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While In Search Remain Specific But Expect A Lot

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Kenya-US Negotiate On Trade And Investment Partnership
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MPs To Strengthen Oversight For Improved Debt Sustainability And Better Fiscal Outcomes



Former US Congressman Mike Bishop told the MPs that there is need to demand more legislative powers for parliaments if they are to effectively oversight their countries' fiscal situations and enhance oversight on annual budgets, public debt management and borrowing dynamics in general.

Some of the MPs following the forum session.

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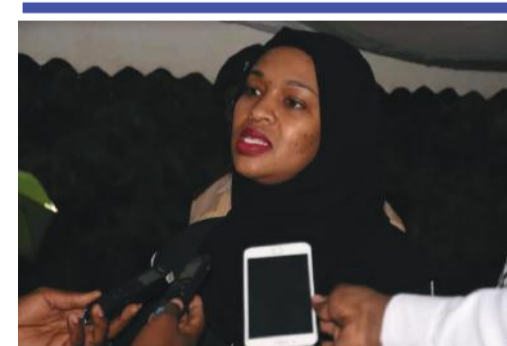
FOOD: CS Linturi Tells The Petition Committee That Money For Subsidy Never Reached The Millers **P.11**

Central Kenya MCAs Establish Committee To Formulate Laws Regulating Alcohol Sale



P.9 Some of the MCA's during yesterday's meeting. Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing the meeting



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Weather Man Advises Residents To Harvest Rain Water

By: Wangari Mwangi

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- He said that much as the department had predicted below average rainfall this season, the amount would be adequate to sustain fast maturing crops.
- “The amount of rainfall that we are continuing to receive will be adequate for farmers who plant fast maturing crops, so there is still time for those who have not yet planted to do so,” he said.
- On Tuesday, the Kenya Meteorological Department forecasted continued rainfall accompanied by strong winds in 28 counties.



A flooded walk path leading to Ngarariga location in Gakawa Ward in Kieni constituency in Nyeri County.

The Meteorological department has advised Nyeri residents to take advantage of the current rains and harvest water for future use.

The County Director of Meteorological Services, John Muiruri, says the county is expected to receive considerable amount of rainfall of above 30 mm this week and urged the residents to ensure that the precious resource does not go to waste.

“We are advising people to put in

place amenities such as water tanks and use their roofs to harvest as much rain water as they can. They can actually store this water and use it for domestic purposes or even for irrigation when the rains stop falling,” said Muiruri.

The rainfall amount is expected to range between 450 mm to 600mm during the March-April-May season. The cessation of the rain is expected to begin on the third and fourth week

of May for the whole county.

Muiruri has also reassured farmers who intend to plant crops during this rainy season of some harvest.

He said that much as the department had predicted below average rainfall this season, the amount would be adequate to sustain fast maturing crops.

“The amount of rainfall that we are continuing to receive will be adequate for farmers who plant fast maturing crops, so there is still time for

those who have not yet planted to do so,” he said.

On Tuesday, the Kenya Meteorological Department forecasted continued rainfall accompanied by strong winds in 28 counties.

The department also warned of the possibility of flash floods in Embu, Nyeri, Kiambu, Nyandarua, Laikipia, Murang’a, Meru, Kirinyaga, Tharaka Nithi, Nairobi, Narok, Nyamira, Kericho, Bomet, Nakuru, Kitui, Machakos, Makeni, Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir and Garissa counties and cautioned residents to take precautionary measures to ensure their safety.

According to the alert, the rainfall being experienced over several parts of the country is expected to continue to weekend. The downpour is likely to continue over several parts of the country with a reduced intensity over the coastal region. Strong winds of more than 25knots (12 miles per second) are equally expected over the South Coast and North-western Kenya.

“Residents are advised to avoid driving through, or walking in moving water or open fields and not to shelter under trees and near grilled windows to minimize exposure to lightning strikes. The strong winds may blow off roofs, uproot trees and cause structural damages,” warned the alert.

The Mt. Kenya Times



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Situation Of Alcohol, Drug Abuse Still Bad - NACADA



NACADA board chairman Rev. Dr. Stephen Kiptoem Mairori addressing stakeholders

By: Kiptanui Cheronu
@themtkenyatimes

The National Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, (NACADA) has described the country's alcohol and drug abuse state as very bad.

NACADA chairman Rev. Dr. Stephen Kiptoem Mairori warned that unless something is done, the war against alcohol and drug abuse will be lost and the country risks losing a whole generation to the menace. Speaking during an engagement meeting with members of a multi-agency team from Uasin Gishu County led by the County Commissioner Dr. Eddyson Nyale and Uasin Gishu County government secretary Edwin Bett, Rev. Mairori said contrary to the belief that only the younger generation was affected by alcohol and drugs, the old and the young are equally affected.

The chairman, who was accompanied by NACADA Chief Executive Officer, CEO, Victor Okioma and board member Elijah Lagat said there is need for specific programmes to be developed targeting schools and the workplace where the drug menace is causing serious concern.

"We should not be focusing the war on alcohol and drug abuse on the community alone, awareness should also be rolled out in schools and the workplaces as they are other hotspots of alcoholism and drugs

abuse," Rev. Mairori advised.

While lauding the Uasin Gishu County Alcoholic Drinks Control Board (ADCB), the chairman advised that before issuing a liquor licence, public participation should be conducted to engage the community on whether they approve or do not approve of a liquor outlet within their area.

"You should strictly follow the law when considering Liquor licencing applications and subsequent enforcement for those that do not observe the laid down regulations without fear or favour," advised the chairman

"You should not be intimidated by politicians to licence bars that have not met the requirement, we have the support and assurance from the nation's top leadership that there will be no more 'calls from above' to arm-twist you to entertain illegalities," said Rev. Mairori.

He added: "if the war against alcohol and drug abuse is to be won, and make Kenya alcohol and drug-free nation, it is now when we have the political goodwill to do so".

During the meeting, corruption and lack of integrity among enforcement officers were identified as major stumbling blocks towards the war against illicit alcohol and drug abuse in the county.

The county secretary Edwin Bett said enforcement has been the weak link in ensuring that liquor licencing rules and regulations are adhered to, "after we have licenced bars and wines and spirits, our major challenge of ensuring that only

licenced promises operate has been enforcement since some of our enforcement officers lack personal integrity and are easily compromised to allow unlicensed bars to operate."

The county secretary proposed that a joint enforcement team of officers with integrity from the county enforcement and the police should be formed led by a senior police officer whose sole duty should be to strictly enforce liquor licencing rules and ensure those not operating as per the licence requirement or operating without licences are apprehended and charged accordingly.

"The county will provide the necessary resources for the team to function properly, we want to weed out questionable characters who are compromised for unlicensed bar owners to continue enjoying protection," he added.

He said only 1200 out of more than 2000 applications tendered for the 2023 liquor licence have been granted approval in the county.

Uasin Gishu County Police Commander Benjamin Mwanthi said it was unfortunate that some bars were selling illicit brews, "In kampi kuku we found a bar selling chang'aa at the counter in total disregard of the law," he said

"In conjunction with the county government we summoned bar and wines and spirit shop owners and read the riot act to them that those found operating illegally, or failing to observe the rules of their licences will face the full force of the law," he said.

Stakeholders Sensitise Laikipia Youth On Drug Abuse



Youths from Laikipia during the sensitization forum.

By: Muturi Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Youth in Laikipia County have been sensitised on the fight against drugs and substance abuse.

The stakeholders said drugs and substance abuse had become rampant among the young people hence the need to intensify their efforts against the vice.

The move comes days after the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua launched a campaign against alcohol and drugs abuse in Mt. Kenya region.

On Friday, the DP met with speakers and members of the county assembly from Mount Kenya region over the fight against illicit brews.

Laikipia East Deputy Commissioner Patrick Muli speaking in Likii informal settlement said the majority of youth fall victims of alcohol and drugs abuse for lack of guidance.

"We have engaged youth from Likii and Majengo informal settlement. We want to give them hope for life since we have witnessed the majority falling victims of alcohol and drugs abuse," said Muli, adding some fall victims of alcohol and drug abuse without knowing.

The DCC pointed out that the gov-

ernment will not relent until it wins the fight against alcohol and drug abuse.

"This is just the beginning, we have decided first to engage youth by imparting information to help in the fight against illicit brews," said the DCC.

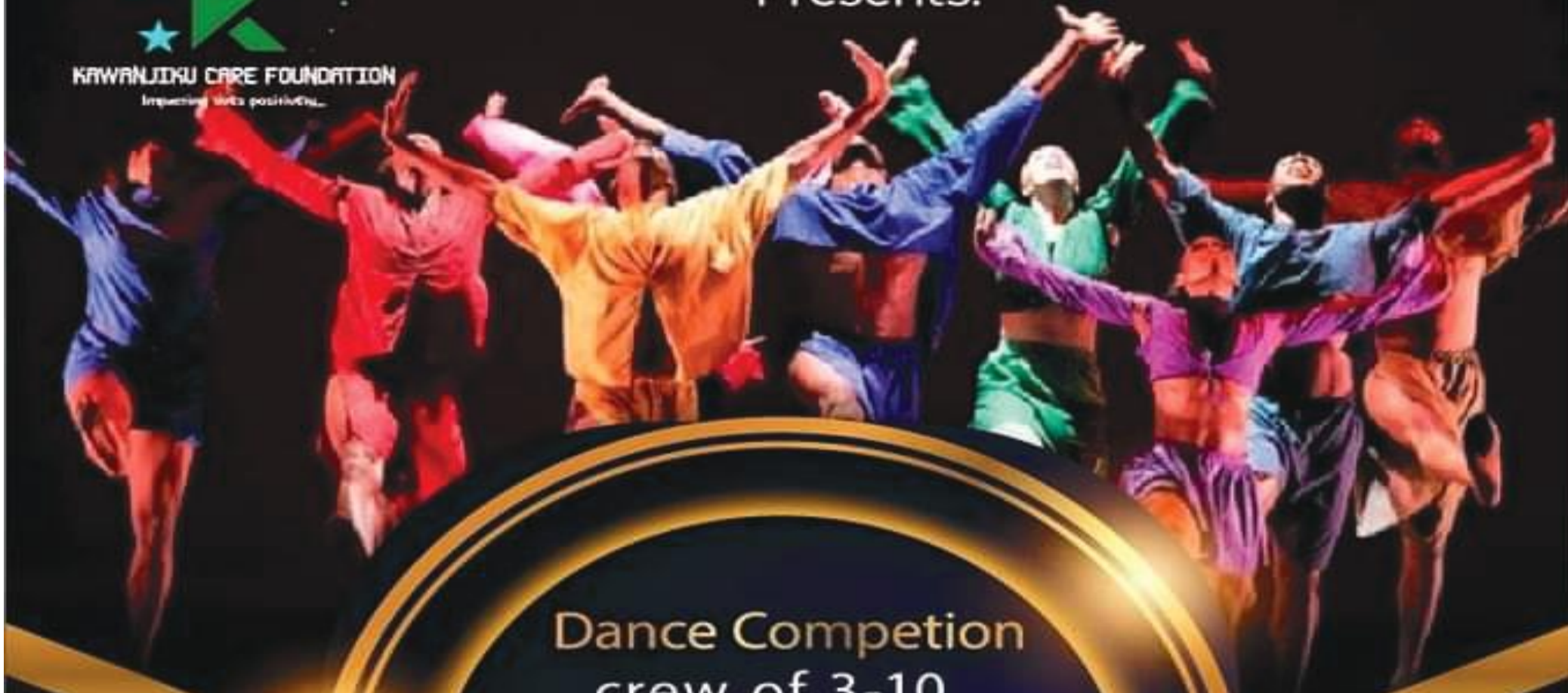
Muli urged residents to join hands in the fight against the illicit brews by volunteering information that could lead to the arrest of the brewers in a bid to stop the vice.

Binti World Chief Executive Officer Ann Gakii said that Youth especially the boychild had been neglected which had led them to get involved in drug abuse and at the same time she said they are committed to mentoring the boychild on mental health.

Laikipia Talent and Skills Training Institute Director Paul Mwaniki on his part said young people needed their hope for life to be renewed to become better people in the society.



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Eastern Produce Kenya (EPK) Unionisable Workers To Enjoy Pay Rise In New CBA

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- While extending the firm's appreciation to the KPAWU officials for maintaining a win-win negotiation approach, Ms Chirchir affirmed EPKs commitment to maintaining superior employee welfare and robust labour relations.
- "At EPK, we are committed to maintaining a shared prosperity model that prioritises our employees' welfare. We continue to celebrate our unionisable employees for putting in the hard work required to deliver world-class teas to the market. Our business ventures' operating and profit margins have fallen due to the global economic climate. Still, we are committed to continue securing EPK's position as an employer of choice," said Ms Chirchir.



Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union Secretary General Francis Atwoli with Eastern Produce Kenya Director Leah Kibii Chirchir exchanging documents after signing the CBA.

More than 6,000 unionisable workers at tea-growing firms associated with Eastern Produce Kenya (EPK) are set to enjoy an enhanced pay package following the sealing of an updated Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union (KPAWU).

The workers at the Nandi County based EPK firms have secured an 8% backdated General Wage increase for the year 2022 and will also enjoy a 7% increase for the current year 2023 following the adoption of a

new CBA effective last Wednesday.

The signing of the new CBA was preceded by intensive negotiations between EPK and KPAWU Officials led by General Secretary Dr Francis Atwoli and Deputy General Secretary Thomas Kipkemboi.

EPK Director Leah Kibii Chirchir and Human Resource and Administration Manager Fancy Mosore led the negotiations on behalf of the firm.

Speaking when she confirmed the sealing of the new CBA, Chirchir said that despite the economic chal-

lenges facing agricultural firms, the company would continue to prioritise its employees' welfare.

While extending the firm's appreciation to the KPAWU officials for maintaining a win-win negotiation approach, Ms Chirchir affirmed EPKs commitment to maintaining superior employee welfare and robust labour relations.

"At EPK, we are committed to maintaining a shared prosperity model that prioritises our employees' welfare. We continue to celebrate our unionisable employees for

putting in the hard work required to deliver world-class teas to the market. Our business ventures' operating and profit margins have fallen due to the global economic climate. Still, we are committed to continue securing EPK's position as an employer of choice," said Ms Chirchir.

EPK provides extension services to 7,500 smallholders by taking in their green leaf to process into quality black tea.

Over the years, EPK and KPAWU have maintained continuous industrial relations capacity-building programmes to boost compliance with global labour standards, including training Shop Stewards.

EPK tea estates are situated in the Nandi Hills, on the Equator, West of the Great Rift Valley.

The equitable climate, between 1000 to 2000 meters above sea level, ensures that tea can be picked all year round.

EPK owns five factories and seven estates and manages two client factories with three large associated estates.

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The tea garden marks in the EPK group are sold under the following names: Sokot, Chemomi, Kepchomo, Kipkoimet, Kamarya and Sitoi. It manages Siret and Kibwari on behalf of various local producers.

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MPs To Strengthen Oversight For Improved Debt Sustainability And Better Fiscal Outcomes

By: PSCU



Worth Noting:

- During the session on debt restructuring moderated by Dr. Martin Masinde (Parliamentary Budget Office) and Mr. James Muraguri (Institute for Public Finance), the key policy impetus of generation of own revenue to support budgetary priorities, programs and other policies came into sharp focus.
- Mr. Muraguri in particular challenged the delegates to critically look at the elements of tax expenditure and reconsider the trade offs with a view to answer the key questions that will obtain in that evaluation process.
- On his part, Dr. Masinde also cited a number of examples across the continent in ways that also informed the next session on action planning including strengthening and addressing legislation gaps, while promoting evidenced based decision making that informs sustainable fiscal management and good budgetary practices.

Legislators attending the Regional Exchange forum for Strengthening Legislative Budgeting and Public Debt Management in Mombasa have resolved to strengthen their oversight responsibility in a bid to enhance public debt sustainability and sound fiscal governance.

Among the practical steps that the MPs from The Gambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Zambia, Liberia and Kenya have adopted include the creation or strengthening of specific Parliamentary Committees focused on public debt oversight and management, intensified information generation on their countries' debt register and impact of contracted debt on the economy, as well as increased insistence on their governments to manage the expenditure side while expanding and refocusing attention on strategies towards local resource mobilization.

Speaking yesterday during a conversation on best practices in Public Debt Restructuring, the MPs lauded Kenya's efforts in relatively addressing the debt challenges in the country and use of mechanisms such as the Medium Term Debt Strategy and the establishment of the Public Debt and Privatization Committee alongside the earlier established Budget and Appropriations Committee.

They noted the need to have specific House Committees addressing budgetary issues, public debt management and taxation, following the rising public debt levels in the African region, and especially given the absence of the such strategies in many African countries. That such approach also creates subject matter expert committees that informs the House on timely basis for quick legislative interventions.

Former US Congressman Mike Bishop told the MPs that there is need to demand more legislative powers for parliaments if they are to effectively oversee their countries' fiscal situations and enhance oversight on annual budgets, public debt management and borrowing dynamics in general.

He was reacting to experiences by some legislators who expressed concern over the little influence or no-control by their Parliaments on borrowing and usage of debt in provision of public services or lack of it.

Speaking on behalf of the Kenyan delegation attending the forum, Okombo Milemba noted that the Kenyan Parliament would require to have an expanded role in approving public debt agreements in ways that



Some of the MPs following the forum session.

enhances better arrangements from the start, as well as tracking how debt is expended to evaluate status of the achievement of the primary objectives underpinning the initial borrowing decisions.

Only one of the six legislatures represented at the forum-Ghana, has some form of legislative power to review and approve public debt agreements.

During the session on debt restructuring moderated by Dr. Martin Masinde (Parliamentary Budget Office) and Mr. James Muraguri (Institute for Public Finance), the key policy impetus of generation of own revenue to support budgetary priorities, programs and other policies came into sharp focus.

Mr. Muraguri in particular challenged the delegates to critically look at the elements of tax expenditure and reconsider the trade offs with a view to answer the key questions that will obtain in that evaluation process.

On his part, Dr. Masinde also cited a number of examples across the continent in ways that also informed the next session on action planning including strengthening and addressing legislation gaps, while promoting evidenced based decision making that informs sustainable fiscal management and good budgetary practices.

Ivar Kakulo Jones from Liberia,

told the forum that while deliberations on debt restructuring was important, there was need to focus more on revenue generation and expanding or widening our tax bases for sustainable development and economic growth that also meets the needs and expectations of citizens who also double up as taxpayers. "Do we want to borrow forever? We must be able to generate more revenue and control our expenditure", he said

His colleague Mike Jurry held that the causes and contributing factors of the current debt crises in many developing countries including Asian and some in the African continent was attributable to the mismatch between borrowing and government spending. He proposed the development of program to track down and monitor debt and make sure it is used for the purposes it was borrowed for and enhance accountability.

Ghana's Elizabeth Adjane however faulted African governments for the apathy regarding taxation that exists within the region.

She submitted that the citizenry would be willing to honour their tax obligations if they were assured that the money would be used in programs beneficial to them and are welfare enhancing.

She observed that if governments do not use the taxpayers resources responsibly, they would be forced

to continue borrowing to fund their budgets ofcourse with dire consequences such elevated ditress levels witnessed in current times.

On his part, the Chairman of the Public Debt and Privatization Committee Hon. Abdi Shurie thanked the House Democracy Partnership and other partners like National Democratic Institute for organizing the forum. The member also applauded the resource persons for taking keen practical interest towards strengthening the overall budgeting processes and implementation.

He underscored the need for legislators to regularly exchange experiences through such arrangements with clear thematic areas like public debt and its impact on the economy and welfare of citizens and thanked his colleagues for their valuable contributions during the 3- day event.

He observed that such regional exchanges are beneficial exposures for legislators to inculcate best practices that enhances transparency and develop necessary capacities for effective oversight and good governance. He also thanked the Clerk of the National Assembly for co-hosting the event, which many participants noted will go along way in strengthening the representation function of the legislature and enhance parliamentary democracy for better legislation, and quality service delivery to the citizenry.

Central Kenya MCAs Establish Committee To Formulate Laws Regulating Alcohol Sale

By: DPPS and
RODGERS WAGURA

Members of County Assemblies from Murang'a, Kiambu, Nyeri, Nyandarua and Kirinyaga counties have established a 20-member committee to lead in the formulation of stringent laws to regulate the sale of alcohol in the Central Kenya region.

This decision was reached at in a resolution after Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua held consultations with the MCAs of the five counties at Iruri home in Mathira Constituency, Nyeri County, on ending illicit brew menace in the area.

"We have realised that there is a gap in law and we urgently need to fix it. We have deliberated to form a 20-member committee that will retreat on the formulation of a uniform law in the five counties," the Deputy President revealed.

The committee will meet on Thursday next week for deeper consultations with legal experts and will be joined by the National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani In-chung'wa. Out of the consultations, a bill for the five counties will be drafted.

The bill will be subjected to public participation and County Assembly plenaries as per the procedure before adoption.

The Deputy President said such a law will support the ongoing efforts of ending the sale of illegal alcohol in Central Kenya, which is one of the most affected regions in the country.

"The situation is worrisome. Ac-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua being escorted to the meeting venue at his Iruri residence in Mathira. With him is Mt Kenya region Director of Political Affairs in his office Munyiri Kibira, the host MCA Erastus Karanja, Nyeri Assembly Majority Leader James Kanyugo and Nyeri County Assembly Speaker Gichuhi Mwangi. Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU.

According to the National Campaign against Drug and Abuse Authority (NACADA) Central Kenya is at 14%. We need to come up with laws across the five counties for stringent regulation of the alcohol," Gachagua said.

The Deputy President said it is through the laws that punitive measures like fines on licensing will be established to deter manufacturing, distillation, packaging and sale of illegal alcohol.

"If we do not intervene, we will lose an entire generation. We start the journey of saving our youth here at Central Kenya. This will be a model for the country," he said.

Another key aspect in the regulations, the Deputy President noted, is the regulation of issuance of licenses for alcohol outlets.

Gachagua said the issuance of the licenses has to be limited to a specific period and through strict adherence of the law as opposed to the current situation where one can register a win and spirit or bar outlet any time.

He added that there is a need for an overhaul of the county boards that vet those who apply for the alcohol licenses outlets.

"You have a responsibility of oversighting the governors," he said.

Gachagua hosted this meeting days after meeting top National adminis-

tration, security chiefs, governors, Members of the National Assembly, the Senate the Clergy, among other leaders from the Central Region in Nyeri town for a similar consultation.

During the meeting which ended with adoption of a resolution, the Deputy President ordered a crackdown on illicit brew and manufacturing dens.

On April 20, 2023, he met top security chiefs at the Karen Office for an assessment of the progress of the crackdown.

Gachagua said security and other agencies are on high alert in monitoring unscrupulous importation of ethanol, which is the main component in illicit brews.

"We are making good progress in the crackdown," he said during the meeting with the MCAs.

The Deputy President also announced that there are plans to the Director of Public Prosecution to consult on aligning prosecution procedures.

He disclosed that similar engagements will be held in Mount Kenya East counties, South Rift, Coast and Western regions for a wholesome elimination of the illicit brews and drugs in the country.

Ichung'wah, who accompanied the Deputy President said sealing loopholes in the distribution of ethanol, which is used in making spirits will be key to the war against this menace.

Also present in the meeting were Speakers of the County Assemblies led by Nyeri's Gichuhi Mwangi and Mt Kenya Region Director of Political Affairs in the Office of the Deputy President Munyiri Kibira.



Some of the MCAs during yesterday's meeting. Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU.

Worth Noting:

- The Deputy President said such a law will support the ongoing efforts of ending the sale of illegal alcohol in Central Kenya, which is one of the most affected regions in the country.

- "The situation is worrisome. According to the National Campaign against Drug and Abuse Authority (NACADA) Central Kenya is at 14%. We need to come up with laws across the five counties for stringent regulation of the alcohol," Gachagua said.

- The Deputy President said it is through the laws that punitive measures like fines on licensing will be established to deter manufacturing, distillation, packaging and sale of illegal alcohol.

MPs' Decision To Throw The Ball Back To Ruto, Raila Did Not Come As A Surprise



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- In public eye, this would be interpreted differently. Those rallying behind the winner would accuse him of splitting the country along tribal and regional lines, the ultimate goal being to sabotage the agenda of the newly elected government of healing the nation and rolling out development projects.
- He would do this for selfish reasons as his main goal was to push for his inclusion in government so that he can sit on the high table and partake his share of the national cake.
- They would further tell him. Accept and move on. Stop disturbing the new government. Allow the leaders we elected to do the job we bestowed on them of addressing the myriad of challenges facing us.



President William Ruto and Azimio La Umoja- One Kenya Coalition Leader Raila Odinga

In the eve of the commencement of the bipartisan talks aimed at resolving the issues raised by Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition which were at the core of the bloody, chaotic and destructive demonstrations organized and led by Raila, I wrote in this column that the talks would only bear the fruits if the two leaders cede hardline stances.

My position was based on the experiences I had gathered from similar negotiations held here in Kenya and in other parts of the world.

Here in Kenya, the notable and most memorable talks were held in the aftermath of 2007 and 2017 general elections respectively.

As we know, these talks had one thing in common. Hon Raila Odinga was one of the key protagonists.

This is because in his mind he held a belief that he had won the polls but his rivals rigged him out.

In public eye, this would be interpreted differently. Those rallying behind the winner would accuse him of splitting the country along tribal and regional lines, the ultimate goal being to sabotage the agenda of the newly elected government of healing the nation and rolling out development projects.

He would do this for selfish reasons as his main goal was to push for his inclusion in government so that he can sit on the high table and partake his share of the national cake.

They would further tell him. Accept and move on. Stop disturbing the

new government. Allow the leaders we elected to do the job we bestowed on them of addressing the myriad of challenges facing us.

For Raila's diehard and fanatical supporters, they would hear none of this. They would take what Raila says as a gospel truth while vowing to push his agenda to the bitter end.

Take this from us. We are ready to die for Baba.

Taking note of this, the hands of Raila's team of negotiators would be tied. They would always strictly follow the instructions of their leader.

This means you cannot be a member if you held an independent and dissenting opinion, no matter whether it is for the good of the country.

Well, the same case applied to the other side.

I have been listening to the narrative of President William Ruto, the leader of Kenya Kwanza. He rightly avers the bipartisan talks should be strictly held within the framework of law and constitution and should not only be confined to issues raised by Azimio.

We should seize this moment to address all the other stick issues that need to be legislated by parliament.

It is costly and unwise to address one or two issues today and put other issues on hold and revisit them after some months or year.

The following are some of the issues he listed:

Operationalization of two-thirds gender rule; entrenchment of Na-

tional Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF), National Gender Affirmative Action and Senate Oversight in the constitution.

The other key proposal was the creation of the Office of the Official Leader of the Opposition.

In negotiations, the spirit of give and take must take precedence and it is the center bolt.

So, for me, it did not come as a surprise when I heard that the 14-member joint bipartisan talks committee failed to agree when they held inaugural meeting.

After identifying the issues in contestation, each team retreated and addressed a separate press conference.

But the tone of the script was similar. These issues can only be addressed by our respective principals. As a result, they threw the ball back to them.

Now, the question is. Will the two principals agree to have a face-to-face meeting?

As we know, the joint team held the first meeting when Raila was in Muranga where he addressed a town hall meeting.

Listening to his remarks, one thing was clear. He is still digging in.

He had not dropped his hardline position.

He reiterated that his call for resumption of mass protests was still on course. We had put the protests on hold as a goodwill to Muslim faithful marking the Holy Month of

Ramadhan.

We have realized the government is not taking our issues seriously. That is why we have said the protests will go hand in hand with bipartisan talks.

This clearly showed the talks have started on a wrong footing.

Raila position amount to putting the cart before the house. How you do come to a conclusion Azimio issues will not be addressed yet the joint committee had not held any meeting?

With due respect, I want to tell Raila. If you wants these talks to succeed, please come down and embrace the spirit of give and take. Here it means that it not a must that all your issues will be put on the table and discussed.

Remember these talks are guided by law and constitution. This is because Kenya is not a banana republic.

I am not holding brief for the President but I think many would agree with me. He has lately been softening his hardline position.

He has repeatedly been asking his brother Raila to call off demos and give the partisan talks a chance.

In view of this, Raila should reciprocate this gesture. This would create a common ground for the two to meet and iron the preliminary sticky issues that threaten derail the talks.

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

CS Linturi Tells The Petition Committee That Money For Subsidy Never Reached The Millers

By: PSCU



Committee members during the session.

The Ministry of Roads and Transport, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Statehouse Comptroller presented their defenses to the National Assembly's Committee on Public Petition with regards to the petition on the misappropriation of funds which contravenes Article 223 of the Constitution.

During the hearing, Mr. Mbugua, the Permanent Secretary of Roads and Transport, defended the Ministry against allegations of unauthorized expenditure of 9.45B.

The disbursement of 9.45 billion is part of the 55 billion that is currently under investigation by the National Assembly's Committee on Public Petitions, concerning its utilization by the previous administration led by former President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The Assembly's committee on Public Petitions is chaired by Kitui East MP Nimrod Mbai.

The investigation follows a petition by Stephen Mutoro, the Secretary General of the Consumer Federation of Kenya (COFEK) who avers that towards the end of the term of the Jubilee administration, Sh55 billion was spent without the approval of the National Assembly contrary to Article 223 of the constitution.

Appearing before the Committee, PS Mbugua said in response to the urgency of the funds; "We only followed and implemented the recommendations from the National

Security Council to upgrade the Lamu-Ijara road, dualling of the Nairobi Eastern Bypass and the construction of Makupa causeway".

The committee members raised concerns about the rationale behind utilizing Article 223 funds for a road project, especially when considering the time period and whether it represented value for money.

Following this, Mithika Linturi, the Cabinet Secretary of Agriculture, appeared before the committee to address the Ministry's receipt of funds for the Unga subsidy, which was meant to cushion the cost of living in the country. However, the full amount of the subsidy was not received by the Millers.

Linturi admitted that the Ministry had spent funds that were not approved by Parliament.

"We are guilty as charged. To date, this expenditure hasn't been regulated, the value for money for this expenditure doesn't add up. Irregardless of the story we can give, what remains is that the conditions of Article 223 were not considered," said the CS.

Shocked by the Linturi's revelation, the members questioned on where the money disappeared to if the beneficiaries didn't receive the funds, and whether the Ministry of Agriculture was consulted by Treasury.

The CS responded by saying; "There was no meeting, The Min-

istry never took part in the decision done by Treasury."

During his address to the committee, Linturi implored the government to provide adequate support to alleviate the high cost of living. He told the committee necessary measures such as bringing in organic fertilizer from Tanzania will help increase the yields. He requested the members to be his ambassadors to the people to not only plant for commercialization but for also personal consumption.

Katoo, the Statehouse Comptroller, was called upon to provide an account of the 3.7 billion that State-

house received from the Article 223 fund during the Committee's hearing. He disclosed that out of the 3.7 billion, 810 million was allocated for a confidential expenditure, while 2.96 billion was earmarked to settle the Nairobi Metropolitan Services' (NMS) pending bills.

However, only Sh411 million was disbursed to the respective contractors. Katoo clarified to the committee that Statehouse was left with NMS's liabilities since they were related to infrastructure projects.

Marwa raised doubts about the legality of disbursing the outstanding 2.5 billion, which Statehouse is yet to receive from the Exchequer, especially considering that it was approved by the Treasury without Parliament's approval. This raises the fundamental question of whether the remaining funds ought to be released to Statehouse.

"If you didn't spend under 223, why are we still waiting to spend under 223?" posed Marwa.

The Sessional Chair, Kagesi, expressed skepticism regarding the fortuitous timing of the application, which coincided with the general elections, with only three days to go. In response, Katoo acknowledged the suspicious timeline and urged the committee to scrutinize the Article 223 funds' disbursement criteria to prevent similar anomalies from occurring in the future.

The committee reassured all stakeholders that a thorough investigation would be conducted, and any wrongdoing uncovered would be exposed.



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi.

Worth Noting:

- Appearing before the Committee, PS Mbugua said in response to the urgency of the funds; "We only followed and implemented the recommendations from the National Security Council to upgrade the Lamu-Ijara road, dualling of the Nairobi Eastern Bypass and the construction of Makupa causeway".

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WHILE IN SEARCH REMAIN SPECIFIC BUT EXPECT A LOT

By: N. George

[@themtkenyatimes](#)



EXPECTATIONS

Worth Noting:

- It was out of their interaction that they felt the desire to strengthen their relationship through increasing number of interactions and personalize the content they discuss during those interactions.
- When diagnosing the cause of a sickness at times the physician discovers that he does not require to administer drugs to the patient as the sickness is due to stress all he is required to do is to counsel or direct the client to a psychologist for guidance and counseling sessions. No pathogen to be blamed for such cases. Those experienced at work will handle cases with an open mind aware that not all diseases are due to germs.

The searcher's eye not seldom finds more than he wished to find..... Gotthold Ephraim Lessing.

Some inventions like that of Popsicle were done unintentionally as the young boy forgot his sugary solution overnight only to find it has crystallized. Aware that it was sweet in the following morning he went ahead and tasted it. Delighted by its greatness in the new state he later on started an enterprise that produced it in large scale for commercial purposes. He did not limit the greatness of the new discovery to himself rather he spread it to the rest of the society and they also acknowledged that the new state of the sugary solution is fulfilling.

The intention of the teacher is to impart knowledge to his students but do not be surprised that in the process the teacher may end up learning more from the students than what he has taught them simply because the students have diverse talents, interpretations and experiences and some

may wish to challenge the teacher or actively contribute towards the development of the concept being taught.

Listening to many married couples you will hear various stories of how they met for the first time and their love life grew up to a point of getting married. Rarely would you hear that they went to their first point of meeting intending to find someone to marry.

It was out of their interaction that they felt the desire to strengthen their relationship through increasing number of interactions and personalize the content they discuss during those interactions.

When diagnosing the cause of a sickness at times the physician discovers that he does not require to administer drugs to the patient as the sickness is due to stress all he is required to do is to counsel or direct the client to a psychologist for guidance and counseling sessions. No pathogen to be blamed for such cases. Those experienced at work

will handle cases with an open mind aware that not all diseases are due to germs.

The primary business of a passenger service vehicle driver is to transport the passengers from one point to the other but on the road he finds a lot like road signs, bumps, fellow drivers, law enforcers other road users like pedestrians. To ensure that all runs smoothly he must be able to deal in a good way with all these road users and service providers.

When your kid is doing well at school many wish the success to be attributed to them but not all are outspoken in their claims as an external party do not restrict the success to a single stakeholder rather you should be aware that it is the collaborative efforts of all that sum up to those desirable results.

If you are a farmer and would wish to maximize your benefits by cultivating crops with high yields you should also factor the land condition, water requirements, pests and diseases control as well as the overall

production costs aware that you are not only interested with high yield but also low production costs.

Let us remain open minded in our approach to life but be specific in goals that we intend to achieve.

State Start Repossessing Grabbed Museums Land

By: Anne Mwale

@themtkenyatimes

The government will repossess grabbed National Museums of Kenya (NMK) land, Principal Secretary State Department of Culture and Heritage Ms Ummi Mohammed Bashir has said.

Ms Bashir expressed concern over massive land grabbing of NMK which she said has affected expansion of the historical, cultural and national heritage sites' facilities.

"I want to state that as a ministry we are very concerned about the extent of grabbing of NMK land. We know there has been a tussle between individuals who have encroached on this property and we want to put on emphasis that the land will be repossessed and justice will prevail," she affirmed.

The PS regretted that some of the country's most iconic national heritage sites have been allocated to private individuals and assured Kenyans that the government had begun securing 150 monuments and heritage sites across the country.

Ms Bashir indicated that the Ministry will liaise with the National Land Commission to have all title deeds for irregular allocations of land belonging to the NMK revoked.

The PS observed that some of the land includes gazetted sites such as Fort Jesus in Mombasa and Hyrax Hill prehistoric site in Nakuru, meant for the construction of museums in various parts of the country.

"The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission should investigate and if anyone is found culpable, recommend prosecution of the individuals for their role in the irregular allocation of National Museum of Kenya lands and failure to take action to protect public property," stated the PS.

Speaking at the Hyrax Hill Prehistoric Site and Museum in Nakuru, where she led a tree planting exercise Ms Bashir further warned Kenyans against encroaching on historical, cultural and heritage sites as that destroys their originality and quality.

To combat the devastating impacts of climate change in Kenya, President William Ruto has mobilized his administration in a drive towards planting five billion trees in the next five years, and an additional 10 billion by 2032.

The President said this will even-

tually lead to the rehabilitation and restoration of 10.6 million hectares in the 290 constituencies, as well as some specially selected ecosystems and water towers threatened.

"We are concerned about climate change and its impact on Kenya generally and our arid and semi-arid regions in particular. We will address the effects of this phenomenon and its ravaging effects at home and abroad," Dr Ruto stated.

Bashir vowed that the state will protect the country's historical tombs from encroachment by private developers and land prospectors.

According to NMK a majority of the tombs are located at the heart of Lamu old town. They include Mwenye Mui Zahid Mngumi's tomb that is almost 200 years old located in the Langoni area of Lamu Island. Mngumi was a patron of the Lamu old town and was responsible for building the Lamu Fort between 1813 and 1821.

There is also the Mwana Hadie Famau tomb, which is over 400 years old and is in the Mkomani area of Lamu old town. Hadie is referred to as the 'Saint of Lamu' owing to her strong religious beliefs during her lifetime.

There is also a 14th-century pillar tomb in the Gadeni area of Lamu old town. These three tombs are critical to Lamu's history, having been around for over a century. They are also a key tourist attraction in the region.

The three, however, have since been fenced off by private developers and the NMK has expressed concerns that they face destruction.

"We need to protect them as they are. We will not allow them to be grabbed, destroyed or brought down as this will be a very huge disservice to our culture and history," Ms Bashir assured.

Lamu is home to hundreds of sites and monuments, the majority of which are unreachable due to their remote location. Of all the counties, Lamu has the highest number of historical monuments and buildings.

Lamu Old Town remains a key tourist attraction site in the Coast region due to its effortlessly preserved culture and heritage spanning decades.

Today, the town stands as the oldest surviving town in East Africa with over 700 years of continuous human habitation and equally boasts itself as the only Swahili settlement to retain its originality since inception.

The PS observed that Kenya's heritage was a significant part of the cit-



Principal Secretary State Department of Culture and Heritage Ms Ummi Mohammed Bashir.

izen's life adding that the country's prosperous past has built the groundwork for a prosperous future.

She described the grabbing of NMK's land as 'unpatriotic' and a danger to Kenya's rich cultural heritage.

According to the latest report by Auditor General Nancy Gathungu the NMK land valued at Sh1.57 billion has never been revalued since the 1990s.

Ms Gathungu disclosed that NMK has 150 parcels of land countrywide but only 43 of them have title deeds.

"The remaining 107 parcels have no ownership documents," the auditor reports.

NMK is a state corporation established by an Act of Parliament the Museums and Heritage Act 2006.

It is a multi-disciplinary institution whose role is to collect, preserve, study, document and present Kenya's past and present cultural and natural heritage.

It manages regional museums, sites and monuments of national and international importance alongside priceless collections of Kenya's living cultural and natural heritage.

Ms Bashir observed that the country boasts seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites, second only to South Africa (10) in terms of the number of designated site in an African country.

The UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Kenya are Lake Turkana National Parks; Mount Kenya National Park and Natural Forest, Lamu Old Town, Sacred Kaya Forests of the Mijiken-

da; Fort Jesus; the Great Rift Valley lake system; and Thimlich Ohinga archaeological site.

The PS noted that Cultural tourism was fast becoming a hot product worldwide and Kenya is keen to cash in on it through digital marketing.

She explained that the government had a few years ago elevated 21 historical sites to national monuments in a bid to guard their importance and raise their profiles among the country's endeared places.

The sites are found in Nairobi, Machakos and the coastal region and include some of the most well-known historical places in the country.

The sites are African Heritage House (Machakos); Kaloleni Social Hall (Nairobi); First Old District Commissioner House Taveta; Methodist Church Hola Mission (Tana River); Taveta ACK Holy Trinity Church, Mahoo; the German Fortress; Voi Commonwealth War Graves; Maktau Indian Commonwealth War Graves; Taveta Indian Commonwealth War Graves; and Taveta Indian Military Cemetery.

Others are Taveta Commonwealth War Graves; Taveta ACK Graves; Maktau Railway Station; Maktau Picket Hill; Salaita Hill (Taita-Taveta); Mau Mau Memorial Site at Hola (Tana River County); Nzambani Rock, Kyuluni; Ukasi Rock (Kitui); Kino Caves (Kenyatta Caves) in Kitui; Nairobi (Kariokor) Cemetery; and Kaloleni Estate Streetscape in Nairobi.

The National Museums and Heritage Act allows the Cabinet Secretary in charge of culture and national heritage to declare a site a monument if he feels the place deserves it. Members of the public are allowed to challenge the declaration within 60 days.

County Chief Officer for Culture and Tourism Ms Rosemary Kimani said the devolved unit's administration had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with NMK to set up a cultural centre at Hyrax Hill Museum.

Kimani said this will help in passing on traditions to younger generations. "We are aware of the fact that culture plays a crucial role in strengthening our community and hence the need to put up such a facility that will greatly promote our heritage," she added.

Kimani indicated that the way of life of communities residing in Rift Valley Region will be showcased at the facility that is expected to increase the number of domestic and international tourists in the county.

Besides being a tourism site, she said, the project will create employment for youths in the area.

"This will definitely go a long way into incorporating all our people into embracing their culture and heritage as it is worthy of preservation," Kimani pointed out.

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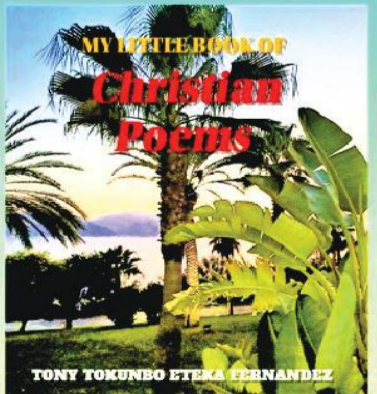
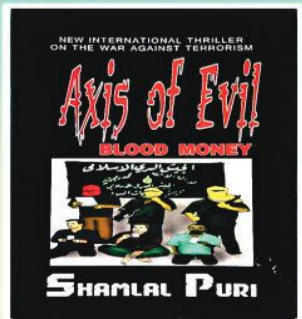
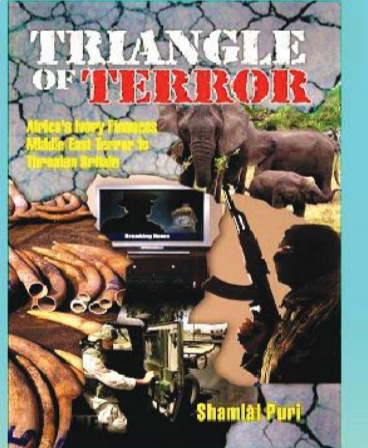
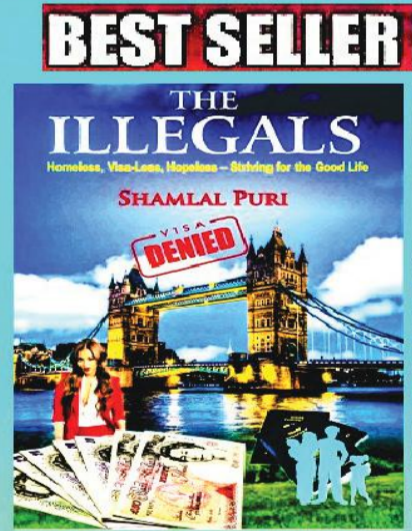
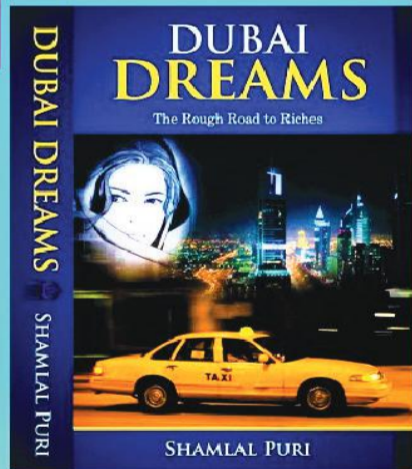
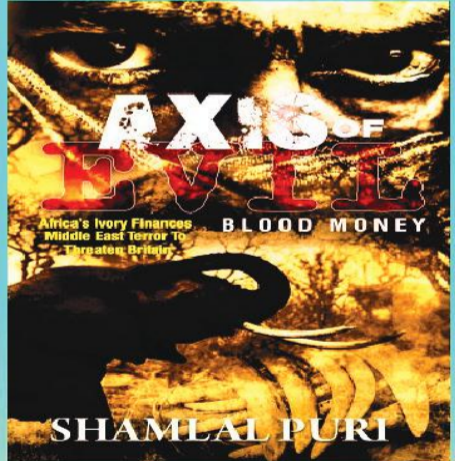
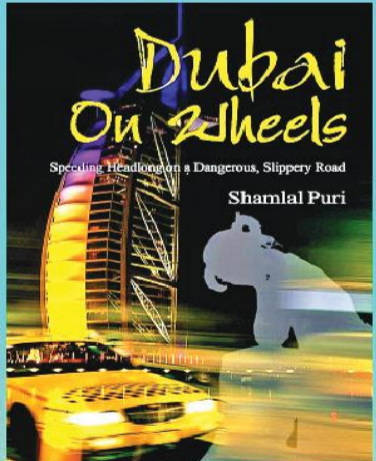
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BUSINESS

Kenya-US Negotiate On Trade And Investment Partnership

By: Bernadette Khaduli

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The CS said the areas of focus will help to create a more conducive environment for trade and investment thereby boosting economies in both countries.
- Mr Kuria added that the Kenya government has made the process participatory by engaging all stakeholders.
- The CS was speaking on Thursday evening at a Nairobi hotel during a communiqué on the status of the STIP negotiations while in the company of Ms Constance Hamilton, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Africa and Chief Negotiator for the USA, Principal Secretary Trade Alfred K'Ombudo, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Kenya Ambassador David Gacheru and negotiators from the two countries.



Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria (centre) addressing the media.

Kenya and the United States of America have successfully completed the second round of negotiations on Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP), an agreement that aims to strengthen the two countries bilateral and investment relations.

Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria said a lot of progress has been made in the negotiations, an indication that both states are committed to enhancing trade between the two countries.

He said the partnership also aims at boosting trade and investment relations through anchoring the same in a formal binding bilateral agreement.

"There is significant progress in several areas of coverage which include digital trade, services domestic regulations, standards collaboration, micro small and medium enterprises, labour, agriculture, women and

youth and anti-corruption measures," said Mr Kuria.

The CS said the areas of focus will help to create a more conducive environment for trade and investment thereby boosting economies in both countries.

Mr Kuria added that the Kenya government has made the process participatory by engaging all stakeholders. The CS was speaking on Thursday evening at a Nairobi hotel during a communiqué on the status of the STIP negotiations while in the company of Ms Constance Hamilton, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Africa and Chief Negotiator for the USA, Principal Secretary Trade Alfred K'Ombudo, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Kenya Ambassador David Gacheru and negotiators from the two countries.

He commended the US team for their hard work, commitment and for sharing texts in the areas of Ag-

riculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Anti-corruption and Services Domestic Regulation.

"There is need to move forward conceptual engagements on environment, trade facilitation and customs procedures and good regulatory practices into text-based negotiations," added the CS.

Kuria also suggested that the remaining areas of negotiations be text-based negotiations due to the tight timelines, noting that the Kenya government has prioritised the conclusion of the negotiation by December 2023.

"We recognise that time is of the essence, and we are fully committed to ensuring that our people enjoy the benefits of this agreement as soon as possible," he stated.

The CS said to enhance trade and investment in the counties, the government will put in place Export Processing Zones (EPZ) in Eldoret and Busia and promised that next week

he will gazette the establishment of EPZs in Murang'a, Sagana and Nakuru to boost the country's economy at both the national and county level. He at the same time urged Governors to safeguard the investments the government is setting at the counties.

The US chief negotiators team has been in the country from April 17 to 21, 2023 for the second round of STIP negotiations with the Kenya team.

The current existing framework of AGOA is set to expire hence the need for adoption of a longer term and to secure bilateral trade agreement.

30 Counties To Participate In KYISA Games

By: Sharon Gitau

@themkenyatimes

Tharaka Nithi County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for youth, sports, tourism and culture Maureen Nyambura Kariuki has revealed that over 30 counties are set to participate in the upcoming Kenya Youth Inter-county Sports Association (KYISA) games on Monday.

The CECM said that the inter-county games are meant to involve all the 47 counties in building one strong nation.

She disclosed that the theme of the games “Talanta mashinani” meant that the national government has devolved sports to the county to scout talents from the grassroots level to the national level.

“Youths have been selected from ward level then sub counties and formed a county team who are sharpening their skills as we speak,” she said



Committee overseeing the games preparation in a sitting yesterday.

Ms Nyambura added that over 30 counties have confirmed attendance and are ready to participate next

week.

She further revealed that all the facilities are in good condition.

“We are here check-listing and ensuring everything is set for Monday,” she noted

The CECM said that the government is ready to support youths and games in the county, adding that sports is a great opportunity to deviate youths from indulging in immoral activities.

She added that it is a great opportunity for the county and a great boost to the economy to learn and organise sports activities involving youths such as leagues and tournaments.

On his part, Tharaka Nithi County Commissioner Wesly Koech said that they are working with the county government to ensure the success of the KYISA games.

He revealed that the county security team has been working to ensure enough security is provided at the sports venues, residential areas and towns where visitors will be hosted.

“Tharaka Nithi is a very safe county, we are just tightening the security to ensure everything goes smoothly during the games and the visitors feel safe,” he said

House Committee Meets KURA DG

By: John Kariuki

@themkenyatimes

The Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity, chaired by Hon. Yusuf Adan met with Kenya Urban Roads Authority, Director General, Eng. Kinoti on employment diversity and the implementation of the 30% procurement reservation for special interest groups.

During the meeting Eng. Kinoti pointed out that the number of male employees in the engineering field is still higher compared to their female counterparts. This is also reflected in institutions of higher learning, where the number of male engineering graduates surpasses that of female engineering graduates.

On employment composition, Members of the Committee considered the ethnicity, age, and gender statistics of KURA’s 284 employees.

On the extent of compliance with Article 54 (2) of the Constitution on the composition of persons with disabilities, KURA says it has progressively endeavored to implement the principle that at least five percent of the members of the public in ap-

pointive positions are persons with disabilities. Currently there are only four out of the total number of 284 representing 1.4% of the total number of employees.

Documents before the Committee revealed that the 2019 National Population and Housing census, the Authority says it has a representation of eighteen (18) ethnic communities. The Authority endeavors to comply with the NCI Act, 2008 and Article 232 of the Constitution of Kenya in terms of employee diversity. The Authority says efforts are progressively being made to balance the representation of all ethnic communities through affirmative action and other strategies.

Lawmakers also raised red flags over the Authorities incomplete responses on award of tenders to special interest groups in accordance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015.

The Members of the Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunities requested for further documenting from the Kenya Urban Roads Authority. The Committee is expected to have further meetings with Eng. Kinoti.



Kenya Urban Roads Authority, Director General, Eng. Kinoti .

Why Earth Is Important To Us, Protect And Conserve The Planet



By: **Twongirwe Ireen**
ireentwongirwe64@gmail.com
CEO - WoGEM Uganda



Worth Noting:

- Any loss of both diversity and organisms must be evaded, as it assures the unbeaten and thriving endurance of the Earth. Everyone and everything in the Earth are dependent on each other and such a mutual reliance must be kept intact for the poised survival, of the Earth and also in the Earth. The Earth, just like its name provides a ground that holds life and everyone here should consider its preservation as their topmost priority.
- Because of greed, we have managed to destroy our mother land “Earth” through cutting down trees, clearance of vegetation, extractives, poor disposal of waste has also led to pollution and destruction of our earth.



Earth is the only place in the known universe confirmed to host life. Earth is our home. We rely upon it for our existence in many different ways. Its resources feed us and provide the materials of our way of life. Therefore it is called as the home planet. More so, it's the fifth largest planet in the solar system that supports everyone that resides in it with its air, water and land. Being the only habitable planet, the Earth possesses anything and everything that sustain life.

This special planet is home for not only human beings but also for a number of plants, animals and like. With every ingredients that succor the sustentation of life, the Earth remains as the only planet in the universe that is fit for habitation. Everything and everyone in the Earth have its function and purpose to perform that is no one here is devoid of value. Everything in the Earth demands proper conservation and justifiable development, without which a prop-

er balance cannot be achieved. As all the components in the Earth are equally important and taking out of anything can cause serious threats.

However, Environment plays an important role in healthy living and the existence of life on planet earth. Earth is a home for different living species and we all are dependent on the environment for food, air, water, and other needs. Therefore, it is important for every individual to save and protect our environment.

Any loss of both diversity and organisms must be evaded, as it assures the unbeaten and thriving endurance of the Earth. Everyone and everything in the Earth are dependent on each other and such a mutual reliance must be kept intact for the poised survival, of the Earth and also in the Earth. The Earth, just like its name provides a ground that holds life and everyone here should consider its preservation as their topmost priority.

Because of greed, we have managed

to destroy our mother land “Earth” through cutting down trees, clearance of vegetation, extractives, poor disposal of waste has also led to pollution and destruction of our earth. Human induced activities such as poor farming, bush burning, pollution, extraction of fossil fuels such oil, gas and coal has led to Climate change impacts which contributes to the loss of our mother land. These activities have led to loss of regenerating economy.

It's in this view that we deserve to stay in a Clean Environment that is Essential for Healthy Living. The more you don't care about our environment, the more it will become polluted with contaminants and toxins that have a harmful impact on our health. Air pollution has already caused respiratory diseases and cancer, among other problems and diseases. Water pollution has already led to typhoid, diarrheal diseases, and malaria. The local authorities have to promote care the environ-

ment

Therefore, it's very important to note that everyone in the Earth has their own greater role to play and we must not elude from our functions, as all of us are really imperative for the continuance and sustenance of the Mother Earth. Any attempt to let down our duties will for sure affect aliveness of the Earth.

No planet B

Invest in our planet.

Happy Earth Day.

Ireen Twongirwe
Executive Director Women for
Green Economy Movement Uganda.



Patience Is No Longer Key To A Successful Political Transition In Sudan

By: **Byamukama Richard Bard**

The developments in Sudan over the last few days are not good for the stability of the nation or its prospects for any transition to democratic rule and such stakes of the current unrest could go beyond the immediate future of Burhan, Dangalo, and even the Sudanese nation, and there is urgent need to force civilian rule and subsequent democracy.

Since the 2021 coup that ended the transitional government that replaced the long time violent Sudanese military ruler Omar al Bashir in 2019, Sudan has been run by the army which the coup leader General Abdel Fattah Burhan as the ruler.

In the same way, General Mohammed Hamdan Dangalo who is commonly known as 'Hemedti' the RSF leader has worked alongside the Sudanese army to keep the military junta in power

We are talking about two men, and two factions with ideological differences over the future of Sudan due to greed for power and more power, this should not be framed as left wing or right wing politics, nor a geo religious conflict between the majority Muslim north against the Christians in the south, and it is not radicalized violence like it was in the Darfur conflict between the self-identified Arab Janajaweed killing Black people

Following Bashir's ouster, the political transition was supposed to result in elections by the end of 2023, but it appears that neither Burhan nor Dangalo has any intention of relinquishing power and giving the people a break from juntaism.

The U.S and coalition of civilian groups in the country have called for an immediate halt to the violence but both factions dug in, seem unlikely to give the people of Sudan their freedom. Similarly, the prospects of a free and fair election in Sudan seems way off.

The concern is that the fighting might escalate to destabilize the entire region or even spill over to the neighbouring countries of Chad, Egypt which are also under juntaism and limited democracy. Ethiopia Sudan's neighbor in the East is still reeling from a two year war in Tigray region, and the spread of unrest in Sudan should be a concern to those anticipating an easy peace and unbreakable peace deal in South Sudan which gained independence from Sudan in 2011 and has been in ethnic politics and ethnic war ever since

The Sudanese people have a vast



Political Chaos In Sudan.



Political Transition In Sudan.



Worth Noting:

- We are talking about two men, and two factions with ideological differences over the future of Sudan due to greed for power and more power, this should not be framed as left wing or right wing politics, nor a geo religious conflict between the majority Muslim north against the Christians in the south, and it is not radicalized violence like it was in the Darfur conflict between the self-identified Arab Janajaweed killing Black people

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experience of toppling military dictators through popular uprisings. Patience is no longer key to a successful political transition. Sudanese politics should break with the historic pattern of musical chairs and be able to overcome traditional po-

litical and economic exploitation of regions outside the cities by turning to a more accountable civilian governance and democracy.

curity and strategic studies, trained from Kabalye National Police Training School and Great Lakes Institute of Security and Strategic Studies

Byamukama Richard Bard is a lawyer and a student of masters in se-

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

By: Njonjo Mue

Friday is Idul fitri. While wishing all our Muslim brothers and sisters happy id, I recall a time when our two faiths appeared to be on a collision course as the country debated the merits and demerits of the proposed new Constitution ahead of the referendum in 2010.

NOT ALL CHRISTIANS OPPOSE KADHIS COURTS: An Open Letter to Christian Leaders in Kenya.

By: Njonjo Mue

[In the run up to the August 2010 referendum on the Harmonized Draft Constitution, one of the contentious issues was the inclusion of Kadhis Courts in the draft. Despite the fact that the courts had always been a part of our Constitution since independence and were being retained largely as they were, a number of Christian denominations and church leaders denounced their inclusion and decided to campaign against the draft, eventually teaming up with politicians who opposed the draft constitution to vote No. In February 2010, I wrote an open letter to the Church leaders urging them to reconsider their position and support the new Constitution. This letter was also published in the daily press and on the website of the Committee of Experts which had drafted the Harmonized Draft Constitution.]

Nairobi,
9th February 2010.

Dear Fellow Christians,

I greet you all in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I would like to introduce myself and for the avoidance of doubt to state upfront that I am a born again Christian.

Baptized as an infant and confirmed as a teenager in the Anglican Church, I received Christ as my Lord and Saviour in my early twenties at a service at the Nairobi Pentecostal Church, Valley Road, and was water baptized a few years later at the Karura Community Chapel.

My wife and I currently worship at the Nairobi Chapel where I serve on the Usher Board. However the views expressed in this letter are my own and do not represent the positions of any of the churches or organizations that I am associated with.

I hold degrees in law and theology, having received my legal education at the University of Nairobi and



Muslims to Mark Eid Fete.

Oxford University and obtained my MA in Theology in Christian Ministry Leadership from the Nairobi International School of Theology.

I take pride in being a lawyer and a theologian because as John Witte says, Law helps to give society the structure, order and predictability it needs to survive while Religion helps to give the society the faith and the vision it needs to move forward.

I am proud of the rich heritage of the Church in Kenya and worldwide with regard to the fight for justice, good governance and human rights. The Church has indeed risen to the occasion in standing up against autocracy and dictatorship in the past.

I am privileged to have been nurtured on the bosom of the Church, having been brought up in a Christian home by Christian parents and attended Christian schools.

Any criticism, therefore, that I have against the Church is based on the great love I have for the Church and I humbly beseech you to take this letter in the same spirit with which it has been written.

Given the background above, I have to admit that I have watched with increasing dismay and alarm as several respected Christian leaders from diverse denominations have expressed strong views against the inclusion of Kadhis courts in the Harmonized Draft Constitution.

In your latest statement, published in the local dailies on 3rd February 2010 sub-titled 'Entrench Islamic Sharia Law in the Constitution at Your Own Risk,' you have demanded that Kadhis courts be removed from the Draft Constitution failing which "the Christian church in Ken-

ya shall have no option but to reject it in total and vote NO."

I have to say that I disagree with your position on this matter on historical, legal, theological, logical and moral grounds.

1. Historical objection

Your statement and your position ignore the fact that Kadhis courts have been a part of our Constitution since independence in 1963 and continue to be in the current Constitution.

They are there to adjudicate on matters of personal law (marriage, divorce and inheritance) between parties who all profess the Muslim faith, which remains their jurisdiction in the harmonized draft constitution.

Your view ignores the fact that the courts did not accidentally end up in the constitution but were a part of the negotiations between Jomo Kenyatta and the Sultan of Zanzibar which led to the 10 mile coastal strip being incorporated into the Republic of Kenya at independence.

There have been arguments that from the letters exchanged between Kenyatta and the Prime Minister of Zanzibar, the courts should have been confined to the coastal strip or that there was no intention for them to be put in the constitution.

The first of these arguments is illogical, for if the same constitution guaranteed freedom of movement and settlement anywhere within a unitary state, it would not make sense to suggest that every time a Muslim had an issue of personal law to be adjudicated upon they would have to go to the coast to have that done; and

whatever the intention expressed or implied in the letters, the fact is that our founding fathers did sign onto the constitution which included the provision for Kadhis courts.

Since Kadhis courts were part of the agreement that made the ten mile coastal strip a part of independent Kenya, in all fairness, it logically follows that those of you arguing for their removal should be willing to abrogate the whole agreement and have the coastal strip revert to the sovereignty of Zanzibar (now part of Tanzania), for we cannot have our cake and eat it!

2. Legal objection

According to the law of treaties and under the international law principle of pacta sunt servanda, every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith.

A party to the treaty cannot invoke provisions of its domestic law as justification for a failure to perform the treaty.

In 1963, Kenya entered into a treaty with Zanzibar which is binding and must be performed. We cannot simply abrogate the treaty because of some people among us who claim that the inclusion of Kadhis courts in the constitution is part of a wider sinister Muslim plot to take over the world.

3. Theological objection

Contd Page 21.

Worth Noting:

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FROM THE ARCHIVES...

By: Njonjo Mue

Contd from Page 20.

Worth Noting:

- Some of my Christian brothers and sisters have been heard to complain that the fact that Muslims have been buying real estate in Nairobi, especially in Eastleigh and South C, is another indicator, together with the issue of Kadhis courts, that this is part of a wider scheme to take over the country.
- But surely we cannot discriminate on the basis of religion as to who should own property where in the country. All Kenyans have the right to own property anywhere in the country. In any case, it is other Kenyans, including Christians, also in exercise of their rights, who are selling their property in the open market, to the Muslims. Again, from a purely biblical perspective, what would Jesus do?

WWJD was a ubiquitous acronym in my day as a young Christian. We wore in on bracelets and necklaces, our T-Shirts and bumper stickers, we penned it in our books and scratched it on our walls, to remind ourselves that whenever we faced a dilemma in our spiritual walk, the answer was to be found in that simple question, What Would Jesus Do?

I have found myself reminded of these four simple letters lately as I have listened to the increasingly menacing voices of some church leaders whenever the question of the Kadhis courts has come up.

The language being used in certain Christian radio stations and sermons in churches borders on hate speech and sectarian incitement. All sorts of conspiracy theories about Muslims planning to take over the country have spun out of control and the way many church leaders have chosen to engage in this matter is totally lacking in grace.

But what would Jesus do?

First and foremost, Jesus never commissioned the Church to go and conquer territories and nations, nor to defend them by virtue of their numbers, including by threatening to vote to reject a constitution.

It should not be forgotten that when Jesus came to Palestine in the First Century C.E., the whole province was under foreign Roman occupation but we do not see Jesus even once deciding to take on the colonial forces.

Instead, He went about establishing the Kingdom of God by living a life wholly submitted to God the Father, and He left us the Great Commission: Go and make disciples of all nations.

The making of disciples would be done “not by power and not by might but by My spirit, says the Lord.” This means that the Church would advance its mission through prayer, evangelism and a life of example, and not through threats, intimidation or conquest.

This is just not the way of the cross. Some of my Christian brothers and sisters have been heard to complain that the fact that Muslims have been buying real estate in Nairobi, especially in Eastleigh and South C, is another indicator, together with the issue of Kadhis courts, that this is part of a wider scheme to take over the country.

But surely we cannot discrimi-

nate on the basis of religion as to who should own property where in the country. All Kenyans have the right to own property anywhere in the country. In any case, it is other Kenyans, including Christians, also in exercise of their rights, who are selling their property in the open market, to the Muslims. Again, from a purely biblical perspective, what would Jesus do?

In the garden of Gethsemane as the hour of his arrest and crucifixion drew near, Jesus told his disciples to “watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” Instead, the disciples chose to go to sleep. When Jesus’ enemies finally came to arrest him, the sleepy disciples woke up and one of them instinctively reached for a sword and slashed the ear of one of the adversaries. Jesus rebuked him and restored the severed ear.

To the extent that some Christians regard Muslims as adversaries, then the Church has been asleep instead of ‘watching and praying.’ And suddenly we are waking up and reaching for the sword to engage in a way that is not becoming of the cross nor of the gospel of love nor of the message of reconciliation that we have been entrusted with.

Finally, some have argued that Kadhis courts ended up in our current constitution through an act of treachery on the part of the Muslims.

This argument has no merit nor has any evidence been adduced to support the same. But even if for argument’s sake it was true that the Muslim community managed to somehow manoeuvre and negotiate to their advantage when our original covenant was being crafted in the early 1960s, then the Bible clearly teaches that we should not casually attack them and seek to marginalize them simply because they happen to be a minority whom we do not like.

In this regard, I remind you of the Gibeonite deception in Joshua Chapter 9.

The Gibeonites, who were among the people Joshua had been ordered to get rid of from the Promised Land, cleverly disguised themselves and came to Joshua pretending to have come from a distant country and persuaded Joshua to sign a treaty of peace with them, only to discover shortly thereafter that he had been tricked.

Despite the temptation to attack the Gibeonites, Joshua restrained the Israelites because of the oath they



Lawyer Njonjo Mue .

had sworn to them. Indeed centuries later, when King Saul attacked the Gibeonites thereby going against Joshua’s five hundred year old oath, God avenged them by sending a three year famine on Israel (2 Samuel 21)

The Kadhis courts debate has echoes of the Gibeonite story. Our forefathers signed a treaty of peace with the Sultan of Zanzibar the provisions of which led to the incorporation of the 10 mile coastal strip into the Republic of Kenya in return for certain concessions to the Muslim community among which were the Kadhis courts to adjudicate on personal matters between persons professing the Islamic faith.

Even if these courts were entrenched in the constitution through some act of trickery (which as I have argued they were not), it would still behoove us to respect them or risk judgment as Israel did when future generations felt they were not bound by the oath of their forefathers.

4. Logical objection:

The vehement opposition to Kadhis courts and the latest threat to reject the Draft Constitution in total and mobilize the Church to vote “No” in the forthcoming referendum does not make logical sense.

As Kadhis courts are already contained in the current Constitution, voting “No” to a new constitution achieves nothing for the opponents of the courts since we are left back where we began with a constitution

that still provides for the courts.

5. Moral objection:

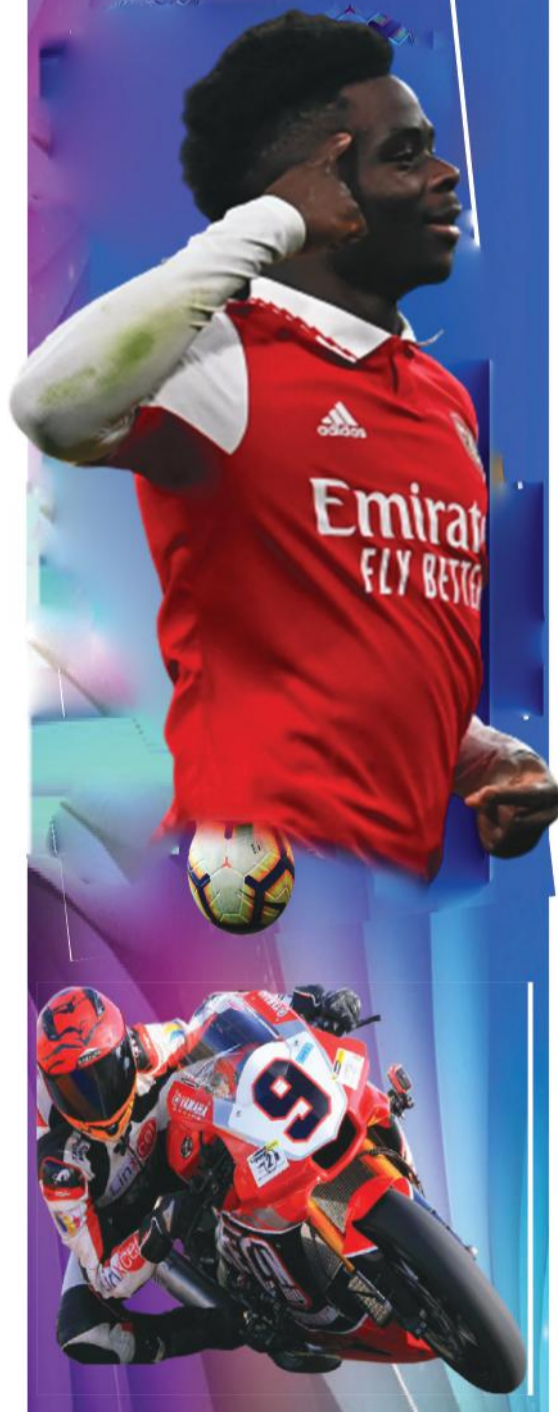
Morally, I hasten to remind you that the alternative to a new constitutional order is the current constitution – the same constitution that we are all agreed has provided the framework for rampant corruption, tribalism, oppression, injustice, rabid poverty and inequality, which have all exploded into post-election violence; a constitution which, if not replaced with a more just and equitable order, guarantees that this country will certainly not hold together for much longer.

Conclusion:

By threatening to derail yet again a process that has taken us two decades in the search for a new democratic constitutional order, not only will you be decidedly marching against the tide of history, you will be playing into the hands of those who seek to maintain the status quo and thereby to deny the majority of Kenyans the right and the responsibility to equitably share in the burdens and the benefits of belonging.

For these reasons, I humbly beseech you to prayerfully reconsider your position on the Kadhis courts in the Harmonized Draft Constitution.

*Yours in Christ,
Njonjo Mue LL.B, MA (Th.)
Advocate
Feb 2010.*

SPORTS
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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Manchester United crashed out of the Europa League in shambolic fashion on Thursday with Sevilla beating them 3-0, to reach the semi-finals 5-2 on aggregate.

'Kings Of Europa' Sevilla Dump 'Unacceptable' Man United Out Of Europa League

Manchester United crashed out of the Europa League in shambolic fashion on Thursday with Sevilla beating them 3-0, to reach the semi-finals 5-2 on aggregate.

The record six-time winners thoroughly outplayed Erik ten Hag's side, who repeatedly shot themselves in the foot again, having scored two own goals in the first leg.

Harry Maguire, guilty of one of those calamitous moments, endured another as he gave the ball away on the edge of his own area and Youssef En-Nesyri pounced to break the deadlock early on.

Loic Bade headed home the second from a corner in the first minute of the second half, with Jose Luis Mendilibar's side meriting their advantage, which they defended adroitly.

En-Nesyri rolled home his second goal into an empty net after United goalkeeper David de Gea put the ball on a plate for him, with home fans rejoicing on an electric night at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium.

Sevilla will face Italian giants Juventus in the semi-finals after the Old Lady beat Sporting Lisbon 2-1 on aggregate.

Ten Hag criticised his "unacceptable" team, saying they lacked spirit compared to their opponents.

"We have to be better, it's not about playing skills, it's about character, to be composed and have desire and passion — they had more willingness to win and it can't be, I think that's unacceptable," the coach told reporters.

"Even though they are a great team and the ambience was also great, with a lot of positive energy in the stadium, we have to deal with it, we have to do better."

Ten Hag started with Marcus Rashford and Luke Shaw on the bench with the duo on their way



Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea reacts as Sevilla wheel away in celebration.

back from injury.

With the stadium rocking, Sevilla threw themselves into the game with great intensity and were swiftly rewarded by Maguire.

With Lisandro Martinez and Raphael Varane injured, Ten Hag had no choice but to start with the Englishman at centre-back alongside Victor Lindelof.

Maguire rolled the ball back to goalkeeper De Gea and called to receive it again from the Spanish goalkeeper, seemingly nonplussed about the three Sevilla players buzzing around him.

As Maguire tried to pass the ball, former Tottenham winger Erik Lamela intercepted it and En-Nesyri took charge of the situation and stroked it past De Gea at his near post.

United tried to fight back but created few chances of note, shorn of suspended playmaker Bruno Fernandes.

Sevilla thought they had netted a second goal when Lucas Ocampos rammed home to ignite the Pizjuan again but VAR showed a tight offside against Marcos Acuna in the build-up.

The hosts looked every bit the Europa League experts their outstanding record illustrates, rather than their domestic version, battling relegation.

— 'Football is simple' —

Ten Hag threw on Shaw and Rashford at the break, but Sevilla started the second half just as they ended the first, on the front foot, and Bade immediately steered home a looping header from Rakitic's corner.

Back on home soil, De Gea might have done more to keep out Bade's effort, with some also criticising him for his role in Sevilla's opener — worse was yet to come.

Anthony Martial, who made no impact on loan at Sevilla last season, made way for Wout Weghorst, as Ten Hag turned to Plan B.

However Sevilla killed the game with 10 minutes remaining when De Gea ran out of his box and mishit an attempted clearance, and Morocco international En-Nesyri took full advantage to stroke home.

"The truth is I'm very happy

for the two goals, and because of the fans — I've never seen an atmosphere like this in my life," En-Nesyri told Movistar after his brace.

Sevilla's Europa League adventure is the highlight of their campaign, with the Andalusians 13th in Spain, eight points above the relegation zone.

Mendilibar is unbeaten in five games across all competitions since being appointed to replace Jorge Sampaoli, adopting a back-to-basics approach.

"Football is simple, I don't want to make things complicated for the players," said Mendilibar.

"Adopting the most simple way to play, the players see they can play like this."

United must pick themselves up to play in the FA Cup semi-final against Brighton at Wembley on Sunday.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier is taking legal action against former Nice sporting director Julien Fournier and two French journalists for defamation

PSG Coach Galtier Takes Legal Action For Defamation After Racism Accusations



Paris Saint-Germain's (PSG) French head coach Christophe Galtier addresses press conference.

Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier is taking legal action against former Nice sporting director Julien Fournier and two French journalists for defamation, his lawyer told AFP on Friday after he was accused of making racist and discriminatory remarks about players last season.

The Paris public prosecutor confirmed to AFP that Galtier had lodged a complaint against Fournier as well as journalists Daniel Riolo and Romain Molina.

Galtier has also filed a separate complaint against persons unknown for harassment and death

threats, his lawyer said, after receiving threats in the wake of the accusations being made public.

"We hope that the Paris public prosecutor acts with the same speed as the Nice prosecutor did so that Christophe Galtier can be finished with this affair as quickly as possible," his lawyer Olivier Martin told AFP.

Galtier, 56, has denied making racist and Islamophobic remarks following allegations which surfaced in an email apparently sent by Fournier and which was reported by various French media.

The message, which AFP has not been able to verify, was reportedly sent by Fournier to

Dave Brailsford, the former head of British Cycling and now Director of Sport at chemicals giant Ineos, the owners of Nice.

Galtier and Fournier both left Nice last year after working together at the club for one season, with the former being appointed by PSG.

The affair has threatened to overshadow the end of the season for PSG, who are closing in on a record 11th French league title.

Galtier was already under pressure at the Qatar-owned club due to their faltering form in recent months and their elimination from the Champions League in

the last 16 by Bayern Munich.

The public prosecutor in Nice last week announced that a preliminary investigation had been opened into possible "racial or religious discrimination".

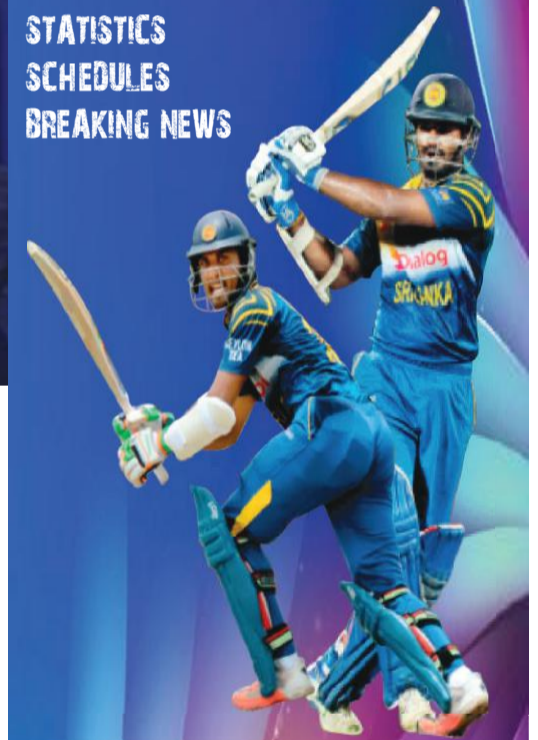
Galtier, who led Lille to the Ligue 1 title in 2021, is under contract at PSG until 2024.

AFP

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Mt Kenya Times



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The Importance of Teaching Soft Skills to Children in the 21st Century



By: Alex Mwaura



Worth Noting:

- **Creativity.** Give your children the opportunity to explore their creativity. This may include involvement in arts and crafts, music, or creative writing. Encourage children to take risks and experiment with new ideas.
- **Critical Thinking.** Encourage your children to think deeply about problems and explore different perspectives. Encourage them to ask questions, evaluate evidence, and make informed judgments.
- **Collaboration.** Provide opportunities for children to work in teams or groups. Encourage them to share ideas, negotiate and solve problems together.



It is at the end of the first term of the school year, parents across the country reflect on their children's academic progress. While academic achievement is essential, it is becoming increasingly clear that soft skills are also essential for success in the 21st century. Soft skills are personal traits and habits that enable people to interact effectively with others, think critically, and adapt to new situations.

In the past, education was mainly focused on academic subjects such as mathematics, science and languages. However, as the world becomes increasingly connected and technology-driven, employers are now looking for employees with a wide range of skills including communication, creativity and critical thinking. As a parent, you play a

critical role in helping your children develop these essential 21st century soft skills. Here are some ways to get started:

Communication. Encourage your children to express themselves clearly and effectively. Encourage them to participate in panel discussions, public speaking, or group discussions. Give them a chance to practice active listening and empathic communication skills.

Creativity. Give your children the opportunity to explore their creativity. This may include involvement in arts and crafts, music, or creative writing. Encourage children to take risks and experiment with new ideas.

Critical Thinking. Encourage your

children to think deeply about problems and explore different perspectives. Encourage them to ask questions, evaluate evidence, and make informed judgments.

Collaboration. Provide opportunities for children to work in teams or groups. Encourage them to share ideas, negotiate and solve problems together.

Digital literacy. Encourage children to use technology responsibly and effectively. Teach them how to navigate online platforms, use digital tools to enhance learning, and practice online safety.

Adaptability. Help your children develop the ability to adapt to new situations and accept change. En-

courage them to take on new challenges, try new things and learn from their mistakes.

Finally, as the first term of the school year draws to a close, it is important to note the importance of teaching soft skills to children in the 21st century. By emphasizing communication, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and adaptability, you can help your children thrive in a rapidly changing workplace. We work together to raise a generation of diverse and successful people who are ready to face the challenges of the future.

By: Alex Mwaura
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