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Second Lady: You Cannot Legislate On Church Matters

News>>NEMA Tightens Regulations To Contain Banned Plastic Bags

P. 8. The swoop was intended to contain discharge of hazardous waste into the environment which will further pollute rivers and other water sources.



Motivation>>Humorous Man Sees Life Under The New Light Of Sportfulness And Love

P. 12. whatever has existence has a charm for him. Humor has justly been regarded as the finest perfection of poetic genius Thomas Carlyle.

Dorcas Gachagua argued that because government lacks an understanding of how spiritual movements function, it would not have capacity to control them.



Second Lady Dorcas Gachagua/FILE

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Afya Yetu. Bima Yetu

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Embu County Gov't Losses Millions Annually In Payroll Mismanagement

By: Samuel Waititu

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The county boss also said the report indicated that there were five cases of individuals sharing bank accounts within the county payroll that amounted to fraud.
- “We want to find out how the individuals were earning a salary every month through the same bank, same branch and account,” she said, adding that they will institute investigations into the matter as well as take appropriate legal measures.



Embu County governor Cecily Mbarire while receiving the staff audit report.

The County Government of Embu has been losing approximately Sh20 million annually through payroll mismanagement and discrepancies.

Governor Cecily Mbarire speaking at the Kenya School of Government, Embu Campus, while receiving a staff audit report from the Institute of Human Resource Management, said the money was mainly lost through irregular allowances that some staffers have been earning.

She said some employees were earning rental house allowance as well as special house allowance while others were receiving special

allowances on top of basic salary that amounted to double pay.

“You cannot earn a rental allowance and still get a special house allowance or earn a basic salary and also a special allowance, it’s one and the same thing,” the governor said.

She said those implicated in the vice will be surcharged for the monies they have been receiving illegally, noting that lack of an internal audit department was largely to blame for the anomaly.

The county boss also said the report indicated that there were five cases of individuals sharing bank ac-

counts within the county payroll that amounted to fraud.

“We want to find out how the individuals were earning a salary every month through the same bank, same branch and account,” she said, adding that they will institute investigations into the matter as well as take appropriate legal measures.

She as well cited another case of payroll mismanagement whereby some 234 staffers were earning a different salary from the payroll from what has been stipulated in their letters of appointment.

Mbarire said action will not only

be taken against the employees, but also on whoever was responsible for the scam.

She said the headcount also indicated that there was a variance of about 411 workers between the headcount and the payroll, but refuted the existence of ghost workers.

“The payroll shows that we have 2, 858 workers while the head count report indicated 3, 269 and the variance could be casuals or those contracted in various departments,” she explained.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Align Projects With The Kenya Kwanza Plan, DP Gachagua Tells Ministry Of Agriculture Officials

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatices

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has urged the Ministry of Agriculture senior officers to ensure that various projects conform with the Kenya Kwanza government Plan. He told Principal Secretaries of the Ministry and project coordinators to assess the status of projects under their watch and identify areas of improvement for effective and efficient implementation. While addressing the senior officials during a consultative meeting at his Harambee Annex office, the Deputy President noted that agriculture remained a key sector to country's economy and thus every effort must be made to make it more efficient and profitable to its stakeholders. "This is why the Kenya Kwanza Administration is keen on ensuring the sector continues to support lives

and livelihoods for sustained economic growth," he said. Further, he observed, "Various projects under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, funded by the Government of Kenya and Development partners, have borne fruit, but we want to do more and align the strategic priorities of the sector to the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda". He urged the project coordinators to quickly align the various projects with the Kenya Kwanza Plan, especially on key pillars of Agriculture; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME); Housing and Settlement; Healthcare; Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy; Environment and Climate Change. Gachagua reminded the officials that President William Ruto is keen on the performance of all the projects to deliver on the Kenya Kwanza Plan.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua during the consultative meeting with Ministry of Agriculture officials yesterday.

Community Health Volunteers Receive Two-Month Stipend For January And February, Offering Much-Needed Reprieve

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatices

Speaking at Gusii stadium, during the engagement with Kisii County governor Simba Arati said that his administration will ensure that Community Health Volunteers (CHV) will receive their stipend every month to sustain themselves. Arati applauded them for an integral part they play in promoting uptake of healthcare services at community levels. This includes maternal and child health, nutrition, family planning, and disease prevention and management. They have also been instrumental in increasing health literacy and promoting healthy behaviors in their communities. Arati said that his administration recognises the critical role that CHWs play in delivering primary



Kisii governor Simba Arati addressing the community Health Volunteers at Gusii Stadium. Photo /Elizabeth Angira.

health care and achieving universal health coverage. It underscores the need for a just transition, undertaken with a gender equity and social inclusion lens, to protect quality jobs for women and other marginalized groups. The governor said community health volunteers have made significant contributions in accessing inte-

rior parts of the region to serve as the first line of defense in detecting and addressing health care issues. He cited that they have passionately dedicated their time in educating residents on the essential health practices such as proper hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, and family planning. "Our CHVs have also gone out to raise awareness and promote healthy behaviors, they can help prevent the spread of diseases and reduce mortality rates," said Arati. He further noted that CHVs have been trained to identify early signs and symptoms of common diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and maternal complications. By conducting regular health screenings and assessments, they can identify individuals at risk and refer them to appropriate healthcare facilities for timely treatment. His sentiments was echoed by Kisii Deputy governor Robert Monda, cited that most of the Community Health Volunteers who are Women are educating young women about prenatal care, safe delivery practices, and postnatal care for both mothers and newborns. They have also promoted immunizations, growth monitoring, and nutrition programs to ensure the well-being of children. "We have seen our CHVs mobilizing community members to actively participate in healthcare initiatives, organizing health campaigns, community meetings, and workshops to promote health-seeking behavior, encourage health facility utilization, and address any prevailing health concerns," he said. The CHVs are working closely with healthcare professionals and local authorities to implement disease prevention and control strategies such as distributing mosquito nets to prevent malaria, promote vaccination programs, conduct awareness campaigns on HIV/AIDS prevention, and advocate for safe water and sanitation practices.

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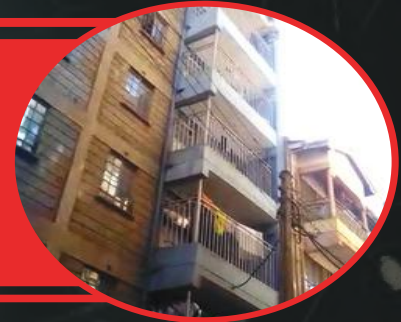
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Man Sentenced To Life Imprisonment For Incest

By: Antony Mwangi

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The magistrate, while delivering the judgement, said that he relied on the evidence and medical reports presented in court.
- “DNA profile samples generated as per the report of the Government Chemist dated January 30, 2023 linked the accused with a 99.9 per cent chance to be the biological father to the child borne out of the offense.
- “The court, in its conclusion, linked the accused to be the perpetrator of the heinous act,” said the magistrate.

A Nyahururu court has sentenced a man to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of committing incest and impregnating his 15-year-old niece.

Joseph Mureithi Gathure was convicted of the sexual offence that he committed on December 16, 2020, in the Lanet area of Nakuru County.

During the hearing of the case, Mureithi claimed in his defence in court that he had been taking care of the minor and paying her school fees and hence could not do such an act.

The prosecution, led by Joshua Mokuu, presented several witnesses during the hearing who testified against the accused and implicated him in the offence.

The prosecutor urged the court to sentence the accused to serve a life term in prison because the victim was underage.

Nyahururu Senior Resident Magistrate Vincent Kiplagat ruled that the prosecution had proved the case against the accused person beyond a reasonable doubt.

The magistrate, while delivering the judgement, said that he relied on the evidence and medical reports presented in court.

“DNA profile samples generated as per the report of the Government Chemist dated January 30, 2023 linked the accused with a 99.9 per cent chance to be the biological father to the child borne out of the offense.

“The court, in its conclusion, linked



the accused to be the perpetrator of the heinous act,” said the magistrate.

SRM Kiplagat said that the accused person took advantage of the underage girl because he was paying school fees for her and would commit the act repeatedly every time the girl would go to collect school fees.

“The offense is grave and deserves no mercy, and therefore this court sentences him to life imprisonment,” said the Magistrate.

On January 24, this year, Gathure caused a drama in court when he

opposed a directive by the court to have his DNA samples collected from him to determine the paternity of the child.

He told the magistrate that he would not allow his blood sample to be taken for DNA testing, describing it as an act of idol worship.

“Giving my blood out for testing is devil worshipping, and it equates to sacrificing yourself to the devil. It is even written in the Bible. I will not allow anyone to take my blood as a sample,” said Gathure.

Magistrate Kiplagat noted that the accused had failed to convince the court that the DNA testing was a form of idol worship and that the court’s order that he undergo the DNA test was in bad faith.

“DNA testing is done by people who are geneticists and are stationed at the government chemist. They will not harm you,” Kiplagat had stated then in court.

The accused person was given 14 days to appeal the sentence.

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NEMA Tightens Regulations To Contain Banned Plastic Bags

By: Ekuwam Sylvester

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- He noted that there was a defined procedure for manufacturers and all users of plastic bags who are supposed to apply for clearance to be allowed to use the recommended plastic bags.
- Mr Kihiu said this is usually done so that when manufacturers manufacture plastic bags, they have set standards and also have a take back mechanism where the used plastics are supposed to be taken back by the manufacturer.
- “The polythene bags are causing a lot of harm to our environment, we have seen flooding in our cities, and it is because storm drains are blocked by these polythene bags. We want the community, the mama mbogas and all of them to adhere and use the recommended bags,” he said.



NEMA officials during the crackdown.

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has called on small businesses operators commonly referred to as Mama Mbogas to avoid use of flimsy paper bags to package their merchandise and embrace use of recommended biodegradable bags that are friendly to the environment.

NEMA through its Rapid Environmental Response Unit (RERU) conducted a crackdown in Eldoret town targeting bakeries and shops using banned plastic bags and also petrol stations, hotels and milk processing factories to ensure they comply with the law by obtaining valid Effluent Discharge Licence (EDL).

The swoop was intended to contain discharge of hazardous waste into the environment which will further pollute rivers and other water sources.

In an interview with the journalists during the operation on the banned plastics in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County NEMA Director of Environment Solomon Kihiu said that plastics pose a serious threat to the environment and urged members of the public to embrace use of the recommended biodegradable bags to package their products.

He noted that there was a defined procedure for manufacturers and all users of plastic bags who are supposed to apply for clearance to be

allowed to use the recommended plastic bags.

Mr Kihiu said this is usually done so that when manufacturers manufacture plastic bags, they have set standards and also have a take back mechanism where the used plastics are supposed to be taken back by the manufacturer.

“The polythene bags are causing a lot of harm to our environment, we have seen flooding in our cities, and it is because storm drains are blocked by these polythene bags. We want the community, the mama mbogas and all of them to adhere and use the recommended bags,” he said.

The director warned manufacturers and users of the banned flimsy paper bags that the law that came into effect in 2017 has punitive penalties and that they risk a fine of a minimum of Sh2 million and maximum of Sh4 million if one is caught with even a single polythene bag.

“It is either 2 million or 1 year in prison that is the penalty. Whether we get you with one polythene bag with no licence that is the punishment, we don’t have categories of the penalties for manufacturers or users,” said Mr Kihiu.

“We are warning the users of those plastic bags, we are telling all of them we have a lot of alternatives in the market and we want them to adhere to that,” he added.

NEMA Regional Director for Rift Valley Njoki Mukiri who led a team from the authority’s headquarters affirmed that the banned plastic bags are coming back slowly through porous borders and noted that they would embrace a multi-agency approach to sustain the operations to ensure the plastics bags do not get back in to the market.

She noted that the crackdown targeted mainly people operating bakeries, supermarkets and shops because that is where the flimsy bags are used in large numbers.

Ms Mukiri affirmed that the team had discovered that there was laxity in people who had been cleared to use the bags to renew license on time and also adhering to the conditions of the licence.

“We have already arrested about four people mainly from bakeries because we found that they are using these bags that are printed but are not cleared by NEMA. We have realized that they have been issued with clearance but are not adhering to the conditions that were issued and that is why we have arrested them and we are going to arraign them in the court of law,” said Ms Mukiri.

She noted that the enforcement of the law to curb the banned plastics has been very successful and that the only challenge was few cases of plastic bags coming in through po-

rous borders from the neighbouring countries, which calls for sustained surveillance to prevent further entry of banned plastics into the country.

“We want to ensure that we sustain this kind of inspections because we have realized that we still have very porous borders around, like Eldoret which is not very far from the Uganda border and therefore these papers can easily be brought in,” she said.

“We want to embrace a multi-agency approach and work with other agencies because these bags are coming in from neighbouring countries,” she added.

NEMA Environmental Inspector Sophie Mutemi warned the members of the public who have been using the banned plastics that the law is still in force despite the fact that many have relaxed and have forgotten hence end up using the outlawed plastic bags.

“We are here to send out a warning to the members of the public that the law will catch up with them. NEMA will not relent, we are going to ensure that we rid the country of the flimsy plastic bags and they should know that once we get hold of them, we will prosecute them and will ensure that no one is left out using the banned plastics,” warned Mutemi.

Second Lady: You Cannot Legislate On Church Matters

By: Sharon Resian



Second Lady Dorcas Gachagua/FILE.

Worth Noting:

- Pastor Dorcas also said regulating churches would amount to restricting the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Constitution (2010) and that the government should not condemn all churches uniformly because most of these churches are founded on values that aim at enhancing society.
- She added that while churches could be audited, such an activity could only happen internally and not be instigated externally by the government.
- “You cannot find one prophet and say that all prophets are false. It is wrong to wrap everybody up and criminalize them. People are different and behave differently,” she stated.

Second Lady Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has cautioned against attempt to regulate churches saying the government has no capacity and lacks the authority to regulate churches.

Pastor Dorcas insisted that while the government is political unit exercising authority to rule, churches are spiritual movements that operate based on faith as the moral compass and conscience of society.

She argued that because government lacks an understanding of how spiritual movements function, it would not have capacity to control them.

“You cannot be able to legislate church, you cannot be able to regulate that which you don’t understand,” she said.

“When they say that the church should be governed by a person who has gone to school and who has degrees and PhDs, I ask them, where is it written in the Bible? Which college did Jesus go to? When it comes to matters divine, they better leave it to us,” the Second Lady, herself a preacher, said yesterday at CCI church in Thika.

Freedom of worship

Pastor Dorcas also said regulating churches would amount to restricting the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Constitution (2010) and that the government should not condemn all churches uniformly because most of these churches are founded on values that aim at enhancing society.

She added that while churches could be audited, such an activity could only happen internally and not be instigated externally by the government.

“You cannot find one prophet and say that all prophets are false. It is wrong to wrap everybody up and criminalize them. People are different and behave differently,” she stated.

“As teachers in the church of God, we play an integral role in the government and in society; the Church and Government can never be separated because both are called to serve God’s people. They complement each other to dignify the lives and future of all citizens.”

She made the statement days after Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki proposed stronger regulations for future religious activities in the nation, including self-regulation

of the organizations.

The Senate has already established a committee to propose laws aimed at bringing sanity to religious institutions.

Senate inquiry

Senators cited cases of leaders of religious institutions taking advantage of gullible Kenyans and especially children, the latest incident in Shakahola leading to the deaths of more than 100 citizens.

In a motion moved by Majority Whip and Kakemega Senator Bonny Khalwale, the Senate mandated an 11-member committee to investigate circumstances leading to the death of followers of the Good News International Church.

The Senate tasked the team to investigate the role played by the church’s controversial pastor Paul Mackenzie, his pastoral team, and the Kilifi County security apparatus in the mass deaths blamed on starvation.

Further the committee was tasked to establish, through the Office of Registrar of Societies, the number, and activities of religious groups in the country and to audit the legal and registration framework for religious

organizations.

The team is also required to develop legislative proposal on regulation of religious activities in the country and make any other recommendation that will prevent religious organizations from extreme indoctrination of their followers, including radicalization, spiritual and financial exploitation.

Khalwale noted most of the victims found at the Shakahola murder site demonstrated that religious leaders were taking advantage of Kenyans who were weak, especially children.

“It is appalling that in his own home, where he lives with his wife and children, a mass grave of children aged between 3 and 12 were buried; how a two-year-old is denied food in the name of fasting beats logic,” said the Senator.

“The committee owes the 53 million Kenyans that never again will a Christian child, never again will a Muslim child, never again will the child of this country, be denied an opportunity to drink water, to eat food in the name of religion,” he said.

Cost Of Film Making To Be Reduced - KFCB CEO Christopher Wambua

By: Steve Gatheru
@themkenyatimes

Local film makers can expect to pay up to 15 per cent less for their production and distribution licences if a review of the regulations guiding film classifications is successful.

Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) CEO Christopher Wambua said the move to reduce the fees filmmakers and distributors pay is meant to encourage the local film industry to produce more content as a way of generating employment and creating wealth.

It is also hoped that the reduction will result in cheaper locally produced content that local TV stations can then buy for airplay and reduce their dependence on foreign soaps.

Mr Wambua, who spoke in Embu during a public participation forum on the new regulations said the reduction that is expected to come as a great relief to filmmakers and actors



across the country is part of the efforts to create a conducive environment for growth of creative arts.

Wambua revealed that among the changes to come is a provision for content creators and distributors to classify their own content without reference to the board, a move that has been necessitated by the huge volume of content created by producers.

This, he said, will ease business by doing away with the time producers would have to wait for KFCB to review and classify their films. Currently, the law requires that all local and foreign films meant for exhibition in the country be classified by the board, a herculean task due to the high number of films presented.

The reforms will also introduce a

new classification grade, PG 13 to add to the GE, PG 10, PG16 and 18 currently used.

To encourage higher film attendance, the board hopes to discount charges for exhibitors with more than one screen as a way of encouraging exhibitors to invest in more movie theaters.

He added that they will also be reviewing the licensing model for “series” producers so that they are charged per season rather than per episode, which currently makes it very expensive for young filmmaking companies.

Sheikh Ramadhan Njuguna, who represented the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) at the forum challenged local film makers to use film to tackle social problems saying they concentrated too much on love and sex issues.

He added that the government should give the filmmakers incentives to produce films that improve the well-being of Kenyans and fight social vices.

Medics Union Raise Concern Over Doctors Shortage

By: Peace Muthoka and Lucy Gitei

The Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists, and Dentists Union (KMPDU) has decried the scarcity of doctors in the country.

Addressing the press at Ufungamano House, KMPDU Secretary General Dr. Davji Bhimji Atella said that the union is facing a crisis of unemployment and underemployment of doctors, delayed posting of interns, and delayed payment of intern salaries, which is compromising the quality of healthcare in public facilities.

He disclosed that in Kenya, it takes at least 7 years to train as a medical doctor and 1 year of compulsory internship.

He added that it is sad that a nation would spend a lot of resources and time training these professionals and



Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union Secretary General Dr Davji Bhimji Atella addressing the media while flanked by colleagues

fail to utilise them to save the lives of Kenyans who continue to die from treatable diseases.

Further, Atella insisted that the unemployment crisis in the healthcare system is a major setback to the government’s agenda of implementing Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

“The 1:17000 doctor-to-patient ratio in Kenya is far off the 1:1000 ratio recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and has compromised the delivery of quality healthcare services,” revealed Atella, adding that Kenya seems to have

adopted a policy of training them without absorbing them into service.

According to the union SG, the severe shortage of medical officers, pharmacists, and dentists in public hospitals has made employees work long hours without going on leave, which makes them unable to attend to patients appropriately.

Atella also pointed out that the delayed posting and payment of interns has made them struggle to make ends meet.

He added that the interns are unable to meet their basic needs, which has led to demotivation in the workforce and consequently affects the quality of healthcare in public facilities.

“The Ministry of Health had agreed to have interns posted by April, which has not happened yet,” said the SG.

Leaders Should Put Aside Thier Political Differences And Give Mukami A Decent Burial



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- He wished her a quick recovery and announced that President William Ruto to settle her medical bill of Sh4 billion. We learnt that she had been discharged but she was being held because of non payment of the bill when the President and I were in Nyanza and Western Kenya to launch development projects.
- The President told me to immediately return to Nairobi to sort out this matter.
- Speaking besides her hospital bed, Rigathi told her family. Maitu (grandmother) will now go home. Please keep updating us about her progress. As a government, we are ready to provide all the support needed.



Freedom fighter Mukami Kimathi .

Freedom fighter Mukami Kimathi will be laid to rest on Saturday at her Njabini home in Nyandarua County. After the sad news of her demise broke out, the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua led a group of elected leaders, mostly drawn from Mount Kenya region, to view and pay last respect to her body lying at The Lee Funeral Home.

He later visited her home in Njabini and announced the government has taken the burial preparations.

“We are mourning a great patriot and heroine. Apart from being the wife of Freedom Fighter Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi, she joined other fighters who fought fiercely the British colonial administration.

At one point, she was arrested and upon conviction served her jail term at Kamiti Maximum Prison.

As government, we recognize gal-lant role she played. We also appreciate the contributions of other freedom fighters”.

Gachagua, a son of Mau Mau, had a few weeks visited Mukami at Nairo-

bi Hospital.

He wished her a quick recovery and announced that President William Ruto to settle her medical bill of Sh4 billion. We learnt that she had been discharged but she was being held because of non payment of the bill when the President and I were in Nyanza and Western Kenya to launch development projects.

The President told me to immediately return to Nairobi to sort out this matter.

Speaking besides her hospital bed, Rigathi told her family. Maitu (grandmother) will now go home. Please keep updating us about her progress. As a government, we are ready to provide all the support needed.

We pray God to restore her strength and energy.

We wish to see this great fighter living a long life.

Reports have indicated President William Ruto will lead the government team in this burial.

The Azimio La Umoja One Ken-

ya Coalition Raila Odinga also announced that he will attend.

Mama Mukami is a freedom fighter. I don’t need permission from anyone. So I will attend whether I am invited or not. He also warned DP Gachagua against politicizing this burial.

One would not understand why Raila made these comments.

I had followed the statements attributed to DP and I never heard him telling the Azimio leader and his brigade not to attend this burial.

Gachagua would only shower Mama Mukami with praises because of her contribution in struggle to liberate Kenya from the draconian, oppressive and imperialist rule of colonial government.

He would also state that the government of President Ruto was committed to give her a decent burial.

Perhaps, Raila’s anger emanated from Gachagua’s pronouncement that he is a son of Mau Mau. Raila does not believe so. Does he know DP’s parents? Does he know what

they were doing during the struggle? He should prove this with facts.

It is also worth to note Raila himself is not a son of Mau Mau.

The call by Gachagua to give Mama Makumi a decent burial would bear the fruits if leaders from both sides of political divide restrain themselves from using this ceremony to settle political scores.

We know this burial comes at a time when the political temperature was high.

This follows the dispute arising from the presidential election held in August last year.

The leadership of Kenya Kwanza and Azimio were yet to agree on how to sort out contentious issues.

Raila who had unsuccessfully contested for the fifth time was yet to accept the outcome.

This is despite losing his petition at the Supreme Court of Kenya. In a unanimous decision, the judges upheld the victory of President Ruto.

The local, regional, continental and international observers had also given the poll a clean bill of health.

In all elections he had lost, Raila would always allege he had been rigged out.

It will be wrong to turn Ms Mukami burial into a theatre of grandstanding and escalating their headline stances.

I know Raila’s wish is to use this event to demonstrate that he is one who truly believed in the ideals and aspirations of the freedom fighters.

In addition, he would try to portray himself as a leading light in championing the plight of the surviving freedom fighters and their families.

Politicians are good in reading public mood. So, noting that audience were Kikuyus, Raila may not end his speech without mentioning the name of former President Mwai Kibaki.

Sometimes back, I heard him saying. As a Prime Minister during the reign of the grand coalition government, I worked with President Kibaki to address their plight. He is likely to repeat this in Njabini.

I want to remind Raila. President Ruto and Gachagua valued the contributions of Mau Mau and had shown in deeds and actions that they were committed to address the plight of surviving ones and their families. So, don’t expect to take credit alone.

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

Humorous Man Sees Life Under The New Light Of Sportfulness And Love

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Some people are born humorous others cultivate the culture of humour. It helps them in their interaction with other people as they make happy moments more jovial and brighten up dull moments making the life worth living.
- Being humorous helps emit positive energies necessary in making the mood good in whatever you are involved in. You learn to appreciate life for various reasons the major one being your mere existence ensuring than you have an opportunity to shine.
- To identify humorous people you can hear or see their uniqueness in their tonation, pronunciation, speeches, walking style and all other illustrations they make look funny.



The man of Humor sees common life, even mean life, under the new light of sportfulness and love; whatever has existence has a charm for him. Humor has justly been regarded as the finest perfection of poetic genius Thomas Carlyle.

The experts in chemistry talks of carbon and its many structures due to the combination to form different products of various strengths from the gases to liquids to solid products yet at the atom level it remains constant. This nature is called allotropy. Different users of carbon will be happy with it at different states. A similar case applies to humour, it is in every aspect of life but we need to know how to bring it out. It can

affect anyone.

The way you present an issue is the one that will make it amusing or not. You do not need to struggle crafting it rather you need to be aware of human expectations then align it towards that or do it in a manner that makes it simpler that they could expect in an amazing manner making it to look funny for example representing a serious issue in a childish way that comfortably resembles that situation making those who expected the process to be complex to see the toddler view of it.

There is a silver lining in everything that happens and it is advisable to focus much on it and you will always see the bright side of life and have

something to smile about as well as to share with others.

Some people are born humorous others cultivate the culture of humour. It helps them in their interaction with other people as they make happy moments more jovial and brighten up dull moments making the life worth living.

Being humorous helps emit positive energies necessary in making the mood good in whatever you are involved in. You learn to appreciate life for various reasons the major one being your mere existence ensuring than you have an opportunity to shine.

To identify humorous people you can hear or see their uniqueness

in their tonation, pronunciation, speeches, walking style and all other illustrations they make look funny.

There is great portray of creative aspect of man when he is able to model his mannerisms so as to produce a certain desired effect not only to him but also to all the others impacted.

Happy are those who are able to use whatever is readily available within them to make their lives as well as those of others better and better. If you have such a talent be thankful for it and feel happy when entertaining others.

NCBA, Strathmore Business School, Partners to Empower SMEs

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

NCBA and Strathmore Business School have entered into a strategic partnership that will aim to provide enhanced support and resources to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The partnership signing agreement marks a significant step towards fostering the growth and success of SMEs, which play a pivotal role in Kenya's economy.

As part of this collaboration, NCBA's SME clients will gain exclusive access to a wide range of business courses offered by Strathmore Business School at discounted rates. This initiative aims to equip SMEs with the necessary knowledge and skills to overcome business challenges, seize opportunities, and achieve sustainable growth.

Speaking during the partnership signing event, Tirus Mwithiga, Group Director, Retail Banking, NCBA Group, said, "Creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive is at the cornerstone of what



NCBA, Strathmore Business School, Partners to Empower SMEs.

we do as NCBA. Our approach is to contribute to economic stabilization through inclusive economic development and sustainable job creation, by boosting SMEs competitiveness." "We have spent the last three years investing in building our SME offering by ensuring our products and services meet our SME customer needs, as well as getting the right talent that understands their market needs. We're committed to providing our customers with the tools, resources, and support they need to thrive and

become successful." He added. Also present at the event was Dr Caesar Mwangi, Executive Dean, Strathmore Business School, who said, "We are committed to nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship and equipping SMEs with the skills and knowledge they need to navigate the complexities of the business landscape. Together, we can create an ecosystem that fosters sustainable growth, empowers entrepreneurs, and ultimately contributes to the socio-economic development of Kenya"

Through the Strathmore Enterprise Development Program NCBA's SME clients will be able to access the 16 week course at a discounted rate and they will get to learn fundamentals that will help propel their business to the next level. In addition to the collaboration with Strathmore Business School, NCBA will be introducing a Learning Management System (LMS) training platform exclusively for their SME customers. This innovative platform

will offer a variety of training modules, webinars, and resources to help SMEs enhance their business skills, financial management, and overall competitiveness in the market. Similarly, the bank will be giving a select number of its SME clients an opportunity to travel to Turkey in the month of August, where they will get exposure to global markets, as part of NCBA's SME offering.

Committee On Communication, Information And Innovation Hosts Namibian Counterparts; Consult On Issues Of Mutual Interest

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation chaired by Dagoreteti South MP, John Kiarie, hosted a delegation from the Namibian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information, Communication, Technology and Innovation. The engagement aimed at providing a platform for knowledge exchange on various areas including best parliamentary practices and provision of WiFi in public institutions.

In his remarks, the Chairperson, highlighted the establishment and mandate of the committee, the activities that the Committee has undertaken towards its role in legislation,

oversight and representation. He also recognized the role that the Government, led by President William Ruto is playing in the ICT space through the Digital Superhighway Agenda. The Chairperson of the Namibian Parliamentary Committee on Communication, Technology and Innovation Modestus Amutse highlighted to their Kenyan hosts; the Namibian National Assembly Structure, the mandate, and establishment of the committee. He acknowledged the great milestones that Kenya has made in implementing the free WiFi concept, indicating a keen interest to benchmark on what to borrow, and thereafter strategize on how to successfully introduce the model in Namibia. The morning session drew lots of engagements, experience sharing, as well as comparative analyses of

the challenges experienced by both sides on matters ICT and Innovation. The two Committees recognized the role of such collaborative meetings in enabling successful attainment of ICT and the digital economy work across borders

Chairperson, John Kiarie .



Mai Van Phan



THE SOUL FLEW AWAY...

...

A spider's hammock being torn by the lifting fog
Returns freedom to the soft tongues of grass

The drifting clouds rub out
A horizon that has just buried darkness

Blood resurrected within the ground
Turns into young sap welling up at each falling leaf

While long-suffering shadows remain silent
The thrush bursts out a firework of calls

Buds are shooting up dividing walls
As arteries of streams clear and circulate

Tongues made of glass break into voices
To discuss each discolored photo

The words in a notebook having dreamed of fire
Just before they become ashes, suddenly come to

When moving out, one has tossed the incense
sticks' leftovers into the river
So one wonders why fragrant smoke still lingers...

[Translated From Vietnamese by Nhat-Lang Le
Edited by Susan Blanshard]

WIND CREST

I.

Crawling on sharp tops of the rock
Body of wind scratches

Blood of wind is rain
Sunshine drips down

Mountains roll the kiss up high
Gray clouds cast into black

Mountains open wide their arms, trampling feet
into ground
Crushing into fragments
Tears the body of wind into pieces
The starlight falling
Morning bursting out

Up to the top of slope in a flash
Open eyes look down

The kisses heaped higher
The frenzied wind rolls up on another crest.

II.

Finding your mouth to sow
Wind clinging to tender limbs of land
Plunge down to the abyss

Rot the bowels of hills and mountains
Chest of wind drifting
Playing on the ground

The shell cracked flash
Spring overflows the grain mouth

Waiting to sprout the cotyledons
Wind will carry the ground away.

III.

Shut tight the door the more wind blows
Things suddenly remembered, tighten in my chest

The eye of wind swept me into you
Turning quickly round and round

Swiftly passing a bridge
My body was bent by the wind
Hung like a wet towel across the railing
Dripping down into a swift-flowing river.

Remembering how the train cuts through a body
of wind
Columns of smoke overturn and siren sounds
disappear in an instant

My breath is constrained through the trumpet-
reed
The pressure like an eagle wings spreading wide
Raising fragile dragonfly wings
Cavalier on the wind's crest

Outside the vault of leaf disorder
Torn to satisfy the frenzied excitement
This inhibition of lust.

[Translated from Vietnamese by Tran Nghi Hoàng
Edited by Frederick Turner]

Vietnamese poet Mai Van Phan was born 1955 in Ninh Binh, Red River Delta in North Vietnam. Currently, he is living and writing poems in Hai Phong city. He has published 16 poetry books and 1 book "Critiques - Essays" in Vietnam. 29 poetry books of his are published and released in foreign countries and on Amazon's book distribution network. Poems of Mai Van Phan are translated into more than 40 languages. He has won a number of Vietnamese and international literary awards, including, The Vietnam Writers' Association Award in 2010; The Cikada Literary Prize of Sweden in 2017; The Award of Newspaper Kitob Dunyosi (Uzbekistan) in 2021..

State Agencies Put To Task On Employment Diversity

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Four State Agencies have appeared before the Committee of National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity on employment diversity and compliance with the thirty (30) percent public procurement reservation for special interest groups as provided for under section 157(5) of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act.

In a session chaired by Liza Chelule, the National Youth Service, Kenya Airports Authority, Kenya Electricity Generating Company and Kenya National Highway Authority made submissions before Members of the Committee.



Hon. Liza Chelule.

The National Youth Service has a total of 2,260 employees. According to a report before the Committee, 873 employees are female and 1,387 are male employees. Out of Kenya's 46 Communities, only 33 Commu-

nities are represented in the service. Mr. James Tembur.

Speaking during his presentation, Ag. Director General, Mr. Tembur said that they face challenges during recruitment. "There is a lack of minimum qualifications from the minority communities," he added.

Committee Members also met with the management of Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) led by the CEO, Mr. Alex Gitari.

Legislators were particularly disappointed with the procurement report submitted by Mr. Gitari, noting that it doesn't merit the standards of admission.

On his part, Mr. Abraham Serem, CEO Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (Kengen), mentioned that despite the advertisements put in place, the organization still receives low numbers of Persons with Disability (PWDs) employing. Out of 2,602 employees, the company has 44 PWDs.

Lawmakers' were briefed that the majority of employees in Kenya National Highway Authority (KENHA) are between 35 years to 39 years. Eng. Kungu Ndungu further explained that applicants from the disadvantaged groups who submit their candidature for vacant positions fail to meet the required minimum requirements leading to the disqualification from the recruitment process.

However, Members were not satisfied with the documents presented before them.

Liza Chelule who chaired the meeting told the agencies to take note of all the issues raised and resubmit their reports before the next meeting.

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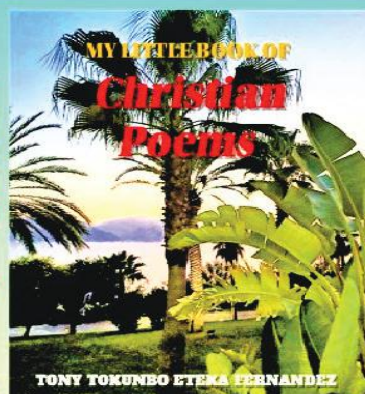
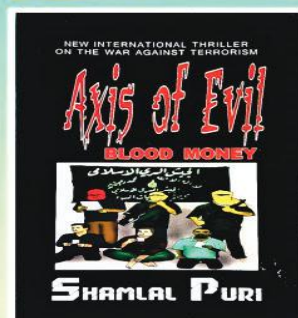
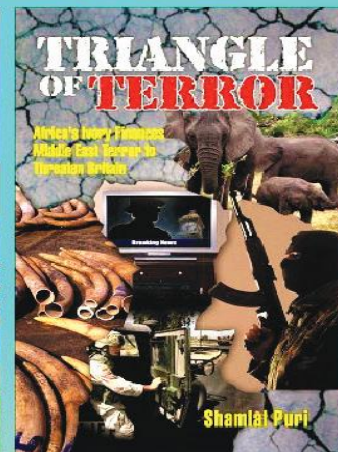
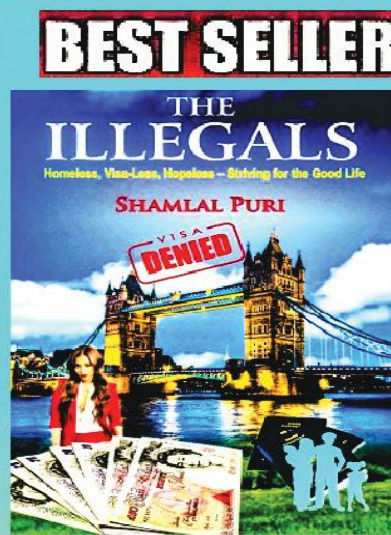
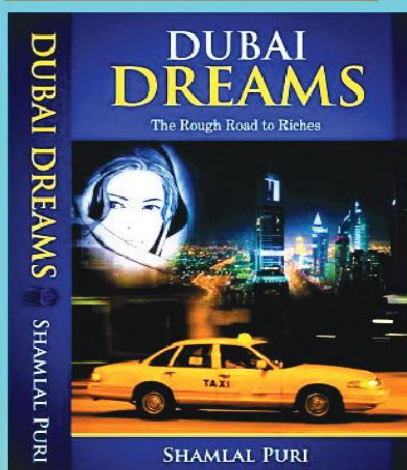
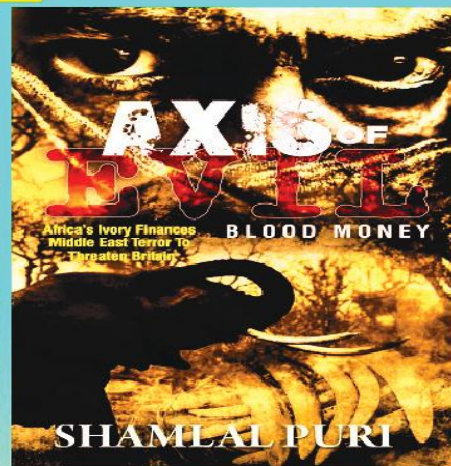
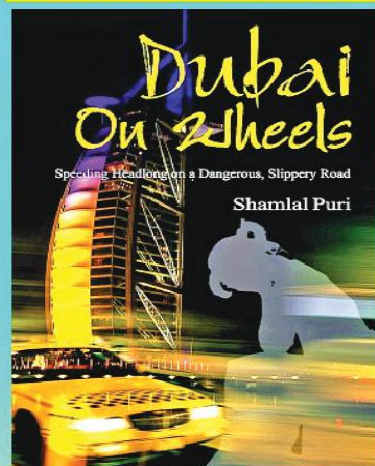
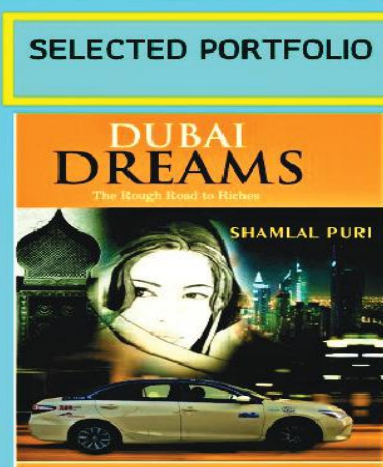
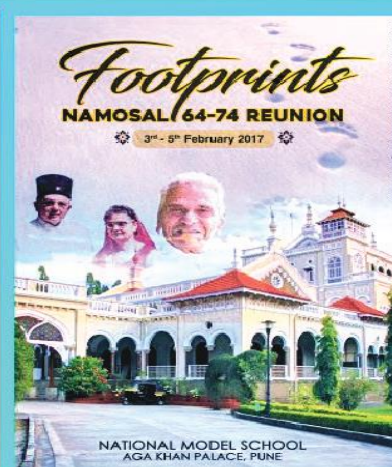
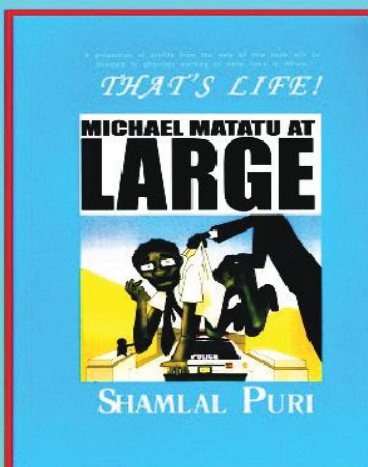
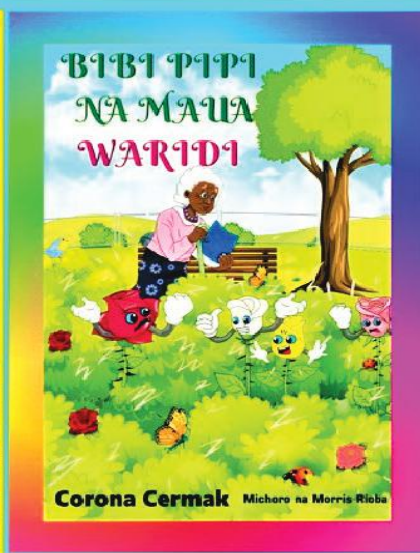
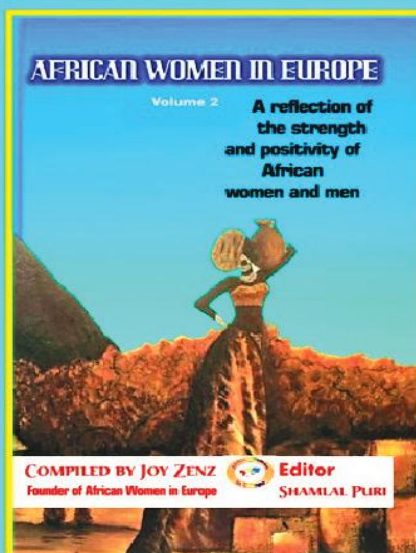
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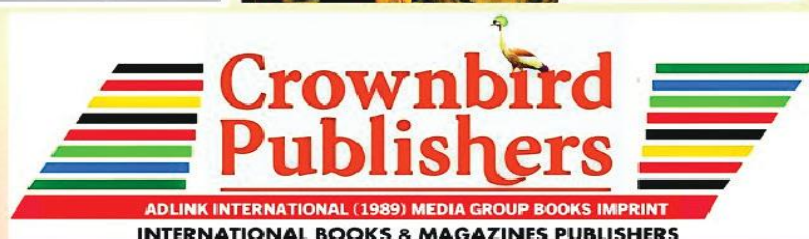
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BUSINESS

Homebiogas Officially Launches Operations In Kenya

By: Business Reporter
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- HomeBiogas for dairy farmers can manage up to 8,000 litres of organic waste daily and generate up to 5 hours of free cooking gas daily. It creates tens of liters of liquid fertilizer every month and saves 6 Tons of CO2 emissions a year which is equivalent to a vehicle's annual carbon emission. This system exists in a variety of sizes and includes a larger version created for farmers that deal with larger amounts of farm waste.
- Speaking during the event Yair Teller, Co-founder and Chief Business Officer at Home-Biogas: "I founded Home-Biogas to impact the world on many levels. Today, HomeBiogas is impacting important, pressing issues around the world such as climate change, waste management, and renewable energy.

HomeBiogas is set to host the Israel ambassador, national and county government representatives, and key renewable energy stakeholders as it celebrates 1 year of changing lives in Kenya at its main hub in Ting'ang'a, Kiambu county.

HomeBiogas develops biogas systems enabling households, businesses, farms, schools, and more to turn their organic waste into clean energy for cooking on-site. It is the most cost-effective biogas solution for small dairy farmers in Kenya as it allows recycling of cow manure into clean cooking energy and rich organic fertilizer allowing farmers to cut costs on charcoal, chemical fertilizer, saving money every day.

In Kenya, HomeBiogas has installed 1,500 active systems served by hubs located in Kiambu, Embu, Murang'a and Meru counties with a strong mission to grow the customer base. Globally HomeBiogas has sold over 15,000 systems in 107 countries to various customers that want renewable energy while recycling all their organic waste.

It has partnered with local and international organization to help in sanitation, clean cooking, and sustainable farming. Examples are UN refugee camps in Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda where HomeBiogas was contracted to set up bio-digesters.

HomeBiogas for dairy farmers can manage up to 8,000 litres of organic waste daily and generate up to 5 hours of free cooking gas daily. It creates tens of liters of liquid fertilizer every month and saves 6 Tons of CO2 emissions a year which is equivalent to a vehicle's annual carbon emission. This system exists in a variety of sizes and includes a larger version created for farmers that deal with larger amounts of farm waste.

Speaking during the event Yair Teller, Co-founder and Chief Business Officer at HomeBiogas:

"I founded HomeBiogas to impact the world on many levels. Today, HomeBiogas is impacting important, pressing issues around the world such as climate change, waste management, and renewable energy."

With 84% of Kenyans still rely on polluting fuel, 6 million trees being cut down each day and 16 million people dying globally every year because of indoor pollution we saw an opportunity to provide a more sustainable solution for longer term through our innovative, easy to use and price sensitive system that is accessible to small scale farmers.

The driving force behind HomeBiogas is to develop a portfolio of products that will treat organic waste on-site and in turn, will benefit the environment and help people and businesses worldwide shift to clean renewable energy.



Barak Granot - Head of Economics & Trade Missions Embassy of Israel giving his speech at the Homebiogas Anniversary Celebration.



Daniel Mungai - County Commercial Manager at Homebiogas illustrating to the audience how the biodigester operates.



From Front Hon. Anne Wamuratha - Women Rep Kiambu County, Professor Kiriangai CEC Agric Muranga County, Eitan Hatzor - International Devt Expert & Barak Granot - Head of Economics & Trade Mission (Embassy of Israel).



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Using Word Reductions And Assimilation During Speaking In English

By: Sharipova Nodira Shavkat

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

Progressive assimilation

This refers to when a sound is influenced by the sound that comes before it.

The /s/ sound is influenced by the previous sound and changes to a /z/ sound, e.g.

/bægs/ (bags) → /bægz/ (bagz)

Regressive assimilation

This refers to when a sound is influenced by the sound that comes after it.

The /n/ sound is influenced by the following sound and changes to an /m/ sound, e.g.

/ɪnfəmeɪʃən/ (information) → /ɪmfəmeɪʃən/ (imformation).

What are the degrees of assimilation?

The types of phonetic assimilation mentioned above can further be split into two degrees of assimilation: total and partial.

ABSTRACT:

When we speak, we often change the ways we pronounce words. This tends to happen a lot if we speak fast. But do you know why this happens? This relates to the topic we are focusing on today - phonetic assimilation.

This article will explore the definition of phonetic assimilation, the different types, and some examples of each. It will also consider the differences between assimilation, elision, and epenthesis - as it is easy to get these three processes mixed up!

Key words:

progressive and regressive assimilation, total and partial assimilation, elision, phrase, sound. Assimilation in phonetics

INTRODUCTION

Assimilation in phonetics is the process in which a sound is influenced by and becomes similar to a surrounding sound. This means that the pronunciation can vary depending on the order of certain letters in different words. This is usually done to ease pronunciation, especially when words are said quickly. An example would be the word 'handbag'. Native speakers rarely pronounce each letter clearly as this does not flow well and is more difficult to pronounce in fast speech. Instead, they would probably pronounce it as /hæmbæg/ (hambag).

Why is this?

This happens because both the /d/ and /b/ sounds have different places of articulation, meaning they are pronounced using different parts of the mouth:

/d/ is pronounced by tapping the tongue against the alveolar ridge (the part right behind your upper teeth). /b/ is bilabial, meaning it is pronounced by placing both of your lips together. This makes it difficult to pronounce both of these letters sequentially, so the /d/ gets dropped. The /n/ sound is also pronounced by tapping the tongue against the alveolar ridge, but, because it comes before the bilabial consonant /b/, it is labialised instead. This means that the /n/ sound turns into an /m/ sound. This makes it easier to pronounce the /m/ and /b/ sequentially, as they are both pronounced using the same parts of the mouth (the lips). Other

examples of words where this process occurs are sandbox, standby, windbreaker, sandwich etc.

What are the assimilation phonetics rules?

Assimilation in phonetics can be described as having a certain set of rules. These rules determine how sounds assimilate to others depending on what's surrounding them. For example a sound being changed because of what precedes it such as the 's' in 'bags' being changed to a voiced 'z' sound. These assimilation 'rules' determine the different types of assimilation in phonetics. We'll have a look at these now.

Types of assimilation in phonetics

There are different types of assimilation depending on which sounds are altered. A sound can either be influenced by the sound that comes before it or after it. The types are as follows: Progressive (before)/ Regressive (after)

Let's look at these in more detail.

Progressive assimilation

This refers to when a sound is influenced by the sound that comes before it.

The /s/ sound is influenced by the previous sound and changes to a /z/ sound, e.g.

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Regressive assimilation

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What are the degrees of assimilation?

The types of phonetic assimilation mentioned above can further be split into two degrees of assimilation: total and partial.

Total assimilation

This refers to when the sound affected by the assimilation becomes the same as the sound that causes the assimilation. You can notice this

within words or across sentences. For example, let's take the phrase 'this shoe'. In fast speech, the /s/ sound at the end of 'this' is affected by the /ʃ/ (sh sound) at the beginning of shoe' and changes to the /ʃ/ sound. /ðɪs juː/ (this shoe) → /ðɪʃjuː/ (thish-shoe)

Partial assimilation

This refers to when the sound affected by the assimilation becomes similar to the sound that causes the assimilation but does not change completely.

For example, let's take the phrase 'sit back'. In fast speech, the /t/ sound is influenced by the following /b/ sound and changes to become a /p/ sound:

/sɪt bæk/ (sit back) → /sɪpbæk/ (sip-back) /p/ is similar to a /b/ as they share the same place of articulation - both sounds are made by placing your lips together and pushing air out. But, they are not entirely the same, so this is only partial assimilation. Partial assimilation is more common than total!

Phonetic assimilation examples Assimilation and elision in phonetics

It is easy to mix up elision and assimilation as they often occur simultaneously, and both are processes that change the pronunciation of words.

Elision refers to when consonants are omitted from a word/phrase. This is usually done to make words or phrases easier to pronounce in fast speech. It helps the utterance flow

more naturally. In the phrase 'you and me', instead of pronouncing all the letters, the /d/ sound can be dropped, and the /æ/ can be replaced with a schwa

/ə/ sound. The schwa sound is not as strong of a sound and makes the words flow more efficiently. So, /juː ænd miː/ (you and me) turns into /juː ən miː/ (you 'n me).

Epenthesis vs. assimilation in phonetics

This refers to when extra sounds are added to a word. This does not change the spelling of the word, only the pronunciation. The word 'hamster' may be pronounced as /hæmpstə/ (hampster), as it is easier to transition from a /p/ to an /s/ than to follow an /m/ with an /s/ due to the places of articulation. The use of the rhotic /r/ sound in words that do not contain it in the spelling. This is known as the intrusive r.

This is commonly found in most varieties of British English, where /r/ is added to words that usually would not contain one. E.g. The word drawing is pronounced like /drɔːrɪŋ/ (draw-ring).

Assimilation and accommodation in phonetics

The terms assimilation and accommodation are both often used in phonetics when we talk about sound change. These are not interchangeable terms though; they relate to different types of sound change. Assimilation is when a sound change is influenced by and becomes similar to its surrounding speech sounds. Accommodation is when people's speech sounds change depending on

Below are some examples of phonetic assimilation:

Change	Examples	Type of assimilation
/n/ changes to an /m/	/ɪn pærɪs/ (in Paris) ? /ɪm pærɪs/ (im Paris)/sʔnbed/ (sunbed) ? /sʔmbed/ (sum-bed)	Regressive
/d/ changes to a /t/	/mæʃd/ (mashed) ? /mæʃt/ (masht)/wʔʔd/ (washed) ? /wʔʔt/ (washt)	Progressive
/n/ changes to an /ʔ/	/bæŋk/ (bank) ? /bæʔk/ (bangk)/ɪŋkʔrekt/ (incorrect) ? ʔʔkʔrekt (ingcorrect)	Regressive

/s/ changes to a /z/	/dʔgs/ (dogs) ? /dʔgz/ (dogz)/rʔgs/ (rugs) ? /rʔgz/ (rugz)	Progressive
/v/ changes to an /f/	/hæv tuː/ (have to) ? /hæf tuː/ (haf to)/faʔpens/ (five pence) ? /faʔfens/ (faif pence)	Regressive

Nyeri National Polytechnic To Launch Competency Based Skills Curriculum

By: Our Correspondent
@themtkenyentimes

Nyeri National Polytechnic is set to launch a skilled based curriculum that will conform with the new education system.

According to the institution Chief Principal David Maina Mwangi, the new Curriculum will kick off before the end of the month.

Tomorrow, the institution will be launching the Competency Based Skills Curriculum during an event that is expected to be graced by among others Principal Secretary in charge of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) and Chief Executive Officer for Kenya National Qualifications Authority.

Yesterday, Mwangi revealed that his institutions had lined up 92 different courses which students can train at the facility which is situated



Nyeri National Polytechnic Chief Principal David Maina Mwangi.

less than two kilometres from Nyeri town.

Some of the new courses that are up for grab by potential learners are jua-kali based like Mechanic, Capentry, Mason, Plumbing, Hair Dressing Tailoring, among others.

Mwangi want various stakeholders, especially those in different sectors

to join hands with his institution in advising what courses it should offer in order to make their students employable easily.

Tomorrow's event is expected to also create a forum where such stakeholders can air their views.



Using Word Reductions And Assimilation During Speaking In English

Contd from Page 18.

who they're talking to. For example, if you're trying to make someone feel more comfortable or gain social approval, you'll slightly alter how you speak to accommodate the speech of your interlocutor. You can also create distance from the other person by emphasising linguistic differences and speaking differently to them.

Both assimilation and accommodation are most often subconscious sound changes.-

Phonetic Assimilation - Key Take-aways

Phonetic assimilation is the process in which a sound is influenced by and becomes similar to a surrounding sound. There two types of phonetic assimilation are: progressive and regressive. The two degrees of phonetic assimilation are: total and

partial.Elision refers to when consonants are omitted from a word/phrase. Epenthesis refers to when extra sounds are added to a word.

Frequently Asked Questions about Phonetic Assimilation

What is assimilation in English phonetics?

Assimilation in phonetics is the process in which a sound is influenced by and becomes similar to a surrounding sound.

What are the 4 types of phonetic assimilation?

The types of assimilation are progressive and regressive. These can also be split into two degrees: total or partial.

What is assimilation in phonetics with example?

Assimilation in phonetics is when a sound is influenced by and changed to sound like its neighbouring sounds. An example of assimilation

is when the /n/ sound is influenced by the following sound in a word, so it becomes an /m/, e.g.:
/ɪnfəmeɪʃən/ (information) → /ɪm-fəmeɪʃən/ (imformation)

What is assimilation in phonetics and phonology?

Assimilation is a sound change process that occurs within phonetics. Phonetic assimilation is when sounds are influenced and become more alike to their surrounding speech sounds.

How do you identify assimilation?

Phonetic assimilation can be quite hard to spot, however, if you listen carefully, you will be able to hear it. Phonetic assimilation occurs when sounds are changed to sound more like their surrounding sounds; this can often happen when we speak quickly as sounds can blend into one another. Think of the word 'mashed.' If you say



Sharipova Nodira Shavkat.

Businessman Sues Water And Sanitation Provider Over Use Of Toilet

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

A Nyeri Town based businessman has sued Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company (NYEWASCO) after he was served with termination of contract of managing the Whispers Park Sanitation facility located along Gakere street in Nyeri town. Charles Ngatia Wangechi (Wakioro) filled a case at the local Law Courts challenging the decision by the Water and Sanitation provider to terminate the contract that was to take effect on 1st of March 2023. Wakioro appearing before Magistrate Mary Gituma through his lawyer Muhoho Gichimu, requested to be given 14 days to respond to Nyeri Water Company replying affidavit over the matter. The businessman wants the court to issue an injunction restraining the termination of the existing public sanitation facility contract between



Whispers Park Sanitation facility. Photo |PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU.

him and the company. Further, he is seeking another restraining order of any form of interference with his operations and management of the facility pending hearing and determination of the is-

sue before the court. Whispers Park Sanitation facility was constructed in 2014 by the Nye-wasco upon receiving a grant from the German co-operation and the European Union which were channeled



Businessman Charles Ngatia Wangechi (Wakioro) with other members of public outside the contested toilet. Photo |PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU

through the Water Services Trust Group whose chairman the complaint in the case. The facility is under the management of Send Us Nyeri Self Help

Ngatia’s Camp Courts Ruto Men For Endorsement Ahead Of KNCCI Polls

By: Capital Correspondent

Incumbent Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) President Richard Ngatia is banking on endorsements by top officials in President William Ruto’s power circle to retain the seat in forthcoming polls. National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang’ula and Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi are among officials Ngatia and his team have met ahead of polls slated for June. Ngatia is seeking re-election with Abdulwalli Shariff as his running mate in a contest that he will be facing the Chamber’s Vice President Dr Eric Tutto who pulled out of Ngatia’s ticket in a last minute maneuver. In separate courtesy calls to the two leaders, Ngatia and Shariff were

accompanied by the Chamber’s regional leaders including and John Shimaka (incoming National Director for Western Region). Others who joined them are Sylvanus Abungu (Chairman of Busia Chapter), Dr. Billy Nyonze, HSC, Chairman of Vihiga Chapter), Charles Omutany (Vice Chairman of Kakamega Chapter), Martin Waliaula, (Chairman of Trans Nzoia Chapter) and Peter Juma (Director of Kakamega Chapter). Ngatia said endorsements by Mudavadi and the House Speaker would give his team the momentum it need in the tightly contested elections. “As a group, we are honored to have received this endorsement and appreciate the Prime Cabinet Secretary’s recognition of our efforts. We will continue to work diligently to support our region and promote its growth and development,” said Ngatia.



Ngatia (left) pictured here with Mudavadi (centre) is seeking re-election with Abdulwalli Shariff (right)/COURTESY

Data Protection Act 2019 To Streamline Management Of Personal Data

By: Mohamed Hassan
@themtkenyentimes



Data Protection Commissioner Immaculate Kassait.

Worth Noting:

- The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner kicked off its countrywide awareness campaign last week aimed at sensitising Kenyans on data protection in Machakos County before visiting Tana River and Garissa counties.
- The Data Protection Commission is also engaging some critical stakeholders in a collaborative effort to step up public education on the need to protect personal data, monitor the compliance status of digital controllers and processors.
- In Garissa, Deputy Governor Abdi Dagane who graced the event said in the fourth industrial revolution data is critical and that the ‘future is data and Kenya must not lag behind’.
- Dagane said in this digital era, it is a global best practice to have a data protection law in place.

The Data Protection Commission has launched nationwide campaigns to create awareness among members of the general public over the Data Privacy and Protection Act (DPA) 2019.

The awareness campaigns are intended to sensitise the public to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the DPA Act.

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner is spearheading the efforts to sensitise citizens that will eventually cover all the 47 counties with support from Amnesty International and the Open Institute that have been working to institutionalize citizen-generated data as part of the national statistical system in Kenya.

The Data Protection Commission was established following the enactment of the Data Protection Act, 2019 to make provisions for the regulation of the processing of personal data, to provide for the rights of data subjects and obligations of data controllers and processors.

The Data Protection Act seeks to protect the privacy of the individual and personal data by regulating the processing of personal information by data controllers and processors.

The Data Commission is using the county sensitisation tours to keep Kenyans abreast of what the data commissioner is doing as enshrined by the law in data protection and to also get the buy-in of all stakeholders.

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trywide awareness campaign last week aimed at sensitising Kenyans on data protection in Machakos County before visiting Tana River and Garissa counties.

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In Garissa, Deputy Governor Abdi Dagane who graced the event said in the fourth industrial revolution data is critical and that the ‘future is data and Kenya must not lag behind’.

Dagane said in this digital era, it is a global best practice to have a data protection law in place.

The DG said Kenya needs to have a strong data protection law as more and more citizens use digital tools in this data age which exposes their data to cyber threats like phishing, malware, data exfiltration and ransomware.

Dagane called for concerted efforts to enhance the digital security systems against the growing threat of cybercrime at a time personal data of the citizens are increasingly stored in hundreds of databases.

With cyber security threats to online businesses and personal profiles growing at an exponential rate, the DG called upon stakeholders to prioritise cyber security and adopt a proactive approach when dealing with cyber security matters.

“Public and private entities must safeguard personal data collected

from the public to provide services,” he said and lauded the progress being made in legislations that deal with data privacy and protection.

He added that for the digital superhighway and digital economy agenda of the national government to succeed, there must be safeguards that will protect the processing of individual and personal data.

He said investment in the data economy is vital for any country seeking to deepen global competitiveness.

The Deputy Governor said Kenya must have a strong law that can be enforced to protect the privacy of citizens.

He lamented the level of fraudulent activities being perpetrated by scammers who had unauthorised access to data of citizens with the aim of swindling them but added that with the enactment of the data protection law the era of data theft would be a thing of the past.

“Data theft is one of the most thriving businesses in the world today,” he said, adding that there is a need for robust data protection regulation in the country.

Dagane also contends that the Data Privacy and Protection Act would open up opportunities for investments in the ICT sector noting that it was pertinent to have education on cyber space since most people find themselves in trouble due to ignorance on the matter.

Abdullahi Ali, Principal Data Protection Officer said the Data Protection Act 2019, marks a new era in the management of personal data in the country.

He said electronic data organizers whether public or private must ensure protection of personal data in their systems.

“For local and international investors a data-secured environment is a major attraction and it’s an assurance that their information is safe and secure and not subject to abuse,” he said.

Ali said the data protection law is not crafted in any way to punish citizens rather to create awareness so that we will all be accountable to one another whether as data controllers or data processors.

He said creating awareness through data privacy would empower citizens to demand for and enforce their digital rights at a time individuals and organizations are moving almost everything into digital platforms.

The Data protection officer said public and private entities would be held accountable for data breaches

or privacy violations and this will in the long run encourage them to take data protection seriously and implement adequate technological and organizational measures in order to protect personal data.

“One should decide how their personal data is used, who uses it and why it is used from an individual or a customer’s perspective,” he said during the sensitisation forum that touched on right to data portability, right to erasure, right to restriction of processing, right to ratification and rights to regarding automated decision making among other topics.

He said the Office of the Data Commissioner is ready to open regional offices and build the capacity of public servants in data protection.

Victor Ndede Digital Rights Manager at Amnesty International Kenya said citizens have a right to know how their data is collected, stored, used, processed and shared.

Ndede said they are collaborating with the Office of the Data Protection with the purpose of guiding the operationalization of the data protection act and ensuring that citizens benefit from the advantages of technology without compromising their fundamental rights.

“We are partnering with the data commission in an effort to empower people and enterprises to respect privacy, safeguard data, enable trust and promote privacy and data protection best practices,” he said.

Data Protection Commissioner Immaculate Kassait speaking at the maiden edition of the sensitisation forums in Machakos said Kenya is seeking to be exemplary in informing the public about the value of data protection.

“The public is increasingly becoming aware of the importance of protecting one’s personal data which is the first step towards a fully protected country,” she said.

Kassait said since the creation of her office they have embarked on strategic engagements and consultations with critical stakeholders in a bid to raise awareness on data protection and privacy in the country.

“We are focused on sensitizing data subjects about their rights since data privacy and protection occupy a unique place in every facet of our lives and livelihoods,” said the data commissioner.



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Sports >> *Three-time Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica and American sprint sensation Sha'Carri Richardson will not face each other at this Saturday's Kip Keino Classic as had earlier been anticipated.

Why Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce Will Not Battle American Sprinter Richardson At Kip Keino Classic



World 100m champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce arrives at JKIA for the Kip Keino Classic. PHOTO/COURTESY.

Three-time Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica and American sprint sensation Sha'Carri Richardson will not face each other at this Saturday's Kip Keino Classic as had earlier been anticipated.

The meet director Barnaba Korir said organisers felt the need to enhance the profile of every race at the World Continental Tour Gold event hence the decision to shift Richardson to the women's 200m.

"Unfortunately, Shelly-Ann will not battle Richardson because she will be running in the women's 100m while Richardson will be in the 200m. The reason why we did that is because we wanted to enhance the events. If we have Shelly-Ann in the 100m and Richardson in the 200m, it will give us more value and points in

both races," Korir explained.

Richardson had on Tuesday revealed via an Instagram video that she would be competing in the 200m albeit she had wanted to run in the 100m.

This followed on from last week's Botswana Grand Prix where she was compelled to run in the women's 200m in which she eventually finished second in...

Notwithstanding, Korir explained that putting the two sprinters in different races will in the longterm aid Kenya's bid to host a Diamond League event.

"World Athletics also considers the value of the events that you have. If you want to be upgraded to Diamond League, they'll look at the results of your events and that is why we thought it wise to separate the two athletes and put them in different categories," he

said.

Whereas Richardson will be competing in the Kip Keino Classic for the first time, it will be Fraser-Pryce's second after last year's edition where she clocked a world lead of 10.67 to win the women's 100m at the Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani.

Korir said the world 100m champion's return to Kip Keino Classic is evidence that the event is becoming a favourite for sprinters in Kenya and beyond.

"We have, of course, our own in the men's 100m, Ferdinand Omanyala, competing against Kenneth Bednarek (Olympics 200m silver medalist) of the United States. We are also going to have Imeta (African 4x100m relay champion) competing. This competition has contributed a lot to the development of sprints in

this country to the extent is now considered a sprints meet rather than middle- and long-distance races," he said.

Fraser-Pryce will be pitted against the United States duo of Teahna Daniels and Twanisha Terry, Kenya's national champion Maximilla Imali, New Zealand's Zoe Hobb, Belgian Rani Rosius and Hemida Basant of Egypt.

On the other hand, Richardson will be up against her countrywomen, Kyra Jefferson and Shannon Ray, Gambia's Gina Bass, Belgian Imke Vervaeke, German Alexandra Burghardt and Portugal's Arianne Gandulla Martinez.

Capital Sport

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IIU Honors Distinguished Individual with World's Best Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa)



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Worth Noting:

- The Honorary Doctorate degree from IIU is a testament to an individual's exceptional achievements and contributions to their respective field. It is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation, and excellence in their careers, and who have made a significant impact on society.
- Recipients of the Honorary Doctorate from IIU are recognized as distinguished leaders and experts in their fields, and their contributions are acknowledged and celebrated globally. The degree represents a significant milestone in the recipients' careers and is a symbol of their dedication and commitment to their work.

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One of the most distinguished accolades offered by IIU is its Honorary Doctorate degree, which is widely considered to be the most prestigious honor that the institution bestows. The selection process for Honorary Doctorate recipients at IIU is rigorous and competitive, ensuring that only the most deserving individuals are chosen for this esteemed recognition.

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With its commitment to excellence and its reputation as a globally recognized educational institution, IIU is a leading choice for students seeking high-quality education and training. Whether through its Honorary Doctorate program or its other educational offerings, IIU is dedicated to empowering individuals to achieve their full potential and make a meaningful difference in the world.

