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Daily ePAPER

Where Investors Get Returns

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

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News>>Nyeri County Hospitals To Receive Oxygen Cylinders

P. 8. Various Public hospitals in Nyeri County are set to receive Oxygen cylinders. Four level III and six level IV medical facilities in the area will receive the items that were recently donated by the national government.



Motivation>>Focus Your Energies On Answers Not Excuses

P. 12. It is wise to direct your anger towards problems not people; to focus your energies on answers and not excuses. William Arthur Ward.

Why Former Councillors Will Not Get The Honorarium Payment Soon

Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary Florence Bore responding to the question of whether the Ministry would consider enrolling the former councillors to the Cash Transfer Programs stated that once resources are availed to the Ministry to carry out registration of Old Persons Inua Jamii Cash Transfer Programs, the eligible former councillors will be called to register.



Cabinet Secretary Florence Bore engaging some of the former councillors

STORY ON PAGE 9



AFYA YANGU

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Poor Families In Othaya Constituency To Get Modern Houses In 'Tuinuane Housing' Project



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina with some of the Tuinuane housing initiative beneficiaries Nderitu Karimi and his wife Mercy Muthoni at their home.



A beneficiary Teresa Wangari.



MP Wambugu Wainaina working on a door for one of the beneficiaries' houses.

By: Our Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Hundreds of families from disadvantaged backgrounds in Othaya constituency have every reason to smile, courtesy of a housing programme initiated by area Member of Parliament, Wambugu Wainaina.

Under the programme, dubbed Tuinuane, at least 2,000 families are expected to benefit from the housing scheme that is targeting those living in mud or in dilapidated timber houses.

The idea, a brainchild of the Kenya Kwanza first time lawmaker has loped in other well-wishers who are now contributing to make the MP's dream of providing decent houses to his constituents a reality.

So far, already 70 families have had their homesteads changed with hundreds of others being lined up for the face-lift.

In an interview, the MP said he had mobilized a number of Othaya-born people who live outside the constituency to support the initiative which he disclosed has targeted 2,000 families by the end of next year.

He said by building new houses, the

affected families will be able to concentrate on other matters of raising their standards of living.

He noted that with dilapidated houses, most of the families were prone to jigger infestation which made their input to various daily activities low, thereby dipping them further into poverty.

A member of the Tuinuane initiative, Samuel Mugendi said the initiative was among other things expected to raise the expectations affected families children and enable them concentrate well with their studies.

A beneficiary couple, Nderitu Karimi and Mercy Muthoni thanked

the MP and his initiative members for assisting them get a decent house.

Karimi, a father of 5 said he had hoped to built a new house once he was through with educating his children, something which was to take several years to be realized.

While thanking the MP and his team, his wife said she was very ashamed of the housing condition that she was living but had no alternative.

Another beneficiary Teresa Wangari was all thankful saying though she had a tree, making timber out of it was out of this world due to limited resources.

The MP said the initiative would also be providing water tanks to the beneficiaries do that they can harvest water and cut journey to the rivers.

Various leaders in and out of Othaya have lauded the initiative saying it is a unique way of honouring the less privileged in the society.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by Exponential International Limited, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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RainForest Alliance To Train Farmers On Crop Diversification



Tea farm.

By: Samuel Waititu
 @themkenyatimes

Over 50, 000 Tea and Coffee farmers from Embu and Kirinyaga counties are set to be trained on crop diversification by a Non-Governmental Organization, Rainforest Alliance to increase revenue streams as well as conserve climate. The program dubbed, 'Mt. Kenya Sustainable Landscape and Livelihoods' Program, earmarked to run for five years is aimed at training farmers on how to diversify to other high value crops such as macadamia, grafted avocado, dairy and goat farming, beekeeping and rearing small livestock including rabbits among others. The development comes at a time when earnings from the two cash crops that have for long been the main source of income for farmers are on a downward trend due to climate change, hence reduced and erratic rainfall leading to poor production. Speaking at an Embu Hotel during a meeting with Tea Factory chairmen from the two counties to bring them up to speed with the new development, an Official from the NGO, Julius Ng'ang'a, said the two crops could no longer meet and sustain the financial needs of farmers' due climate change, high cost of production and price volatility. This, he said, called for a change

in tact to help farmers reduce the financial risks associated with reliance on a few crops, as a result of unfavorable weather or market shocks. "Growing a wide range of crops will greatly help in expanding the market potential," said Ng'ang'a, noting that they will also be assisting in linking farmers to markets locally and internationally. The NGO official said in the near future, they plan to extend the program to other coffee growing counties around Mt. Kenya Region including Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Nyeri, Murang'a and Laikipia. Factory chairmen present hailed the initiative as transformative, which would go a long way in making farming a lucrative venture and also make it attractive to the young people. "Tea alone is having a big load on farmers and diversification is a welcome move in assisting our growers improve their livelihoods," said Embu's Rukuriri Tea Factory Chairman Joseph Rwanjau. His counterpart from Thumaita Factory in Kirinyaga Richard Magu equally called on farmers to embrace and uphold the new concept that will see them not only acquire requisite knowledge and skills, but also seed capital.

MPs Focus On Police Reforms And Welfare Improvement, As Committee Vets NPSC Nominee



By: PSCU

Focus on Police reforms and the need to improve the Police Welfare dominated this morning's Vetting and Approval Hearings for the nominee to the National Police Service Commission, Mr. Edwin Kiprono. The 44- year old lawyer appeared before the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Affairs for the vetting and approval hearings in line with the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act. To start off the session, he faced a barrage of questions from the Chairperson, Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West) and the Vice Chair, Dido Rasso (Saku). The questions ranged from his suitability for the position, his key achievements as the first Clerk of the Nandi County Assembly, to how to enhance the relationship of the National Police Service and National Police Service Commission. In his response, the nominee who is also an advocate of the High Court told the committee that his past experience as a legal practitioner, Clerk of the Nandi County Assembly and currently as a Member of the Tax Appeals Tribunal at the Judiciary had prepared him for the position. He further told the Committee that he would relinquish his position at the Tribunal if he is appointed to the Commission to avert a situation of a conflict of interest. Not convinced by this response,

Committee Member, Jehow Fatuma Abdi who is the Wajir County Women Representative sought to know why his curriculum vitae's presentation was basic despite his vast experience. The nominee told the Committee that his passion to make a difference in the National Police Service had led him to apply for the position, where he beat 302 other candidates to bag the nomination. MPs Fred Kapondi (Mount Elgon), Oku Kaunya (Teso North), Sarah Korere (Laikipia North) and Protus Okujah (Loima) sought to know how a House recommendation for his appointment would impact on the police welfare. The members cited numerous cases of stagnation of officers at the same rank, lack of consideration for promotion for graduate officers as well as lack poor kitting of police officers had affected their morale. The lawmakers also noted that there is an influx of mental illnesses among younger officers especially those whose first posting is in hardship areas. In response, Kiprono observed that if appointed to the position, he would be keen to see the implementation of the much awaited Maraga Task Force on Police Reforms with regard to promotion and improvement of remuneration to boost their morale. With regard to the fate of graduate police officers, he noted that it is imperative that the Commission develops a policy to have entry level requirements for both graduate cadets and general service for other

officers. "It is important that we have a policy that spells out the entry requirements for graduates and for general officers. We also have to look at promotions not just from an academic point of view but also from exemplary service and officer's experience", he held. Concerning cases of mental health of officers, the nominee proposed that the Commission should establish a framework within which to handle such officers. He suggested that all high ranking officers overseeing a number of officers should undergo a course on Human Resource management to equip them with skills on how to handle their juniors. "These officers are human beings. Their issues need to be addressed from that front. A course on human resource mana should be rolled out to senior officers to build their capacity on how to deal with their junior colleagues," he told MPs. Kisumu MP Rozaah Buyu raised with the nominee the issue of police compensation should they die or get maimed while on duty. Kiprono undertook that if appointed, he would push for the review of their medical insurance scheme to adequately cater for such eventualities. Other members present during the session were Aduma Owour (Nyatike), Abdulrahman Hussein Weytan (Mandera East) and Mburu Kahan-gara (Lari). The Committee now retreats to prepare its report for consideration by the House.

Kisii County Assembly Unanimously Votes To Kick out The County Public Service Board



By: Elizabeth Angira

Worth Noting:

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



Henry Moracha Majority leader, Naftal Onkoba chair of the labour committee addressing the press Photo /Elizabeth Angira.

Kisii County Assembly members have unanimously voted to kick out the County Public Service Board over allegations of violation of the constitution a report by House Labour Committee.

The report was tabled before the assembly and members were given enough time to vote.

Nominee Callen Magara, filed the motion to have the entire board ejected for abuse of office.

The motion was backed by Majority Leader Henry Moracha (Bassi Central) and nominees Celestine Mose and Lilan Omundi.

At least 69 of the 71 Assembly members cast a Yes to have the board members' tenure in office terminated over violation of the constitution.

This was after Benson Atika a resident of Kiamokama petitioned Kisii county assembly to remove Kisii County Service Board Members over allegations of violation of the constitution and other written laws.

On the petition he stated that on September 3, 2022 Kisii county governor declared that, there were ghost workers leading to a bloated county wage bill.

Atika said that he wrote to the Kisii county government and requested for information pursuant to article 35 of the constitution of Kenya 2010, and having analyzed the same verily that the Kisii county public service board Jackson Bogonko Ondiba, Patrick Mogusu momanyi, John Machuka Ndege and Judy Omare Nyakerario have diverse dates committed serious violation of Kenya including violation of chapter six

Atika cited that the board serious violated written law inclusive of the country government act 20132 pub-

lic finance act ,2013and regulations thereof 2015.

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

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

The board members have made

promotions to employees without following the laid down laws and regulations and failed to provide for human resource and career development practices.

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

The board members have failed to file and publish mandatory reports before the county assembly as re-

quired by the law.

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

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

Speaking with the press Nyacheki Ward MCA Naftal Onkoba also the chair of committee who presided the two-week marathon sittings said that the committee made several sittings to deliberate on the petition and both the petitioner and respondents were given enough time to defend themselves.

Onkoba said that the members exercised their democratic right and voted in the support of the removal of the board.

"Members made their decision that was independent," he said.

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

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



Kisii County Assembly Photo /Elizabeth Angira.

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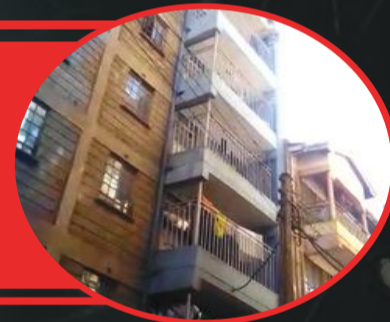
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Kirinyaga County Kicks Off Plans For Affordable Housing Program

By: Mutai Kipngetich
@themtkenyatimes



Senior Kirinyaga County officials in the Transport and Housing departments addressing journalists yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- The director noted the removal of asbestos is guided by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) regulations and the county must comply with the same.
- “These old houses were built long time ago, removal of asbestos is done under NEMA rules before demolition, we are here to supervise that all procedures are followed,” he said.
- Meanwhile, the old buildings that were originally occupied by the civil servants are being demolished to pave way for the new houses.

Kirinyaga County is one of the counties selected for the implementation of the affordable housing program in partnership with the National government.

Consequently, preparations for the same have been initiated by the county government in Kerugoya town.

Kerugoya will get over 500 units in addition to other county’s major towns including Wang’uru and Sagana, where the same program will be rolled out.

Kirinyaga County Governor Anne Waiguru said it was an honor to be selected for affordable housing and construction of an industrial park in Sagana, which will boost the economy of the county.

She said the county government will partner with the National government through Kirinyaga Investment Development Authority (KIDA) to ensure residents benefit not only from the houses, but also job opportunities during the implementation process.

Speaking during supervision of removal and disposal of asbestos from old construction in Kerugoya, the director of Housing Samwel Mwangi said they are preparing the land in readiness for the launch of the program.

The director noted the removal of asbestos is guided by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) regulations and the county must comply with the same. “These old houses were built long time ago, removal of asbestos is

done under NEMA rules before demolition, we are here to supervise that all procedures are followed,” he said.

Meanwhile, the old buildings that were originally occupied by the civil servants are being demolished to pave way for the new houses.

Chief Executive Member (CEC) for Transport and Housing in Kirinyaga, Jared Migwi, said the six-acre piece of land in Kerugoya will provide space for houses targeting all people. He acknowledged the concept of house ownership as an idea that will transform the livelihoods of many.

“Affordable housing is one of the key pillars of the Kenya Kwanza government and will change the lives of many through job creation and getting decent housing. This space we are creating will host units that will be available for everybody,” Migwi said.

Ayub Kibara, Chief Officer, said the houses will target all people, but for Sagana they will prioritize those working in the industrial park.

“All can buy a house here like in any other place. The houses to be constructed in Sagana will mainly target those who will be working on Industrial Park because we will have a large population there,” he said.

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Nyeri County Hospitals To Receive Oxygen Cylinders



Nyeri County Deputy Governor David Kinaniri and Health CEC Dr Joseph Kiragu alongside other officials inspecting Oxygen cylinders donated by the National Government.

By: Wangari Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Various Public hospitals in Nyeri County are set to receive Oxygen cylinders.

Four level III and six level IV medical facilities in the area will receive the items that were recently donated by the national government.

Out of the 20,620 medical oxygen cylinders flagged off by President Dr. William Ruto on April 18, the county was allocated 300 cylinders.

Speaking after receiving the consignment at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital, Nyeri Deputy Governor, David Kinaniri said that the county health department will first distribute the cylinders to the middle and lower tier facilities.

Kinaniri also said that the main reason for considering the two primary levels of facilities was to ensure that they improve the oxygen availability in all medical facilities in the county.

“The 300 oxygen cylinders will be distributed to various level III and level IV health facilities in the county. We have received 25 small cylinders, 75 medium sized cylinders and 200 large cylinders,” said Kinaniri.

According to a report released by

Access to Medicine Foundation last week, despite its inclusion in the World Health Organizations’ model list of essential list, medical oxygen was still being treated as a commodity with half of lower and middle income countries’ healthcare facilities lacking reliable access to the gas.

“Approximately half of health facilities in lower and middle income countries do not have access to medical oxygen. This is despite the fact that medical oxygen is included in the World Health Organization’s Model List of Essential Medicines, meaning it is a product that should be available in every country’s health system,” says the report.

The report supports findings by the Emergency Medicine Foundation, which shows that over 30 per cent of healthcare centers across the country did not have a regular supply of oxygen. The survey also shows that close to 90 per cent of the facilities that had oxygen did not have piped oxygen in the emergency department and delivered the gas directly from the tanks to patients.

The Medicine Foundation says that even though some countries took steps to address critical oxygen shortages in some low- and middle-income countries during the Covid-19 pandemic, the foundation is now challenging industrial gas companies to do more to better ad-

dress access to medical oxygen.

In its bid to boost access to medical oxygen, the county operates a 2.6 million litre capacity oxygen generation plant at the Mwai Kibaki level VI hospital in Othaya.

Currently the plant produces close to 1,800 litres of oxygen per minute. The facility was set up at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic by AMREF, Rockefeller Foundation and the Ministry of Health to support the counties to meet the oxygen demands occasioned by pandemic.

The Deputy Governor who was accompanied by among others the Health CEC Dr Joseph Kiragu noted that the department was in the process of constructing distribution pipes to supply oxygen within the health facilities.

“Piping and manifold of the oxygen project was still ongoing in some of the health centres in readiness to receive the cylinders. These will help in the distribution of the gas to patients,” said Kinaniri.

Labour Committee Meets With CS Public Service Aisha Jumwa On Public Service Internship Bill



Cabinet Secretary Isha Jumwa.



Committee chairman Eric Muchangi.

By: Our Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Committee on Labour chaired by Erick Muchangi yesterday received submissions from the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action Aisha Jumwa and Lessuda Naisula sponsor of the Public Service Internship Bill, 2022.

The proposed Bill seeks to improve the working conditions of interns in Public offices in both national and county governments.

It calls for interns engaged in the public service be entitled to sick leave as well as maternity or paternity leave for the period of their attachment. The interns to be paid subsistence allowance as may be determined by the Labour CS. Personal accident insurance cover to be valid for the duration of the internship period.

The CS observed that the Public

Service Internship Bill is timely and addresses the inherent gaps that are prevalent, adding that the Ministry has Policies and Guidelines which cover all aspects of Internship and Volunteerism in the Public Service.

The policy also provides a framework and guidelines for the harmonization and standardization of internships in the Public Service.

Members of the Committee had divergent views with some calling for the Kenyan private sector to be included in the Bill.

During the meeting, the committee raised concern, noting that there are institutions that charge a fee to interns. Legislators called on the relevant ministry to investigate.

In addition, lawmakers sought amendments on the definition of key words and phrases in the Bill.

The National Assembly Committee on Labour is expected to have further meetings as the committee deliberates on the Public Service Internship Bill.

Why Former Councillors Will Not Get The Honorarium Payment Soon

By: Our Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

The Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Committee chaired by West Pokot Senator Julius Murgor yesterday met with the Cabinet Secretaries for Labour and Social Protection, and National Treasury to receive their responses on the Statement sought by Sen. Enoch Wambua concerning the payment of one-off honorarium to former councillors.

Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary Florence Bore responding to the question of whether the Ministry would consider enrolling the former councillors to the Cash Transfer Programs stated that once resources are availed to the Ministry to carry out registration of Old Persons Inua Jamii Cash Transfer Programs, the eligible former councillors will be called to register.

Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, the Cabinet

Secretary for National Treasury explained the status of implementation of the payments by the Treasury as resolved by the Senate on 18th October, 2018, following recommendations of the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Report on a Petition by former Councillors, of the one-off token of Sh200,000 each to former councillors for their dedicated service to the country.

He informed the committee that his Ministry and that of Labour and Social Protection have jointly drawn a Cabinet Memorandum for transmittal to the Cabinet on the aforementioned matters.

He disclosed that subject to decision of the Cabinet, the National Treasury will factor the payment estimated at Sh2.6 billion in the 2023/2024 financial year budget.

On the question of whether the government would consider enrolling the former councillors and their spouses to the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) scheme to benefit from treatment in their re-



Some of the former councillors who attended the parliamentary session yesterday.

spective county health facilities, Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u stated that the Ministry of National Treasury and Economic Planning in consultation with relevant stakeholders will facilitate discussions on proposal for inclusion of the former councillors in the Universal Health Coverage un-

der the purview of NHIF.

In attendance was a delegation from the National Former Councillors Forum led by their Chairman Dr. Geoffrey Gitau.

Members of the committee present included

The Vice-Chair George Mbugua,

Stewart Madzayo,

Mohamed Faki, Miraj Abdulrahman, Alexander Mundigi, Crystal Asige and Johnes Mwaruma who appeared as a friend of the committee

Nyeri Elimu Fund Local Committee Launched

By: Beth Ndirangu

@themtkenyatimes

Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga has launched the Elimu Fund Ward Committee that will disburse bursaries to needy students in the county.

The 7-member committee comprises of Sub County & Ward Administrators, Principal Education Officers, youth, women, men and People appointed from the 30 wards in the county.

Speaking during the launching of committee at Wambugu ATC, the governor said the committee will carry out various functions such as sensitizing the community on the fund, availing application forms, receiving and considering fund applications, conducting research and maintaining data on the eligibility of students for funds, monitor academ-

ic performance of students receiving the funds and answer questions at the grassroots level pertaining the bursary.

Kahiga also advised the committee members to take seriously the responsibility bestowed upon them to ensure fairness during the process and to remain well informed to provide clarity on issues of concern if raised.

His remarks were echoed by Deputy Governor David Kinaniri who urged the committee members to uphold virtues of integrity, accountability, honesty, transparency and to work with the County Government of Nyeri in making the region a better place.

The committee was also briefed on how to conduct the disbursement and an overview of the Nyeri Elimu Fund Act, 2015 by the Principal Legal Officer Abigael Njoki.



Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga, his deputy David Kinaniri and other officials during the launching of the Elimu Fund Committee yesterday

Fatherhood? Sexual Identity, Perversion, Immorality!

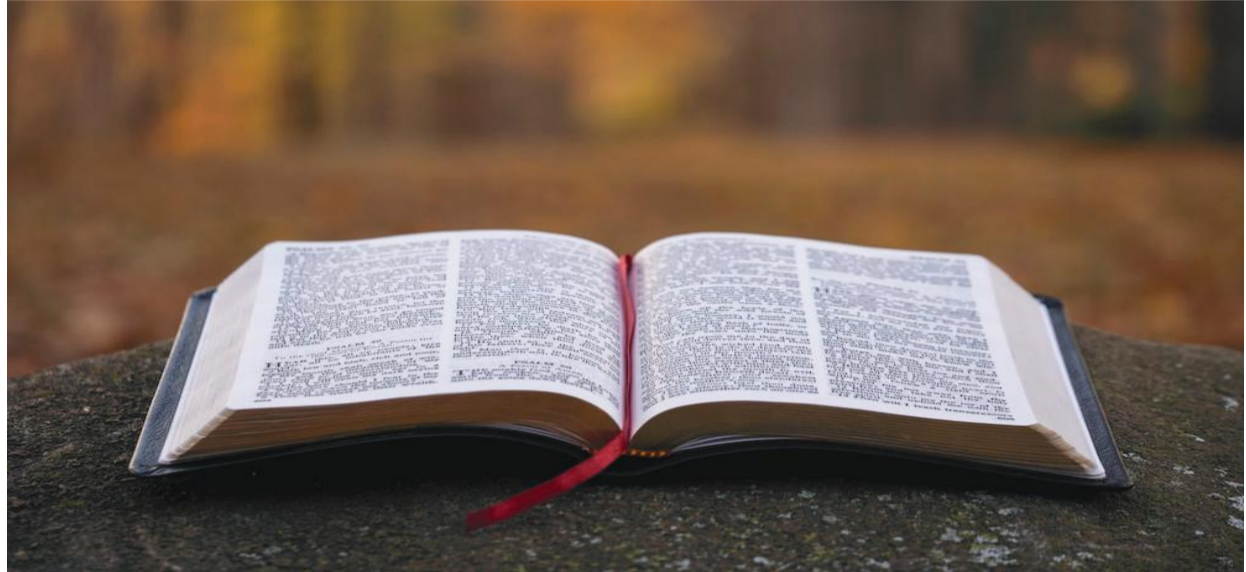


By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

sexual identity via perversion and immorality.

Men, as fathers you have such power! You will have this terrible power till you die, like it or not — in your attitude toward authority, in your attitude toward women, in your regard for God and the Church. What terrifying responsibilities! This is truly the power of life and death. For these reasons we live in a time of great social crisis. Whole segments of our society are bereft of male leadership. At the other end of the scale, there are strong men who give their best leadership to the marketplace, but utterly fail at home.

We are the men! And if God's purpose does not happen with the sons of the Church, it will not happen. Men, there are few places where sanctified sweat will show greater dividends than in fathering. If you are willing to work at it, you can be a good father. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SWEAT, YOU WILL SEE ABUNDANT BLESSING. Helpfully, God's Word provides us with an outline for a fatherly workout— in



one pungent sentence: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

GOD HELP US, AND DELIVER US ALWAYS; IN JESUS CHRIST MIGHTY NAME.

References:
 The Living Bible

Discipline of a Godly Man(Book by Kent Hughes)

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2

Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

Public Investments Committee On Governance And Education Pushes For Diligent Use Of Public Funds

By: Our Reporter
 @themkenyatomes



Members during the session.

The National Assembly Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education yesterday met various parastatal heads to deliberate on audit queries raised in reports of the Auditor General.

The committee chaired by Jack Wambani Wamboka from Bumula sought responses from parastatal heads on financial transparency, accountability, and governance.

Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services (KUC-CPS) led by the CEO, Agnes Wahome was asked whether it is prudent for the government to sponsor students in private universities.

Members further set out to understand what informed the decision to have students pick courses offered in private universities, despite public universities having the capacity to absorb all students.

In her submission to the committee,

the KUCCPS CEO affirmed that Public Universities do have the capacity to admit all government-sponsored students.

Kenya School of Law (KSL) led by the CEO, Dr. Henry Mutai appeared before the committee to answer to several audit queries including un-

remitted tax deductions, budgetary control, irregular payment of allowances, non-compliance with the Public Procurement and Assets Disposal Act, 2015 among others.

The Managing Director, Seith Abeke, of the University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services (UNES) Lim-

ited, a company founded to harness the resources of the University with a view to enhance the University's teaching and research was tasked to respond to matters regarding budgetary control and performance, lack of proper checks and balances, and the probable insolvency of the institution guided by their statements of financial performance reflecting net losses.

Members of the committee sought responses on audit queries within the Karen Technical Training Institute for the Deaf (KTTID) led by Tecla Chemobo.

The Principal in response to the institution's effort to resolve a matter of encroached land within the 40-acre institution, did not offer a satisfactory response.

Members encouraged her to be proactive in seeking permanent solutions to the institution's challenges beyond drafting letters.

Members while offering solutions, instructed the institution's management to create a proper breakdown of the student's history with the aim

of ensuring that needy students receive funding from their respective constituencies through the National Government Constituencies Development Fund, which caters for students with special needs.

The Kenya National Commission for UNESCO CEO, Dr. Evangeline Njoka was held responsible by the members for failing to end a contract related to a construction project that has been ongoing for nearly three years, despite the contractor being contractually obligated to finish the work within six months.

During their discussions, the committee considered a legal issue related to the appointment of a candidate who ranked third in the recruitment process for a job vacancy.

The CEO confirmed that there was no official proof of the first and second candidates rejecting the job offer, begging the question why the third was given the job.

Governors' Threat To Shut Down Counties Not Igniting Public Fury, Why?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Council of Governors chairperson and Kirinyaga County Governor Anne Waiguru reading a statement while flanked by her colleagues yesterday.



Worth Noting:

- The only thing he can do is to remind the National Treasury to give counties first priority because they are expected to play a critical role of 'addressing the challenges' of ordinary Kenyans at the grassroots.
- This is not the first time we have heard the governors complaining. The story was the same during the era of former President Uhuru Kenyatta. The opposition would also make similar claims. That Uhuru did not believe in devolution and he was out to kill it.
- Well, the constitution allows the county bosses to collect taxes and rates from their respective counties. They have been doing this. Can they tell where this money goes?

The war pitting the Council of Governors (CoG) and National Treasury took a new turn two days ago when the former in a strong worded statement gave the latter a 14-day ultimatum to release Sh94.3 billion arrears failure to which they will shut down the counties.

For three months, the counties have not received their budgetary allocations as required by law.

This has greatly affected the implementation of the services to our people including the most essential.

During this period, the employees in our respective counties have not received their salaries. They have now threatened to down their tools and so if this matter is not addressed urgently we are staring at a bigger crisis, the governors stated after a full day-long meeting.

By opting to speak publicly, it seemed that governors thought that the move would ignite public anger. Kenyans would sympathize with them and hit out at the National Government for turning deaf ear to their plight. This did not come to pass.

The tone of CoG statement had left no doubt President William Ruto was their main target not the National Treasury.

The challenges facing the counties contradict the spirit of the meeting we had held earlier with the President in Naivasha.

I'm not holding brief for President

Ruto but my considered view is that he has no legal mandate to approve the funds.

The only thing he can do is to remind the National Treasury to give counties first priority because they are expected to play a critical role of 'addressing the challenges' of ordinary Kenyans at the grassroots.

This is not the first time we have heard the governors complaining. The story was the same during the era of former President Uhuru Kenyatta. The opposition would also make similar claims. That Uhuru did not believe in devolution and he was out to kill it.

Well, the constitution allows the county bosses to collect taxes and rates from their respective counties. They have been doing this. Can they tell where this money goes?

Kenyans would also want to know how the funds were being accounted for. Who was doing the audit?

This brings me to the question that I think should bother governors most. What has contributed to public losing confidence in us? What can we do to regain the trust?

The answers lie in re-looking and interrogating the history of the devolution. The framers of the 2010 constitution captured the popular views and feelings of the majority of Kenyans. This is by ensuring the devolved units became the engine of the new dispensation.

The old constitution provided for centralized government and as such the state resources were being shared from the top.

They believed that this system was being abused and it was riddled with mega corruption scandals.

The devolved units would remedy this. Each county would receive its shareable budgetary allocation and this would mean the people at grassroots benefited. This will spur economic growth; the locals particularly the youth and women will get jobs.

Besides, they will sit in the decision making organs created to conceive and allocate funds to various projects as well as overseeing their implementation.

But little did they know they were devolving corruption and creating the position of a governor who would end up behaving a small God. After luring them during the election campaigns, the county boss would not longer value their contributions.

He or she would instead run the county with cronies and friends whose main goal would be to enrich themselves.

They would dish out lucrative tenders and contracts to companies which are run by their proxies. Reports also indicated the ghost workers, who were paid billions of shillings, were related to them.

Well, a good number of the current

governors are trying to eradicate these cartels.

Besides, the war between some governors and members of their respective county assembly has not been auguring well in the court of public opinion. This is because it is mainly hinged on disputes related to misunderstanding on how to share the loot.

It is only in rare cases you would hear the governor is being fought because of refusing to allow the MCAs to have their way. This in terms of raiding public coffers and allowing them to go for luxurious foreign tours camouflaged as 'benchmarking tours'.

The issue of politics was also at play. Some of the governors were spending much of their energy and time in championing the partisan political agenda of their respective party leaders.

This would work at the expense of serving the interests of the people who elected them.


I hope the current governors will learn something from this article. That is if they want to restore public faith and confidence.

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

Focus Your Energies On Answers Not Excuses

By: N. George

[@themtkenyatimes](#)



WHERE FOCUS
GOES, ENERGY
FLOWS.

Worth Noting:

- Great care to promote your relationship with your spouse should also be taken to minimize chances of falling to temptation by external parties that may result to such kids.
- At classroom level the teacher should lay more emphasis on making the students realise the importance of self-control and respect to other people and need for good learning culture.
- This will help the students enjoy good relationship with other education stakeholders and the overall effect of this process will be to promote personal and academic maturity making the work of teacher easy due to proper coordination of all activities necessary for smooth learning.

It is wise to direct your anger towards problems not people; to focus your energies on answers and not excuses. William Arthur Ward.

There is reaction that comes out of interactions with fellow human beings. It can either be positive or negative. During good times there will be happiness while during tough times one will become sad. There are not exemptions no matter what cadre in life one is. Everyone wishes to be happy but not all times when the process or the outcome is favourable. When the latter is the case the sadness is certain, wisdom demands you that you come up with solutions to the issues affecting you.

Surprisingly enough happiness and sadness are contagious in nature so when you have either of them those around you will likely be affected in one way or another so it is advisable to be extra cautious on how you behave so as to promote positivity in the environment where you are operating.

In a family set up if you have several children and realise that you are

not the biological father of one of them you need not to start looking for the biological father to question him rather you should come up with strategies to foster that kid to become better member of your family by showing love and helping him or her to fully exploit his or her talents. This will not only benefit self but also the rest of family and society. He will partly attribute his success to you making you to be an integral part of his life.

Great care to promote your relationship with your spouse should also be taken to minimize chances of falling to temptation by external parties that may result to such kids.

At classroom level the teacher should lay more emphasis on making the students realise the importance of self-control and respect to other people and need for good learning culture. This will help the students enjoy good relationship with other education stakeholders and the overall effect of this process will be to promote personal and academic maturity making the work of teacher easy due to proper coordi-

nation of all activities necessary for smooth learning.

Sitting back and blaming students for indecencies in their conduct will make the environment more toxic, mind you some of them are not aware of better ways of going about their lives.

Those in public service especially policy making need to be aware that regularly criticizing government actions when they think it has erred is good but not enough to improve policy making. They should come up with better alternatives and argue that if the current administration adopts certain policies there would be tremendous social, political and economic prosperity. This would alert some of those in decision making table of more avenues for growth with the pro people ones willing to adopt these proposals.

During the times of hunger due to prolonged dry spell or excess rains our efforts should be directed towards mitigation measures instead of blaming the natural phenomenon for our woes. Whatever interventions are economical and human-

ly possible need to be instituted to avoid such catastrophes in future.

People are selfish in nature so it should not be a surprise to you to see majority of them practicing self-promoting acts. Adequate safeguards like heavy penalties need to be put in place to ensure whatever system one is operating in especially public ones works for the benefit of masses.

Train yourself to be solution finder rather than just critic, instill this culture to those around you and you will enjoy a favourable working and living environment.

Energy PS Decries Power Transformer Vandalism

By: Mabel Keya
@themkenyatimes

The government is determined to address the issue of power security in the country with the Ethiopia - Kenya transmission line set to be launched soon.

Energy Principal Secretary Alex Wachira said the line will supply additional Megawatts of power to the national grid and help stabilize the country's energy needs.

The PS said prolonged drought has significantly reduced the country's energy supply from hydro where he said despite the recent rains, the waters in Masinga dam for instance had increased by only two meters.

He was speaking when he appeared before members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy in Naivasha on Monday.

Wachira noted there was need to fast track the implementation of power projects as doing so will ensure access to cheap power for consumers.

To this end, he said they were looking at the tariffs charged in order to bring the cost of electricity down and also return Kenya Power Com-

pany limited to profitability.

The PS however decried the continued vandalism of transformers in the country noting that the power utility company loses an average of 20 transformers in a week negatively affecting the company's operations.

He regretted that the losses are passed on to consumers through increased bills and hence affecting the economy.

Wachira singled out Othaya in Nyeri and Ndaragwa in Nyandarua counties as leading in vandalism leaving wananchi in darkness.

The vandalism of transformers is said to be motivated by the high demand for copper wires in the black market with the PS urging Parliament to legislate laws that will push unscrupulous dealers off the market by imposing heavy fines and sentences to those found involved in the illegal trade.

The PS also appealed to stakeholders to work together to support geothermal power production as an alternative source of energy noting that the move will ensure power security in the country.

"If we can produce just half of our geothermal capacity, we can sell the surplus power to our neighbouring



Principal Secretary for Energy Alex Wachira when he appeared before the committee yesterday.

countries and get foreign exchange," Wachira said.

He noted that the government has connected nine million Kenyans to the electricity national grid as at the end of 2022 compared to the two million in the year 2002, marking a huge step in the last mile connectivity project.

The PS stated that Kenya has also managed to increase her electricity production from 1,600 Megawatts in 2013 to about 3,300 Megawatts this year.

Geothermal resources in Kenya are located within the Rift Valley with an estimated potential of between 7,000 MW to 10,000 MW spread

over 14 prospective sites.

Kenya is set to retire its investments in thermal sources in the country and transition fully to green renewable energy generation by 2030.

Winnie Success Story In Mitumba Business

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Winjoy Kananu is a youthful entrepreneur who has ventured in second hand clothes business. The Kindhearted, down-to-earth and God-fearing Winjoy started small. She didn't despise her humble beginnings.

She started selling eggs. After a while she switched to selling fruits. Her hardwork paid off and she eventually started opening bales.

In an interview, she alludes to us that her greatest driving factor is passion.

She says, "it's all about passion. When selling fresh things they can sometimes disappoint you due to their perishable nature. But the moment you sell clothes it's so fulfilling.

In business it's all about passion. Do something that can motivate you so that by doing so you can become your Chief Encourager Officer.

She sources her second hand clothes from the United Kingdom.

She advises the youths to step out and do so with faith. It's all about kujituma. Start small. Give it your all and finally you shall succeed.

Winjoy delivers her clothes to her clients locally and even across borders whereby she is serving clients in South Sudan, Nigeria Tanzania and South Africa.

"the African Market is magnanimous. That's why I'm currently looking into means of transportation to deliver to them.

To those who are starting their business now, Winjoy advised them not to give up.

"Don't give up. Being your own Boss is the greatest feeling. You manage yourself observe Self Dis-

cipline and in business never quit. Stay focused and give your business at least One year to break even.

Let Passion be always your driving factor." She concluded.

Winjoy Kananu a youthful entrepreneur.



KRA Stickers And Counterfeit Alcoholic Drinks Nabbed In Murang'a County

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyatimes

Police in Murang'a County have impounded thousands of Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) stickers in a liquor outlet at Kambiti shopping centre.

During the crackdown coordinated by the County Police Commander David Mathiu, the officers further confiscated 54 crates of assorted counterfeit alcoholic drinks which were hidden in a residential house.

The rolls of the stickers were found in a wines and spirit outlet with the owner alleging they were supplied by KRA.

The County Police Commander who led a multi-agency team during the crackdown, claimed the stickers were meant to be used in labelling the contraband alcoholic drinks in order to hoodwink consumers and security agents about legitimacy.

Mathiu noted that the raid was prompted by information they got from members of the public who

claimed the outlet had been selling counterfeit alcoholic brands.

Brands of the assorted alcohol impounded included Santa King, Triger, Spiriters among others.

Mathiu stated that crackdown against illicit and contraband liquor will continue in all the Sub Counties saying so far they have managed to confiscate and destroy thousands litres of the outlawed brews.

He underscored the importance of the crackdown on brews saying it has managed to reduce criminal activities and anti-social behaviour especially among the young people.

“We are going to investigate and establish the source of the KRA stickers since we want to know whether they are genuine or not and find out what the owner of the outlet was intending to do with them.

“The confiscated counterfeit brews will be destroyed as the suspect is arraigned in court,” he added.

The commander lauded the public and local political leaders for their support to eradicate the menace saying the war against drugs and alcoholism must be won.

Elsewhere, at Kangema shopping



Murang'a County Police Commander David Mathiu with other security officers at Kambiti during the illicit brews crackdown.

centre, police intercepted 73 crates of counterfeit liquor known as Banana.

The liquor was trading for Sh40 per half-litre bottle among other contrabands, including 21 kilos of bhang.

Mathui said the police recovered

the liquors from two vehicles upon receiving a tip off from the public.

“The intercepted vehicles are currently held at Kangema Police Station as investigations are ongoing,” added the commander.

MCA's from the Central Kenya re-

gion, on Friday met the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and pledged to support strategies employed to reclaim the youth indulging in alcoholism.

Laikipia Chiefs Apprehensive About Their Lives While Fighting Illicit Brews

By: Antony Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Chiefs and Assistant chiefs in Laikipia West Sub County have expressed fears about threats on their lives by unknown people for spearheading the fight against illicit brews.

The administrators who are tasked with combating the vice have said that they have started receiving threats from suspected brewers who are opposed to the ongoing crackdown.

Speaking during an occasion when they destroyed by pouring 5,000 litres of illicit brews at Siberia village in Laikipia County, Kiamaina Senior Chief Muraya Waithaka said that the brewers have turned their anger on them by issuing threats with some targeting their homes.

The brew was recovered in a home days after another over 10,000 litres of the brew was destroyed deep in-

side the South Marmanet forest.

Waithaka said that unknown brewers in the area have threatened to burn down their houses to avenge the crackdown.

“The major setback we have received in our fight against the killer brews is that we have been threatened and even told that our homes will be razed. We cannot specify at the moment who is pushing that message but we are still using other security personnel to investigate.

“I want to ask the forestry department, KWS and the regular police to help us in the fight because some alcohol is prepared deep inside the forests and closer to elephant breeding grounds in Marmanet forest,” said Chief Waithaka.

Mr. Waithaka has however vowed to remain unbowed in the fight against the brew menace saying that they will not be scared.

He regretted that illicit brews have raised the poverty rate in the area.

Mr. Waithaka urged residents present during the pouring of the illicit



Leaders pouring illicit brews

brew to volunteer information to the police that will lead to the arrest of all illegal brewers in the area.

The chief said that they raided the home and found the brew hidden in

the house but the suspects fled before they could be arrested.

On February 16 this year, Rumuruti police station Deputy OCS Prosper Wandera was stabbed to death by

revelers when he raided an illicit brew den on the outskirts of Rumuruti town.

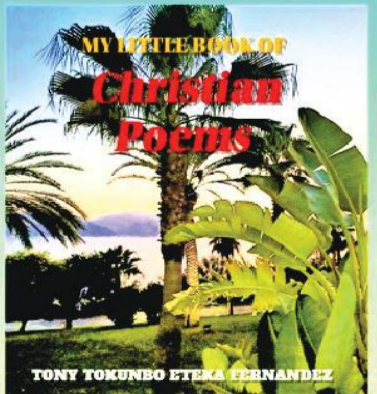
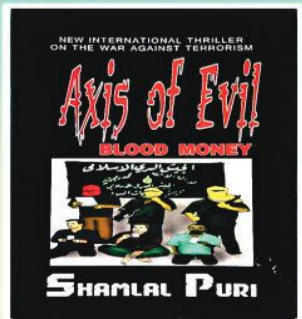
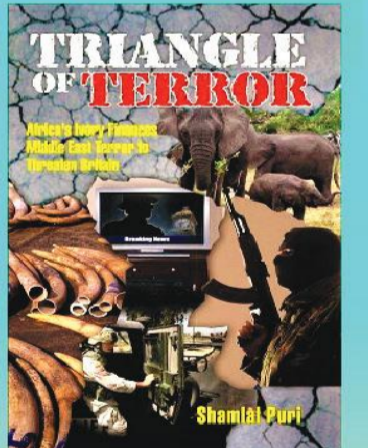
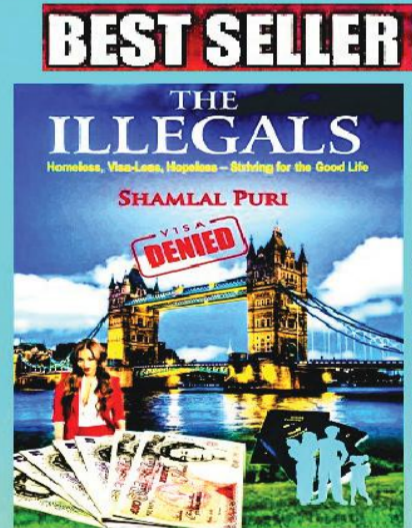
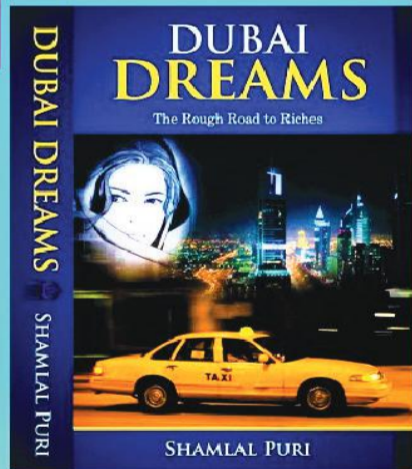
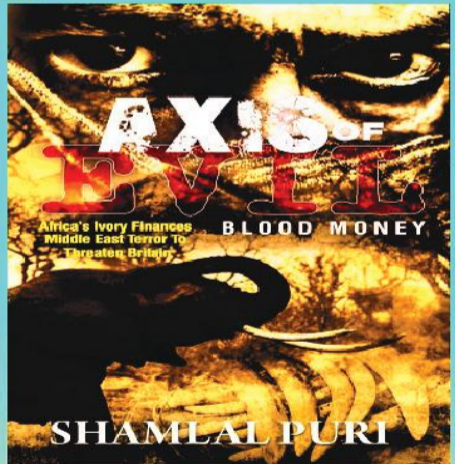
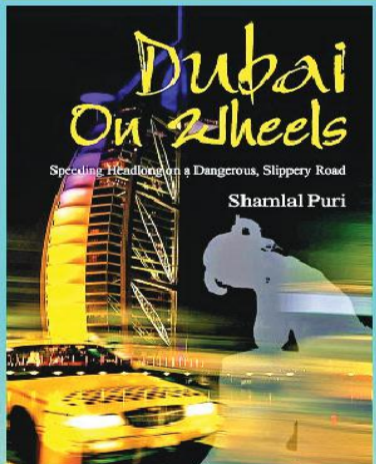
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BUSINESS

Speed Up Our Resettlement, Kakuzi Squatters Plead

By: Muoki Charles
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Musau has to squeeze himself in one of the corners of his almost falling house where he has placed his bed and hope the rains subside.
- “At night, we undergo incurable agony when the rains pound. We fear our shanties may be carried away by the rains. We endured the rain all night. We can’t repair our houses because once the guards catch you, they severely punish,” he said.
- Esther Kalekye, now over 100 years old, suffers the same fate. Her greatest fear is where she would be buried.
- The company, they said, cannot allow burials in the land. Residents however conduct night burials out of fear.



Some of the Kakuzi squatters addressing the media.

Squatters based in Kakuzi have called on the government to speed up resettling them on a piece of land that the food processing company ceded years ago, so as to get them out of the untold suffering that they have gone through in the hands of the company.

The over 4,000 squatters said the continued dragging of the process has invited more fake squatters lining up and demanding a share of the land.

They said as the process drags, their suffering continues to mount, and the hope of one day owning land diminishes each passing day.

David Musau 89, who lives in a wooden shack, covered with polythene papers and roofed using rust iron sheets, wishes the survey and subdivisions of the land would be fast-tracked so as to open a new chapter of his life.

He has gone through hell during this rainy season as his leaking roof cannot give him rest at night.

Musau has to squeeze himself in one of the corners of his almost falling house where he has placed his bed and hope the rains subside.

“At night, we undergo incurable agony when the rains pound. We fear our shanties may be carried away by the rains. We endured the rain all night. We can’t repair our houses because once the guards catch you, they severely punish,” he said.

Esther Kalekye, now over 100 years old, suffers the same fate. Her great-

est fear is where she would be buried.

The company, they said, cannot allow burials in the land. Residents however conduct night burials out of fear.

“I know my time is almost up. However, my fear is will I be thrown in the bush after death?” she posed.

Esther Njeri and Joseph Muriuki survive on burning charcoal whose logs they steal from Kakuzi forest. If only the company’s watchmen knew, they say, the punishment would be severe.

These are among the tales that the squatters told government officials who had visited the area to explain

to the residents on the progress of the resettlement exercise.

Their chairman Murigi Njogu, during a meeting attended by state officials assured them that the government was in the process of allocating them land.

He however said the land may not be enough for every squatter as the number has increased from 400 to the current 4,000 over the years.

“The surveying of the land that Kakuzi ceded is ongoing. However, it is slow and residents are slowly giving up,” Murigi said.

He at the same time called on the company to consider ceding some of its unused land to settle the 4,000 squatters who have been doubling each year.

“Kakuzi should borrow a leaf from the nearby Fruit Processing Multi-national Delmonte (K) LTD that has ceded land to Kiambu and Murang’a residents. It has huge tracks of unused land. That way, more squatters will be resettled,” he added.



David Musau 89, a resident of Kakuzi shows a wooden shack, covered with polythene papers and roofed using rust iron sheets where he lives..



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Kigali Grants Mt Kenya Varsity Rwanda Full Accreditation

Institution to rebrand to Mount Kigali University following a ministerial order approved by the Cabinet chaired by President Paul Kagame

By: James Wakahiu

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Mount Kigali University becomes the first ever cross-border campus in Rwanda to attain this status. Dama-lie Tumushime, a current student at the university, said it was a privilege to witness history unfolding. “I enrolled at MKUR and had no idea that it would transform into a fully-fledged university operating from this campus. Team work has been key to this development,” she said.
- Another student, Ronald Nkusi, said he was delighted with this new development and looks forward to graduating in Rwanda, rather than travelling to MKU’s main campus in Thika, Kenya. “Obviously, I look forward to not spending money and time to graduate in Kenya as has been the case in the past.”



MKU RWANDA PHOTO- GRADUATION SUPPLEMENT.

The Government of Rwanda has granted Mount Kenya University Rwanda (MKUR) full accreditation to operate as a fully-fledged university.

The accredited institution will now rebrand to Mount Kigali University (MKU) according to a communique from the Office of the Prime Minister of Rwanda. The communique details several orders made by a Cabinet meeting chaired by President Paul Kagame on April 20, 2023.

Among others, the Cabinet approved the “ministerial order granting accreditation and legal personality to Mount Kigali University.”

Mt Kigali University Vice-Chancellor designate, Prof Edwin Odhuno, thanked the government of Rwanda for granting the university the new status. “We are extremely grateful to the Ministry of Education for this recognition,” said Prof Odhuno upon learning of the news. “As an institution, we are happy with this achievement and will work even harder to expand access to higher education,”

he added.

The VC designate said the accreditation is an exciting, yet challenging development because it means the university has the responsibility of delivering much more in teaching, research and community outreach. The college has 6,000 students currently. “To whom so much has been given, so much is expected from,” he noted.

The VC designate said he was confident that the MKU Chairman, Board of Directors, Prof. Simon Gicharu, will continue supporting the new institution so that it can attain greater heights of success. “We have seen how his support over the last 13 years has raised the profile of this campus through prudent investment in infrastructure, equipment and personnel. We are sure he will walk with us on the journey to a bright future for Mount Kigali University,” said Prof Odhuno.

Mount Kigali University becomes the first ever cross-border campus in Rwanda to attain this status. Dama-

lie Tumushime, a current student at the university, said it was a privilege to witness history unfolding. “I enrolled at MKUR and had no idea that it would transform into a fully-fledged university operating from this campus. Team work has been key to this development,” she said.

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MKUR offers a wide range of academic and professional courses through various flexible modes that include online, face-to-face, day and weekend and institutional based learning (school-based). The institution launched its memoir earlier this year. The book, titled “Mountain meets Land of 1,000 Hills,” traces MKUR’s journey into Rwanda.

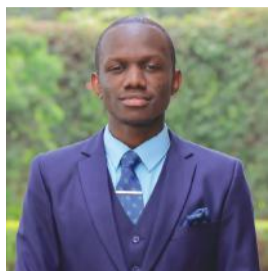
The university boasts of leaders in

government, private sector and civil society organizations as among its alumni. The book also details its infrastructural developments such as the upcoming Kigali Paramount Hotel, primed to be a regional center of excellency for hospitality and tourism training.

Also captured by the book are corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities such as participation in Umuganda, and empowering the girl-child academically through partnering with Imbutu Foundation, as well as infrastructural developments, among other investments.

During the launch, MKUR renewed a partnership with Imbutu Foundation to offer support to students from humble backgrounds in accessing Higher Education. During the event MKU committed a donation of Rwf 36,750,000 (about Ksh4.5 million) to the Foundation over five-year duration of the renewed MoU.

Of Centralization Of State Power Being An Incumbent Reality In Kenya: The Constitution Must Be Weeping



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor

@themkenyatimes



President Ruto and his Cabinet.

Worth Noting:

- Thirteen years down the line since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya, we are back to the same state we were as a nation. Why is this so? The office holders still centralize state powers. We have county governments that are indisputable. But are they functioning seamlessly? How many times have heard that the counties haven't received disbursement from the ex-chequer? Is it once or twice or right now it is chorus?
- Why do we still have the urge the come up with delegations to meet the President at State House? Oh yes I know, the President still has to be appeased for he wields immense powers. The Constitution remains to be the President's doormat.

Early last week I got hold of a book titled **“Tensions and Reversals in Democratic Transitions: The Kenya 2007 General Elections”** edited by legendary Professor Karuti Kanyinga and Duncan Okello. The first chapter of the book was penned by the above cited luminaries and Akoko Akech. The Chapter's heading is as follows: **‘Contradictions of Transition to Democracy in Fragmented Societies: the Kenya 2007 General Elections in Perspective.’** The three authors contend that the scheme of power and the electoral system rank top as the source of tensions and reversals within the Kenyan democratic space. As if that is not enough, the learned authors were of the view that centralization of power, to be specific, state power, in the presidency has led to the said office being dominated by specific political elites and folks from specific regions.

In their words: “The presidency has inelastic abilities to punish and reward, command and control and in a poor and fragmented society such as Kenya, electoral contests then tend to have polarizing effects. Similarly, the majoritarian system or the first post electoral system results in a zero sum game. Because competing individuals are interlinked with regional interests, the gains of political elites are considered as community gains; the same applies to losers. We take the view that whereas Kenya is an ethnically conscious

country, ethnicity perse is not the cause of Kenya's democratic regression, problematic as it may seem. It is the result of centralized powers of the state, reinforced by a majoritarian electoral system. Simply put, ethnicity and how it is expressed in Kenya's electoral politics is the toxic waste from a political economy of inequality, centralized state power and a majoritarian electoral system. Political elites mobilize ethnic groups because the electoral system privileges numbers rather than representation. The losers have no other ways of being represented or accessing state power.”

It is imperative to note that the book was published before the advent of the current Constitution. The History of Kenya has several instances where the winners of elections control state resources perhaps for their own benefit or benefitting those who are from their ethnic backgrounds. Look around, you might notice that, the same thing shows up its ugly head post 2010 constitutional dispensation.

So as to remedy, centralization of power, Kenyans in their numbers through a referendum passed the 2010 Constitution. It was meant, inter alia, to remedy a myriad of past social evils. A Constitution maybe deemed as a social charter of a particular nation or society. Kenya's Constitution is a reflection of Kenya's history and that is a fact. The Constitution was meant as well to

transform Kenya. Various provisions of the Constitution attest to this from Chapter Four to the other various constitutional imperatives not forgetting devolution.

To some extent, it has been argued that devolution was meant to combat centralization of state power to the Executive arm of government. How is this so? One may wisely ask. The Constitution indirectly makes a mention of this and perhaps it is left for the wise to decipher the same. Article 174 of the 2010 Constitution outlines the objects of devolution which include but not limited to: fostering national unity by recognizing diversity; giving powers of self-governance to the people and enhance their participation in making decisions affecting them; promoting social and economic development and the provision of proximate, easily accessible services throughout Kenya; ensuring equitable sharing of natural and local resources throughout Kenya; to facilitate the decentralization of state organs, their functions and services from the capital of Kenya.

Thirteen years down the line since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya, we are back to the same state we were as a nation. Why is this so? The office holders still centralize state powers. We have county governments that is indisputable. But are they functioning seamlessly? How many times have heard that the counties haven't received disbursement from the ex-chequer? Is it once or twice or right now it is chorus?

Why do we still have the urge the come up with delegations to meet the President at State House? Oh yes I know, the President still has to be appeased for he wields immense powers. The Constitution remains to be the President's doormat. I have argued overtime, any constitution is as good or as bad as the implementation thereof. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 by all means has good proposals, unfortunately those meant to implement it are big time jokers.

Another evidence that centralization of state power is real just look at budget of Kenya since 2011 to date and tell me what is the ratio that the Executive arm of government controls vis-à-vis money given to counties. It is really perplexing and transfixing by all means. Counties have functions within the province of law, but can those functions be realized with inadequate funding? Maybe yes in the land of fantasy.

Kenyans as well have ingrained their respective brains on the doctrine of centralization of state power. Maybe you should listen to them talk during campaigns. They support the various candidates based on where they hail from or from what their community leader states. They are sure that if one of their own ascends to power resources will trickle to them immensely. When will Kenyans let go of this idea?

Despite all these, the Constitution is weeping. For the various provisions on centralization of state power remain a mirage and chimera in equal measure. From my honest perspective the Constitution is innocent, those at wrong are the office holders. I live to see the day, Kenyans will be more interested in who is their Governor than who is their President; the day when resources will be disbursed in a timely manner. May that day dawn soon. Till then let me remain a faithful member of Observers Club of Kenya.

Jerameel Kevins Owuor Odhiambo is a finalist law student at University of Nairobi, Parklands Campus.



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Wamuchomba Appears Before Social Protection Committee To Give Views On Her Geriatrics Bill 2022



Gathoni WaMuchomba during yesterday's forum.

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

The National Assembly's Social Protection Committee yesterday played host to Gathoni Wamuchomba of

Githunguri constituency who had been invited to give her views on the Geriatrics bill National Assembly Bill which she has sponsored.

In the sitting chaired by Chairperson Thika Town MP Alice Ng'ang'a, Wamuchomba told the legislators that the Bill is aimed at giving dignity to the elderly persons by protecting them physically, emotionally and otherwise. It is heavy on matters of care and medication for the elderly in the society.

"The Bill seeks to give effect to Article 57 of the constitution to establish the National Council for the Elderly, to provide care for the elderly empowerment and protection," she told the MPs.

Wamuchomba further clarified that the Bill stems from an amendment she sponsored wayback in 2018 and was advised by the last Parliament to come up with a unanimous law and not merely an amendment.

"Hon. Members, this will be a

stand alone law if passed. This is in line with the direction I got from the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) in the last Parliament," she added.

While laying the objectives of the Bill, Wamuchomba told the members that she seeks to establish a National Council for the Elderly budgeted for by Parliament just like the National Council for the Disabled.

She pointed out that the elderly have been left in the hands of the Chiefs' programs that seek to enumerate the challenges faced by the underprivileged in the society. She cited the Inua Jamii Programme which she termed skewed and discriminatory.

She went ahead to explain that the legislative proposal seeks to establish a legal framework to promote Justice for the Elderly.

"World over, a society is judged on how it takes care of the elderly. Let's develop a framework to take care of the elderly as a country," she pleaded with the committee members.

In her rejoinder, the committee chairperson supported Wamuchomba's presentation on the Bill noting that it would improve the living standards of the elderly persons in the country.

"I agree with you Mheshimiwa Wamuchomba, the elderly persons need special attention in the society. They need special wards in our health facilities just like the pediatric wards for children, to enable them receive special care, I support the idea of entrenching this in law," she noted.

Seme MP, James Nyikal, a doctor by profession and a member of the committee supported the Bill whose enactment, he noted was long overdue. He however challenged the sponsor of the Bill to look at all other laws relating to her Bill, and at the end of it, attach a schedule of laws that need amendment or harmonisation.

Nyikal's sentiments were supported by Hillary Kosgey from Kipkelion West constituency.

After listening to Wamuchomba, the committee went ahead to pursue the second agenda which was to review a brief on the National Youth Council Amendment Bill, 2023.

The Bill sponsored by Baringo Central MP Joshua Kandie seeks to amend the National Youth Council Act. He is also scheduled to appear before the committee to make his submissions on the proposed law.

Kirinyaga Senator Seeks A Statement Regarding The Amputation Of A Baby's Fingers At Kerugoya Hospital



Kirinyaga County Senator James Murango.

By: Our Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Kirinyaga County Senator James Murango has sought for a statement from the Senate Standing Committee on Health regarding the amputation of Baby Ridhwan Yasir Noor fingers at Kerugoya County Referral Hospital in a suspected case of medical negligence.

The senator want the committee to explain circumstances that led to the amputation of the one-year-old fingers while undergoing treatment for pneumonia at Kerugoya County Referral Hospital.

He want clarification on whether the incident that took place last month was as a result of medical

negligence by officers at the facility.

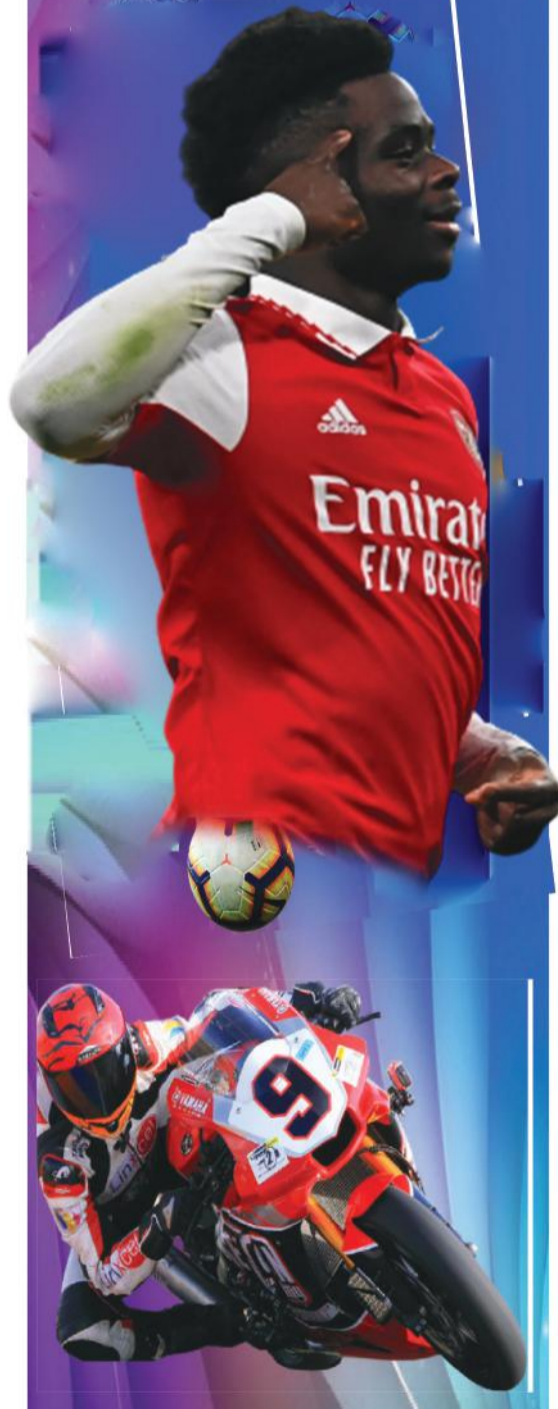
Further, the legislator want the committee to state the steps, if any, by the Ministry of Health to ensure that justice is served the victim and the actions that will be taken against the medical practitioners involved.

This is besides providing details on the level of adherence to medical safety and precautionary measures in administration of medical care at the facility in question.

Furthermore, Senator Murango is seeking that the committee state reasons, if any, why management of the hospital has not provided Baby Ridhwan's family with his medical report, despite several attempts from the parents.

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Sports >> *Kolo Toure believes Bukayo Saka is approaching his 'Michael Jordan moment' as he picked the winger as the one current Arsenal star who would be at home alongside the 'Invincibles'.

Kolo Toure: Bukayo Saka about to have his 'Michael Jordan moment' at Arsenal



Bukayo Saka of Arsenal scores. TEAMTALK MEDIA.

Kolo Toure believes Bukayo Saka is approaching his 'Michael Jordan moment' as he picked the winger as the one current Arsenal star who would be at home alongside the 'Invincibles'.

Saka and his team-mates head to Manchester City on Wednesday night for a Premier League title showdown.

The Gunners have drawn their last three games and now sit five points clear at the summit, having played two more games than their closest rivals.

It means the midweek clash at the Etihad Stadium is likely to go a long way to determining the destination of the title this season, with Arsenal in search

of their first Premier League crown in 19 years.

Toure was a part of the team that season and went on to win the league at City in 2012 and he is a big fan of Saka, backing the England international to potentially make the difference on Wednesday.

"This is the first time he has had that pressure," he replied when asked about Saka dealing with the expectations on his shoulders.

"But it is money time now. This is when Michael Jordan made his money. When he made the difference.

"They would give him the ball when the pressure was on and they would look for the guy who

could make the difference.

"The Arsenal team have Saka and this boy has a special talent, definitely. He's been carrying that team very well this season.

"In the games coming, he has to show that. It's not about age. It's about talent. He has unbelievable talent and desire. He loves that club and I'm sure this is a player who can really push the team up."

Toure's title at Arsenal came during an unbeaten season under Arsene Wenger in 2004 and the former Ivory Coast defender selected Saka as the member of the current ranks he would have liked in that squad.

Asked who would be at home in the 'Invincibles' team, he re-

plied: "Obviously, Saka.

"This boy has a special talent. He has passion, he has desire. He has technique, he has everything.

"I have been very impressed with what he is doing and for me, as a football man who has been in the game for a long time, watching the game, if the game is easy, it is quite boring.

"But when I watch a game and it is tight and I see one player willing to take the ball under pressure and make the difference – that is what we love.

"But this moment is special because it is the first time he is facing all this. But there is always a first time for everybody. If that time is now, Arsenal can benefit. Definitely."

Toure believes City are favourites for the title as they have found momentum at the right time – but that does not mean he thinks Pep Guardiola's side will inevitably take the points against Arsenal.

"With the momentum Man City have, they are the favourites right now, in my opinion," he added.

"I still believe that Arsenal made City suffer a lot this season. The last game I watched, City were struggling against them, definitely. If Arsenal just play the same way and don't make mistakes, they can surprise Man City, definitely."

Asked if Guardiola's side were good enough to win the Treble by adding FA Cup and Champions League glory to potential title success, Toure added: "Absolutely.

"They have the manager. They have the players and I definitely think they can, because they have everything, really. Everything you need to win the treble."

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association (KYISA) competitions have kicked off at the Kirubia stadium in Tharaka Nithi County, scheduled to take place for a week.

8th Edition KYISA Games Kick Off In Tharaka Nithi County



Sports CS Ababu Namwamba with Tharaka Nithi county governor Muthomi Njuki and others sporting officials during the opening of KYISA games yesterday

By: Beatrice Mwende and Sharon Gitau

Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association (KYISA) competitions have kicked off at the Kirubia stadium in Tharaka Nithi County, scheduled to take place for a week.

The tournament is hosting players, referees and coaches from 37 counties.

Speaking during the official launch of the games, Sports CS Ababu Namwamba said that the games are meant to discover and nurture youths' talents at the grassroots.

"We are going to ensure that the

agenda of the National Government is accomplished by ensuring that the youth talents are discovered and nurtured from the lower levels," he said.

The CS revealed that the tournament theme dubbed, "Talanta Hela" for the KYISA Games 8th edition is an accomplishment of the national government to support talents through sports, music and arts.

He further added that the aim of Talanta Hela is to monetize sports and talents in order to support youths' skills at ground level.

Namwamba highlighted that after the games Kirubia stadium will be upgraded to even better standards before its official

opening by the President. "Facilities will be upgraded after the games including the seats and changing rooms. The stadium will later be opened by President Dr. William Ruto after it has been upgraded," he said.

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki said that the games are focused on nurturing and encouraging talents in young people between the ages of 18 to 23 to boost their skills.

"This new strategy will enable the government nurture youths with different abilities and talents from the villages," he said

The Governor noted that the county is hosting the KYISA games for the first time and assured that there is enough securi-

ty all over the region. Sports Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke said a lot of effort has been put in place to ensure that the stadium is up to the standards required to host the KYISA games.

"This shows unity in the country because people of different ethnic backgrounds come together for these competitions," he said.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Senate Standing Committee On National Security, Defence And Foreign Relations Holds A Meeting With The Civil Registration Services

By: PSCU

The Senate Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations held a meeting yesterday with the Civil Registration Services to deliberate on among other issues the legislative framework regulating civil registration services, strategic direction of civil registration services and policy direction of civil registration services.

Civil Registration Services led by its Secretary Paul Mwangemi gave its submissions to the committee highlighting achievements, policies, plans and challenges facing the Service currently.

The officials told the committee how inadequate budgetary allocation has affected smooth operations of the Service appealing for interventions.

According to Mwangemi, inadequate funding has caused many more challenges such as lack of enough field offices, training, vehicles, registration materials, appropriate technology and modern systems that have impacted negatively on the operations of the Service.

“The department has presence in only 137 out of a possible 369 sub counties countrywide, this makes it difficult to offer effective services to the public because one field office serves more than one sub-county and people have to travel long distances to obtain our services,” said Mwangemi.

The officers appealed for the review of existing laws to smoothen operations of the Service.

“The primary law (Births and Deaths Registration Act, Cap 149) was enacted in 1928, and needs regular review to fully conform to the Constitution of Kenya (2010), and

other emerging issues and developments in the social, economic and security spheres such as intersex, surrogacy, digitization and automation of operations, presumptions of deaths among others,” explained Mwangemi.

During yesterday’s meeting that was chaired by Committee Chairperson Sen. William Cheptumo of Baringo County, members pledged to continue engaging with the Civil Registration Service further noting the need to address the legal gaps affecting operations of the Service.

Other members present were Isiolo County Senator Fatuma Dullo, Sen. George Mbungua, Kisumu Senator Pro. Tom Ojienda, Lamu County Senator Joseph Githuku, Garissa County Senator Abdul Haji, Kajiado County Senator Seki Lenku Ole Kanar and West Pokot County Senator Julius Murgor.



Senators during yesterday's session

Njenga Miiri Lauds Counties' Anti-Terrorism Groups For Countering Violent Extremism

By: Deborah Bochere
@themkenyatimes

The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Head of Prevention and Resilience, Mr. Njenga Miiri, has lauded representatives of key pillars identified in various counties to mainstream messages of countering violent extremism to various audiences in their areas of specialization.

Njenga observed that Kenya has made great strides in creating awareness to members of the public on how to detect, where to report and defense strategies in case one is attacked by terrorists and even rescue procedures for those that have been attacked, courtesy of numerous sensitization forums to members of the public on how to counter violent extremism.

“It is important for members of the public to have critical information about terrorists and stop associating it with a particular religion because terrorists recruit anyone irrespective of their religious affiliation and take advantage of people’s vulnerability and ignorance to lure them to con-

demned gangs, which secretly plan to execute illegal mass killings of innocent people. Terrorists only use the Muslim region as their entry point, but they recruit people from any religious affiliation and tribe,” the chairman clarified.

Njenga thanked representatives of key pillars identified which included; ideological, education, economic, media/internet, law and enforcement and political for taking their sensitization mandate seriously and creating awareness to members of the public on how to handle the issue of terrorism.

He urged them to continue with their good work because the fight against terrorism is still on.

“Members of the public have seen the importance of sharing information and report people of questionable character or have suddenly changed behavior, they can freely discuss on trigger factors which may lure youths into joining terrorist gangs or accept to be radicalized so that they are nipped in good time before they get out of hand and cost people’s lives courtesy of sensitization forums which were taken seriously,” the former provincial administrator said.

He explained that terrorist’s strategies of attack are dynamic, they keep on evolving by use of new tactics every time and they are not ready to give up any time soon the reason why Kenyans must be on high alert, be informed to be able to detect terrorists’ subtle approaches in executing their terror attacks.

“During previous attacks innocent citizens who are the key target group were caught unawares and due to panic, shock and lack of skills on how to take cover, escape or defend themselves, they perished in large numbers. I am optimistic that rigorous sensitization forums for the past three years have adequately equipped the general public in some counties with key information and skills to be on high alert all the time and readily report drastic change in behaviour of people they know for timely investigations and interventions,” he advised.

Mr. Njenga thanked the Dutch embassy, which has been supporting the programme, being implemented by Champions of Peace (COP) organization and urged key pillar representatives, who are key opinion influencers not to tire in talking to members of the public on terrorism



Njenga Miiri

issues because terrorists have not given up and they are a serious global threat and we must all concertedly work to completely defeat them.

For the past three years, representatives of key identified pillars in select counties have been sensitizing, and capacity building citizens on how to appropriately respond to radicalization, encourage youths to enhance the spirit of self-reliance, strengthen religious and ethnic tolerance and re-

spect for diversity amongst residents and above all support government’s intervention mechanisms and programmes of countering violent extremism.

He spoke in Nyamira County where he had a consultative meeting with pillars leadership.