sadly, "simple economics ensures that the colour-bar is maintained firmly in place. And it will be a long time before black people can participate in the fortunes of this country on the basis of full equality."

In my letter to Ann, I expressed the opinion that after spending twenty seven years in prison followed by eight years of steering the transition to democracy, Nelson Mandela had done his part, and the challenge to complete the transformation of the country now lay with a new generation of leaders led by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, as well as the South African people in general.

"I am blessed to be here to see how they rise up to the challenge," I wrote. Nor was I merely a spectator in all that was taking place around me, for I believed that God had brought me to that place and time to teach and prepare me to participate in a transition that was taking place all over Africa.

The torch was passing on to us and

the future of our continent now lay in our hands.

Before concluding my letter to my friend, I once again referenced Mandela's wisdom:

"... our challenge to those (Ken-yans) of you currently resident abroad," I stated, "is the same one that Nelson Mandela gave a group of young South Africans who were about to flee into exile in 1963, just before Mandela began his life sentence. – 'We shall need your skills when the time comes; go and prepare.'

"Among the group hearing this was a young Thabo Mbeki, who took those words to heart and is now preparing to take over from Mandela as President when the latter retires next year."

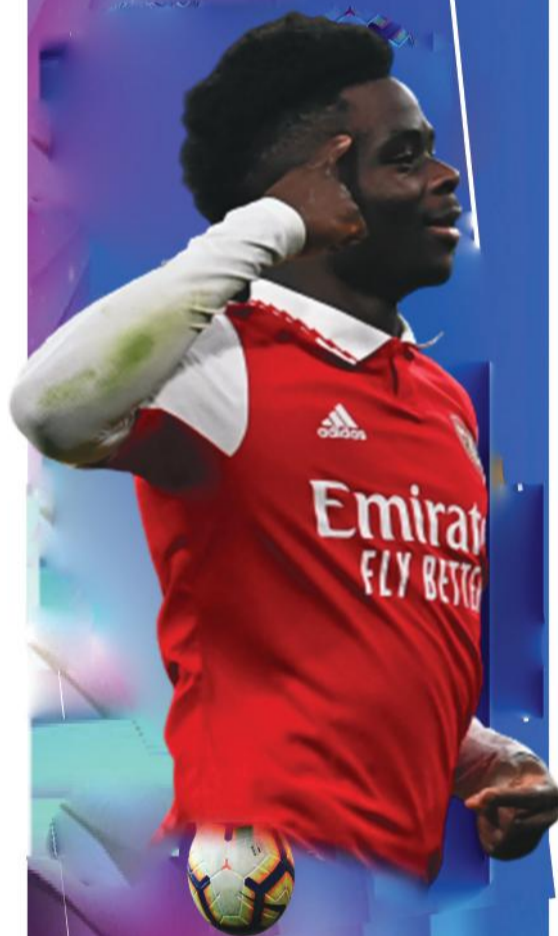
My letter from Cape Town to my friend Ann in London ended on a hopeful note:

"And so as I sit in the shadow of Table Mountain looking across the Atlantic Ocean to an island of despair-turned-into-a-symbol-of-hope, I cannot help but reflect on what our country, and our continent, could truly become. A place of hope, and a destination for anyone seeking to know how accidental divisions of tribe, colour, gender and race, can blend together in a symphony of brotherhood, sisterhood, equality, fairness and justice for all.

(To be continued...)

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *The NCBA Golf Series continues Saturday at the Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club.

NCBA Golf Series Continues at Windsor Golf Club



Ida Njogu in action at Limuru Country Club during the NCBA Golf Series.

The NCBA Golf Series continues Saturday at the Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club.

This will be the fourth event under the series being held in Kenya, and the fourth overall in the series, following successful tournaments held at Kenya Railway Golf Club, Lake Victoria Serena Hotel Golf & Spa in Uganda, and Limuru Country Club.

At least 150 golfers are expected to take to the course to compete for slots to play at the Series' Grand Finale later this year.

The overall gross winner, men's category, ladies' category, and the juniors' category winners will secure slots to play at the Grand Finale.

The latest additions to the list of qualifiers coming from the Limuru leg are; Peter Muchangi who emerged as the Overall gross winner, John Kariuki who took home the Men's Category, Noni Wanyee who emerged top in the Ladies' Category and Jelani Kihanya who championed the Juniors.

The NCBA Golf Series is orga-

nized by NCBA Bank in partnership with golf clubs across the country and is fully sponsored by the bank. This year's series features 17 seniors' qualifier events and a junior tournament to be held at Nyali Golf Club.

Speaking during the Limuru Country Club event, NCBA Group Retail Director, Tirus Mwithiga, said; "Through the NCBA Golf Series, we aim to provide an avenue for golfers to hone their skills, showcase their talent, and participate in the growth and development of

the sport in Kenya. We are excited to see the level of competition and sportsmanship that this year's series will bring, and look forward to continuing our support for the golfing community in Kenya," he said.

Preparations for the Windsor tournament are currently in top gear with confirmation of the field ongoing.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Mikel Arteta is confident Arsenal can return to winning ways after damaging draws against Liverpool and West Ham cost them momentum in the Premier League title race.

Arsenal Can Rediscover Title-Chasing Swagger, Says Arteta



Mikel Arteta.

Mikel Arteta is confident Arsenal can return to winning ways after damaging draws against Liverpool and West Ham cost them momentum in the Premier League title race.

The Gunners let two-goal leads slip in both games and the leaders are now just four points ahead of defending champions Manchester City, who have a game in hand.

The two title-chasing teams meet at the Etihad Stadium next week in a match that could prove pivotal.

Arteta said his team had reacted well after their setbacks as he prepares them to face bottom side Southampton on Friday.

"I'm very confident," he said on Thursday. "Twists and turns are

part of anything you do, especially in football.

"Whatever the aim or the target is, it is not going to go in a linear progression. You have to know that and prepare for that and the way the team reacted this week is incredibly positive and we want to see that tomorrow night."

The Spaniard admitted his team had to be more ruthless as they chase their first English top-flight title for 19 years.

"Maybe we got too comfortable at some stage in the (West Ham) game," he said. "It's different. They know. I don't have to coach them because they said it straight away.

"They know, it's in their system, it's in the gut and tomorrow we have to show it."

Bukayo Saka missed a penalty that would have put the visitors 3-1 up at the London Stadium last week, his first failure from the spot since his effort was saved in the Euro 2020 final shoot-out.

But Arteta said the England forward, 21, would remain the club's penalty taker and could take something positive from the situation.

"He loves the responsibility but as well he puts a lot on his shoulders," said the Arsenal boss.

"If he had any doubt about how much people loved or respected him or admired him at the club, he had a very overwhelming reaction from everybody in the building and at the club.

"I think at the end of this, it can

be something very positive that can give him a big lift because everyone reacted in an unbelievable way towards him because he deserves it because of the way he is."

Arteta called on the crowd at the Emirates to create an "electric" atmosphere for Friday's match.

"I want that crowd playing every single ball with our team and be no different to what we have experienced — at full capacity energy-wise and everyone very positive pushing the team."

AFP

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Grilled Over Audit Queries For Year Ended June 2020

By: PSCU



Worth Noting:

- On the question of the firm's properties, plants and general equipment, the management told the legislators that the Agency possesses 6 parcels of land but which have no ownership documents. The MPs heard that part of the land is located in Naivasha - along Maumahu road, the other which is approximately 100 acres - in Katumani, and one in Machakos. The land is said to have been grabbed by individuals.
- "KALRO has about 80 pieces of land across the country where research is carried out. Most of this land was government land. However, we have also written to the National Lands Commission asking that KALRO is issued with the remaining titles", said the company secretary Ms. Patricia Anyango.



Some of the committee members during the session

The National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture led by Emmanuel Wangwe played host to the management of the public agency in charge of agricultural research- the Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) who had been invited to explain audit queries of financial year 2019/2020.

The Committee raised a number of questions on receivables from exchange transactions where long outstanding debts had been reported but supporting documents had not been provided at the time of the audit.

Kenya Seed Company is one of the parastatals flagged out for not remitting research royalties to KALRO.

The Committee also took issue with the decision by KALRO management to consider writing off debts they have categorized as historical.

"How have you planned to write off these debts, and could you provide us with your debt policy?" posed Hon. Martin Owino from Ndhiwa constituency.

"Your responses reveal that some of these debtors are prominent people in the society. Under what circum-

stances did they receive this money?", asked Bishop Jackson Kosgey who is a nominated member.

In his response, the Director General KALRO Eliud Kirger disclosed the names of the debtors holding the organisation's money.

"Some of these debtors passed on. They had taken goods from KALRO and KEPHIS inform of planting materials and livestock", he revealed.

Asked to respond on the organization's credit management policy vis a vis its mandate by Martin Owino, Mr. Kirget told the legislators that though their main mandate as an agency is research, the organization is involved in the sale of by-products, but runs a partnership with Kenya Seed for mass production.

He noted that the company's credit policy doesn't allow them to undertake a lot commercial activities.

On the question of the firm's properties, plants and general equipment, the management told the legislators that the Agency possesses 6 parcels of land but which have no ownership documents. The MPs heard that part of the land is located in Naivasha - along Maumahu road, the other which is approximately 100 acres

-in Katumani, and one in Machakos. The land is said to have been grabbed by individuals.

"KALRO has about 80 pieces of land across the country where research is carried out. Most of this land was government land. However, we have also written to the National Lands Commission asking that KALRO is issued with the remaining titles", said the company secretary Ms. Patricia Anyango.

Geoffrey Wandeto from Tetu Constituency questioned why the man-

agement of KALRO has not taken advantage of the laws around eviction in the country to sort out the problem. The Committee directed the management to provide all the information on the grabbed land under KALRO, including that which had been issued titles which were later revoked.

On the Machakos land, the Members asked to be furnished with information on any deal between KALRO and KENTRACO, a power line agency which said to have erected beacons and even started construction on the land, whose section is used by the county government of Machakos as a dump site.

The Committee resolved to invite the electricity transmitting company KENTRACO to appear before them to explain the circumstances under which they had identified and encroached on land belonging to KALRO.

Other issues raised were lost title deeds, land leases with other government organisations including county governments, and lack of valuation programs for assets belonging to the organisation including land and vehicles.

Members present during the meeting were Fatuma Jeho (Wajir), Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), Jackson Kosgey (Nominated), Caleb Amisi (Saboti), Joshua Kimilu (Kaiti), Banard Kitur (Nandi Hills) and Ngikor Nicolus (Turkana East).



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina (right) contributing during the parliamentary committee session.