



All Churches Should Belong To Umbrella Christian Bodies, Coast Clergy
 The Coast Christian Clergy has called on the government to make it mandatory for all church organisations and leaders to be affiliated to umbrella bodies for the effective regulation of their activities. Page 18

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News>>Dr Margaret Karungu Officially Joins National Gender And Equality Commission (NGEC)

P. 8. The Pioneer Nyeri County First Lady Dr Margaret Karungu Nderitu has formally joined the National Gender and Equality Commission



Motivation>>Be Yourself

P. 12. Be yourself. Ultimately just be yourself. Wole Soyinka.

Do Not Desecrate Office Of Retired President, Mudavadi Tells Uhuru

Just the other day Azimio Chairman (Uhuru) absconded the role of former Commander-in-Chief of Kenya Defence Forces to join street gangs under guise of salvaging Jubilee party offices. You reduced yourself from a national leader to gangster dirty tricks operations of a party. This is quite peculiar. However whilst on the whimsical "rescue operations", Uhuru redeemed himself openly by confirming that elections are long gone and he handed over the instruments of power to the legitimate winner," said Mudavadi.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and former President Uhuru Kenyatta

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Raila: We Shall Not Be Cowed Into Silence, Protests Will Go On

By: Beth Nyaga

Azimio La Umoja One Kenya coalition leader Raila Odinga says the planned anti-government protests by the opposition will still take place on Tuesday despite the police's refusal to permit them.

Through a statement on Sunday, Odinga maintained that the opposition is exercising their constitutional right to assemble, demonstrate, picket, and present petitions to public authorities peaceably and unarmed.

As a result, he announced that they shall present petitions to four government offices on the d-day in an effort to pressure President William Ruto's administration to heed their demands.

The four offices include the IEBC, the Office of the President, the National Treasury and the Public Service Commission.

To IEBC, the coalition will present a petition showing that the election results were doctored and demand an audit of the servers.

"We shall also petition IEBC against the sacking of the four commissioners because it presents a dangerous precedent in which in all future elections, all commissioners will be required to agree with the chairperson of IEBC, effectively making the election a one-person show," read the statement in part.

To the Office of the President, they will equally present a petition proving that the cost of food, fuel, electricity and fees remain unacceptably high.

"We will further petition OP to desist from invading and destroying rival political parties as was attempted on Jubilee headquarters and through



Azimio La Umoja One Kenya coalition leader Raila Odinga.



Worth Noting:

- To IEBC, the coalition will present a petition showing that the election results were doctored and demand an audit of the servers.

- "We shall also petition IEBC against the sacking of the four commissioners because it presents a dangerous precedent in which in all future elections, all commissioners will be required to agree with the chairperson of IEBC, effectively making the election a one-person show," read the statement in part.

the auction of MPs in Parliament," Raila said.

To the National Treasury, Azimio will present a petition for the immediate release of all funds owed to counties and the timely payment of salaries to all civil servants.

Finally, to the Public Service Commission, the coalition will demand that appointments to public offices be done purely on the basis of merit and inclusivity, not tribe as is presently the case.

"We cannot have a country of close to 50 tribes where appointments go only to members of one tribe," the statement further read.

The Azimio leader was responding

to a statement made earlier by the police banning their scheduled protests.

In a briefing Sunday morning, Nairobi County Regional Police Commander Adamson Bungei said that the protest was now outlawed because they had not shown goodwill in previous demonstrations.

"Previous protests in the month of March were marred with violence as the demonstrators were armed with machetes and attacked innocent members of the public who were going about their business," he said.

In addition, he said that the demonstrations resulted in the destruction of property, attacks on members of

the general public, stealing, looting and the death of several Kenyans.

The Nairobi Regional Police Commander said such demonstrations will be dispensed by law enforcement officers to ensure Kenyans' safety.

Bungei claims Azimio violated section 5 of the Public Order Act which allows for peaceful and unarmed demonstrations.

"As much as you are allowed by article 37 (to protest) there is also subsection 5 of the same that allows the police to regulate the same procession," he said.

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Kariminu II Dam Addresses Nairobi, Ruiru Water Shortages

By: Muoki Charles

@themkenyatimes

Water shortages in Nairobi and parts of Kiambu counties will be a thing of the past after the increased levels of the Kariminu II mega-dam in Gatundu North due to heavy rains that have been pounding the area over the past one month.

Athi Water Works Development Agency Board Chairperson Patrick Musili said the dam's water volume has increased incredibly, enough to run for months.

Speaking during a tree planting exercise at the banks of the Sh24 billion dam, Musili said Nairobi and Kiambu counties have the dam and are thankful for the consistent water supply they received during the prolonged dry spell.

"Maybe some don't know, but had it not been for Kariminu II dam distributing water to Kiambu and Nairobi County between January and March, water scarcity might have bitten those areas harder," he said.

He said the plan is to have the facility give out a sizable amount of water together with the national Northern Water Collection Tunnel to fully end water shortages in the said counties.

"We are giving out 140,000 cubic



Kariminu II Dam.

metres of water daily, which has managed to address the shortages. Once the dam is full from the increased rains, it is supposed to hold 256 billion litres of water, enough to end water shortages once and for all," he said.

The agency's CEO, Michael Thuita, said plans are underway to rope in Thika, Juja, and Gatundu North and South Sub counties into the water distribution programme.

He said they are in the process of

putting up six offtakes to enhance water supply in the Gatundu region.

This will be a huge boost to residents who have been protesting over an acute water shortage despite hosting the dam.

They will now be drawing water from the offtakes alongside another water plant that the government is putting up at Kinale Forest.

On the progress of Ndarugo Dam, another mega-dam that the government is in the process of construct-

ing in the area, though efforts have stalled after opposition from residents, Thuita said the government has started talks with aggrieved residents of Mwimuto, Kanjuku, Gatei, Gathaiti, and Githobokoni areas where construction is expected to take place.

The locals have declined to cede land for the construction of the dam and have since moved to court seeking stoppage of the project, insisting that the area does not need another

dam as Karimenu II is only three kilometers away.

But Thuita insisted that the isolation of the affected persons had kicked off so as to win locals to support the project.

Thika Lands and Environment Court Presiding Judge Oscar Angote said the judiciary will prioritize hearing of succession matters in the Gatundu area to facilitate the acquisition of more land for the enhancement of Karimenu II dam's environment.

"The completion of Kariminu 2 dam was a challenge because of land succession cases. The Ndarugo Dam is suffering from the same fate. To cure this, we will be fast-tracking hearings and the determination of land matters," he said.

Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI), a civil society organization that deals with environmental conservation, said they will employ local youths to nurture the trees for a year.

RODI Kenya CEO Esther Bett said communities need to be sensitized on best practices for nurturing indigenous trees that are key to water conservation.

Parliamentary Committee Retreats To Take Stock, Build Capacity On Diaspora And Migrants Issues

By: Our Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

The Committee on Diaspora Affairs and Migrant workers last weekend retreated to enhance capacity on matters relating to diaspora remittances and migration among other issues affecting the Kenyan Diaspora.

The retreat held in Mombasa County also provided the members a platform to review the Committee's agenda and consider its progress report.

The committee which was established after Parliament resumed following last August General Election has in the last few weeks been

engaging stakeholders in a bid to brainstorm on legislative interventions required to improve the welfare of Kenyans in the Diaspora and Migrant Workers.

Last week, the Committee held an engagement with Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury, over diaspora remittances and investment opportunities available for the Diaspora Community.

During the retreat's opening session, chairperson Haika Mizighi thanked the members for the tremendous achievements that the Committee has realised in the last few months.

The committee also engaged Dr. Luchetu Likaka, an expert on matters Labour migration and Diaspora



Committee members pose for a photo.

Affairs.

He led discussions on issues revolving around diaspora remittances and

migration, financial and regulatory environment, policy gaps and other issues affecting the Kenyan Diaspo-

ra.

Additionally, the members were enlightened on the mechanisms for engaging the Diaspora.

The expert also took them through emerging issues in policy and legislation around migration issues and Diaspora Remittances.

The committee has now resolved to address the legislative gaps on affairs of diaspora and migrant workers by through a Bill which is proposed among others, to provide for the improved welfare of migrant workers.

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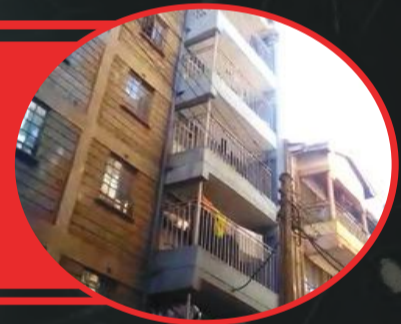
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First Ever Mukurwe-ini Constituency Women Cultural Festival Courtesy Of Gatoho Foundation

By: Our Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- On the menu were Fashion Show, Cultural Exhibition, Music and Dance, Traditional Foods and Women Talent Show.
- Women exhibited their prowess in different areas to the amazement of hundreds of people who had attended the fete.
- Nyeri County Women Representative Rahab Mukami who attended the colourful ceremony thanked the organisers saying such event would help keep the Agikùyù traditions alive.



Gatoho Wa Gatoho addressing the forum.



Nyeri County Women Representative Rahab Mukami presenting the NGAAF contribution as some of the women who took part in the forum looks on

In a bid to keep the Agikùyù community traditions alive, a foundation with its root in Mukurwe-ini, Nyeri County hosted a unique ceremony. Gatoho Foundation has for the last several weeks been preparing for the first ever Women Cultural festival. The culmination was last Friday when women converged at Kimondo Community and Empowerment Centre for the big day. On the menu were Fashion Show, Cultural Exhibition, Music and Dance, Traditional Foods and Women Talent Show. Women exhibited their prowess in different areas to the amazement of hundreds of people who had attended the fete.

Nyeri County Women Representative Rahab Mukami who attended the colourful ceremony thanked the organisers saying such event would help keep the Agikùyù traditions alive. She called for the replication of the same in other sub counties in her Nyeri County. Through her initiative, the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) Nyeri office donated Sh250,000. While presenting the cheque, the Women Representative noted that her office has regularly supported the group in order to empower them. “Today, they are reminding us about our traditions. How to cook our tra-

ditional foods. I will empower them since women are the pillars of our families,” she said. She further disclosed that she is also collaborating with other organizations in healthy matters like Breast cancer and cervical screening and other Non-Communicable Diseases to ensure they are healthy. She congratulated the founder of Gatoho Foundation, MC Gatoho Wa Gatoho for the initiative and urged other youths to follow suit. She noted that this is a good way of maintaining and promoting Agikùyù culture. On his Gatoho noted that his organisation wanted to ensure that the best community Cultural activities are

kept alive amid the ever influencing western culture. “Our organisation want to be in the forefront of conserving our culture. One of the best way of doing this is organizing such event. Today, those who attended have learnt a lot and we are very happy,” the youthful Gatoho lamented. He noted that it was a golden opportunity for Kikuyus to learn about traditional food like yams, sweet potatoes, etc, weaving traditional ciondos and also learn how Kikuyus lived traditionally.

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Dr Margaret Karungaru Officially Joins National Gender And Equality Commission (NGEC)

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyatimes



Dr Margaret Karungaru pose for a photograph with Judicial, NGECE and her family after swearing-in.

Worth Noting:

- “His Excellency the President, in exercise of the powers conferred on him, has nominated Dr. Margaret Karungaru for appointment as a member of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC),” National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula noted as he read Ruto’s message to the House.
- After the nomination, Dr Karungaru who is a widow of the first Nyeri Governor, the late Nderitu Gachagua was subjected to a vetting process by the Departmental Committee on Social Protection which is chaired by Thika Town MP Alice Ng’ang’a.
- During the exercise, she aptly outlined her understanding of the mandate of the National Gender and Equality Commission and its key roles as enshrined in the constitution.

The Pioneer Nyeri County First Lady Dr Margaret Karungaru Nderitu has formally joined the National Gender and Equality Commission.

This is after she was sworn in last week during a ceremony that was presided over by Chief Justice Martha Koome.

The colourful event, attended by Dr Karungaru, NGECE senior officials, some family members as well as relatives and friends took place at The Supreme Court premises.

After taking oath of office, the Chief Justice and other speakers called on Dr Karungaru to serve the nation in her new role with all her capabilities.

On her part, she thanked The Presidency for believing in her ability and promised to dedicate her energy in the new role that she has been granted.

Dr Karungaru was nominated to take over the Commissioner’s position by President William Ruto after she emerged the best among scores of women who had applied for the position.

The Head of State made the announcement on March 15 via a message to Parliament.

“His Excellency the President, in exercise of the powers conferred on him, has nominated Dr. Margaret Karungaru for appointment as a member of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC),” National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula noted as he read Ruto’s message to the House.

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During the exercise, she aptly outlined her understanding of the mandate of the National Gender and Equality Commission and its key roles as enshrined in the constitution.

Dr. Karungaru expressed her passion for Social Work in the community and informed the committee of her experience in the teaching fraternity, where she served as a head-

teacher in a girls’ high school in her early 30s.

She also recounted to the committee of her vast experience in Social Work in Nyeri County and said she had already identified some of the areas she wished to focus on such as issues of People with Disabilities (PWDs) and implementation of related policies where she noted that there are many buildings that have no access for PWDs.

She also pointed out issues of reproductive health and young mothers undergoing caesarian section at

the time of delivery which need to be addressed adding that she would commit to work on a policy paper as part of her advisory task.

She also emphasised on the need for NGECE to play a strong advisory role, facilitation and regulation in those issues.

Dr. Karungaru told the committee that she would propose for the creation of awareness campaigns and stakeholder engagements to address various issues affecting different communities and areas to help reduce cases of FGM, property inheritance challenges-especially for women, gender violence and challenges facing the disabled.

The National Gender and Equality Commission is in charge of promoting gender equality and freedom from discrimination, monitors compliance with the principle of gender equality in all spheres of life, and participates in the development of policies and programmes that promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination.

The National Gender and Equality Commission Act of 2011 also mandates the commission to receive and investigate complaints of gender discrimination and make recommendations to the relevant authorities.

Following the swearing in, Dr Karungaru joins other commissioners; Muriithi J. Chomba Munyi, Thomas Okoth Koyier, Caroline Naikena Lentupuru and chairperson Joyce Mwikali Mutinda.



Dr Margaret Karungaru being congratulated by Chief Justice Martha Koome..

Do Not Desecrate Office Of Retired President, Mudavadi Tells Uhuru

By: Our Correspondent

@themkenyatimes



President William Ruto, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and other leaders while inspecting the Turbo road on Saturday.

Worth Noting:

- The Prime Cabinet Secretary beckoned Kenyans to support the president in his mission of reviving of the economy.
- ‘We want the president to spearhead the revival of the economy. Azimio sunk the country into an economic crisis. Reviving the economy is not like replacing an electricity switch where you switch it on and off. Reviving the economy requires biting the bullet and making hard decisions outlined in the Kenya Kwanza PLAN. We must work as one as we are on the right track,’ he said.
- Mudavadi further praised the President for being a stickler to procedures by earlier in the day stuck the Tonje Rules governing rotational succession in the military in appointing Chief of Kenya Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Francis Ogolla from the Kenya Airforce.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has hit out at Azimio chairman and former President Uhuru Kenyatta for leading demonstration in the country.

Speaking when he joined President William Ruto in the inspection of the ongoing construction of the Kipkaren - Selia - Turbo road, Mudavadi scolded Uhuru for reducing himself from a Commander-in-Chief to “a street operative for Jubilee Party”.

“Just the other day Azimio Chairman (Uhuru) absconded the role of former Commander-in-Chief of Kenya Defence Forces to join street gangs under guise of salvaging Jubilee party offices. You reduced yourself from a national leader to gangster dirty tricks operations of a party. This is quite peculiar. However whilst on the whimsical “rescue operations”, Uhuru redeemed himself openly by confirming that elections are long gone and he handed over the instruments of power to the legitimate winner,” said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi added that, “Since Uhuru recognises President Willian Ruto as the Commander-in-Chief; it is high time Uhuru’s own project-Raila to concede that it’s a done deal and lets the country move foward.”

The Prime Cabinet Secretary beck-

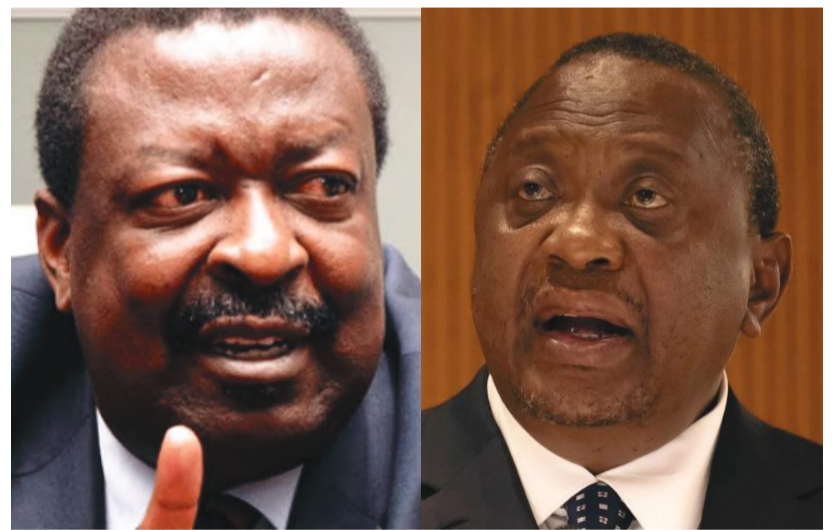
oned Kenyans to support the president in his mission of reviving of the economy.

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Mudavadi further praised the President for being a stickler to procedures by earlier in the day stuck the Tonje Rules governing rotational succession in the military in appointing Chief of Kenya Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Francis Ogolla from the Kenya Airforce.

‘Whoever made the appointment of the Chief of Defence Forces this morning is President Ruto. He appointed a Kenyan who meets the qualifications, Lieutenant-General Francis Ogolla. How is it then that the President is tribal,’ said Mudavadi.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary said the president exemplified true statesmanship and not a tribal bigotry.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and former President Uhuru Kenyatta

‘When a Kenyan is qualified for a position, the president is non-partisan of tribe or region and in his mandate appoints the qualified people .This is the Kenya we want,’ stated Mudavadi.

Mudavadi also lauded the people of Rift Valley for their God-given talent when it comes to athletics. He lauded them forever positioning Kenya of a winner when it comes to the world marathons.

‘I salute the people of Rift Valley for your prowess when it comes to athletics. Your talent is unmatched.

You have put the Kenyan flag on top of the game when it comes to world marathons,” he said.

Mudavadi lauded the tarmacking of the road that links Western and Rift Valley regions as the beginning of Kenya Kwanza Coalition agreement to construct 1000km of road in western. “There were many sceptics regarding that agreement. Now Doubting Thomas’ should cover their faces in shame. The journey to 1000km of tarmack in this region has just begun”, an ebullient Mudavadi said.

Ngatia Bags KNCCI Endorsement From Lreb, Metropolitan Counties

By: Capital Correspondent



During the last KNCCI elections in 2019, Ngatia made history as the first national chamber boss to assume office unopposed/FILE.

Worth Noting:

- “When Central Kenya went to a historical chamber election on the slopes of Mt Kenya, a new dawn was born on the historic shorelines of Lake Victoria. Dawn would seek to rewrite the history of the chamber forever. We will vote on the 8th, of June,2023, But our votes will be counted by IEB on RN Volcano Team, Waiting for the day,” declared the Central Kenya delegates.
- Ngatia will be battling the chamber’s first Vice President Dr Eric Rutto as the elections take shape.
- Ngatia has picked Abdulwalli Sharrif of Tunasco who has interests in agriculture, oil and construction as his running mate.
- The KNCCI elections being conducted by the Institute of Education in Democracy (IED) kicked off at the grassroots starting with Central region. The elected officials in the region immediately threw their weight behind Ngatia.

The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) President Richard Ngatia campaign’s for re-election has gained momentum after securing endorsements from the majority of counties.

Ngatia has been endorsed by delegates from 5 counties drawn from the Mt Kenya region, 14 counties that form the Lake Region (Western, Nyanza and South Rift regions) and the metropolitan areas including Nairobi, Narok and Kajiado.

With a month to the KNCCI polls scheduled for June, Ngatia has hit the campaign trail countrywide and has met delegates from different counties who have given his re-election bid a thumbs up.

Fourteen counties of the Lake Region economic block met in Kisumu to make a declaration for Chamber President Ngatia’s second term.

During a meeting on April 28th, 2023, Central Kenya delegates unanimously endorsed Ngatia’s candidature for the presidency.

“When Central Kenya went to a historical chamber election on the slopes of Mt Kenya, a new dawn was born on the historic shorelines of Lake Victoria. Dawn would seek to rewrite the history of the chamber forever. We will vote on the 8th,

of June,2023, But our votes will be counted by IEB on RN Volcano Team, Waiting for the day,” declared the Central Kenya delegates.

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The KNCCI elections being conducted by the Institute of Education in Democracy (IED) kicked off at the grassroots starting with Central region. The elected officials in the region immediately threw their weight behind Ngatia.

The Chamber agreed not to do campaigns but left it to the Directors to agree in-house through consensus which has seen most officials getting elected unopposed at the branch level.

During the last KNCCI elections in 2019, Ngatia made history as the first national chamber boss to assume office unopposed.

Ngatia had mounted a spirited campaign including an eventful launch of his manifesto which saw his rivals withdraw from the race in his favour.

Under Ngatia’s leadership, KNCCI was at the forefront of supporting

businesses to recover from the economic setbacks during the covid-19 pandemic.

KNCCI strengthened partnerships with both national and county governments, financial institutions and other corporate bodies, and development partners to support enterprises through digitization, credit access programmes, training and skill enhancement support for knowledge and capacity development and expansion of market links among other initiatives.

Ngatia was able to attract more members under his leadership, where the KNCCI membership increased from 20,000 to more than 60,000 members registered directly and another 1 million through associations owing to enhanced advocacy for an enabling business environment.

Ngatia is a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) World Chambers Federation (WCF) General Council, the chairman International Conference on Great Lake Region-Private Sector Forum-ICGLR in Africa, deputy patron of Kenya National Federation of Jua Kali Association, board member of East Africa Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and also Trustee PERAK.

During the last polls, the then Vice President James Mureu and Abdulwalli Sharrif withdrew from the presidential race at the 11th hour saying they had unanimously agreed to support Ngatia.

Besides Mureu and Shariff, the other two contenders; Stephen Mbugua and Laban Onditi had earlier stepped down in Ngatia’s favour while former National Youth Fund Chief Executive Officer Gor Semelang’o withdrew from the race citing personal reasons.

“The three gentlemen have in their wisdom met, deliberated and agreed the two will be stepping down and supporting one of their own that is Ngatia. This is a landmark decision that clearly manifests the democratic ideals of the chamber,” in an announcement made at the chamber headquarters in Nairobi and presided over by the then outgoing Chamber President Kiprono Kittony.

Raila Should Rethink His Decision And Call Off Mass Protests



By: **Joseph Mutua Ndonga**
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga

Worth Noting:

- None of your demonstrations has ever been peaceful. This violate Article 37 of the constitution which requires the protesters to disarmed and maintain peace. Dr Ruto added. Don't test my patient. I want them to know I'm the President of the Republic of Kenya.
- I won the elections fairly and squarely. The IEBC had declared him as the winner and his victory was upheld by the Supreme Court of Kenya.
- Take from me. This time, Dr Ruto stated he will undertake his constitutional duties of protecting the lives of Kenyans and their properties without fear and law breakers would be dealt with firmly.

Kenyans did not take seriously the announcement by the chairman of Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition Council and a former Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya that the coalition would resume its mass protests on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

This is because they expecting this declaration to be made by the coalition leader Raila Odinga as it had been the case before.

But as the media report indicated, Raila was out of the country at the time.

This, perhaps, explains why the Council chairman issued the statement.

Raila had travelled to Dubai in United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a one-week tour which some of his allies termed as a personal trip.

A section of the leaders and their supporters were yet to be convinced. They had to wait for him to return so that they can hear this from horse's mouth.

Upon his arrival, Raila who addressed a protest rally in Kibra Nairobi stated that the plans to hold mass action starting on Tuesday have not changed.

I urge you turn up in large numbers. He was flanked by his troops as it emerged that this time Azimio was

planning to storm Nairobi Central Business District (CBD).

It is worth to note that the state security teams had successfully blocked them during thier previous demonstrations.

In a swift rejoinder, President Ruto warned Raila and his brigade.

Even this time we will not allow you to access CBD.

This is because we know your intentions are to endanger the lives of innocent Kenyans and destroy properties.

None of your demonstrations has ever been peaceful. This violate Article 37 of the constitution which requires the protesters to disarmed and maintain peace.

Dr Ruto added. Don't test my patient. I want them to know I'm the President of the Republic of Kenya.

I won the elections fairly and squarely. The IEBC had declared him as the winner and his victory was upheld by the Supreme Court of Kenya.

Take from me. This time, Dr Ruto stated he will undertake his constitutional duties of protecting the lives of Kenyans and their properties without fear and law breakers would be dealt with firmly.

In his speech at Kibra, Raila reiter-

ated we in Azimio are going back to the streets because the Kenya Kwanza government is not taking our demands seriously.

He alleged Dr Ruto was looking down our issues and advising his team to ignore them.

He would not provide tangible evidence to support these claims.

With due respect to Raila, his latest turnaround seemed to demonstrate that he had not shed off the tag of changing goal posts and engaging in double-speak.

We know he had called off the mass action to give a dialogue a chance.

He said this was in reciprocation of President Ruto's televised address to the nation which he had made one hour earlier.

The president has agreed we engage in talks aimed at resolving the post-election political crisis. This is a move in the right direction.

In his address, the president position was very clear. The bipartisan talks must be held within the parameters of the law and constitution.

This means that the issues raised by Azimio and Kenya Kwanza should be addressed by parliament.

The president has up to date maintained that position.

For Raila, he has turned around and

denounced the talks he had supported.

This amounts to denting his image. Kenyans would view him as a person who lacked focus, consistent and was being held hostage by the hardliners around him.

Well, I have been listening to Azimio's main bone of contention that revolves around the issue of the composition of the members of the parliamentary driven partisan talks.

They say the decision by Kenya Kwanza to pick MP Aden Keynan as a member of their team showed the government was not committed to the talks.

This is because Keynan is a member of Jubilee party which is an affiliate of Azimio.

The Kenya Kwanza would counter this by even. Even you, you had poached our member to sit on your side.

This is in apparent reference to MP David Pkosing who was elected on a ticket of the Kenya Union Party (KUP).

This party had signed pre-election agreement with Azimio but it has since ditched the coalition and joined Kenya Kwanza.

Raila brigade claims this was not done in accordance with the law. Let them tell us the provisions of the law that were violated.

To my understanding, the affiliates of Azimio were free to shift camp by signing post-elections agreements.

This is what KUP which is led by former governor of West Pokot Lunnyangapuo did.

I'm happy to note that Kenya Kwanza is willing to drop Keynan and replace him with a member of their party. This because they want to save the talks for the sake of peace and development of our country.

I hope Azimio will reciprocate this by dropping Pkosing and calling off demonstrations.

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

Be Yourself

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Everyone has an area he is talented in. The best gift you can give to a person is helping him to identify his strength then research for ways of honing that talent and commercializing its products. Each talent is important.
- Some of these talents are closely related, others are differentiated and their strengths vary. However if yours is stronger than others including that of your son it is preferable that you let him to follow his line of natural orientation no matter how inferior it may look compared to yours than trying to train him to be like you as he will not exactly fit the bill due to not having naturally oriented in that area.

Be yourself. Ultimately just be yourself. Wole Soyinka.

In a crowd of people whatever name you mention there is what they will associate it with whether a natural feature, artificial feature or a process. If the name is of a person there are those who will respond as you have called them meaning that they have possessed those names. If the name mentioned is of a region there are those who hail from there or have been to that location and will be keen to hear what you are talking about their location of birth, where they attained education, where they work or where they reside.

Mentioning a name if masculine males around will be attentive when feminine ladies around especially if they are not familiar with names of each other. They will look who among them you are referring to in your message.

When a positive thing is said about a certain name of a region or a person those affected appreciate while the rest try to seek or show relation with that person or region as they too would like to enjoy that notable pos-

itive attribute.

Those with negative things associated with them at personal, family or regional level feel ashamed of these attributes but just need to be assured that no matter how bad the situation is there is a way to improve their reputation rather than asking them to change their identities as there is power associated with a certain identity. In addition they could only have known their current identity that is they have not been referred to with any other name for example a Kenyan native and resident may feel ashamed if someone who is not a Kenyan talk about post-election violence hotspots or negative ethnicity in Kenya.

When introducing people to new systems you should start by exploring their systems to see how they can be improved or look for a closely related item to act as a substitute as people will be willing to switch to something that they can easily relate with.

Asking people what they think then using that information to setup a system will help your project to be

easily accepted by people more than your individual project which could be superior to theirs to a great extent. Whatever people think that they own is easy to promote among them.

Everyone has an area he is talented in. The best gift you can give to a person is helping him to identify his strength then research for ways of honing that talent and commercializing its products. Each talent is important.

Some of these talents are closely related, others are differentiated and their strengths vary. However if yours is stronger than others including that of your son it is preferable that you let him to follow his line of natural orientation no matter how inferior it may look compared to yours than trying to train him to be like you as he will not exactly fit the bill due to not having naturally oriented in that area.

When confronted with choices between one project which you have passion for and another that you do not appreciate but it is more rewarding than what you have passion for be true to your heart by choosing the

project that you are passionate for as it will never bore you. You will be innovative with it. This could result to better rewards than the ones currently enjoyed.

A person who bleaches his skin will look as per his desires. In the new look he will be easily distinguishable from his kinsmen but when in midst of those with a related look to his new look they would be able to identify that his skin colour is not natural like theirs. His kids too will tend to take his original skin colour. In the joints there will be spots of his initial skin colour.

In general there will be something to show that he has undergone some changes no matter how keen he will be in concealing such evidence and those who notice these differences will question making him to explain reasons behind the change. Had he been true to himself anyone could have accepted him in the natural form hence no questions could have been raised on this subject. He could have remained genuine as well as easily judged as so through observing the face value.



Mizizi Supports Govt Agenda Of Affordable Housing

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes

The Government is on record outlining its commitment in respect to the implementation of the pillar of affordable housing.

In line of this, the Government has been forthright in availing at least 500,000 units of houses per year.

Out of this ambitious project, private sector players have joined the project in a bid to ease the pressure on housing in the country.

MIZIZI Africa Homes Limited is one such player led by the George Mburu, the Founder and Managing Director.

He was on Saturday gracing the handover of Heritage Phase 2 along Kenyatta Road.

“We as Mizizi are alive of the need to bridge the housing gap in the country. This is why we are very committed to building affordable houses for our clients. We would like to urge the Government to also facilitate us with land which we can develop through the initiative and spirit of the Public Private Partnerships. We are eager and ready to utilise the land availed to us by the government.” George noted.

MIZIZI Africa Homes has also rolled out the buy we build initiative whereby a client is able to pocket his title deed in advance. This is important in many respects the main one being the ability to access credit to develop his or her property,” Mizizi concluded



George Mburu, the Founder MIZIZI Africa Homes.

Deploy Choppers For Shakahola Rescue, Kingi Urges State

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Senate Speaker Amason Kingi has asked the National government to deploy helicopters to boost the rescue efforts of the victims of Paul Mackenzie cult in Shakahola village.

The Speaker hailed the decision by the Ministry of Interior to use drones for the exercise, describing as an important step in the exercise.

But he pointed out that choppers are best suited for the task because they can land and rescue victims once they are spotted.

“I want to ask the Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki to go beyond drones and avail helicopters for the rescue mission,” he said.

The Speaker was speaking on Saturday when he led delegation of 11 senators on a fact finding mission to the site where 110 bodies have so far been found on the 800-acre piece of land belonging to pastor Paul Mackenzie in Shakahola, Kilifi County.

On Thursday last week, the Senate formed an 11-member Ad hoc committee and tasked it to investigate the circumstances of the death.

The House also directed the com-



Speaker Amason Kingi and Senators addressing the media in Shakahola..

mittee to explore possibilities of developing a legal regime to regulate religious institutions.

The Senate is working on the modalities of the committee’s operations which must submit its report in 90 days.

Speaker Kingi led the delegation to get a fast habd report on what is

happening as the rescue efforts continues.

The lawmakers who accompanied the Speaker included some of the members who will sit on the Ad Hoc committee.

Coast Regional Commissioner Rhoda Onyancha briefed the delegation on the rescue efforts being undertak-

en and the challenges rescuers have gone through since the operation started.

The state has deployed more than 3,000 police officers who are combing the vast piece of land as they follow adherents of the cult, believed to be on the run.

It was an observation by the re-

gional commissioner that most of the pastor were escaping deeper into the jungle to escape arrest that told the Speaker and his team that something more urgent be done to save lives of the individuals who are sticking to the doctrine of their cult which demands that they fast until they die.

Speaker Kingi said choppers are the best in the circumstances because of the expanse of the area.

“Most of the people were rescued while escaping away, deeper into the forest,” Ms Onyancha told the delegation which included minority Whip Stewart Madzayo.

Senators present were John Methu, Richard Onyonka, Shakila Abdalla Raphael Chimera, Danston Mungatana, Issa Boy, Mohamed Faki, Halima Kibwana, Jones Mwaruma and William Cheptumo.

“We must upscale the rescue mission. The drones may locate the victims but it cannot rescue them. Choppers are fit for that purpose,” explained Speaker Kingi

Steps Toward Success



This year, I participated successfully in the "IBRAT&WIKI CAMP" organized by the Youth Affairs Agency of Uzbekistan. It was an amazing experience for me. I love being an active member of Youth Forums. I successfully passed the admission process of The Change the World Model United Nations and got a merit-based grant in the amount of 1,450,000 EUR to use for participating in CWMUN in New York City.

I like spending time working on myself, reading useful books, and writing scientific articles, short stories, and poems. Some of them were published in local and international journals and books.

I also motivate my peers to study hard and show their abilities to society. Communicating with people from all over the world is very interesting and pleasant for me. It makes my horizon widen and get new friends.

I believe people should keep their small steps toward their goals despite mistakes or troubles and it leads to great success in their life. It is called STEPS TOWARD SUCCESS.

I can say without any doubt, my life is full of vibrant situations, cheerful people, and stunning places. Everything, even tiny ones in my life, motivates me to be successful.

I am a student at Uzbekistan state university of world languages. I wanted to study at this university since my childhood because I am keen on learning languages. Nowadays, I can speak 4 languages: Uzbek, English, Korean, and German languages. At the beginning of learning foreign languages, I tried to learn new words as much as possible hence this method helped me to make the learning process easier.

Mom...



I am not like that.
I look beautiful only in your eyes.
Just don't hide from me and cry, mom...

Munavvar Boltayeva Country Uzbekistan

Bukhari's books - knowledge, wisdom.
Ibn Sina did not leave medical science.
today the whole world recognizes you
I will be your light in your nights.
I will be your light that will not go out for a moment.

The brave, brave men honored their land!
He gave his life, but he didn't sell his country,
brave!

Invincible brave for honor and glory!
I will be your light in your nights.
I will be your light that will not go out for a moment.

The grass is yours, the flower garden is yours -
Uzbekistan!

You are beautiful like my mother - Uzbekistan!
You are wonderful like heaven - Uzbekistan!
I will be your light in your nights.
I will be your light that will not go out for a moment.

If my head bows near the enemies.
they took away my rights.
I am left alone,
I am speechless...
Don't cry just looking at me, mother...

One day will come,
I believe it will be a bright day. Everyone respects
me and loves me.
Then I will be your proud child. Don't cry just
looking at me mom...

Well, whatever we say,
I'm your unlucky daughter.
You call me a flower, you call me a moon face, but

The Call To Joyfulness As An Invitation

Joy I wrote my heart on
White paper and sang it.
I shared my spring and summer
Thoughts to reveal my heart's yearning.

My heart is male deer.
My mental trap is unhandled.
My wind-born soul.
He never asks.

I think the upper ones desire this.
Spring breezes spread flowers.
It opens the road to higher destinations.

My address is lovely and long,
And rain falls on my way.
My birthright was happiness.
Happiness is calling me up!

Sharofova Gulshoda
Bukhara State pedagogical institute First-
year student

The Real Teacher



My teacher had a lot of students. I wondered seeing that so many people were looking for my teacher and wanted to be his students. He didn't seem to me such a famous person because of his modest and humble personality. He used to teach us in an extremely creative way that his two-hour class passed like a minute. In his classes we learnt lots of things and gained precious knowledge but we had no idea how we acquired numerous information. I always thought and wanted to know

how he became such a professional teacher and the thoughts on being like him and how much would it take me to become his replica whirled in my mind.

One day one of my friends was not able to come classes due to financial difficulties in his personal life. Since he was one of the brightest students, teacher noticed immediately his absence and asked for the reason.

When I explained his condition, teacher said that I would require him nothing but dua and tell him to come classes and I was surprised by his respond as I never saw person like him. Then I found out that he had dozens of students who were studying free of charge.

One day, out of my curiosity I asked him how he had attained to that position I meant being the teacher of thousands of students. "I just ask from Allah" he replied with a calm voice.

In my prayers I always ask many students and it is my obligation to teach them efficiently he said. After a few years, one of my close friends asked me if I had known a good teacher, and I told her about my teacher and his classes.

She liked and started attending the classes. One of those days, I asked her how and why she decided to ask me about teacher and she told me that she had a dream. In her dream we were participating to my teacher's extra classes. At that time, I realized the power of almighty Allah as my teacher's duas were becoming true. So I think teaching is a good deed and I will try my best to do it.

Safarova Farangiz, 19 years old. 2nd year student of the Faculty of Korean Language of the International University of Kimyo. Teacher and founder of online Korean language courses "hangug-eo with Farangiz". Head of the Social Protection Department of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, Samarkand region, 5 years of experience and volunteering. Official guest of Stars International University conference. Graduate of "Future Scientific Girls Community Educational Exchange Program". About 30 participants of offline and online conferences.

Published articles: India, Russia

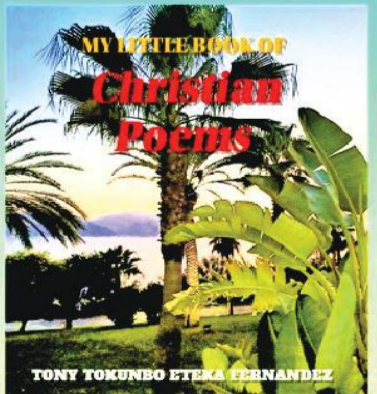
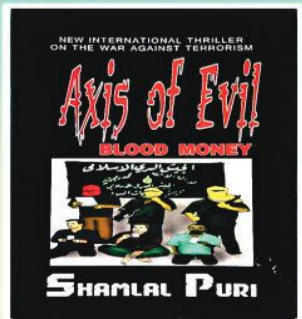
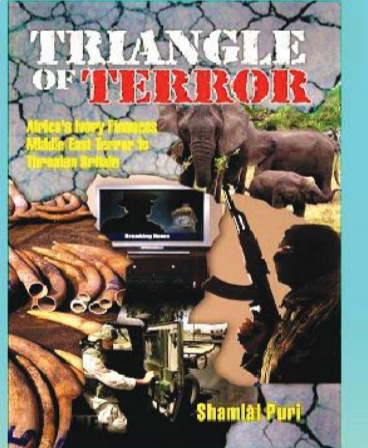
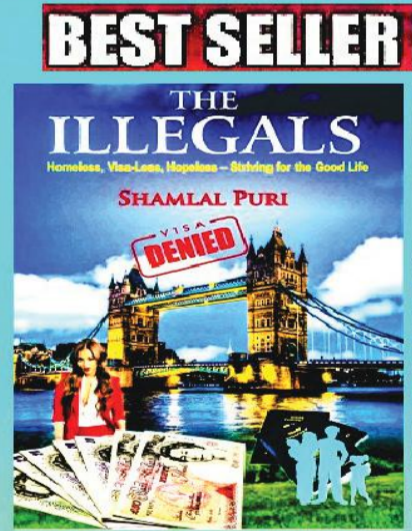
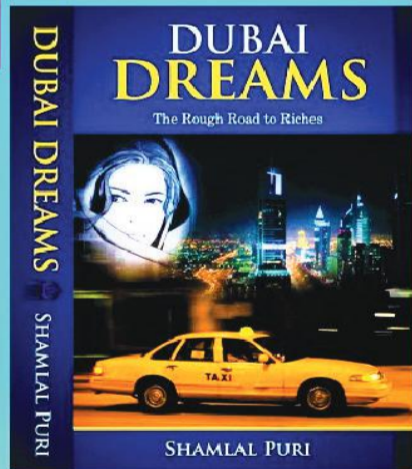
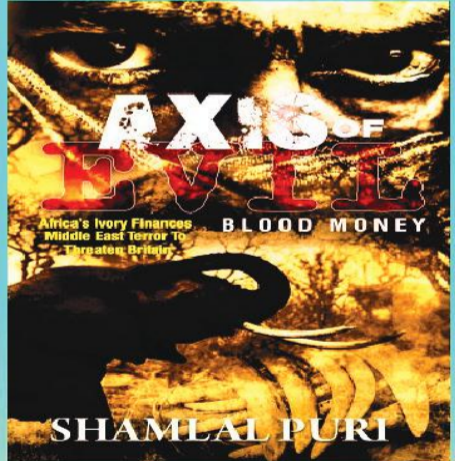
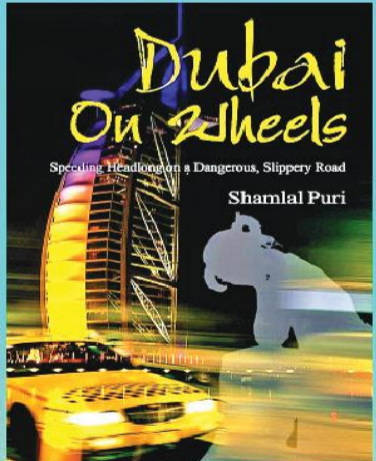
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BUSINESS

State Corporation, NSDCC Launches Initiative To Eliminate “Triple Threat”



Tharaka Nithi county First Lady Margaret Muthomi with other leaders during the launching ceremony.

Worth Noting:

- “Most of the teenage pregnancies, according to the research, are as a result of incest,” Ms. Muthomi lamented.
- “The only solution to these threats is by holding candid conversations with the children, reporting the matter to the authorities, and escalating to higher levels if there is no action taken. If the chief does not act, seek assistance from the police or even the Deputy County Commissioner. Gone are the days when parents were ashamed of teaching sex education and reproductive health to their children,” added the County First Lady.

By: David Mutwiri and Beatrice Mwende

The National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) has launched an initiative that aims at eliminating three related challenges that pose a threat to the welfare of young mothers and the community at large.

The initiative, dubbed ‘Jiinue Sasa,’ aims to bring to an end the triple threat of HIV infection, Social Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Adolescent pregnancies through community dialogue that encourages parents to provide sex education and reproductive health to their children.

Presiding over the event, the spouse to the Tharaka Nithi governor, Ms. Margaret Muthomi, disclosed that research has revealed that Tharaka Nithi County is leading in teenage pregnancies and HIV infections in the country.

“Most of the teenage pregnancies, according to the research, are as a result of incest,” Ms. Muthomi lamented.

“The only solution to these threats is by holding candid conversations with the children, reporting the matter to the authorities, and escalating to higher levels if there is no action taken. If the chief does not act, seek assistance from the police or even the Deputy County Commissioner. Gone are the days when parents were ashamed of teaching sex education and reproductive health to their children,” added the County First Lady.

She further disclosed that in some parts of the county, there are still people conducting Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and this poses a big threat to the health and lives of those children who undergo the cut.

NSDCC CEO Dr. Ruth Masha said that the triple threat, especially adolescent pregnancies, infringe on young people’s fundamental rights to complete education, leading to the

loss of economic opportunities.

Dr. Masha underscored the fact that the body no longer tolerates “Kangaroo courts” and will take into account anybody holding talks or meetings with a perpetrator without taking that person before the court of law. I will ensure that findings from the headquarters in Nairobi are used at the community level to help people living with the triple threats. I will work with Community Health Volunteers among other people, to ensure that they are eliminated,” said the CEO.

The Director General, National Council of Population Development (NCPD), highlighted the national pandemics and their efforts in tackling them, as they are multi-faceted and affect everyone around them.

“Together with the other government agencies that include the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO), the NSDCC, the anti-FGM body, and the community, we are applying a multi-sectoral

approach to tackle this deadly problem. At the county level, we have a coordinated mechanism chaired by the county commissioners,” Dr. Mohammed disclosed.

The event, which was held at Chuka Picnic Grounds, was attended by gender-based violence survivors, HIV survivors, young mothers, and other stakeholders in Tharaka Nithi and neighboring counties.

Dialogue forums were held, in which they shared their different opinions on the triple threats and also discussed their individual roles in ending the threats.

NSDCC is a state corporation established under Section 3 of the State Corporations Act, Cap 446, through the National AIDS Control Council Order, 1999, as amended by legal notice number 143 of 2022. The Council is mandated to manage the following syndemic diseases: HIV, sexually transmitted infections, malaria, leprosy, tuberculosis, and lung disease.



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All Churches Should Belong To Umbrella Christian Bodies, Coast Clergy

By: Emmanuel Masha

@themkenyatimes



Coast religious leaders addressing the media.

Worth Noting:

- “Those operating outside a registered umbrella body should be deemed to operate outside the law. It must be understood that Makenzie has been operating alone, not under any umbrella body; he has defied and detested established authority all along,” they said.
- They noted that the principal mandate of the Church is to work towards the salvation of souls, which demands protection and nourishment of life with utmost fidelity, adding that the sanctity of life is embedded in the Holy Bible and the laws of the land.
- Fasting, they said, is a voluntary Biblical discipline whose results should be restoration or strengthening of intimacy with God and that fasting to end life or die, whether under coercion or persuasion, borders on cultism and must be avoided, rebuked, condemned and resisted by all, at all times.

The Coast Christian Clergy has called on the government to make it mandatory for all church organisations and leaders to be affiliated to umbrella bodies for the effective regulation of their activities.

While condemning the cultic preaching, behavior and activities of embattled Pastor Paul Mackenzie, the Christian leaders called for thorough investigation against any preacher whose teachings are not in line with the Holy Scriptures, the Constitution of Kenya and existing laws.

The clergy comprising the House of Bishops and Pastors' Fellowships from the region's six counties under the auspices of Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK) said they were shocked and greatly saddened by the death of more than 100 innocent people in Shakahola, Malindi. In a statement read by Bishop Abarijah Kinnogah of the Bibleway Restoration Ministries, the clerics said Mackenzie's church was not affiliated to any umbrella organisation hence it was difficult to control and regulate the church's activities.

“Our proposed way forward is that Paul Makenzie and his likes must be fully and conclusively investigated and appropriate action taken against them. The government, through its

relevant agencies, should guarantee the security of every Kenyan 24/7,” the statement signed by eleven bishops, two reverends and one pastor said.

They said the government should make it mandatory for every Christian preacher and church organisation to identify with an Umbrella Body, such as National Christian Churches of Kenya (NCKK), Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), Organisation of Africa Instituted Churches (OAIC), who have guides or codes of conduct.

“Those operating outside a registered umbrella body should be deemed to operate outside the law. It must be understood that Makenzie has been operating alone, not under any umbrella body; he has defied and detested established authority all along,” they said.

They noted that the principal mandate of the Church is to work towards the salvation of souls, which demands protection and nourishment of life with utmost fidelity, adding that the sanctity of life is embedded in the Holy Bible and the laws of the land.

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fasting to end life or die, whether under coercion or persuasion, borders on cultism and must be avoided, rebuked, condemned and resisted by all, at all times.

“We therefore, in the strongest terms possible, condemn and rebuke, as we did several years ago, the cultic preaching, behaviour and activities of Paul Makenzie of Good News International Church, who induced his followers to fast to death,” read the statement.

The clerics conveyed their condolences to those who had lost their loved ones and prayed that GOD would by His grace comfort them and prayed for the rapid recovery and rehabilitation of the rescued victims.

They said they were committed to ensuring and upholding sanity both in doctrine and practice as they partner with state agencies in addressing

and curbing unbecoming or cultic tendencies within their jurisdiction as well as without.

The leaders at the same time committed themselves to subjecting themselves to the provisions of Chapter Six of the Constitution on Leadership and Integrity and that they were ready to declare their wealth like any other Kenyan as proposed by Catholic Bishop Anthony Mueria last Wednesday.

The leaders at the same time urged the government and Kenyans not to condemn all churches for the atrocities of Mackenzie, but give a chance to registered Christian Umbrella bodies to self-regulate the church.

They said this in the wake of reports that renowned televangelist Ezekiel Odera had been arrested and his church in Mavueni area of Kilifi County closed down by authorities.

Pediatricians Discuss Effects Of Climate Change On Children's Health

By: Fatuma Said

@themtkenyatimes



Health specialist from UNICEF, Kenya Country Office, Laura Oyengo addressing the forum.

Worth Noting:

- “Development and policy implementation is the main focus of the pediatrics and our members are actively engaged in providing services for children who may have missed out because of the effects of climate change,” he noted.

- He concluded that the association is forming partnerships with different organizations like UNICEF to save the children fund and discuss to come up with programmes that will help mitigate these issues.

- A representative of the World Health Organization (WHO), Head Office in Geneva Switzerland Bernadette Daelmans who is also the Unit head, Child Health and Development said looking at a larger per cent of children's health, it is vivid that the climate change is going to cause major disruptions unless action is taken now.

Pediatricians across the globe have teamed up with the Kenya Pediatrics Association to discuss issues relating to the effects of climate change and environmental pollution on children's health and wellbeing.

The 4 days' conference themed 'Understanding the impact on Pediatric Practice to secure our Children's Future' brought together about 500 stakeholders.

Since the 1800s, human rights activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels which produce heat-trapping gases causing adverse long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns.

Addressing the media during the Annual Scientific Conference, the National Chairperson, Kenya Paediatric Association, Lawrence Owino, said the recent outbreaks of cholera, measles and rotavirus were due to the effects of climate change and pollution.

Other climate change impacts affecting children are family displace-

ment due to harsh weather conditions which decreases their food security, leading to malnutrition.

Indoor pollutants, indoor smoking, poor hygiene, use of firewood and charcoal indoors were also mentioned to be factors affecting most children's health.

“We are looking forward to a time where we will be able to use more efficient and reliable forms of fuel in our households to reduce the environmental pollution,” Owino said.

Owino said that the Association supports advocacy to improve regulations so that children do not suffer adversely from these effects and that they also advocate for planning to mitigate the effects.

He added that the Association is also conducting sensitization and encouraging immunization of children.

“We are advocating for the government to make sure that we are able to provide vaccines to all children where and when they need it,” he said.

He also urged the government to

continue delivering on the pledge of clean energy to make cooking gas affordable to reduce the over reliance use of firewood and charcoal and more use of solar power because these are more environmentally friendly resources.

“Development and policy implementation is the main focus of the pediatrics and our members are actively engaged in providing services for children who may have missed out because of the effects of climate change,” he noted.

He concluded that the association is forming partnerships with different organizations like UNICEF to save the children fund and discuss to come up with programmes that will help mitigate these issues.

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cause major disruptions unless action is taken now.

“The commitment we have witnessed in this conference is encouraging, the professionals are working on what they can do in their capacity to start changing in their practice, how they interact with their patients and educating them about climate change,” Daelmans said.

Health specialist from UNICEF, Kenya Country Office, Laura Oyengo called upon the government to enact policies that are child sensitive but environmentally friendly.

“We are looking forward to businesses having practices that ensure the natural environment is a sustainable society while reducing its carbon footprint,” Oyengo said.

“We are also looking forward to working with the government and other partners in support of this agenda” she concluded.

PERSONA NON GRATA...



By: Njonjo Mue

Part Two

[In Part One, I joined the Senior Debating Society on a trip to a meeting at Limuru Girls School, popularly known as Chox, in spite of being warned of a plot to make sure no girl should speak to anyone who had contributed to the defeat of the Choxarian basketball ball team by Accrossians in the District championships that had taken place in Bush the previous week. Upon arrival at the hall, I was dismayed to notice that my only hope of salvation was not even present for the debate. Things were looking bleak... Please read on to find out how the story concludes.]

Outshining Changes...

As we made our way into the hall I kept my chin up and made a bee line for a seat that was as close as I could get to where the girls had already taken their seats. I might have been predestined to float, but I had no intention of going down without a fight.

However, before I got to my seat, the Chairman of our SDS pulled me aside and asked to see me briefly outside. "I want you to be our main speaker," he said once we were alone.

"Wh...what? Why?" I stuttered. "And why are you just telling me now? I don't even know the motion of the debate."

"Unfortunately Fred Mwakazi* was supposed to be the main speaker and he bailed out on us at the last minute."

I could understand why. Fred had been my partner in crime at the basketball court a week before and was one of the guys who had pulled out of the trip to Chox.

My initial instinct was to say no, but the Chair would not relent. "You are good at thinking on your feet and we need our best debaters if we are to outshine Changes."

I thought about it for a moment and decided that it actually might be a good opportunity.

There were to be two proposers and two opposers of the motion.

Being the hosts, Chox would have two girls at the top table, a proposer and an opposer, while both Bush and Changes would fill the remaining two slots.

It was usually considered a good thing to play this role because one had a teammate, a captive audience so to speak, with whom some chemistry might develop as they spurred against the opposite team and usual-

ly the two teammates ended up together after the debate. Perhaps this role was just what the doctor ordered for me in the circumstances. And so I accepted.

The debate was usually modeled along the lines of real parliamentary debates which were preceded by a half an hour of Question Time where the audience would try to outshine one another as they directed various questions to individuals designated as cabinet ministers - for foreign affairs, health, education, justice, agriculture, etc.

Following Question Time, the main debate began and I made my way to my seat at the front.

Up until this point, I did not know who the other main speakers were but I was relieved to discover that my team mate in proposing the motion was Agnes Mwikali*, a fellow sixth former whom I knew quite well having met her the previous year during the schools music festival.

More importantly, she had not been present at the Busherian basketball court when my apparent unforgivable crime had been committed. There was a slight chance, therefore, that following our joint performance at the debate, she would not abandon me.

How wrong I was!!

Despite my gallant display of debating prowess, I sensed an unusual aloofness in her manner.

She also seemed eerily distant even when I attempted to lean in to compare notes on our strategy.

Unsurprisingly, no sooner had the debate ended than she quietly melted into the crowd before I even had the chance to say hello.

As was customary, the proceedings were brought to an end by the teachers who the patrons of the three clubs were each making a few remarks which no one really listened to as the boys were busy making their final calculations on how to approach their preferred girls.

As soon as the teachers had finished speaking and the meeting was declared over, most of the boys found their opposites and I resigned myself to my fate.

However, I chose to see the bright side of things, taking the opportunity for the first time to admire the well-manicured grounds and the unique architecture of the buildings, most of them dating from mid-20th Century.

I also took heart in the fact that since the boys outnumbered the girls due to the unexpected presence of 'Changes', I was not the only floater. Misery loves company and I was silently gratified to note that there

were a number of Busherians and Changerians who were also destined to float by the sheer reality of the numbers.

Enjoying temporarily the comfort of hiding in the midst of the ranks, we walked in a herd towards a wide verandah about a hundred metres from the hall, where refreshments of tea and biscuits had been laid out for us.

Chip of the old block...

As I stood nibbling on a cookie and speaking to my friend and housemate, D.K*., through the corner of my eye, I saw her.

My friend from the drama festival, who for some reason had skipped the debate, had suddenly materialised. She did not seem to notice me as I had my back half turned to her, but I noticed her walking into the nearby washrooms.

My heart skipped a beat.

I still did not know if she would take a stand and risk being ostracised for my sake or she too would toe the line and ignore my presence. Still, I decided to take a risk.

"D.K., just watch this," I said confidently to my friend who did not know what was going on.

I then walked briskly and stood strategically just outside the washrooms into which she had disappeared. I was careful not to get too close or seem to block the doorway. Instead I stood facing away from the door in such a manner that when she stepped out she would find herself immediately standing next to me as if that was the plan all along.

Presently, she strode out of the washrooms and appeared shocked to find me waiting for her. But she also seemed genuinely delighted to see me. I was relieved.

"I didn't think you'd come," she said with a big smile, her eyes dancing with excitement as we made our way, cutting through some hostile stares from her schoolmates, to serve ourselves some tea.

"And why not?" I asked. "I knew you'd come to my rescue."

"That's quite a risk you were willing to take, wasn't it?" She asked with a coy smile. "How could you be so sure I would not side with the plotters?"

"I watched you die in a South African prison, remember?" I asked with a chuckle. "You didn't seem like the kind to go with the flow."

"You got that right," she said cockily. "You also forgot that I am the real life granddaughter of Senior Chief Koinange, who was detained by the colonial government for eight years

for supporting Mau Mau. Chip off the old block."

We spent the rest of the afternoon talking and laughing and enjoying getting to know each other better.

I admired her guts and her rebellious streak of which I was a most grateful beneficiary that day.

I also loved her sense of humour as much as I enjoyed the looks of envy on other boys' faces as they undoubtedly wondered where I had unearthed this rare treasure.

All too soon, it was time to make our way to the bus for the trip back to Bush, and she escorted me to the parking lot.

As the evening sun shone through the scattered clouds, we said a reluctant goodbye and tore ourselves from each other.

It was still light and so a firm handshake was all that the circumstances would allow us as we took leave of one other. But what the ebbing sunshine denied us in privacy it more than made up for by ensuring that there was enough light to enable a great cloud of witnesses to behold that the scheme that had been hatched to humiliate me that day had spectacularly flopped.

I boarded our school bus, took a seat, and waved at her through the window as she slowly receded from view.

The school motto emblazoned on the side of their bus once again leaped into my eyes. In fide vade. In faith we go. And I found myself thinking that thanks to her, I was leaving Chox with strengthened faith in the capacity of the bond of true friendship to overcome even the worst and most carefully calculated adversity.

As the bus left the compound, it was filled with the usual excited chatter of the boys as they exchanged stories of their misadventures with their partners following the debate.

But this time I remained silent, breathing a sigh of relief, but also savouring the moment earlier that afternoon when I had snatched victory out of the jaws of defeat.

[Not their real names]*

End/nm/april23

Worth Noting:

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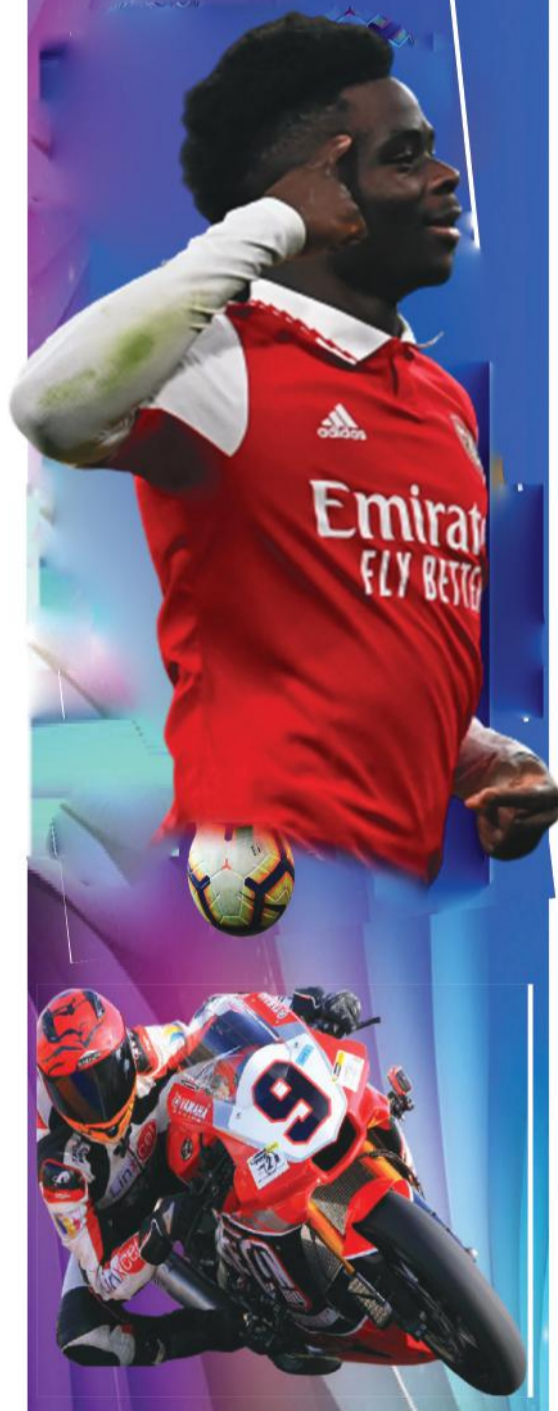
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Sports >> *Brighton crushed Wolves 6-0 to improve their prospects of qualifying for Europe, while Crystal Palace effectively sealed their Premier League survival with a 4-3 win against struggling West Ham on Saturday.

Brighton Hit Wolves For Six, Palace Beat West Ham In Thriller



Brighton hit Wolves for six, Palace beat West Ham in thriller

Brighton crushed Wolves 6-0 to improve their prospects of qualifying for Europe, while Crystal Palace effectively sealed their Premier League survival with a 4-3 win against struggling West Ham on Saturday.

Beaten on penalties by Manchester United in the FA Cup semi-finals last weekend, Brighton can erase that painful loss if they make it into the Europa League or Europa Conference League.

The eighth placed Seagulls remain in contention to do just that after recording their biggest win of an impressive season that already includes victories over Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea.

Roberto De Zerbi's side went ahead in the sixth minute at the Amex Stadium through Deniz Undav's close-range effort for

his first Premier League goal.

Pascal Gross struck in the 13th and 26th minutes, the second of his goals a spectacular volley that arrowed into the top corner.

Danny Welbeck's header gave Brighton four first half goals for the first time since 2016.

The former Manchester United forced scored again shortly after the restart and Undav's second was dinked finish in the 66th minute.

At Selhurst Park, Palace moved 11 points clear of the bottom three thanks to goals from Jordan Ayew, Wilfried Zaha, Jeff Schlupp and Eberechi Eze.

Roy Hodgson's team have won four of their six matches since Hodgson returned for a second spell at the club in place of the sacked Patrick Vieira.

Tomas Soucek, Michail Antonio and Nayef Aguerd were on the scoresheet for West Ham.

But a second successive defeat leaves David Moyes' men five points above the relegation zone with daunting fixtures against Manchester City and Manchester United looming next week.

– Palace power –

West Ham were in front after just nine minutes when Michael Olise headed his attempted clearance of Jarrod Bowen's corner straight to Soucek and the midfielder fired home from close-range.

Olise made amends for his blunder as Palace equalised six minutes later.

Cheick Doucoure found Olise and the forward's superb pass picked out Ghana forward Ayew, whose first-time finish beat Lukasz Fabianski at the near post.

Zaha was back in the Palace starting line-up for the first time in four games since Hodgson's

return as manager at the start of April.

The Ivory Coast forward rewarded Hodgson's decision as he netted Palace's second goal in the 20th minute with a composed strike from another dangerous Olise cross.

West Ham's porous defence was breached again after half an hour, with Soucek carelessly losing possession on the edge of the area to Schlupp, who accepted the gift with a simple finish under the exposed Fabianski.

There was no end to the first half goal spree as Antonio reduced the deficit with a close-range header after Soucek flicked on a corner in the 36th minute.

Eze restored Palace's two-goal advantage in the 66th minute, converting a controversial penalty awarded for Aguerd's tug on his arm.

Aguerd got one back for the Hammers in the 73rd minute, helping Soucek's header into the net from virtually on the line, but it was too late to rescue a point.

Fourth bottom Nottingham Forest suffered a late collapse in a 2-1 defeat at Brentford.

Danilo marked his 22nd birthday by lashing Forest ahead from close-range in first half stoppage-time.

But Brentford equalised in the 82nd minute when Ivan Toney's free-kick bounced past a weak attempted save from Keylor Navas.

Toney's 20th top-flight goal this season was followed by Josh Dasilva's lethal finish four minutes into stoppage-time, leaving Forest just one point above the relegation zone.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Sergio Perez won Saturday's sprint race in Baku to maintain Red Bull's perfect start to the season, but teammate Max Verstappen was in no mood to celebrate.

Perez Wins Baku Sprint As Verstappen Sees Red



Sergio Perez

Sergio Perez won Saturday's sprint race in Baku to maintain Red Bull's perfect start to the season, but teammate Max Verstappen was in no mood to celebrate.

Red Bull's double world champion was seething over a first lap incident when he was muscled out of third place by the Mercedes of George Russell.

Perez won from pole-sitter Charles Leclerc of Ferrari with Verstappen, whose car picked up some damage, eventually getting his third place back off Russell.

The British driver apologised to Verstappen, saying his car had no grip but the Dutch driver snapped back: "Mate, we all have no grip, we all need to leave space!"

Verstappen added later: "I just don't understand why you need to take so much risk in lap 1, understeer in my side pod and create a hole, we all have cold tyres, it's always easy to lock up."

"But in this beautiful way of explaining mate, locked up, or look at the onboard, it doesn't make sense. We still got into P3, got

some good points, but it is what it is."

Russell stood his corner, remarking: "I was surprised why he was so angry to be honest, he still finished the race in P3."

"I was still quite surprised he was trying to hold it round the outside, you know we're on a street circuit, he's got a lot more to lose than I have. None of the contact was intentional."

That mini storm on the banks of the Caspian Sea took some of the gloss off Perez's win.

The Mexican was adding this first of six sprint races in 2023 to his win in the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, with Verstappen taking the season-opener in Bahrain and last time out in Melbourne.

Leclerc is on pole again on Sunday for the fourth round of the season but judged on this display he will have his work cut out again to clip the Red Bulls' wings.

In the drivers' championship Verstappen leads on 75 points from Perez on 62 with Leclerc picking up seven points – more than he's earned in the three rac-

es run so far.

Leclerc fended off Perez in the short run to the first corner as Russell overtook Verstappen at turns two and three.

Yuki Tsunoda's AlphaTauri then lost a rear tyre which nonchalantly rolled its way down the straight, coming to a stop eventually at turn 16 as the safety car came out.

The safety car came in on lap six of 17, Leclerc keeping his lead on the restart, with Verstappen taking back third from Russell.

With 10 laps to go Perez picked off Leclerc, Red Bull's straight line speed helping the Mexican sweep past the Ferrari.

– 'Step forward' –

Perez picked his way safely around the tricky circuit over the closing laps for a comfortable win.

"It was good, with these tricky sessions it's been a lot of pressure on us, our team, our engineers, mechanics and drivers, so to get away with maximum points today was the main objec-

tive but obviously we know that tomorrow is the main race," said the sprint winner.

Leclerc was encouraged Ferrari had taken "a step forward".

"We are still not where we want to be but as I said, if winning is not possible then we just need to take the maximum points," he said.

"And today there wasn't anything more. Happy with the second place and we will try and go for the win tomorrow."

His teammate Carlos Sainz came in fifth ahead of Fernando Alonso, Lewis Hamilton and Lance Stroll picking up one point in eighth.

After this Baku edition, sprints will feature again in Austria, Belgium, Qatar, Austin and Interlagos.

But more immediately is the little matter of Sunday's fourth round of the world championship with Leclerc on pole and the Red Bulls waiting to pounce.

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Makueni Governor Launches Two Satellite NCPB Depots

By: KNA



Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr has launched two satellite National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) depots.

Worth Noting:

- “This fertilizer should be put into proper use by utilizing it on your farms to boost food production. It should not find its way into shops,” he warned.
- The governor thanked the national government for the provision of the fertilizer adding that he was ready to work closely with it in a bid to ensure delivery of services to wananchi in the county.
- During the event, the governor expressed his concern over the failure of the residents to heed the government’s call to register in order to benefit from the subsidized fertilizer and urged them to take seriously any government communication.

Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo Jr has launched two satellite National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) depots for the delivery of subsidized fertilizer to farmers in the respective areas.

The depots that were officially launched on Friday in Mukuyuni and Kikima were meant to reduce the burden of farmers travelling to NCPB Wote Depot to collect the rare commodity which is going to be sold at Ksh 3,500 per 50 kg bag.

“Our farmers will now collect the fertilizer closer home. This will cut the costs of travelling 70 kilometers from Kikima to Wote NCPB depot. This will save time and money,” said Mutula while addressing farmers at Kikima Depot on Friday.

Consequently, he disclosed that 13,000 bags of fertilizer have been received in the county while adding that only those who registered would benefit.

He confirmed that 600 bags were received at Mukuyuni depot adding that at least 32,000 farmers had enlisted for the exercise.

However, the governor emphasized the need for the farmers to ensure they utilized the fertilizer in their

farms in an effort to increase food production and hence avoid relying on relief food from the government. “This fertilizer should be put into proper use by utilizing it on your farms to boost food production. It should not find its way into shops,” he warned.

The governor thanked the national government for the provision of the fertilizer adding that he was ready to work closely with it in a bid to ensure delivery of services to wananchi in the county.

During the event, the governor expressed his concern over the failure of the residents to heed the government’s call to register in order to benefit from the subsidized fertilizer and urged them to take seriously any government communication.

A total of 128,510 farmers have been registered in the county in order to benefit from the subsidised fertilizer.

At least three officers were posted to serve wananchi at the Mukuyuni depot and two to serve at Kikima.

Earlier at Mukuyuni depot, Mutula signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NCPB Managing Director (MD) Joseph Kimote where

the latter agreed to support farmers in the area.

On his part, Kimote said that his organization would assist farmers to minimise post-harvest losses that come due to poor storage which leads to maize getting aflatoxin.

In this regard, he said he would avail a mobile drier to help farmers dry their maize crop to avoid contracting aflatoxin.

“We have a mobile drier that is carried on a tractor. We shall avail it for farmers to dry their maize crop to avoid post-harvest losses,” he added.

At the same time, he challenged farmers to redouble their efforts on the farms in order to boost good production saying his organization was ready to purchase their produce and also assist them find a market for their crops.

Addressing the same event, Makueni County Commissioner (CC) Kaburu Kaimba warned that the government would take stern measures against anybody found diverting the fertilizer.

“The government is keeping a close watch on the fertilizer while being transported and distributed. If anyone is found trying to divert the fer-

tilizer, he will face stern measures,” he warned.

On tree seedlings, the County Commissioner appealed to the residents to take advantage of the ongoing rains to plant trees in order to combat climate change in the area.

In another development, Kaimba said the government has initiated investigations into some churches to establish what they do to avoid misleading wananchi in the area.

“We have started investigations to establish what some churches do in Makueni County. So don’t be lured into joining churches without knowing their background,” the administrator cautioned.

On gambling, he warned that the government would take stern measures against those found gambling saying they have no place here.

“Gambling should not be allowed in our markets and towns. This has spoiled our children and it is banned in the county,” he warned.

Present at the events were the Executive Committee Member (ECM) for the Department of Agriculture Joyce Mutua, county and national government officials and members of the public.