



Gov't Steps Up Immunisation To Tame Killer Diseases

Kenya's routine immunisation coverage currently stands at 80% as per the last Kenya Demographic Health Survey. This is a slight improvement from a similar survey conducted nine years ago. Page 18

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News>>Kenya Marks World Immunisation Week

P. 8. The Ministry of Health and the Kenya Paediatric Research Consortium are focused on finding and vaccinating children who missed routine vaccinations, possibly because of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Motivation>>Be Wary Of Cunning Minority Few Who Claim To Represent Their Society

P. 12. I cannot accept the definition of collective good as articulated by a privileged minority in society especially when that minority is in power. Wole Soyinka.

Central Kenya To Have Law Regulating Alcohol By June - Gachagua

The five counties of Central Kenya will have a new law on regulation of alcohol by the end of June this year. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said there is no looking back and the menace must be addressed as a matter of urgency.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua addressing the meeting yesterday

STORY ON PAGE 9

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PIC Governance And Education Questions Universities’
VCs Over Massive Financial Irregularities

By: Our Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The university officials will appear before the committee again on Thursday next week to provide evidence on all pending matters.
- On the other hand, The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) represented by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Victoria Ngumi responded to the questions in the auditor’s report on an observation that the university had paid Sh3,899,950 to four officers who had already exited service in the year under audit.
- Members described this as lack of professionalism and incompetency stating that the concerned officers should be surcharged.



The committee under session yesterday

The Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education led by Bumula MP Wamboka Wanami yesterday met with various institution heads summoned to respond to audit queries raised by the reports of the Auditor General for the last three Financial years.

The Vice-chancellor of the Technical University of Kenya (TUK), Prof. Francis Aduol, appeared before the committee to address multiple audit queries, including the inability to meet its financial responsibilities.

In the year ending 2019, the University was unable to make various payments such as payroll deductions,

insurance premium deductions, bank loan deductions, Sacco deductions, and other statutory obligations, amounting to Sh1,589,679,264.

Prof. Aduol in the university’s submission stated that the financial constraints were as a result of capitation by the government.

“The funds received for the current financial year are less than the funds required for our payroll,” Prof. Aduol revealed.

The management of TUK was also questioned on two years’ salary payments to a staff member who was on study leave before the management realized the error.

As a result, the Committee ordered that the Head of Human Resource be held accountable for the mistake.

The members observed financial irregularities stemming from rental expenses that lacked proper documentation and were associated with the Vice-Chancellor’s residential home.

The authenticity and correctness of rental expenses amounting to Sh858,000 could not be verified.

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Members described this as lack of professionalism and incompetency stating that the concerned officers should be surcharged.

The members requested more information about the reasons behind the delayed completion of a perimeter wall project that was part of a contract signed in 2012 to build a fence along the road leading to the main entrance of the university. The contract was worth Sh68,836,283, and by January 2020, an audit revealed that the project had only progressed up to the foundation level, even though Sh50,698,799, which is equivalent to 73.6% of the contract sum had already been paid.

On Tuesday next week, the committee will carry out additional inquiries into the delayed construction of various projects, such as an administration block and a water bottling plant, at the main campus of the university.

The investigations will take place at the JKUAT Main Campus in Juja Town.

At the same time, the National Council for NOMADIC Education in Kenya gave adequate proof to the auditors and also submitted a written proposal highlighting the specific areas that require attention to enhance the well-being of underprivileged students in the country.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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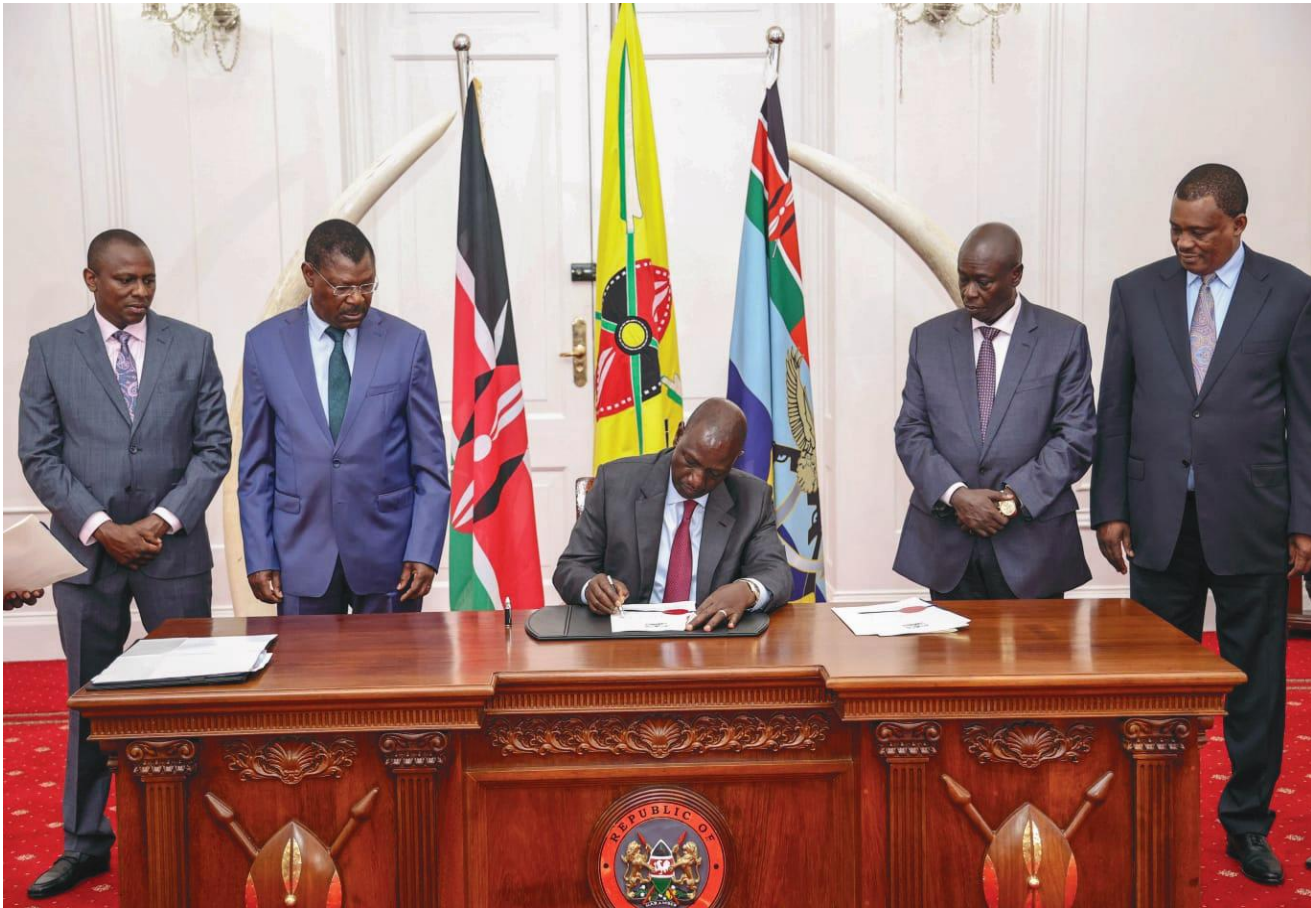
Counties To Get Ksh 15.4 Billion More In 2023/24 Financial Year

By: PCS

The County Equitable Share has increased by Ksh 15.4 Billion. This means that Counties will receive Ksh 385.4 Billion in the 2023/2024 financial year as compared to the current's Ksh 370 Billion. The new figure is equivalent to 23pc of the accounts of revenue for 2019/2020 — the most recent audited approved by the National Assembly. The move follows assenting to the Division of Revenue Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 9 of 2023) by President William Ruto. To reduce development imbalances in the country, the Equalization Fund was allocated Ksh 8.3 Billion. This is an increase of Ksh 1.2 Billion from the current financial year's allocation of Ksh 7.1 Billion. In the new development, the de-

volved units will also be allocated a further Ksh 11.1 Billion as additional allocations from the National Government share of revenue. Moreover, they will receive Ksh 33.2 Billion as additional allocations from proceeds of loans and grants. Thursday's enactment at State House paves the way for the preparation of the annual expenditure estimates for the 2023/2024 financial year.

President William Ruto signs into law the Division of Revenue Bill, 2023..



Embu Family Seeks Justice Over Mysterious Death Of Kin

By: Samuel Waititu
@themtkenyatimes

A family in Kirie Sub-location in Mbeere North Sub-county, Embu, is crying for justice following the death of their kin under unclear circumstances two years ago. The body of Retired Assistant Chief, Charles Nyaga, was retrieved from a shallow seasonal river a few meters from his homestead on March 18, 2021, at around 11 am. The discovery followed a long morning search by family members after he was reported not to have come back home the previous night after an evening outing with a friends. His son, Amos Ndwiga, said his father spent the day sorting a land dispute with a neighbor with the office of area Deputy County Commissioner, Chief, his Assistant and village elders. "After the meeting, we all shook

hands, took photos together and everyone left the venue having been satisfied that the matter that revolved around water was settled amicably," Ndwiga said. He said he was the last person to speak to his father at around 6pm at Kirie Trading Center only to learn of his disappearance the following morning as his wife Eunice Nyaga went to serve him breakfast. "It seems after his outing with friends, he never got home and that is the much we know," Ndwiga said, insisting their father was killed elsewhere and his body dumped into the river. The family disputed the postmortem report that ruled the cause of his death to be drowning, saying the body had bruises on the face and his belly was flat unlike is the case with drowning where victims suffer swollen bellies as a result of intake of water. "The bruises and the flat belly makes us raise eyebrows that our father could have been killed elsewhere and body dumped into the

river to disguise the cause of death," he said. He said investigations launched into the death have not made headway so far as no arrest had been made leaving them to wonder if they will ever get justice. "We now live in fear because the killers of our father could be lurking around the locality and we could unknowingly be their next target," he said. They called on the government to assist them unearth the cause of death of their father who they said was an innocent man who served the area people as an administrator with passion and dedication. "It has been a long and winding journey of trying to get justice with no avail and our plea now is to the government to intervene to help solve the riddle and enable us to get closure," his widow Eunice Nyaga said. Efforts to reach office of Mbeere North Sub-County Police Commander were not successful as phone calls went unanswered.



Charles Nyaga.

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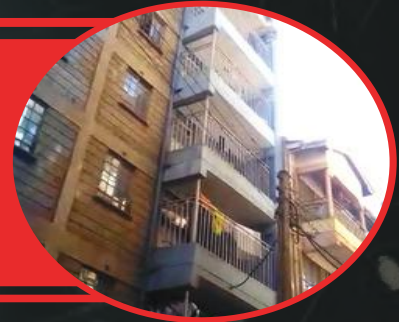
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Kiambu County Govt. Promotes 700 Health Workers

By: Grace Naishoo
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “The promotion is part of the County’s commitment towards improving healthcare services in the county and to enhance staff retention and attract the best workforce from all over the country,” he said
- Wamatangi disclosed that the county government is currently constructing 11 new healthcare facilities and renovating 13 others, which include level four and three facilities.
- “This week the County Government will advertise tenders for the construction and upgrading of Gachororo health centre in Juja and Karuri hospital level four facilities; in addition, hospital equipment worth over Sh150 million will be distributed,” cited Wamatangi

Kiambu County government has promoted 700 Healthcare workers in a bid to boost their morale and improve services in the county.

The promoted healthcare workers drawn from the 36 Cadres in the county’s health department were issued with promotion letters by area Governor Kimani Wamatangi.

Speaking during the Confirmation ceremony at the County headquarters in Kiambu town, Governor Wamatangi said the move is aimed at boosting the morale of healthcare workers who have been at the forefront of providing quality health care services in the county.

“The promotion is part of the County’s commitment towards improving healthcare services in the county and to enhance staff retention and attract the best workforce from all over the country,” he said

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This development comes after Healthcare workers from about six counties including Kisumu, Mombasa, Nyamira, Vihiga, Bomet and Nyandarua counties, have been reported to be striking due to delayed salary payment and more counties



Kiambu County governor Kimani Wamatangi issuing promotion letters to Healthcare workers

are set to join.

In a press briefing issued on Tuesday last week, workers drawn from various unions criticised some devolved units for deliberately frustrating healthcare workers by failing to pay salaries and remit their statutory deductions on time.

The unions which included, Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), Kenya National Union of Nurses (KNUN), Kenya Union of Clinical Officers (KUCO), Kenya National Union of Pharmaceutical Technologists, Kenya Health Professional

Society and Kenya Union of Nutritionists and Dieticians said “health workers are in a difficult financial situation and as a result, they are unable to meet their daily needs, including transportation, food, and accommodation expenses”.

According to WHO, the prescribed health worker density ratio is determined as 23 doctors, nurses and midwives for every 10,000 people.

However, data shows that the health workforce ratio in Kenya stands at 13 doctors, nurses, and midwives for every 10,000 people.

Kenya had a total of 189,932 health

workers in 2020 with 66 per cent being in the public sector and 58 per cent, 13 per cent and seven per cent being nurses, clinical officers and doctors, respectively.

The Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha however reported last week that the government plans to hire 20,000 healthcare workers to be absorbed in the next three-year period, to bridge the doctor, nurse and midwife ratios as recommended by the World Health Organisation.

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Kenya Marks World Immunisation Week



Dr. Riro Mwita.

By: Hellen Lunalo
@themkenyetimes

The Ministry of Health and the Kenya Paediatric Research Consortium are focused on finding and vaccinating children who missed routine vaccinations, possibly because of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within the past three years since the onset of the pandemic, Kenya and the world have lost an estimated 30 years of progress in the fight against vaccine preventable diseases, and as such, there has been an increase in outbreaks of diseases such as measles and poliomyelitis.

Speaking during an event to mark World Immunisation Week, Dr. Riro Mwita, a physician at Kiambu Level 5 Hospital and a poliomyelitis survivor, said that the ultimate goal of World Immunisation Week, which is celebrated annually during the last week of April, is for communities to be protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

“I contracted polio, a debilitating disease that affects the nerves, at the age of one, which made me unable to walk without the use of walking aids. I was not immunised against polio because, at that time, there were no health centers with vaccines close to where my parents and I lived. The nearest health center was 20 kilometers away, and transport was a major challenge. This was in the late 1970s.”

“It has been quite the journey living with the effects of the disease from the time I joined primary school in 1983 to this present day. At school I was unable to participate in many physical activities, and I almost dropped out of school, but in 1985 I had surgery to remove contractures in my legs, and a few months later I was able to go back to school to continue and complete my primary education, after which I joined a local high school, then a university thereafter, where I managed to do an undergraduate and master’s degree, and I am now a physician specializing in internal medicine,” said Dr. Mwita.

He said all these issues could have been prevented if he had been immunised early and urged parents to ensure that their children are immunised, especially in this pandemic era where there are many conspiracy theories surrounding the use of vaccines.

“Vaccines work, and a lot of people who have been immunised over the years have been protected from diseases like polio. I strongly urge parents to ensure their children receive all the prerequisite vaccines prescribed by the Ministry of Health to spare themselves and their children the trauma of having to live with conditions that can be avoided, especially now that they are available in all government health centers,” he said.

He added that immunisations are the most effective way of protecting children against diseases.

The theme for this year’s World Immunisation Week is “The Big Catch Up”.

Youth Advised To Shun Drugs



Youth Advised To Shun Drugs.

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themkenyetimes

The youth have been urged to share positive experiences on social media instead of negative lifestyles which include the consumption of alcohol and other drugs, which inadvertently makes it appear trendy and influences others.

The chairman of youths in Nakuru County John Kanyi said there was no doubt that drug abuse is a major problem in the country and, more than half of youths have used drugs at least once in their lifetime.

Speaking during a seminar held at a Nakuru hotel, he said there are many reasons young people turn to drugs, some do it to escape the reality of their lives, others to fit in with their peers.

He noted that the most abused drugs in the country include alcohol, marijuana and heroin adding that many young people start out with alcohol and tobacco, then move on to harder drugs.

Kanyi regretted that despite there being stringent laws the substances are easily accessible; which makes them more attractive to young people.

Apart from that he said alcohol was the most widely abused drug because it’s relatively cheap and

legal.

However, Kanyi said alcohol is actually a very dangerous drug and is responsible for a large number of accidents, injuries, and deaths annually, hence there’s a need of looking into ways of controlling it.

“This generation is the most connected in the history of mankind, social media has made it possible for people to share details of their lifestyles, including negative experiences and enjoyment of drugs,” he said.

Besides, he said social media plays a huge part in the youth’s lives, and they are constantly comparing themselves with others, and when they see their peers taking drugs, they are more likely to follow suit.

Advising the youth to steer clear of drugs, he said the consequences are devastating since it may easily lead to health problems, financial difficulties, violence, and crime.

Central Kenya To Have Law Regulating Alcohol By June - Gachagua

By: Our Reporters
@themtkenyatimes



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at the Kenya School of Government, Kabete yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- “In our meeting with MCAs, four representatives from each county were selected. They will meet in Naivasha next week together with the Director of Public Prosecution, Director of Criminal Investigations and other legal experts to come up with a draft law. The law must be in place by June 30, 2023,” the Deputy President insisted.
- The draft law will be subjected to public participation before presentation on the floor of the Assemblies of the five counties to further discussion and passage as per the procedures, the Deputy President revealed.
- During the meeting with the MCAs, Mr Gachagua said Mr Ichung’wa will join the stakeholder in the retreat in Naivasha to ensure than the Bill in regulation of alcohol is in line with the existing laws at the national level.

The five counties of Central Kenya will have a new law on regulation of alcohol by the end of June this year. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said there is no looking back and the menace must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Speaking during a consultative meeting with senior officials from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP), National Government Administration Officers and security chiefs from Murang’a, Kiambu, Nyeri, Nyandarua, and Kirinyaga counties at the Kenya School of Government, Kabete, the Deputy President said the new laws at the counties will enhance the fight against illicit brew and substance abuse in the populous region.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Kenya Revenue Authority, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Anti-Counterfeit Authority the National Campaign Against Drugs and Substance Abuse Authority (NACADA) among others.

The announcement came days after he hosted a consultation with more than 245 Members of County Assemblies and the Speakers of the five counties at his home in Iruri, Nyeri County last Friday. National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wa was also in attendance.

Two weeks ago, he held the first consultative meeting over the issue at the Central Regional Commissioner’s residence in Nyeri where Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kindiki Kithure and other senior officials attended. Also in this meeting were several Members of Parliament.

Yesterday, the Deputy President revealed that another meeting on the same issue will be taking place in Naivasha, a clear indication that he

has vowed not to rest until a lasting solution is found.

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According to the Deputy President, the new law, which will be uniform in the five counties will be introduce punitive measures.

“We want them to introduce stringent punishment for producers, distributors and consumers of illicit alcohol,” Gachagua said.

Apart from permanent shut down of illegal brew producing premises, he said the new law will also explore ways if vehicles transporting illicit alcohol can be forfeited to the State.

While announcing recovery strategies, the Deputy President challenged the officers not to be compromised in the war against drugs and illicit brew.

“Treatment is expensive. It can range from Sh50,000 to over Sh1120,000 per month. We have spoken to the governors of the five counties on registering the drugs and alcohol users into NHIF plan in treatment and rehabilitation,” he

said.

This was the fourth multi-agency consultative meeting the Deputy President has held over ending illicit brew since the Government declared war on Illicit brew.

In the past meetings, there were claims that the criminal justice system, especially after arrests and investigations, were the weak link.

The Deputy President said, the Kenya Kwanza administration is committed to independence of institutional including the ODPP.

But there is need to wok together for the public good, and this should not be construed to mean interference.

On his part, the DPP Nordin Haji, said cases flop because of poor investigations.

He, however, added that blames will not yield the fruits the country seeks, hence the need for a seamless multi-agency collaboration.

“In a file, there must be evidence. Let us have joint training on the issue to look out for and even consult before arrests,” he said adding that such joint initiatives will ensure the right evidence is collected to prosecution.

He added that there I need to engage the court users committee for a discussion on how to effectively and efficiently handle the cases related to alcohol.

Central Kenya region was selected due to the high number of the people using illicit brew.

This is a model region, and the experience in fighting illicit alcohol and drugs will be replicated to other regions like South Rift, Coast, Mount Kenya East, Western, among others.



Some of the government officials who attended yesterday's consultative meeting.

Discipline Of Fatherhood Pt 2



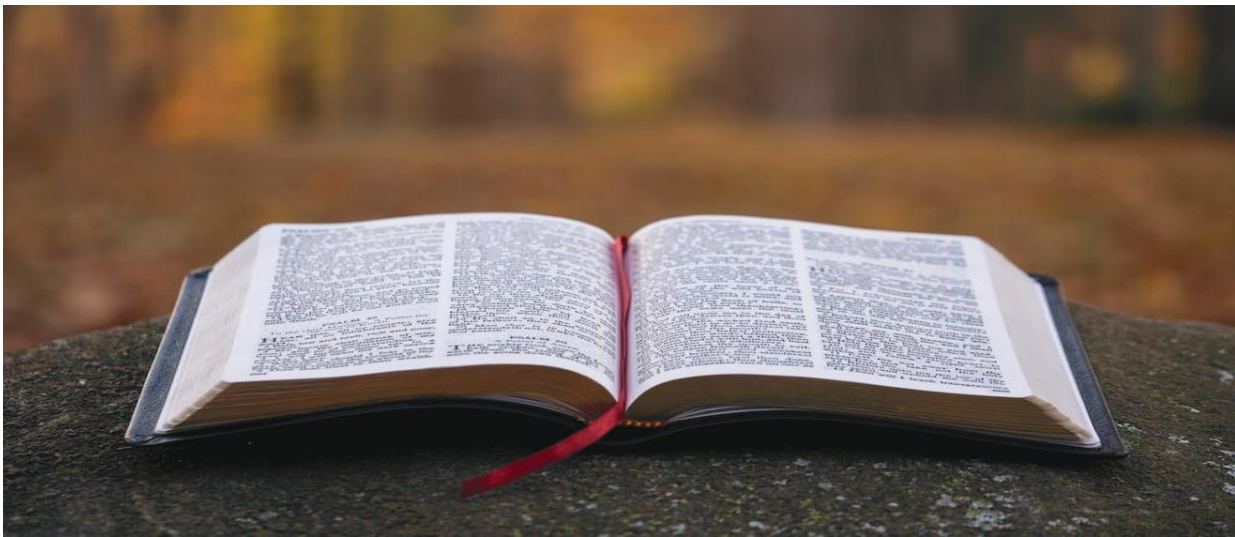
By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

We cannot begin to estimate the ravages of overstrictness on the evangelical Christian community over the years. Some people have come to renounce legalism Biblically and theologically, but still wrestled with it emotionally for the rest of their lives. Why are some fathers overly strict? Many because they are trying to protect their children from an increasingly Philistine culture — and smothering rules seem the best way to accomplish that. Others are simply controlling personalities who use rules, money, friendship, or clout to rule their children’s lives.

The Bible, read through their con-

trolling grid, becomes a license to own and dominate. Still others wrongly understand their faith in terms of Law rather than grace. Some men are overly strict because they are concerned about what others will think. “What will they think if my child goes to this place . . .or wears this clothing . . . or is heard listening to that music?” Not a few preacher’s kids have been catapulted into rebellion because their fathers squeezed their lives to fit their parishioners’ expectations. What a massive sin against one’s children!

Rather, we ought to begin our fatherhood by holding the tiny helpless bar snugly, but as it grows, gradually and wisely loosen our grip. As conscientious fathers we have to say “no” to many things. Thus we should try to say “yes” to as much as possible, and save our no’s for the really important situations. We must be Biblical in regard to our no’s — and as our children grow, be prepared to discuss the rules Biblically and principally. We must learn to trust



God with our children, realizing they must learn to make decisions for themselves. Fathers, do not exasperate your children by being overly strict. **LEARN TO HOLD THEIR LIVES WITH GOD’S PRESSURE AND TO MOULD IT WITH HIS LOVE.**

OUR GOD IS A WONDERFUL, LOVING FATHER, AND SO

ARE WE.

References:
 The Living Bible
 Discipline of a Godly Man(Book by Kent Hughes)
 Evangelist Eric Musa:
 (My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled

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

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Pastor Ezekiel Arrest, I Saw It Coming



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- This is because he feared they would leak the secrets of his demonic teachings and heinous crimes he was committing.
- Pastor Mackenzie was the first to be arrested. As I wrote this piece, the exercise of exhuming bodies in his 800 acre of forest land was undergoing and the death toll stood at more than 100.
- It is interesting to note the rogue pastor was teaching his followers to fast to death so that they can meet God yet himself he was eating and drinking and he would this in their presence.
- For pastor Ezekiel Otero, I knew it was only a matter of time before he is arrested.



Televangelist Ezekiel Otero.

I saw the arrest of renowned pastor Ezekiel Otero coming. It all started when the Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki visited the gory scene of Shakahola cult Massacre in Kilifi County and stated.

What we are witnessing here could be a tip of iceberg.

We have received intelligence reports another pastor was running a similar cult.

He spoke as he witnessed the exhumation of more bodies buried in shallow mass graves with death toll rising to 80 on that day.

Preliminary reports indicated that most of them had been starved to death.

According to media reports, some of the victims could have been killed.

This is because their bodies were not malnourished. One of the victims, a man was dressed in suit and tie, and he looked that he was in good health at the time of his death.

With this, many feared that pastor Mackenzie was running a deadly and ruthless cult.

After luring his gullible followers to join his doomed cult going by the

name of good news international, it seems this would amount to putting them in a cage.

They had not option of quitting or leaving. Those who dared were eliminated.

This is because he feared they would leak the secrets of his demonic teachings and heinous crimes he was committing.

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It is interesting to note the rogue pastor was teaching his followers to fast to death so that they can meet God yet himself he was eating and drinking and he would this in their presence.

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This is after I listened to the remarks made by the National Assembly deputy majority leader Owen Baya during the debate on the negative impacts of religious radicalization

and how these extreme practices can be eliminated.

He alleged that Pastor Ezekiel was also running a similar cult and it was also based in Kilifi.

His cultic activities were even worse and shocking.

Baya alleged that he was luring patients from the hospitals sometimes with the help of their families and take them to his church for ‘prayers’.

Most of them would die after he allegedly conducted some funny rituals including sprinkling the so called holy water on their bodies.

The security forces should wake up and pursue him.

If Baya claims are true, then one thing is clear.

They were being buried in mass graves. Where are these graves located? How many victims have been buried?

Besides, if it turns out Ezekial was also luring his gullible followers to starve to death, and then I would agree with CS Kithure Kindiki that what we saw at Shakahola was a tip of iceberg. Reports indicated Mackenzie and Ezekiel were working to-

gether.

To me, the regulation of the churches is long overdue.

The government should seize this opportunity and address this matter conclusively.

I totally agree with President William Ruto. He noted cultic activities of Mackenzie and his company amounted to acts of terrorists.

These characters should not be allowed to live with us. Their place is in jail.

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

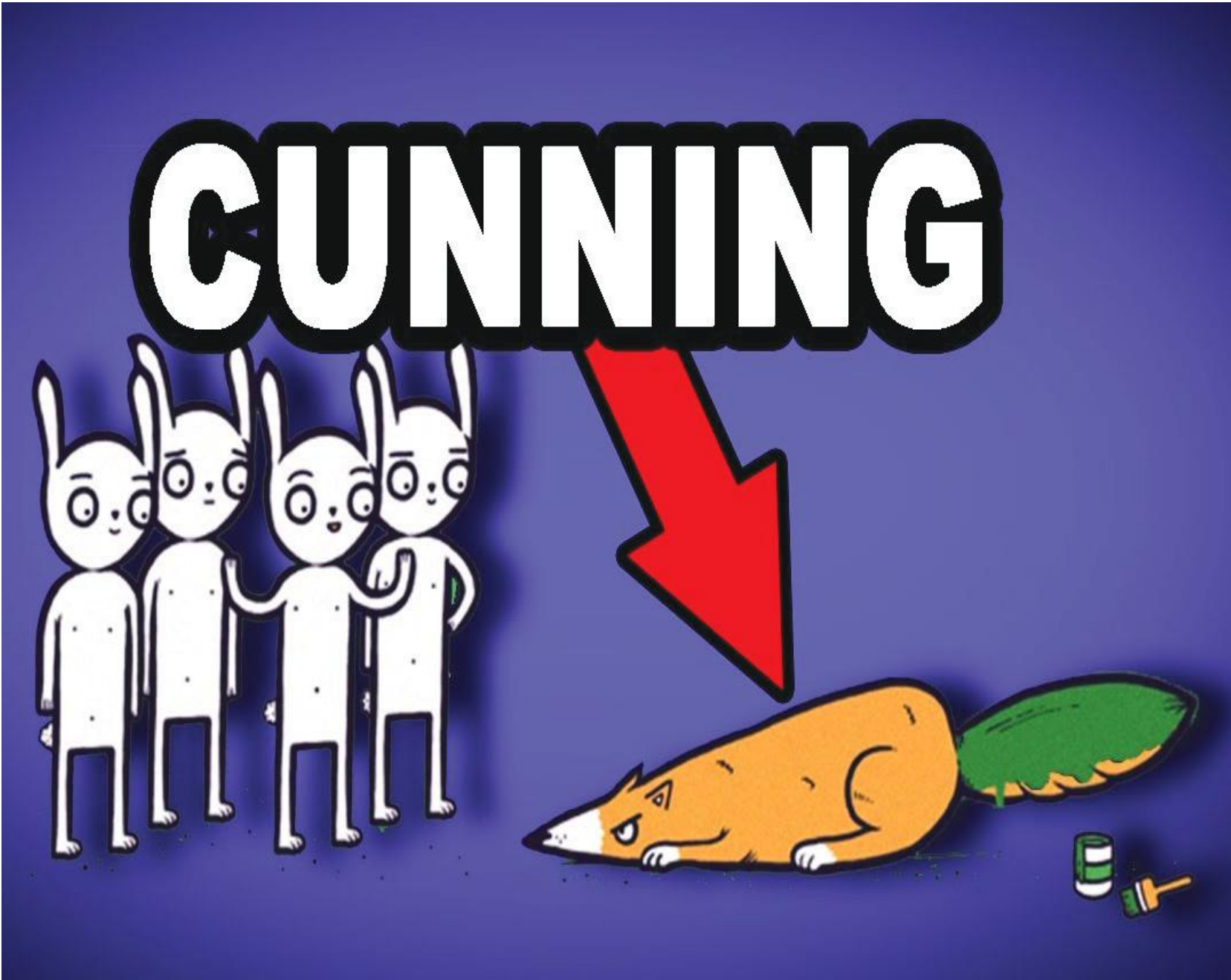
Be Wary Of Cunning Minority Few Who Claim To Represent Their Society

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- There could be election into these groups but the set parameters favour few elite as the rest fail to attain so they can just participate as electorates rather than candidates.
- To be fair to those they claim to represent the privileged ought to empower the downtrodden in what the latter are best suited in rather than coming up with new systems which are difficult for the majority to understand then taking a lot of time training them about the new system yet its effectiveness to them cannot be ascertained for example training them on how to table bank.



I cannot accept the definition of collective good as articulated by a privileged minority in society especially when that minority is in power.

..... Wole Soyinka.

In most countries in Africa the post colonization period was time for the newly formed African government to take the mantle of leadership.

For easy understanding of the organisation structure left by the colonial masters they picked those who had undergone through the colonizers systems whether religious, academic or both regardless of whether these people had care for their fellow Africans or not.

To be allowed to attend the colonial institutions one had to accept their value system and this called for abandoning fellow brothers and sisters. It happens the superiority that the colonizers were taken to have was occupied by Africans who now wanted to act in a similar version

only to become worse than the former as these ones knew the terrain better than colonizers.

Today we hear of many groups that claim to represent the minority despite their having not been elected by those they say that they represent. From time to time they would rotate in powerful positions of these organisations for example the chair become secretary, the vice chair become treasurer and the secretary become vice chair.

Women groups who represent fellow women where the representative tend to be all elite yet those represented lives are completely different to that of their representative to an extent that they cannot fully explain how the structure of the organisation works.

There could be election into these groups but the set parameters favour few elite as the rest fail to attain so they can just participate as elector-

ates rather than candidates.

To be fair to those they claim to represent the privileged ought to empower the downtrodden in what the latter are best suited in rather than coming up with new systems which are difficult for the majority to understand then taking a lot of time training them about the new system yet its effectiveness to them cannot be ascertained for example training them on how to table bank.

It is a noble idea but they should be left to earn as they ordinarily do then look for a financial institution to offer them services without bureaucracies as well as steady and friendly interest rates.

It is good when you ask someone what he or she want you to do for him or her rather than just represent that person based on your thinking only as the more pressing issues are not necessarily the most notable by the external parties.

If one is good at story telling he or she should be left doing this only that recording need to be done and audiences asked to pay so that he or she can earn revenue from services rendered after which he or she will bank that money in the customer friendly financial institution.

The same will happen to those who model using clay, weavers who use sisal or dancers who perform in events. The ones good in agriculture should be facilitated to bank their proceeds from agribusiness and perhaps be advanced loans to develop food preservation structures.

Wa Muratha Ups Campaign to save Boy Child...

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu Woman Representative Ann Muratha has shown commitment to save the boy child especially in the Mount Kenya Region. Her efforts correspond to the Governments initiative to stem illicit brew in the counties of Murang’a, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Nyandarua and Kiambu. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua established a 20-member committee to steer drafting of a law to regulate the distribution and sale of alcohol in the five counties. Upon adoption, it will provide a legal framework for ending illicit brew and drug abuse in the Region, which is the most affected in the country at 14%. Wa Muratha Thursday morning met some religious leaders from Kikuyu, Ndeiya and Kamangu who sought the help to boost the boy child from

their respective areas. The core of the community revolves around the Africa man. A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others. Hence The strength of a man’s virtue should not be measured by his special exertions but by his habitual acts.

Kiambu Woman Representative Ann Muratha Thursday morning met some religious leaders



Toastmasters International A Non-Profit

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Ms Emilia Siwingwa, the Director of Toastmasters International’s District 114, which comprises more than 1500 members from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The director has asked Tanzanians to join the club if they are to gain better communication skills with more confidence on the fourth coming event which will happen in Daresalaam at Johari Rotani Hotel. Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs with membership exceeding 358,000 in more than 16,800 clubs in 143 countries.

Giving her keynote speech at the East Africa Toastmasters event in Karen Country ClubHotel Nairobi, Ms Emilia noted that it is only through the organization one can be part of millions of men and women who today have become more confident speakers and leaders. She congratulated Kenyans and the entire District 114 which is the larger Eastern African club to host her in her capacity as a district director urging them to use the platform to understand how to package ideas and find their niche. “So basically Toastmasters International’s values are: Integrity, Respect to others, Service and Excellence. The entire Toastmasters program depends on the integrity of each member; that is why it is our first core value and I call for fellow countrymen to the Daresalaam event and join the members

club c all.”Says Ms Emilia Director of District 114 toastmasters. The Toastmaster East Africa convener (TEACON) madam Sarah Adhiambo has called for Kenyans to take the opportunity by visiting Daresalaam and having a chance for one to enjoy great scenarios and Topography found in Tanzania. “Toastmasters focuses among others; on fostering career advancement, augmenting existing training programs, providing employees with an added benefit, building team camaraderie, encouraging employee retention, strengthening the leadership bench, conducting effective meetings, sharpening their presentation skills, boosting team collaboration, guiding successful teams and effective feedback” Says Sarah Adhiambo TEACON.



Ms Emilia Siwingwa, the Director of Toastmasters International’s District 114

MOTHERLAND



In my dream a man gave advice,
His words are bitter, but the truth is:
"Don't be careless, be careful when you
are,
My words are wisdom, just remember."

Know that without labor the Motherland
will not prosper,
There is love in this heart, he does not
sleep at night.
God does not like a careless person.

Think of what you have done for the
country.

A true man who appreciates women,
A moment to acknowledge the truth of
life
Failure to complete the cycle
Push the drowsy soul, now awake

I woke up to the magic of words
You are my love, you are my freedom.
I planted the seeds of vigilance in my
heart
I have given you this soul.

Gulsevar Khojamova
Student of Andijan State Pedagogical
Institute

IF Uzbek Fails To Read Navoi



If the Uzbek does not read Navoi, that's
why the golden head is bald. Not Bedil
and loved Demyan Bedni,
That's why the black hair became a
blonde.

If an Uzbek doesn't read Navoi, That's
why shout is a fool.
Plays and laughs without enlightenment,
that's what he was doing when he was
in trouble.

If an Uzbek does not read Navoi,
It is deceived to be "alla".

If plucking dear and connoisseur is
despised,
That is why the paitava is a turban.

If the hand is not perfect,
The country is not great,
that's what worthless neighborhood is.
This is why a heart full of light is a
people's sustenance,
And a barn full of grain.

If he realizes his Uzbek identity,
That is what he is blessed with. That's
why the voice of Navoi's son was heard
in the world.

1. Paitava-A cloth that is wrapped
Author of the poem: Erkin Vahidov

Translator: Nilufar Rukhillayeva, first-
year student of the Faculty of Foreign
Philology of the National University of
Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek
Nilufar Ruxillayeva

What Is Love



By: Dilnura Rahmonova

Tell me what love is, lovers,
Is it a magical ocean with the waves?
Say sun, moon, or stars
Is the space of hearts the seventh
heaven.

This pure feeling created from what,
At night the angel salutes the heart.
Or the example of rain in small pieces,
Every drop boils and my heart beats.

What is love, a dream in a dream,
Is it a dream when we are awake?
A brave, courageous man – he is full of

love.
Image: A faithful, beautiful woman.

It is a priceless jewel, delicate, grace.
Love is the crescent that pleases the
eye.
The star is the sky, the world is magic,
It is love that captivates all the hearts.

Sleepless nights, eyes are tired,
It's the night I saw You in the moonlight.
Bloody eyes adorned with the patient,
It is the day I die in my dreams.

As Mashrab, who was burned at the
stake of love.
Impatient , who loves you more day by
day.
My love is in my heart, my heart is in
you,
The world is still burning because of you.

Love is enjoying life every day,
To see longevity is to fill the faces.
He remained in the seventh heaven
forever,
To be happy with a loved one for lover.

An Eighteen-Year-Old Girl



You
know the black and
white of life,
You
have reached the end
of stories that you
heard
You
are very close among
older girls,
You
have fantasized
about love and happiness
You are attractive, you are
beautiful eighteen-year-old girl
You have combed your hair
different ways
You put pencils to your eyebrows
and antimony to your eyes
You put a lot of folds on your
dress,
Your heads have reached the sky
with happiness..
You are flawless, you are cutie
eighteen-year-old girl
Your childhood has gone from
now
You know what is the happiness
and sadness
You cried when you sensed
sadness and you laughed when you happy
What kind of perfume did you
spray?
You are fragrant, you are with
good smell eighteen-old-year girl
Happiness still ahead ,don't rush

to early
Don't stumble in the test that
called life
If you are lucky, we will be saved
"yor-yor" in your wedding day
You will be happy, eighteen-old-
year girl !

ABOUT ME....

Don't pay attention for me, to
go far from me
You will be sacrifice in oman of
my tears
It does not matter what
happened, tell me you are good
One day, you will know about me
May, you tell me as crazy
One day, they speak loudly who
are crazies
My heart is river, it is very wide
If you sow the flower in
here, the flourish in my heart...

To'raxanova Mumtozbegin Bunyodjon qizi
She was born on 29th of June, 2006 in Chartak
district of Namangan Region. She is a pupil
at school 53. She is an amateur poet. Many of
her poems, stories and articles are published in
different countries. She is an assistant volunteer of
Chartak in "OLTIN QANOT" She has won 50 grand
of "SHARDA UNIVERSITY" that is the branch in
Andijan.

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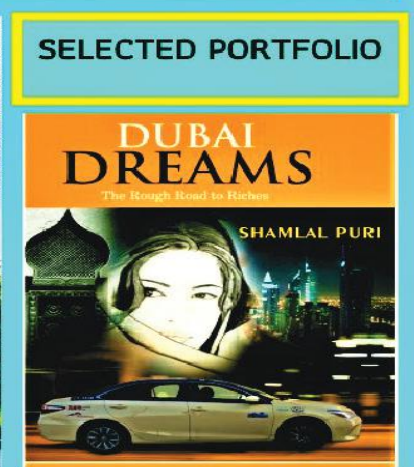
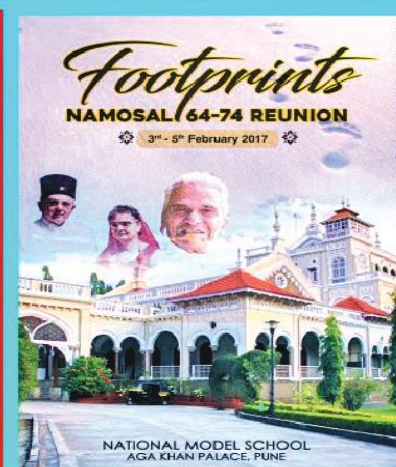
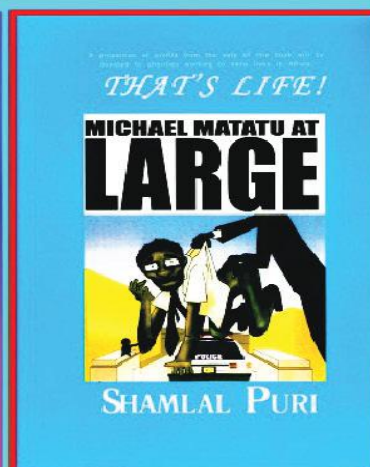
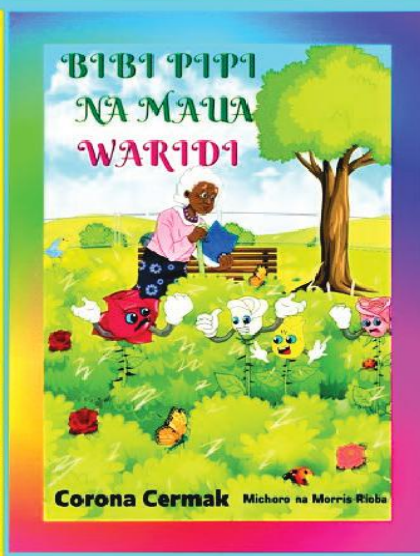
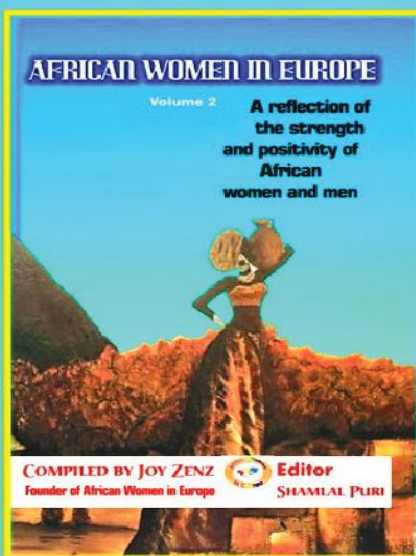
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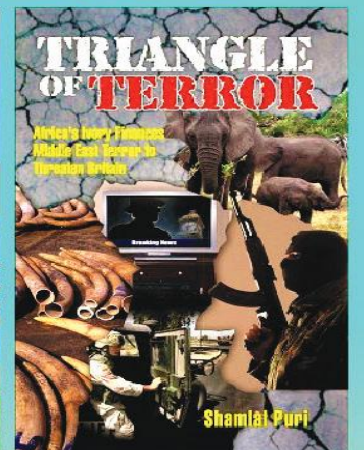
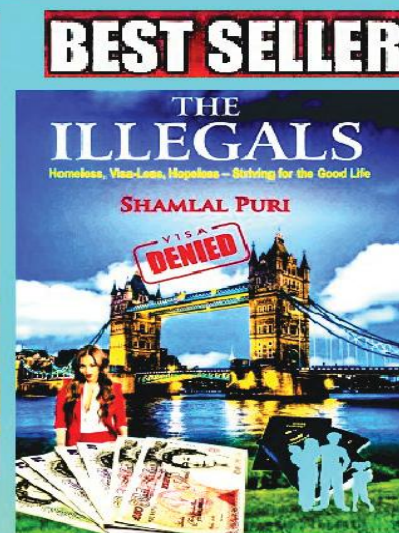
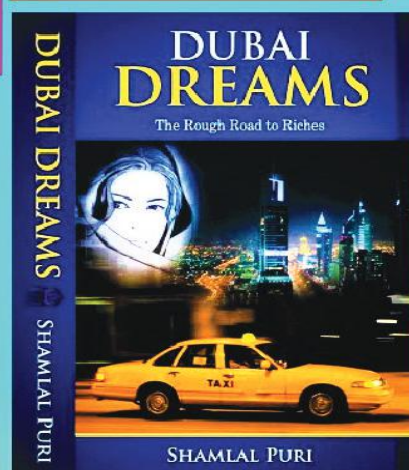
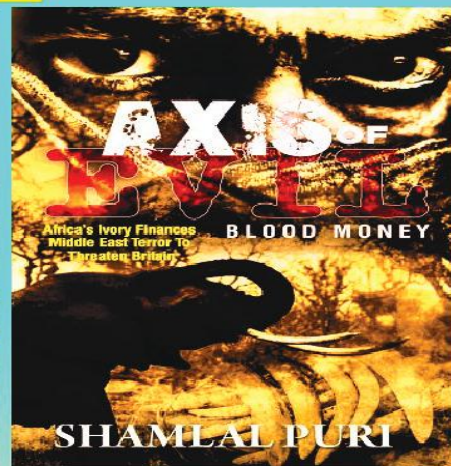
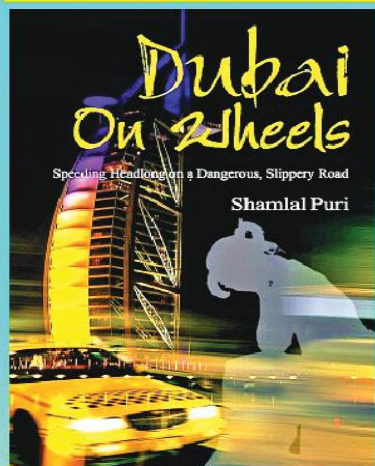
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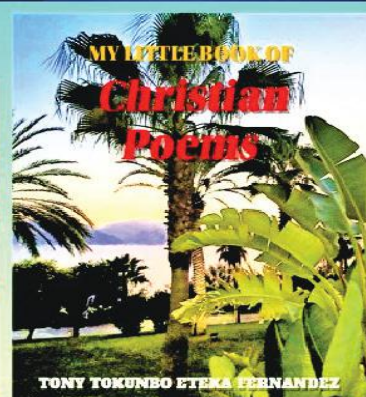
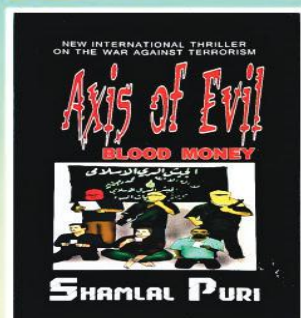
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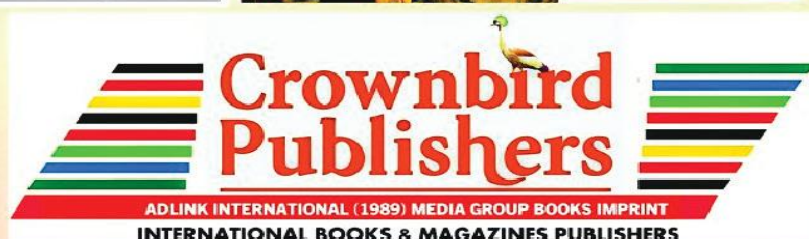


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BUSINESS

Makueni County Launches Mycounty App To Digitise Gov't Services

By: Patrick Nyakundi
 @themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “It is with this realisation that the Government of Makueni through the Department of ICT, Education and Internship has forged this partnership with Safaricom PLC to craft this digital platform to serve the people of Makueni,” said Mutula when he read his speech during the occasion.
- “Our vision is a single digital system that could not only launch digital services but also empower citizens to hold the government accountable and therefore foster confidence in our operations,” he noted.
- The governor also said that MyCounty App was fulfilling his promise and commitment to improve the lives of the people of Makueni through an integrated and sustainable development process.



Makueni County governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr during the ceremony

Makueni County government in partnership with Safaricom PLC has launched MyCounty APP to streamline government services online in a bid to effectively deliver services to the residents.

Area governor Mutula Kilonzo Jnr and Safaricom Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Ndegwa, witnessed the launch of the APP at Unoa Grounds and it is expected that Wananchi will also engage with the Governor through the platform.

Through the APP, the residents will be able to pay for various services like licenses, revenue collection, parking fees, and land payments besides many other benefits in the comfort of their homes without travelling to government offices.

Speaking at the event, Mutula noted that initially there have been inequalities, inefficiencies and inaccessibility of government services saying there was need to correct this anomaly through the use of the power of technology.

Also, the governor said that these challenges have impacted negatively on the lives of the people of Makueni and hindered the county's progress for a long time.

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Government of Makueni through the Department of ICT, Education and Internship has forged this partnership with Safaricom PLC to craft this digital platform to serve the people of Makueni,” said Mutula when he read his speech during the occasion.

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The governor also said that MyCounty App was fulfilling his promise and commitment to improve the lives of the people of Makueni through an integrated and sustainable development process.

“We needed a solution that is transparent, visible and accountable, inclusive and participatory that holds the government accountable and fosters strategic partnerships,” said Mutula.

“It is a testament of our commitment to crafting local solutions to our challenges through creativity and innovative mind-set,” the governor posed.

He disclosed that through adopting the APP, there will be reduction in

use of paper work and promotion of digitization and conserving our environment which will transplant to long term cost benefits.

Also the governor observed that through the platform, he will run a government that will provide a level playing field for all members of society.

“This power in the hands of the citizens allows their voice to be heard and recognize their contribution. Through the platform, it will help us engage with the citizens directly and participate in the decision making process and invite constructive feedback and criticism,” Mutula said.

On his part, the Safaricom CEO said that through the platform, it will be able to connect them to opportunities and knowledge besides increasing partnerships of teams to fulfil a shared vision in the county.

While saying the same technology will be extended to the 47 counties across the country, Ndegwa also said that there was a need to combine innovation and technology to bring ideas that will improve the way customers and the society experience services in their lives.

Further, the CEO noted that the high cost of travelling to seek gov-

ernment services will be a thing of the past besides curbing the menace of middlemen who exploit Wananchi while pursuing government services.

During the event, Mutula and Ndegwa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the County Government of Makueni and Safaricom PLC to support transformation in the county.

Speaking at the same function, State Department for Devolution Principal Secretary Terry Mbaika said that the National government has overseen successful implementation of the devolved system by creating an enabling policy and environment to facilitate the County governments in capacity building and technical assistance to ensure they discharge their constitutional mandate.

“Since 2016, we have spent 23 billion shillings to support and strengthen, institutional and human resource capacity for better service delivery at the devolved units,” said Mbaika.

Present at the function included Deputy Governor Lucy Mulili, Makueni County Assembly Speaker Douglas Mbilu, government officials and Wananchi among others.



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Gov't Steps Up Immunisation To Tame Killer Diseases

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- Nakhumicha explained that these initiatives have improved access and helped to reduce the burden of vaccine preventable diseases.
- "Indeed, the return on investment for immunisation is high, the wider economic value of the immunisation shows a double digit return on investment for each shilling spent on immunization," she said.
- She continued, "The government is keen on strengthening the primary health care structure through innovative financing of health services including immunisation. This is on the backdrop of the upcoming donor transition: Kenya is due to transition from Global alliance for vaccine and immunisation support by 2030. We must therefore put all our efforts together in reaching the last child, no one should be left behind."

Kenya's routine immunisation coverage currently stands at 80% as per the last Kenya Demographic Health Survey.

This is a slight improvement from a similar survey conducted nine years ago.

Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha Wafula said that vaccination is one of the most cost-effective measures of preventing disease insisting that since 2014, the health system has navigated many changes including devolution, the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is commendable that the immunisation programmes have remained resilient.

Speaking in Nairobi during the launch of the World Immunisation Week and Immunisation Policy Guideline, the CS said that Kenya has made significant strides to improve access to immunisation services.

"Over the years, the national government, county governments and partners have invested in immunisation in the form of cold chain equipment, capacity building of health workers, service delivery strategies such as campaigns and outreaches," said Nakhumicha.

She explained that so far, through support from Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunisation, 37 counties have been provided with vehicles to support vaccine collection from regional depots.

"All counties were also provided with a motorbike to support cold chain equipment repair and maintenance," said the CS.

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"Indeed, the return on investment for immunisation is high, the wider economic value of the immunisation shows a double digit return on investment for each shilling spent on immunization," she said.

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The CS said that while there has been an overall improvement in coverage, they are concerned that at county level, the numbers that are



Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha Wafula.

unvaccinated continue to increase.

"Despite the great efforts, some communities have still been left out consistently, and others not fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, most of the populations that miss out on vaccination are usually the most vulnerable," she said.

Nakhumicha said that in the past year to date, Kenya has grappled with measles outbreaks, an occurrence that clearly denotes significant immunity gaps in the population.

"Whereas outbreak responses were conducted, it is important that we improve routine coverages to avert the outbreaks in a more efficient and cost-effective fashion. I would therefore request that we focus on increasing the coverage of the second dose of measles, as we put in strategies for other vaccines," said the CS.

She insisted on the need to ensure that girls are protected against cervical cancer through HPV vaccination.

"Seeing that the vaccine is highly effective, and the disease is truly devastating, we should work to rid our communities of myths and misconceptions about the vaccine," she said.

The CS said that it is concerning that some of the counties have coverages below 20% adding that they will work with key opinion leaders to ensure that all our girls aged 10-14 years have received two doses of the HPV vaccine to protect their future.

"As the tides of Covid-19 change, I call on us to first ensure that those who are at highest risk of severe disease are protected, even as we target to vaccinate all adults and 50% of teenagers," said Nakhumicha.

She added that they have begun to provide a stipend to 90,000 community health volunteers, in collaboration with county governments.

"Our immunisation programmes

should leverage on this army to trace those who have not received their due vaccines so that they are reached with critical vaccines during this period of acceleration and even after that, guided by the immunisation policy," she said.

At the same time, the CS launched the Immunisation Policy Guidelines 2023 whose aim is to improve the quality of immunisation services through the standardisation of implementation.

"I call on the county government and all stakeholders to support the implementation of these policy guidelines in a bid to ensure the quality of immunisation services and that populations are from vaccine preventable diseases," said Nakhumicha.

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KMTC Boss Appears Before National Assembly Committee Over Audit Queries

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Falsified bank slips were detected and the students were flagged out. However, they have since paid the said Sh19,389,345. We have also put in place mechanisms to stop further fraud after we realised that some of these students were misled by some of our staff,” the CEO submitted.
- Committee Members, Geoffrey Wandeto (Tetu) and Mary Wamaua (Maragua) asked the CEO to provide the committee with details of the students who had engaged in the said fraud.
- They requested for students names, admission numbers, amounts paid, the dates and affiliated KMTC Campuses.
- This was after the members realised that management had acknowledged the receipts before disowning them.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) Dr. Kelly Oluoch yesterday took the hot seat before the Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture to respond to audit queries from Audit Reports for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

The Committee members led by Emmanuel Wangwe from Navakholo constituency sought justification for the queries raised on receivables and reconciliation of bank accounts.

This was after the report showed that the management claimed to have established that Sh19.3 million said to have been paid by students from various KMTC Campuses was flagged off after discovering that the receipts presented by the students were fake.

“Falsified bank slips were detected and the students were flagged out. However, they have since paid the said Sh19,389,345. We have also put in place mechanisms to stop further fraud after we realised that some of these students were misled by some of our staff,” the CEO submitted.

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Dr Kelly Oluoch prepares to face the committee

The issue of land ownership by the College was also raised. The matter appears second under property plant and equipment as enlisted in the Auditor’s report.

The legislators sought to know why many campuses had not aquired tittle deeds on the parcels of land they were sitting on.

In his response, Dr. Oluoch pointed out that a number of Campuses did not possess legal documents attributing the challenges to resistance by County Governments.

“The mother titles are owned by former Provincial Hospitals under county Governments. The affected areas are KMTCs in Kisumu, Mombasa, Embu, and Meru among others,” he revealed.

Dr. Oluoch however told the committee that they are engaging County Governors and the National Lands Commission to settle the matter.

On Receivables from exchange and non-exchange transactions, Caleb Amisi from Saboti asked the CEO to produce the lease agreements on

properties owned by the organisation. He cited the Soweto hostel tussle between KMTC and University of Nairobi.

Dr. Oluoch informed the Members that the University of Nairobi has continued to ignore the lease despite accomodating their students in the said hostel.

“They have declined to pay us the amounts agreed, it has been a sabotage all along. We have written letters and even reported to the AG who stated clearly that the ownership of the property was contentious and required determination,” noted Dr. Oluoch.

He also disclosed a number of challenges delaying arbitration process clearly stating that KMTC does not benefit from the property.

In his final submissions, Dr. Oluoch told the committee that KMTC currently has a deficit of 2,000 staff. He suggested that this could be solved by requesting for the secondment of staff from County Governments from both among the teaching and non-teaching staff.

With regard to employment of Nurses from KMTC, the CEO said that currently 9,000 nurses are out of work, although there are plans to source for jobs overseas, without affecting the local needs for healthcare workers.

The committee sittings resume next week.



Othaya constituency MP Wambugu Wainaina (left) making his contribution during yesterday's session.

Restoration Of Thika River Ecosystem On Course



Restoration Of Thika River Ecosystem On Course.

By: Muoki Charles
@themkenyatimes

The government in partnership with stakeholders has embarked on an ambitious programme to restore the suffocating Thika River that has been choked by massive pollution and encroachments.

The river, a major source of water for domestic and agricultural use for thousands of residents in parts of Murang’a, Kiambu and Machakos counties as well as hundreds of industries in the Thika town is on the brink of ‘death’ and interventions to rescue it have been long overdue.

A tree planting exercise by various stakeholders at the river banks established that water hyacinth has gobbled up huge sections, with its waters turning colour due to the massive pollution by industrial effluent as well as raw sewage from estates.

Through the Future Design Basecamp programme that is being implemented around the Thika River Basin Ecosystem by the Water Regulatory Authority (WRA) and WaterNet World under the Blue Deal programme, the river will be cleared

of pollution, encroachments and its catchments will be conserved.

The program is also supported by the Dutch-based Embassy of Earth, an NGO that is widely experienced in restoring rivers and deltas across the world.

WRA CEO Mohammed Shurie who spoke during the launch of the program at Del Monte Kenya Ltd said the government has several policies to address pollution and encroachment of water bodies which will be implemented.

He said among them, industries will be compelled to enhance proper waste management.

Embassy of Earth CEO Frank Heckman noted that frequent tree planting exercises will be done on its catchment to address the reduction of its water levels.

During the prolonged drought season, parts of the river had dried up giving its users a huge challenge in accessing water.

“A tree planting drive in the catchment areas, that include Gatara and Kimakia forests in Murang’a county, is underway as a measure to protect and conserve its ecosystem,” said Heckman.

Grace Kuria, Water Resources Users Association (WRUA) Thika chairperson said they will be engag-

ing with residents upstream who are mainly small-holder farmers as well as the local community to sensitize against farming along the river riparian.

She noted that agricultural activities along the river caused water level reduction and narrowing of the river.

“As residents, we suffer when the water is polluted or when there is water rationing. These interventions are a huge boost to water users,” she said.

On his part, Del Monte Managing Director Stergios Gkalias said the company primarily relies on the river for irrigation in a multi-national fruit juice processing firm and thus its restoration cannot be underestimated.

He said the company will actively participate in restoring and salvaging the river.

The programme is set to be launched on other rivers especially in the Nairobi area once it has been successfully implemented on the Thika River basin ecosystem.

Sakaja Proposes Scrapping Of Weekend Parking Fees To Allow Businesses To Thrive



Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja .

By: Capital Correspondent

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has proposed the scrapping of weekend parking fees in Nairobi to encourage business establishments to thrive.

Sakaja was speaking during the Finance Bill 2023 presentation by all his County Chief Officers.

“When the Finance Bill 2023 is approved by the County Assembly. I propose not to charge weekend parking fees in Nairobi. This will encourage business establishments to open during the weekend and also provide an opportunity for Nairobi residents to support businesses and accord them an opportunity to transact on the weekends,” he stated.

He indicated that this will also attract more visitors to the Central Business District (CBD) during the weekends.

“I know times are hard. But lazima Nairobi iWork, this city is ours. We also want to attract more visitors to

the CBD during weekends.”

“I will ensure security provision round the clock. Other leading cities in the World are very vibrant during the weekends. Nairobi should adopt the same vibrancy. As this will ensure growth.”

Recently, Nairobi City County Chief Officer, Revenue Collection, Wilson Gakuya, led other Chief Officers and County staff to the launch of the Validation of the Finance Bill 2023.

“The essence of this session with respective sectors was to confirm and justify the various proposals for ammendments of fees and charges by the various sectors. The session output helped with the preparation of the Finance Bill 2023, which went through a Public participation exercise several weeks ago,” Gakuya stated.

“The Finance Bill 2023 will eventually be submitted to the Nairobi County Assembly for approval to the Finance Act. The provisions of the Act will help the county raise its own source of revenue to meet county budgetary expenditure.”

Girls Graduate In Alternative Rite Of Passage In Narok County

By: Ann Salaton
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The village elder called on parents to spend enough time with their children during this holiday season and monitor their movements so that they can be able to guide them appropriately.
- “It is our responsibility as parents to ensure our children; both girls and boys are walking in the right way. If we do not guide our children, they may end up joining bad companies,” said Ntokoiwan.
- He also challenged residents to report cases of FGM and early marriages to the authorities early enough so as to arrest and prosecute the culprits.
- Mary Masako, a nyumba Kumi representative challenged the community to say no to FGM since it is retrogressive and illegal.

Sixty seven girls from Sinkiter village in Narok North Sub County have graduated after successfully completing an alternative rite of passage training, thanks to Coalition of Violence Against Women (COVAW) that sponsored the training.

During the celebrations, the girls who had not undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) were celebrated and awarded gifts as a way of encouraging more girls to shun the retrogressive culture.

Daniel Ntokoiwan, a village elder said the community had agreed to put aside any illegal culture and instead engage in productive activities that will benefit the community.

“I personally donated land where COVAW was training the girls. They have undergone several trainings on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and we are sure they will be a light to the community,” he said.

Ntokoiwan observed that cases of teenage pregnancy and early marriages had decreased since the training began a year ago, lauding the parents and guardians for allowing their girls to attend the training.

The village elder called on parents to spend enough time with their children during this holiday season and monitor their movements so that they can be able to guide them appropriately.

“It is our responsibility as parents to ensure our children; both girls and boys are walking in the right way. If we do not guide our children, they may end up joining bad companies,” said Ntokoiwan.

He also challenged residents to report cases of FGM and early marriages to the authorities early enough so as to arrest and prosecute the culprits.

Mary Masako, a nyumba Kumi representative challenged the community to say no to FGM since it is retrogressive and illegal.

“I have not heard anywhere in the bible where FGM was done. We have been practicing FGM for very many years but we have not seen any benefits. This is the time we stop with these retrogressive culture and focus on building the society,” said Ms Masako.

Violet Soipan, an 18-year-old girl, advised her fellow girls to refuse to undergo the cut and if forced, they should report to the authorities.

“I want to encourage all girls to be the first to say NO to FGM. I am a role model because I refused to undergo the cut,” she underscored.

Others present were COVAW rep-



Some of the girls who graduated.

representative Ms Moureen Khabuchi and Narok Gender Officer Ms Agnes Ng’eno.

Cases of FGM are rampant in the county and are linked to the many

cases of teenage pregnancies, early marriage and school dropout reported in the area.



A girl from Sinkiter village in Narok North Sub County is awarded a gift by the Narok Gender Officer Ms Agnes Ng’eno after undergoing an alternative rite of passage training.

Patients To Use Cashless Mode Of Payment At Isiolo Referral Hospital

By: Kelvin Munene
@themkenyetimes

Isiolo County government has introduced a cashless mode of payment of hospital bills at the Isiolo Referral and Teaching Hospital so as to monitor service delivery and reduce theft. The County Medical Services Chief Officer Abdirahman Mohamed Ibrahim said that the cashless system of payment will secure finances and fund flow in the hospital and ensure 100 per cent revenue collection. “Prudent collection of revenue and expenditure of it will ascertain placement of it in appropriate areas of improvement that will benefit patients and ease operations at the hospital,” Ibrahim said. Mr Ibrahim appealed to the residents to embrace the changes since they were introduced to enhance service delivery and accountability. “This is a new system and it may have some hitches but we hope that

our team is making an effort to ensure that it becomes effective and simple without taking long,” he said. The Chief Officer asked patients seeking medical services in the facility to ask for help from authorised officers at the cashier’s office if they are unable to use the system to avoid being conned of their money by strangers. A local leader Mr Osman Sharif said that residents are happy for the changes and the new system could ensure no funds disappeared in the hands of officers within the health sector. He also called for an alternative mode of payment that is safer to be used by the illiterate and people who could have difficulty in using the technology to pay for health care services. “Although this system is of importance to us, we appeal to the county government to devise an alternative way of payments in case they encounter challenges,” he added. Another resident Ms Amina Mo-



Isiolo Referral Hospital.

hamed who is one of the patients who visited the facility said that there were delays in offering of service because the system had technical problems making them wait for long. She said that some of the patients who were not aware of changes in the payment method were confused as many did not have money in their mobile phones.

Bar Owners Warned Against Breaking Liquor Regulations

By: Florence Kinyua
@themkenyetimes

As the fight against illicit brews and substance abuse in central Kenya continues to gain momentum, bar owners have been warned against breaching liquor regulations. Speaking during an early morning raid at Kenol Town Murang’a South, the Assistant County Commissioner Kimorori area Julius Kambi, noted that a number of outlets within the area were flouting liquor regulations with impunity by not adhering to the operating hours stipulated in their licenses. “We have received intelligent reports that many outlets within this Migingo area are operating beyond the stipulated hours and we will not hesitate to arrest and arraign in a court of law those breaching the

laws,” he said. “This is a fight that the National Government Administration Officers are committed to carrying out to the very end so that we can rescue the future generation from the ruins of alcohol and substance abuse,” the ACC added. The operation that was conducted at 8 am found 6 bars that were already open with revelers partaking in alcohol. “20 persons were arrested during the operation and an assortment of accessories from the outlets confiscated to accompany them for the charges as they await to be arraigned in court,” stated the ACC.



Bar Owners .

Uhuru Generation: Taking A Stand On High Ground

By: Njonjo Mue

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Worth Noting:

- The Uhuru Generation is the generation of women and men born after the midnight hour of 12 December 1963. They are the true daughters and sons of Kenya having been born in Kenya after the country joined the family of sovereign nations in contrast to those naturalized citizens like Daniel Arap Moi who had to give up the citizenship of Empire when Kenya was born in 1963.
- Ours is the generation in whose name the struggle for independence was waged. But we now find ourselves impoverished and disinherited, aliens and sojourners in the land of our birth. We are the inheritors of an uneasy peace.

[In July 2000, Kenya Citizens Abroad (KCA) invited Njonjo Mue to travel from Johannesburg, South Africa, where he was working with a human rights organization, to St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, to address the Annual Conference of KCA. The theme of the conference that year was ‘ Kenya in the 21st Century’. Njonjo used the occasion to challenge Kenya’s young citizens (the Uhuru Generation) to step up to the plate and own the problems facing their country and to define a new vision for Kenya. This is a transcript of that speech.]

Good evening fellow Kenyans.

The voice of our generation has been silent for far too long. Tonight, I want to speak to you about our role in Kenya’s reconstruction and transformation as well as our vision for the country we wish to build and pass on to those who come behind us.

Not very long ago, Kenya was proudly referred to as the ‘Shining Star of the East’. A rare African showcase.

It was a land where black and white lived together in peace; the economy was growing; the dignity of all was taken for granted, and we all knew a bit of what it was to be human -- to have food for our bodies, education for our minds, houses to live in and roads to travel on.

We shared what we had equitably, and where it was not enough to go round, we ensured that there was equal opportunity to compete for access to the riches of the land.

We celebrated our strong but we also took care of our weak.

For a while, the birthplace of humankind was also becoming the cradle of human hope.

But that was then.

To go to Kenya today is to descend into the valley of the shadow of death. Our country is in darkness in more ways than one. Death strikes with unnerving frequency and ruthless efficiency - on our roads, in our hospitals, in ethnic clashes, through mob violence, even through bombs targeted at other people.

The walls we built to keep out the enemies of poverty, hunger and disease have all been torn down. God’s children now huddle pitifully together, exposed to the elements of hopelessness, and vulnerable to the merciless chill of despair.

Today life in Kenya has become a meaningless search for meaning.

Death is the only certainty we know – death of the mind and spirit long before the death of the body.

Kenya today closely resembles Ezekiel’s valley of dry bones in Ezekiel Chapter 37. For we are surrounded by dry bones scattered over a patched and thirsty land.

These dry bones include massive corruption and looting of the resources of the land by their custodians, tribalism, collapsed systems, urban decay, rural underdevelopment, and so on.

We are all well aware of what ails our land, so I shall not dwell on it tonight. Instead, allow me to focus on the two realities that we must confront.

Defining the Uhuru Generation:

But before doing so I wish to remind you that throughout this discussion, I have come to you as an emissary of the Uhuru Generation. So I better take a moment and define who I am talking about:

The Uhuru Generation is the generation of women and men born after the midnight hour of 12 December 1963. They are the true daughters and sons of Kenya having been born in Kenya after the country joined the family of sovereign nations in contrast to those naturalized citizens like Daniel Arap Moi who had to give up the citizenship of Empire when Kenya was born in 1963.

Ours is the generation in whose name the struggle for independence was waged. But we now find ourselves impoverished and disinherited, aliens and sojourners in the land of our birth. We are the inheritors of an uneasy peace.

But despite forming the overwhelming majority of Kenya’s population today, we have largely been excluded from taking our full part in shaping the fortunes of our land.

Not only are we the majority of Kenya’s masses, we also shoulder a disproportionate burden of Kenya’s losses.

Young people today bear the brunt of poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, failed social services and collapsed infrastructure.

Not only has the political class stolen from us the tangible little luxuries of this life, they have deigned to take from us that which only the Creator can give and take, by robbing us of the intangible qualities that define us as humans –like hope, godly ambition, genuine peace of heart and mind, and the ability to dream of a better tomorrow.

We squint as we gaze at the horizon trying to make out the light of our new dawn but all we can see is dark-

ness unending.

But it has not always been this dark. For across the sky of our long night of lost opportunities, there have been a few scattered stars.

They have twinkled briefly to illuminate our collective path before flickering out again. We would not lament their demise had they not etched themselves on the edges of our consciousness.

The generation for which I speak is not ungrateful for the contributions of those gone before us. We are beholden to them. In a word, we are not ungrateful to all the women, men and children who have given their lives in the search for peace and the struggle for human dignity in our homeland of Kenya. We celebrate their courage and honour their sacrifice.

But great though their accomplishments are, we must hasten to remind ourselves that a growing nation cannot afford to rest on its laurels, for its children will not find solace in its glorious past. We must confront present realities in order to march confidently into our common future.

Our generation cannot continue to play second fiddle in the only country that we own, while people who have clearly demonstrated that they have no stake in our future run it to the ground. Young people cannot sit by and let others define them or their mission on their own terms.

Kenya’s apartheid:
A country divided cannot stand. I am currently working in South Africa and it is a very good case study. I have heard many people mistakenly saying that South Africa gained her independence in 1994. This is not true.

The modern State of South Africa became independent in 1910. That was the year that the Union of South Africa was formed after the Anglo-Boer war resulted in the departure of the British colonialist.

But after the exit of the colonial rulers, a tiny minority of South Africa’s population took the reigns of power and systematically oppressed the black majority. This culminated in the introduction of formal apartheid rule in 1948 when the National Party government came to power. And as we all know majority rule was finally achieved in 1994 after a long and bloody struggle.

Kenya still yearns for her 1994. British colonists left in 1963, but we have not as yet achieved majority rule. Like South Africa, a minority group took the reigns of power after independence. The same group continues to oppress the majority to this

day, with a few comings and goings.

The only difference is that unlike South Africa, the protagonists in Kenya are not defined by race. They are defined by class, age and gender. A tiny minority of rich, old men led by Daniel Arap Moi continues to ride roughshod over the majority of the people – comprising the poor, women, and the Uhuru Generation.

But we should not merely point to the government, for it is by no means the only culprit. I am referring to the establishment as a whole. For just like apartheid in South Africa extended its tentacles to every facet of society, so too Kenya’s minority of rich old males extends its rule everywhere, including the political Opposition, the institutions of learning, business, the church and the media.

And to merely ask Moi to leave office is equivalent to asking F. W. De Klerk to quit government while leaving the whole apartheid machine intact. Like Apartheid in South Africa, Kenya’s Geriatric Oligarchy cannot be reformed. It must be dismantled.

That is why the message that must go out of St. Paul tonight, and reverberate in the ears of Mr. Moi and Mr. Kibaki; Mr. Nyachae and Mr. Saitoti; Mr. Muite and Mr. Raila, is a very simple yet profound one: Gentlemen, end this apartheid now !

But for those who might find the apartheid paradigm uncomfortable, let me approach the same conclusion from another direction. When a monarch dies leaving an heir who is too young to rule, a Regent is appointed to oversee the affairs of state until the heir becomes of age. Well, I submit to you tonight that the time has come for the regents appointed on our behalf in 1963 to get out of the way, for the rightful heirs to Kenya’s throne have finally come of age.

But will we throw all old men into the sea?

But, one might ask, what about our tradition and the place of honour it accords to elders? Are we throwing all that away?

The answer is no. We are not advocating that we throw all old men into the sea (though their performance lately has caused the thought to cross our minds).

We will continue to value their wisdom and their experience. We are not departing from tradition, but honouring it. For Africans never did send their old and their frail into the battlefield. We listened keenly to their whispers of wisdom. But it is

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Uhuru Generation: Taking A Stand On High Ground

Contd from Page 20.

the young that must go to the front line and face the enemy.

What enemies do we face today?

We face the challenges of the information revolution; what sense does it make to send someone who has never used a computer to the front-line?

We face the challenge of globalization; what sense does it make to promote somebody to the rank of General by virtue only of the fact that he studied economics at the LSE in the late fifties?

We face extinction through HIV and AIDS; what sense does it make to let a conservative old man who cannot mention the word 'sex' without biting his tongue command our troops?

We face humiliation as a people and indignity as a race; what sense does it make to prop up lieutenants by virtue only of the fact that their colour is acceptable to those to whom we extend our begging bowls?

(Note: President Moi had recently appointed Richard Leakey, a white Kenyan, as the head of the civil service in spite of the obvious bad blood between the two men.)

Not only does it not make sense to recruit from among the ranks of the old and infirm, we should also be careful to recruit soldiers with demonstrated loyalty to our cause. For we have been jilted for far too long and cheated far too often. We have had our hearts broken when we found suitors, who had vowed to remain forever faithful to our cause, in bed with those ravishing us. (Note: This was in the wake of the IPPG agreement in which opposition leaders abandoned the struggle for comprehensive constitutional reform and cut a deal with Moi and ahead of the 1997 general election).

But even though we are a hurting people today, I must state emphatically that we are not a desperate people; what's more, we are much wiser for our experiences.

Consequently, we shall no longer take our latter day saints at their word. You cannot sup with the devil one day and then anoint yourself our savior the next.

And so even as we nurse our wounds, we need to marshal supreme confidence and demonstrate to the world that Kenyans and Africans are not the children of a lesser god.

We cannot do so without the wisdom and experience of the elders, but they must not purport to fight the

battles of our time for us. That, we must do for ourselves.

Without a vision...

I suppose by now you are all thinking that I am being a bit tough on the old folk and blaming them for everything. Well, not quite.

The last dry bone in Kenya's wasteland of lost opportunities is one for which we all share a responsibility. It is the bone of a lack of a vision.

To what does our government aspire beyond perpetuating its own stay in power? What does the opposition work for beyond trying to capture that power? What are we as a people working for beyond mere survival?

In short what is the vision for our country?

In the history of our nationhood, we have often substituted platitudes for vision. In the 1970's and 80's the government promised that there would be electricity for all by the year 2000; water for all by the year 2000; education for all by the year 2000; health for all by the year 2000.

Well, 2000 is halfway gone and on all scores we are worse off than we were when these empty promises were made.

Like all the empty promises of yesterday, the latest round, including that of industrialization by 2020, are just hollow platitudes.

But it behooves our generation to define a new vision for our country and to draw a roadmap to a new dispensation.

We cannot wait for the government to do this for us. We must somehow find the courage to forge a new consensus for the country that we wish to build and bequeath to those who come behind us.

We might be able to draw some inspiration from our past achievements, few though they are, but we cannot hope to find the answer for our tomorrows in our yesterdays.

But why is vision important?

There are two main reasons.

First, the Bible tells us that "without a vision the people perish."

Theologians tell us that the word for 'perish' in the original Hebrew does not actually mean physical death. It means that people go naked and are impoverished. But one does not need to understand Hebrew to see that this is exactly the state we are in today.

We can blame our woes on any number of people - Parliament blames Biwott for the power rationing; Biwott blames Kibaki and Nyachae; Nyachae says Moi should take responsibility; Moi says he is not a rainmaker!

Every time a catastrophe strikes us, we can round up all the usual suspects - Moi, Kenyatta, constitutional



Lawyer Njonjo Mue .

reform, colonial rule, world economic order, the weather, my neighbour's tribe, your sister's gender, and so on.

But I came all the way from Johannesburg to St. Paul tonight to let you know that we are doomed to go round in circles - to repeat the same mistakes, to play the blame game, to wallow in the valley of despair - until we apprehend the real culprit: our own loss of a dream; our own lack of vision.

The second reason why vision is vital is this: without a future, human beings are programmed to go back to their past.

Every time the children of Israel lost sight of the Promised Land they demanded of Moses that he take them back to Egypt. A man who sees no future in his marriage will return to his multiple partners. And ask any police investigator where they go to look for a convict who has escaped from jail - they go to all the places where he used to hang out.

Tragically, we see many examples of that happening in Kenya today. Children are doing homework by candlelight tonight, families eat in darkness in scenes reminiscent of the 1960s. We have also taken to appointing white Kenyans to important positions, not necessarily because they are competent, but in a cynical attempt to win favour from our former colonizers who instinctively trust their own kind more than they trust us.

Even more tragically, I have heard intelligent people ask, "If only the British would come back and colonize us!"

Without a future, we have gone back to our past. Without a vision,

the people are perishing.

But we must never give up hope. It is not too late to define a new vision for our country. And this is the vision of the Uhuru Generation:

We shall build a strong, united and prosperous African country comprising a diverse multicultural society, with a vibrant economy providing equal opportunity for individual and communal growth; and where freedom, human dignity and respect for the rights of all will be the basis of social behaviour by the citizen and the State alike.

But what will separate our vision from the 'by the year 2000' platitudes I spoke about earlier?

By constantly remembering that vision without action is fiction; by developing programmes that are carefully design to make our vision a reality, and by moving beyond merely talking about our problems to actually individually owning them and mobilizing our own physical and intellectual resources to reclaim our land of promise.

And of vital importance, we must remember that we will never attain our vision in the sense that we can sit down and rest. We must forever keep it ahead of us so that it can define our purpose, set our boundaries and parameters, and test our character, individually and collectively.

And when the Uhuru Generation itself becomes older, and if we have been faithful in staying on the path, we shall not fear to hand over the baton to the next generation to continue to build upon the promise.

I wish to end where I began, with the Prophet Ezekiel at the valley of the dry bones:

"Young woman, young man, can these bones live again?"

The answer lies in the eye of the Beholder

For if we focus only on the legacy bequeathed us

By those gone before us

A legacy of wasted years and lost days

Of greed and corruption, vice and violence

Of shattered lives and broken dreams

Then we can only but see dry bones At the bottom of the desolate valley Of our painful yesterdays.

But if we lift up our eyes unto the hills

And focus our gaze

On the distant horizons

Of our new tomorrows

If we defy the odds and rebuild together

If we make God our closest ally

And vision our guiding principle

Then we shall see our homeland of Kenya

Once again becoming

A heritage of splendor.

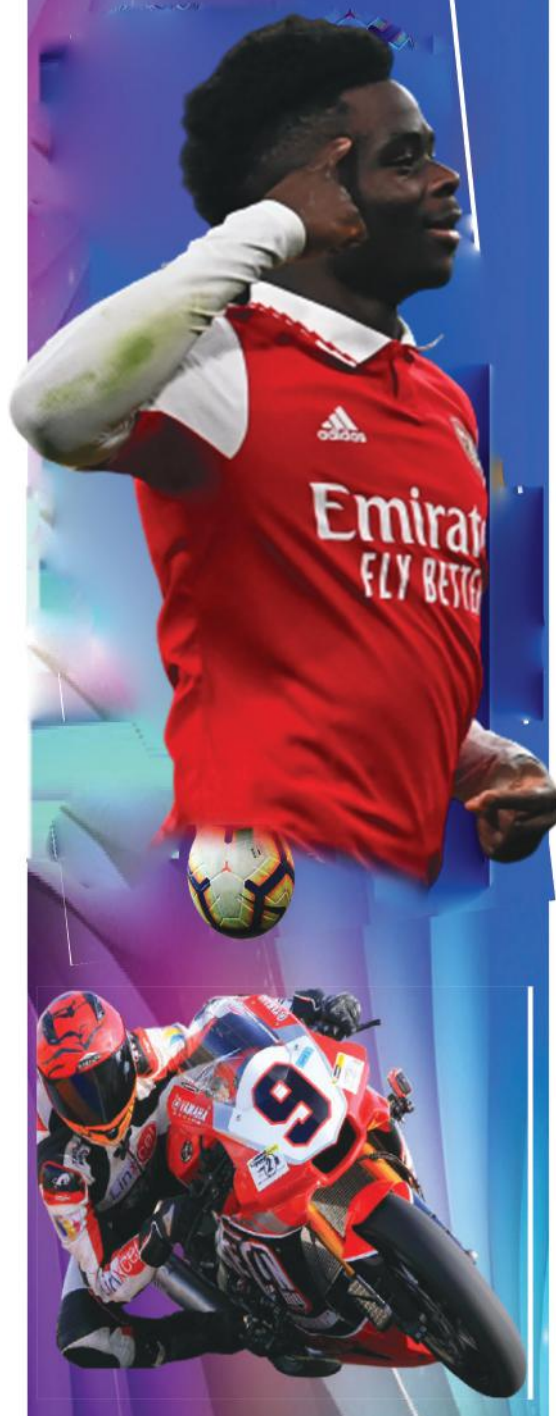
God bless you

God bless the Uhuru Generation

And God bless the Republic of Kenya

I thank you.

(To be continued...)

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
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Sports >> *In a nation whose economic and political system is capitalism, one will often come across the phrase "Government's work is to create an environment for the private sector to thrive."

The Role Of Government In The Economy Of Sports

Ng'arua Kamuya

In a nation whose economic and political system is capitalism, one will often come across the phrase "Government's work is to create an environment for the private sector to thrive." What this essentially means is that such governments' policies will always be tailor made to make it easier for the business community to thrive, and the business community is largely private and for profit.

In 2021, it is reported that the sports world contributed USD 100 billion towards the global GDP. Most of these revenues are generated by nations who have fully understood the contribution that sports has to a country's GDP, and it is no shock that most of these nations practice capitalism, with the United States of America and Europe leading. So the question then is what is the role of government in the economy of sports?

In USA and Europe, the governments of the day have created policies that have made it attractive for high net worth individuals to take up ownership stakes in sporting franchises as well as invest massively in sports infrastructure. Examples of these are Microsoft co-founder the late Paul Allen owning the Portland Trailblazers (NBA) and Seattle Seahawks (NFL), 8th richest man in the world Steve Balmer owning the LA Clippers (NBA) and who can forget the Arab money owning stakes in Paris St.Germain (Ligue 1), Manchester City (Premier League) and Newcastle (Premier League).

It is also reported that there is a group out of Qatar lining up a bid to acquire Manchester United from the Glazer family (who also owns the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the NFL). Many people do not know that the 43 President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, is

also a former owner of a sporting organization, only selling the team when he joined active politics. The running of sports has become so expensive that in recent times, we have seen the entry of Private Equity firms partnering with national federations to inject capital towards the running of the federations. Examples of these are Silverlake and the New Zealand Rugby Union, CVC Partners and the Six Nations Rugby and CVC Partners and La Liga.

When it comes to infrastructure, we have seen global companies fund the construction of stadiums or manage the operations of stadiums through lucrative naming rights deals. Examples of such are Mercedes Benz (Mercedes Benz Arenas. In Atlanta and Germany), Fed Ex (Fed Ex Field in the NFL), Emirates, Etihad and numerous other global corporates. The common factor with these examples is that their countries have realised the contribution of sports to their GDP and because of this, they have created favourable policies that allow the owners of capital to invest in sports and consider sports as an asset class. These policies are always around tax rebates that the owners of capital will be privy to if they invest in sports. The net effect of this is creation of employment for hundreds of thousands of people (players, coaches and back room staff), therefore an increase in tax revenue for the government due to the expansion of the tax base. So what is the problem in Kenya?

Successive governments have failed to realise the impact that sports has on a country's GDP, with the number of jobs that it creates. Due to this, they have failed, deliberately or not, to create policies that allow for big time investment from the owner's of capital. We also have a community of high net worth



Sports Consultant Ng'arua Kamuya

individuals who have no clue whatsoever about the amount of money in sports. All they care about is building blocks of flats and acquiring tracts of land that will not give them even a fraction of the returns sports will.

Our neighbours Tanzania have a young man by the name Mohamed Dewji (Simba FC) who realised this and has put his money where his mouth is. The hope is that more younger rich people in Kenya will take the risk and invest in taking ownership stake in sporting organisations in Kenya. But the biggest problem as to why sports has not progressed in Kenya is the administrators of the space and the regulators of the space. By this, I mean the officials of sporting organisations and the Ministry of Sports.

The administrators of sports in this country are either of two things, self-serving or way out of their depth. They are more of politicians than administrators. They fail to adopt modern and best practices to run their organisations, only focussing on what is in it for them from the little money their organisations receive. This is why we have an endemic culture of sporting

organisations asking the government to fund their budgets, and when this happen, in comes with the monster we talk about always in Kenya, corruption. One gets the feeling that there is collusion between the ministry officials and administrators of sports to keep this model thriving, so that both parties can continue "eating".

The Ministry officials create Local Organising Committees full of ministry officials and cronies who have no idea whatsoever about the business of sports, just so that they can cut deals and make some coins through sitting allowances. As long as the government funds sporting organisations, the corruption will never cease. In the end, it is the two most important stakeholders of sports who suffer, the players and the fans. Government's work is to create the environment for the private sector to thrive, and only then will our sports start to reward their two most important stakeholders.

The writer is the Chief Executive Officer of 270 Degrees Sports.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Kenya’s top golfers headlined by VetLabs’ Mercy Nyanchama will compete at the second edition of the Karen Ladies Open scheduled to tee-off Saturday at the par-72 Karen Country Club.

Seasoned Golfer Nyanchama Headlines Karen Ladies Open



Mercy Nyanchama.

Kenya’s top golfers headlined by VetLabs’ Mercy Nyanchama will compete at the second edition of the Karen Ladies Open scheduled to tee-off Saturday at the par-72 Karen Country Club. The event which is part of the Kenya Ladies Golf Union (KLGU) Golfer of the Year competitions is organized by Karen Country Club and is aimed at promoting women’s golf in the country. The inaugural tournament was held in April 2022, and it attracted top amateur lady golfers from across the country includ-

ing defending champion Naomi Wafula. This year’s tournament is set to attract even more participants, with an estimated 200 lady golfers expected to participate. Some of the top names drawn for this year’s tournament include Louisa Gitau (Past Lady Captain at Karen), Joyce Wanjiru, Diana Mbuba, Belinda Wanjiru, Mercy Nyanchama, Margaret Njoki, Nancy Wairimu, Ashley Awuor, Margareta Gram among others. They will be aiming to gain points towards the Golfer of the Year Award.

Speaking ahead of the tournament, Karen Country Club Lady Captain Doreen Murithi said: “We are excited to welcome golfers from all over the country to the Karen Ladies Open, which promises to be an exciting tournament. The course is in excellent condition, and we are confident that it will provide a challenging yet enjoyable experience for all the participants.” “With an expected number of 200 lady golfers participating, we guarantee an exciting display of golfing talent that will be a thrill to watch. We are grateful

to our sponsors, including EABL through Johnnie Walker, for their continued support of golf in Kenya, and we look forward to a successful tournament,” she added.

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Rift Valley Region Wins Primary Schools Athletics Championships

By: John Kaleke

@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- In 100-meter race boys' final, Samuel Chege from Narok in Rift-Valley region won timing 11:09 seconds followed by Albert Oigo from Ekerubo Primary school in Nyanza region who clocked 11:96 second ahead of his team mate Brian Ochieng who (12:12).
- However, in girl's category, Western region through Selfa Ajiambo who hails from Nangina Primary School won with a time of 12:78. Mary Sofia from Rift Valley came second at 12:94 and Jacklyn Tianina from Rift Valley region came third with a time of 13:25.
- Ajiambo is participating in the games as part of her build-up for upcoming Under-18 Confederation of African Athletics (CCA) in Lusaka, Zambia later this year which she has already qualified for.



Narok governor Ole Ntutu with County Commissioner Isaac Masinde alongside athletics officials during the presentation of awards

The Rift Valley region is the champions of Primary Schools Athletics with historic 511 points.

Western region emerged second with overall 315 points and Nyanza third with 281 points.

Central region came in fourth with 130 points, Coast fifth (127 points), and Eastern sixth (104 points). Nairobi and North Eastern regions tailed with 23 and 15 points respectively.

Rift Valley region's Emanuel Kiprono from Elgeyo Marakwet won the boys 5,000 metre and 1,500 metre races as National Primary School Athletics Games came to close at William ole Ntimama Stadium in Narok town.

In the 5,000 Meters race, Kiprono stunned spectators as he bolted with a constant speed to win at 15:17.55 times ahead of his Rift Valley colleague Emanuel Kipkurui from Kileleshwa Primary School in Transmara East Sub-County in Narok County.

Kiprono also won in the 1,500-meter boys' race final in a time of 4:08.22 followed by his Rift compatriot Daniel Ndiema from Teldet Primary School who came second

clocking 4:16.17. Nyanza region's Kelvin Orangi from Oragare Primary school came in third posting a time of 4:23.04.

In the girls 1500-meter race, Rift Valley region won first and second position respectively, with Reheema Chekirui from Katet Primary school, running in a time of 4:41.85 and Sharon Chepkirui from Kinguru Primary school in 4:43.75. Western region's Esther Chepchumba from Kaboriot primary school came third timing 4:58.20.

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In the 110-meter hurdles boys, Brian Kipruto from Father Toror Primary school in Rift Valley Region took first position followed by Western region's Drick Sifuna from Machuele Primary school and Rift Valley's James Njoroge from Kitale Forest Primary school.

Valentine Nekesa from Kambi Primary school in Rift Valley region won 100m girl's hurdles with Nyanza's Damachims Nyangwara from Rianchaga Primary School emerging second and Mary Akoth from Karosi primary school third.

In the 800-meter race, Mathias Kasaine from Narok County led followed by Levis Korir of Ramogo primary school also from Rift Valley region and Nyanza's Daniel Gichane.

Governor Patrick Ntutu who spoke during the closure of the two-day event, thanked the organizers for

choosing Narok County to host both regional and the national primary athletics games.

"So far, we have hosted the Governor's Cup, now Primary athletics events; both Regional and National and soon we are going to host Kenya Water Companies Sports. Narok County has become a hub of sports in the South Rift Region lately," said Ntutu.

Ntutu said that his administration was keen on creating a sustainable youth sports development in the county.

Also in attendance were the Narok County Commissioner Isaac Masinde, Ben Achieng, National chair in charge of Kenya Primary Schools Sports Association (KPSSA) and Peter Sang, the KPSSA Rift Valley Region Chapter, Members of County Assembly as well as County Executive Committee Members.

The top pupil's athletes were awarded recognition certificates in the event, while the teams were awarded Trophies.