



Take Action Against Truant Staff, Parliamentary Committee Orders Marsabit Governor

A Senate watchdog committee ordered Marsabit Governor Muhamud Mohamed Ali to take administration action against county staff believed to have colluded with suppliers to alter price quotations for a tender.

Page 17

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News>>We Want Title Deeds, Petitioners Tell The Senate Team

P. 8. Senate Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing chaired by Kiambu Senator Karungo Thangwa held a meeting with Petitioners in respect of petition concerning access to title deeds for properties bought at Jamii Bora Estate, Kisaju, Kajiado County.

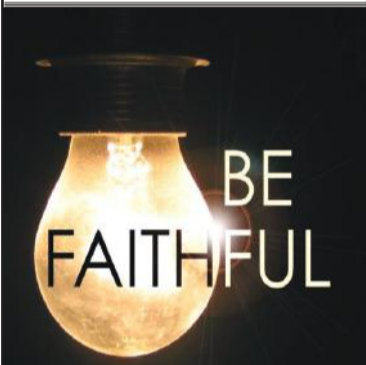
EAC Confederation Committee Picks Nakuru And Nyeri Views

The proposals on areas of cooperation including a common Kiswahili language, documentation of indigenous knowledge and preservation of cultural heritage were fronted as key in informing the final draft constitution towards a common federation.



The chairman of the Constitutional Experts Justice Benjamin Odoki (centre), Vice-Chair Amos Wako (right) consults with Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga at Bantu Africa Resort in Nyeri yesterday

STORY ON PAGE 9



Motivation>>Let Everyone Be Faithful To Where He Belongs

P. 12. Miracles only happen if you believe in miracles.
..... Paulo Coelho.



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Why Senate Committee Ordered Governor Waiguru To Overhaul Kirinyaga Water Firm

By: Our Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

The Senate Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds has mandated the Governor of Kirinyaga County Ann Waiguru to undertake a comprehensive restructuring of the Kirinyaga Water and Sanitation Company Limited (KIRIWASCO) within 60 days.

This bold directive follows a meeting between the committee, led by Vihiga Senator Godfrey Osotsi, and the governor to discuss the Auditor General's Report on KIRIWASCO's Financial Statement for 2020/21.

The report, which underscored severe managerial challenges besetting the water company, prompted the committee to direct the governor with a mandate to enhance the efficiency of the company's operations.

From the top echelons of management down to the Board of Management, a complete reconstitution is expected.

The committee also recommended the introduction of performance contracting for all employees, a measure anticipated to boost efficiency and productivity.

In addition to the internal shakeup, Waiguru has been instructed to undertake asset mapping for the water company and to present an updated asset register to the committee within the same 60-day period.

In tandem with these changes, the Water Company management has been given a fortnight to devise and submit comprehensive mitigation strategies to tackle the existing physical and commercial issues.

A renewed assets register, compliant with the format prescribed by the Public Sector Accounting Standards

Board, is also required within that timeframe.

The committee also advocated for the governor's collaboration with the County Assembly to expedite the enactment of the County Water Act within 90 days.

This legislation is intended to bolster the operations of water companies within the county.

Further emphasising the need for the governor to take control of the company in line with the Water Act 2016, the committee directed the Governor to ensure that the County Government of Kirinyaga obtains full ownership of the water companies within the same 90-day period. This strategic move is aimed at streamlining company management and enhancing the delivery of quality services to the residents of Kirinyaga County.



Kirinyaga County Governor Ann Waiguru while making her presentation before the Senate committee



Some of the committee members during yesterday's session

Worth Noting:

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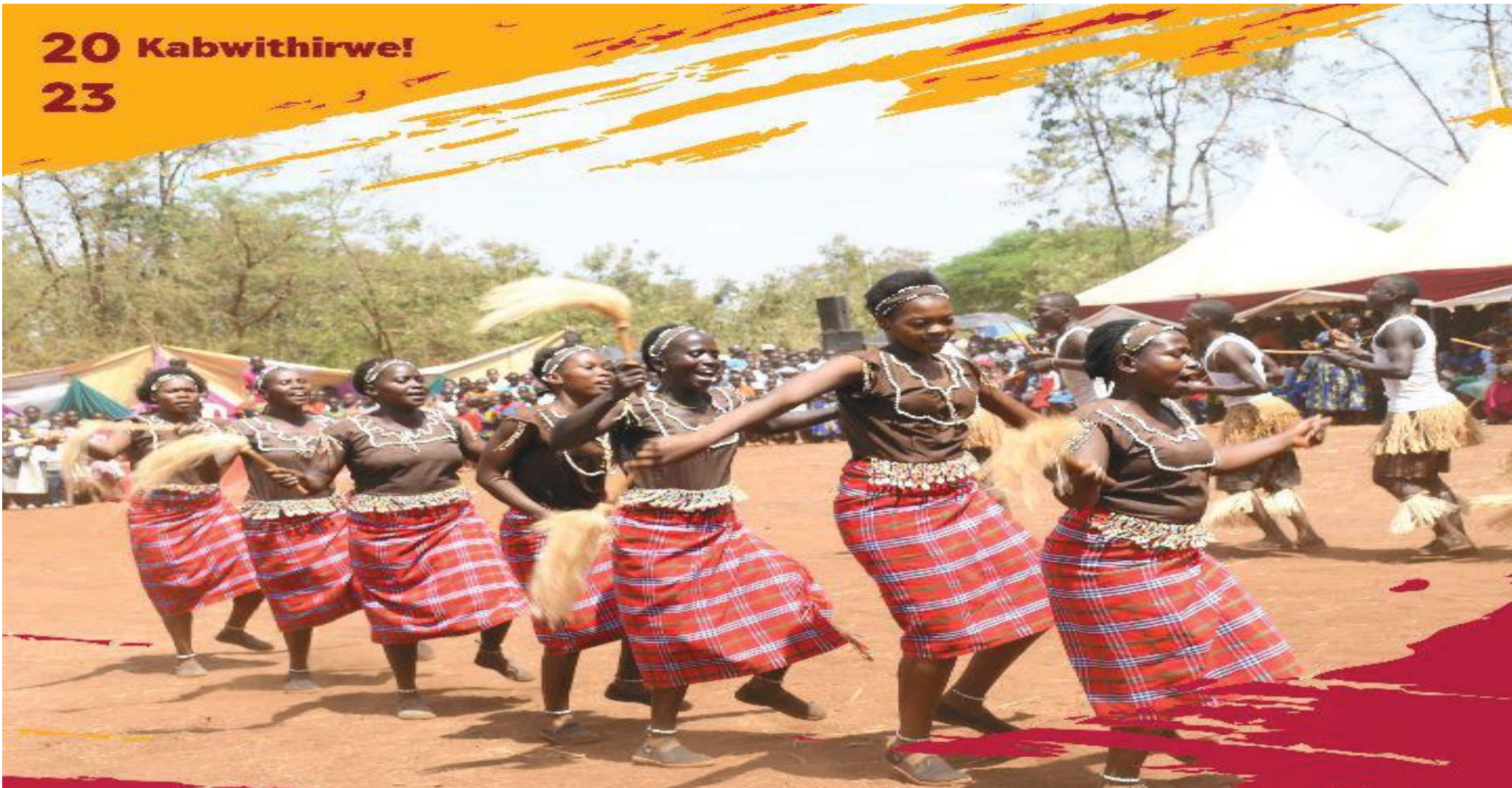
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Government Provides Insecticides In Marsabit To Reduce Crop Destruction

By: Sebastian Miriti

@themkenyatimes

The government has moved with speed to control pest infestations in food crop farms in Marsabit County in order to forestall crop failure.

Farmers put thousands of acres under cultivation after a prolonged drought that left local communities food insecure. The county has been experiencing heavy rainfall, portending a good harvest.

However, an invasion by fall armyworms is threatening an expected bumper harvest of maize, beans, and green grams.

The State Department for Crop Development in the Ministry of Agriculture is making timely interventions so as to avert crop failure in about 10,000 acres under food crop production.

Principal Secretary for the State Department for Crop Development, Kelloh Harsama, said when he dis-



Spraying insecticide

tributed insecticides donated by the government to farmers in Uran and Galore locations in Sololo sub-county that efforts were being made to address the problem.

Mr Harsama, who also launched the

spraying exercise, said the problem was not confined to Marsabit but to 44 other counties across the country, adding that farmers were being assisted in interventions.

Over 1,000 farmers in Marsabit

County are benefiting from the donation of insecticides, which include flonex, belt, and Xpand Max.

“We have inspected and established the urgent need for intervention in order to safeguard food security not only in this county but in Kenya as a whole,” noted the PS.

Apart from the assortment of insecticides, the government also provided 40 motorized knapsacks and 47 ordinary sprayer pumps and spraying gear for free.

He urged farmers to redouble their efforts in food production in order to be food secure by using every available drop of water within their reach. The Principal Secretary said it was through production that the country could raise enough food, adding that deliberate measures were being taken to enable farmers to bolster production.

Moyale Member of Parliament Prof. Guyo Wako commended the government for moving in on time to help the small-scale farmers fight the pest invasion that could otherwise

have been devastating.

He hailed the efforts being made at both levels of government to make local communities food sufficient after a long period of dependency on relief food owing to drought resulting from climate change.

Farmers hailed President Ruto’s administration for what they termed “always being at hand to assist whenever need arises” and appealed for the repair of the dilapidated road network in the area, which was destroyed by the recent rains.

Marsabit County Director for Agriculture Julius Gitu advised farmers to spray their crops against the fall armyworms early in the morning and in the evening when the pests are more vicious.

The county government issued 1,500 farmers with 8.4 tons of an assortment of seeds for planting at the onset of the short rainy season.

Embu Madaraka Day Infrastructure Almost Ready

By: Steve Gatheru

@themkenyatimes

Facilities to be used during the Madaraka Day celebrations to be held in Embu on June 1 are almost ready.

Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo said that only about four days of civil works are remaining and that structures at Embu’s Moi Stadium and the Regional Commissioner’s residence which are expected to be ready by Sunday.

Mr Omollo, who led a high-powered team from the National Steering Committee on an inspection tour of the facilities, said the Embu Stadium has been upgraded and urged residents of Embu and neighbouring counties to turn out for the celebrations in large numbers.

Mr Omollo disclosed that the celebrations on June 1 will be preced-

ed by a business exposition whose theme will be Co-operatives, MS-MEs, Trade and Revenue.

President William Ruto will open the Expo, which will be closed by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Appealing to residents to show up for the festivities in large numbers, Embu Governor Cecily Mbarire said Embu people had a lot to show gratitude for following the selection of Embu as the host of this year’s Madaraka Day.

She said besides the stadium upgrade, Embu had also benefited from road upgrades.

She also added that the Maternal and Child care unit at the Embu Level 5 hospital had also received a facelift.

The governor added that besides opening the trade expo, President Ruto will take time to lay the foundation stone of the proposed four-storey Embu market.



Madaraka Day celebrations .

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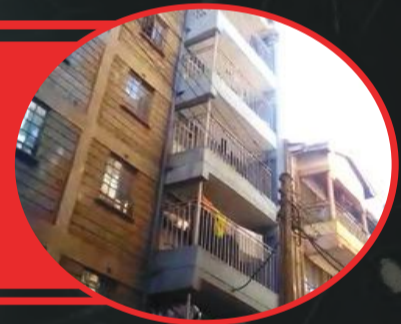
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KEPHIS Urge Farmers To Embrace Smart Solutions To Fight Climate Change

By: Wangari Ndirangu

@themkenyatimes

Agricultural experts in the country now want farmers to adopt climate smart solutions to cope with the ravages and the effects of climate change to realize desired production. The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) Managing Director Professor Theophilus Mutui says that in order to address the adverse impacts of climate change on plant health and biodiversity, the organization has continuously been advocating for the adoption of climate-smart solutions in crop production and resource utilization.

He expressed fears that the Climate variabilities including prolonged droughts and extremely wet seasons adversely affect plant health and biodiversity as the drastic shift in weather patterns occasioned by global warming have contributed to outbreaks of pests' invasions in areas that had no history of related attacks.

In a statement on International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), the MD noted the importance of adopting drought resilient and high-yielding crops for specific regions, prudent water utilization, technology integration and expanding production units while conserving natural eco-

systems.

"This day is meant to raise global awareness of how sustained plant health can reduce hunger, poverty, protect existing biodiversity and the environment, and accelerate economic development", he added.

The IDPH, he added, is therefore of significant importance to Kenya and the global community because it is being celebrated at a time when threats of devastating diseases such as banana wilt disease Tropical Race 4 (Acronym TR4) and others are being reported across our borders.

In an effort to protect biodiversity-particularly plant species, Prof. Mutui said that KEPHIS regulates the trade and movement of all plant material and products, therefore all should embrace global efforts of safeguarding plants from diseases and pests.

"Plant health is important in the general well-being of the environment where we live in, there is need to increase awareness importance of keeping plants healthy, minimize the risk of spreading plant pests through trade and travel, by triggering compliance with international plant health standards and also enable sustainable pesticide management to keep plants healthy while protecting the environment," he said.

The importance of plants in agriculture and in particular crop production continues to face threats from

pest and disease invasion with an estimated average of 40 per cent of crops lost to pests and diseases every year in the country.

KEPHIS, whose management board is chaired by former Mathira MP Peter Weru Kinyua has been at the forefront of protecting Kenya's plant health through regulation of imports of plants and plant materials, phytosanitary inspection and certification, provision of diagnostic services to support plant health and seed certification.

Plants play a significant role in our lives making 80 per cent of the food we eat and 98 per cent of the oxygen we breathe. Plants provide and fulfil the daily requirements of all including food, clothes, wood, medicine, shelter among many other products for human benefit.

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution declaring 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health and designated celebrations every 12th May.



KEPHIS chairman Peter Weru Kinyua



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To Love & To Serve

We Want Title Deeds, Petitioners Tell The Senate Team

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

Senate Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing chaired by Kiambu Senator Karungo Thangwa held a meeting with Petitioners in respect of petition concerning access to title deeds for properties bought at Jamii Bora Estate, Kisaju, Kajiado County.

The committee heard that the petitioners own 900 homes, 500 commercial units, churches, a Mosque, public primary and secondary school, public borehole and playgrounds.

Since moving into Jamii Bora Estate in 2008, the petitioners have not been issued with title deeds for their properties.

The petitioners were residing in slums of Kibera, Mathare and Korogocho before moving to Kisaju.

The residents of Jamii Bora Estate in Kisaju paid a deposit of 10 per cent for three and four bedrooms units which were being sold for Sh 350,000 and Sh450,000 respectively.

Most of the units in the Jamii Bora Estate are owned by women from slums who saved through women help groups better known as chamas.

Mr. Lord Torome who is a Kenya Defence Forces soldier said that he bought a house in Kisaju Estate for Sh2.4 million while fighting for Kenya in Somalia but he has never been allocated a house nor received a refund from the developer.

“I am 87 years old and I have never received a Title Deed for my house in Kisaju, I may die before seeing my Title Deed, what inheritance will I leave to my grandchildren?” said Mary Wambui.

The petitioners told the Senate committee that Ms. Sofia Ingrid Munro through her various developer companies has failed to give Title Deeds to houses built in Jamii Bora Estate since she started selling the houses from the year 2008.

“Every attempt we make to ask Ms. Ingrid, the developer to issue us with title deeds is met with dissolution of the developer companies therefore perpetrating injustices towards us,” said Calvin Luther Munayi, the chairman representing the petitioners.

The petitioners claim that Ms. Ingrid through her various companies maintains that no owner was supposed to get title deeds in Jamii Bora Estate until after 20 years notwithstanding the fact that most of them either paid cash for their units or have finished paying loans advanced to them for homes ownership in Kisaju.



Senator Karungo Thangwa with his team at Kisaju area

Worth Noting:

- Mr. Lord Torome who is a Kenya Defence Forces soldier said that he bought a house in Kisaju Estate for Sh2.4 million while fighting for Kenya in Somalia but he has never been allocated a house nor received a refund from the developer.
- “I am 87 years old and I have never received a Title Deed for my house in Kisaju, I may die before seeing my Title Deed, what inheritance will I leave to my grandchildren?” said Mary Wambui.
- The petitioners told the Senate committee that Ms. Sofia Ingrid Munro through her various developer companies has failed to give Title Deeds to houses built in Jamii Bora Estate since she started selling the houses from the year 2008.

“We were promised that our title deeds were being processed in the letters of offer and sale agreements that we signed,” said Jacinta Wanjiku, a resident of Jamii Bora Estate.

Ms. Sofia Ingrid Munro’s developer companies have been mutating from Jamii Bora Charitable Trust, to Jamii Bora Makao, then Urbanis Africa, then to Kisaju View Park Limited, then back to Jamii Bora Charitable trust and her sister entities Yawezezana Sacco and Yawezekana Housing Sacco, the committee heard.

The petitioners said that they learnt that the developer took a bank loan in the year 2014 and charged the title deeds (L.R Kajiado/Kisaju/58 and L.R Kajiado/Kisaju/2995) to secure the loan with a local bank, a charge that was of Swedish Króna 50 million made by Jamii Bora Charitable Trust to Jamii Bora Scandinavia AB, a foreign company based in Sweden dated 25th, September 2007 without their knowledge and that the developer is not servicing any of the loans leaving home owners exposed.

“It is criminal for the developer not to issue the home owners with title deeds regardless of the fact that they have finished paying for the houses,” said Senate committee chairman.

The residents of Jamii Bora Estate told the committee that they brought the petition to the Senate in the twelfth Parliament but the petition was not concluded because Kisaju

View Park Limited which was the main respondent was dissolved by Ms. Sofia Ingrid to circumvent justice.

Jael Achieng said that the developer office in Kisaju Estate was closed when fraud cases became rampant and pressure to release title deeds was unbearable. Kisaju View Park Limited later became obsolete.

“I am a retired civil servant and I bought a house in Kisaju Estate as a retirement home but I was shocked when I was informed that someone else owns my house, I don’t have peace of mind since I bought the house at Sh3.2 million and used Sh400,000 more for renovations since the house was incomplete,” said Elizabeth Wanjiru.

The petitioners prayers to the Senate are to direct Ms. Sofia Ingrid Munro to immediately and without further delay subdivide, process and issue title deeds to all completed unit owners on the said land in Jamii Bora Estate.

“Stop Ms.Sofia Ingrid from transferring any parcel of land or housing units including repossession or building any new units in Jamii Bora Estate until the matter is concluded by the Senate,” the petitioners prayed.

Further, the petitioners want the Senate to review the existing legal framework to regulate the real estate sector and to protect Kenyans

from such investors or developers and enhance more strict penalties for developers or investors to ensure the delivery on their projects and to ensure that the requisite standards for buildings are adhered to the letter.

“The truth shall set us free, we have no choice but to ensure that the directors of the developer companies give residents their rights by issuing titles deeds for their properties, I wish to come here with the President of Republic of Kenya to present title deeds” said Peris Tobiko, the Vice Chairperson of the committee.

The committee through its chairperson, the developer of Jamii Bora Estate, Ms. Sofia Ingrid Munro to appear before them in the next meeting in the Parliament Buildings.

“I have spoken to the County Commissioner of Kajiado and requested him not to let the police officers to harass the residents of Jamii Bora Estate until the Senate Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing determines the dispute.” said Kajiado Senator Seki Lenku.

Retired Justice Sen. Stewart Madzayo said that the Senate committee must conclusively deal with the Title Deeds issue of the Jamii Bora Estate so that the residents can live peacefully.

Also present was area Senator Seki Lenku.

East African Community Confederation Committee Picks Nakuru And Nyeri Views

By: Anne Sabuni and William Muchiri

@themkenyentimes



The chairman of the Constitutional Experts Justice Benjamin Odoki (centre), Vice-Chair Amos Wako (right) consults with Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga at Bantu Africa Resort in Nyeri yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- In the Nakuru forum views were taken from residents of Nakuru, Kericho, Baringo, Narok, Bomet and Samburu counties.
- For the Nyeri forum which was held at Bantu Africa Resort near Nyeri town, along Marua-Kiganjo highway, stakeholders were drawn from Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Laikipia and Nyandarua counties.
- The stakeholders included among others, Civil Society groups, Non-Governmental organizations, scholars, local leaders, opinion leaders, the clergy and the business community.
- In the two sessions, stakeholders submitted that the confederation should pave way for a seamless transition into an EAC family, with common value systems and political integration.

Proposals for the East African Community (EAC) to have one education curriculum, infrastructure and security apparatus, have continued to be raised as constitutional experts seek the public's input in the proposed Confederation Constitution.

The Committee of Experts drafting the Constitution of East Africa Confederation led by Justice Benjamin Odoki separately heard from Nakuru and Nyeri forums that there was need to have a standing armed forces in place to safeguard the region.

The committee has been holding meeting to pick Kenyans views. The forums bring together stakeholders from a cluster of counties.

In the Nakuru forum views were taken from residents of Nakuru, Kericho, Baringo, Narok, Bomet and Samburu counties.

For the Nyeri forum which was held at Bantu Africa Resort near Nyeri town, along Marua-Kiganjo highway, stakeholders were drawn from Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Laikipia and Nyandarua counties.

The stakeholders included among others, Civil Society groups, Non-Governmental organizations, scholars, local leaders, opinion leaders, the clergy and the business community.

In the two sessions, stakeholders submitted that the confederation should pave way for a seamless transition into an EAC family, with common value systems and political integration.

The proposals on areas of cooperation including a common Kiswahili language, documentation of indigenous knowledge and preservation of cultural heritage were fronted as key

in informing the final draft constitution towards a common federation.

In Nakuru a Baringo County resident Dr. Daniel Rotich Kendagor noted that the constitution should prioritize international relations and security noting that the two will ensure seamless integration.

The residents, who agreed on Kiswahili as the common language of communication also agreed to have the confederation funded by member states with countries outside the community paying duty while exporting to the EAC.

"We are proposing that the presidents to the member states should vote amongst themselves who should be the president of the confederation for a term of three years.

Later on, we can have the citizens of the member states vote in a unified electoral system, to choose the premier head of the EAC Federation," noted Kabianga University Don Joel Soi.

He submitted that the confederation should allow member states to divide their budgets equally, with proper policies put in place to govern infrastructure and electoral processes.

"There are fears that when the EAC countries merge, The Kenyan Shilling will compromise the economy of other states given that it is the strongest in the region. The fears are valid and therefore there is need for experts to carefully consider the model that European Union used

that was a success," noted Bishop Peter Nakula, a representative of Narok County to the forum.

In the Nyeri forum, businessman Dr Thuo Mathenge said the joining of member states and use of one constitution will enable residents to freely do businesses without hindrances.

Secretary to the committee, Idi Mandi, noted that the team collecting the views intended to understand their input on the structure of the confederation in relation to the member states with more emphasis on how the states will relate.

Nyeri governor Mutahi Kahiga suggested that the country is comfortable with the Supreme Court as the highest judicial organ and the fact that Kenya only refers specific matters to the East African Court of Justice.

Chairperson of the Constitutional Experts, Justice Benjamin Jose Odoki stated that the EAC Secretariat is committed to fast-tracking the process and is striving to hold the public consultations across all EAC Partner States in the next two years.

Justice Odoki was accompanied by the Deputy Chairperson of the Constitutional Experts Amos Wako among other experts from the countries of Burundi, Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

The Experts are expected to deliver a report on the proposed model for EAC Political Confederation and draft the EAC Political Confederation Constitution as a transitional model.



Some of the stakeholders during yesterday's forum. From left are Johnstone Kamau of Mugunda Ward, Mathara Mwangi from Nyandarua and Businessman-cum-Politician Dr Thuo Mathenge.

Discipline Of The Mind Pt 2:



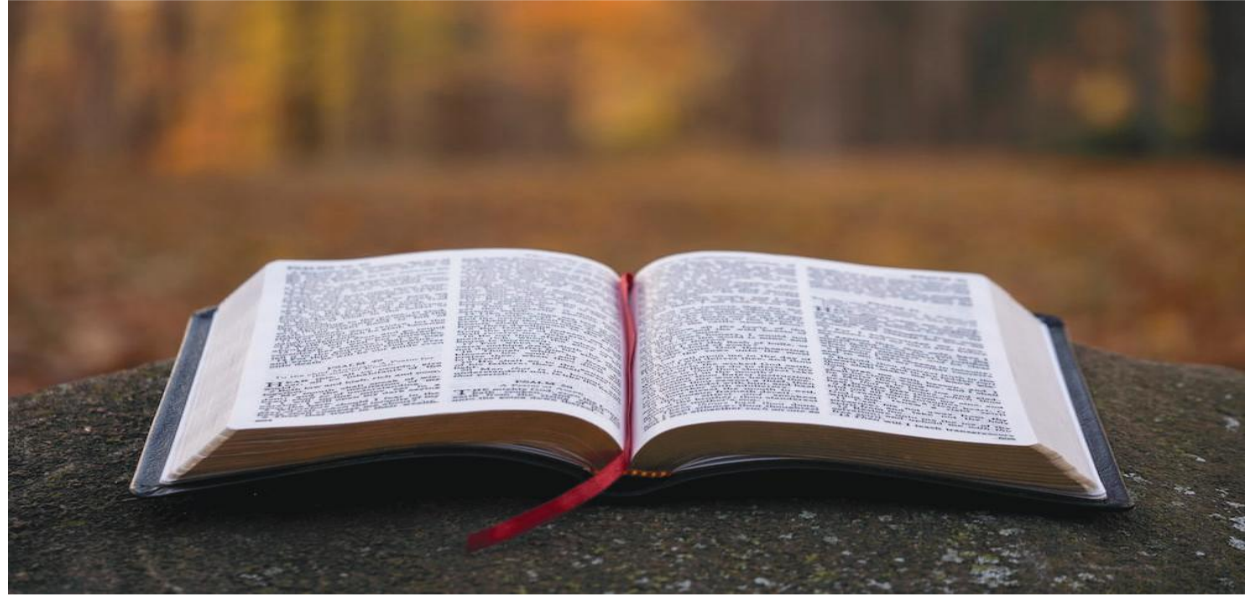
By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

mind on sound Christian principles, at the heart of where it is formed and informed, is one of the . . .greatest themes that can be considered.”

Harry Blamires, in his much discussed *The Christian Mind*, has said that while Christians may worship and pray as Christians, they do not think as Christians: “[T]he Christian mind has succumbed to the secular drift with a degree of weakness and nervelessness unmatched in Christian history.” Elsewhere he sees our generation as suffering from religious anorexia (anorexia religiosa), a loss of appetite for growth in Christ. The bottom line is: this grievous scandal comes from a declining willingness to properly program the amazing instruments God has given us.

Christians leave their twelve billion cells unguarded and unthinking — and undisciplined. When we turn to God’s Word, we are aware that the Biblical writers understood the problem in a less technical, though more personally beneficial, way. “Above all else, guard your heart,” says Prov-

This cosmic potential of the believer’s mind introduces the great scandal of today’s Church: Christians without Christian minds, Christians who do NOT think Christianly — a tragic fact which is far more true of professing Christian men than women, as we shall see. Some prophetic voices have been sounding the alarm for some time now, like that of former United Nations Secretary General Charles Malik, who told the distinguished audience at the dedication of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College: “Believe me, my friends, the mind today is in profound trouble, perhaps more than ever before. How to order the



erbs, “for it is the wellspring of life” (Proverbs 4:23). “For as he thinks within himself, so he is” (Proverbs 23:7, NASB). The Scriptures tell us rightly that input determines output — that our programming determines production.

LET US SAFEGUARD OUR MINDS, AS WE GIVE PRAISE TO THE ALMIGHTY GOD, SELAH!

References:

The Living Bible
 Discipline of a Godly Man(Book by Kent Hughes)

Evangelist Eric Musa:
 (My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written;

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

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Raila Is Taking Advantage Of Finance Bill 2023 To Reignite Anti-Ruto Agenda, Will He Succeed?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

In the countdown to 2022 General Elections, William Ruto of Kenya Kwanza and Raila Odinga of Azimio La Umoja were the leading contenders in the race to succeed President Uhuru Kenyatta.

For Raila, his body language and remarks cast a picture of a man who was over-confident and had no doubt in his mind that he was poised to win this election.

This was because of two reasons. First, he was enjoying the full support of the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta and this is unlike in the past four presidential elections he had unsuccessfully contested.

Secondly, the 'Deep State' and 'System' was also backing his candidature.

This would not come as a surprise. You would not have expected the state officials to bite the hand that feeds them.

President Kenyatta was still their boss. We saw what happened to those who defied him.

The files of some of them were retrieved and opened. This gave the government an opportunity to revisit some of the alleged crimes they had committed.

Most of those arraigned in courts faced charges of corruption and other economic crimes.

The submissions filed by their respective lawyers had a common thread: The charges had been doctored, trumped up and hence meant to settle political scores.

We are being targeted because of refusing to support Uhuru's project.

As it turned out, Raila's high expectations did not bear the fruits.

He lost the elections to Dr William Ruto who becomes the fifth President of Republic of Kenya.

For Raila, this seemed to be lowest for him. He could not believe the loss. How? The President and the entire 'deep state' was my side.

Here he forgets two important things. First, there is God in Heaven and only those that the Lord has anointed and enjoys His favor ascend to power.

Secondly, Kenya is a democratic country and the elections held after every five years were anchored on the pillar of universal suffrage.

This means the people of Kenya are the ones who vote and elect the president of their choice and leaders eyeing other elective positions.

While noting that Raila has a history of contesting the outcome of all presidential elections (except one) held since the repeal of Section 2A



Raila Odinga of Azimio La Umoja Leader

in 1992 to usher multiparty democracy, his decision to move to the Supreme Court of Kenya was only a matter when he will file the petition.

After hearing the petition, the seven judge bench, in a unanimous decision, dismissed the petition on grounds that it had failed to meet the requisite threshold.

This is because the petition had been built from shaky ground of personal vendetta, rumors, propaganda and half-truths.

Consequently, the Judges upheld the victory of President William Ruto.

The reports of the elections observer drawn from all corners of the world had also given the outcome a clean bill of health.

These verdicts would not calm down Raila. Instead they exacerbated his anger and bitterness.

After a lull of four months, he would return with a big bang.

He would allege that Ruto stole his victory and claim he is in possession of an explosive 'whistle blower' dossier which shows he had won.

The immediate question is. Why had he failed to present this dossier as his main evidence during the hearing of his petition?

Did the whistle blower exist? Many doubted.

They believed Raila was using this card to incite and mobilize his gullible supporters to participate in street protests.

He hopes this will help him to achieve his ultimate goal of sabotaging President Ruto's development agenda. This by organizing and leading chaotic, bloody and destructive demonstrations.

At some point, majority of Kenyans

seemed to have realized that Raila was not doing this for the good of country.

He was just using them as a conveyor belt in pursuit of his selfish and personal interest.

Some would recall he had used a similar card of blackmailing and arm-twisting Presidents Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta.

He became contented after he joined their respective governments and occupied his seat on high table where the national was being shared.

As a result, many Kenyans started to give his demonstrations a wide berth. In at least two protests, he did not even show up because he did not want to be embarrassed.

For now, it would appear he has been advised he can rebuild his dwindling political career.

Reason? Many Kenyans are not happy with the proposed taxes contained in the Finance Bill 2023 that is currently before parliament.

The Bill is currently being subjected to public participation as required by law.

With this, it does not necessary mean that the President will have his way. Yes, it is true he has already supported and defended these proposals.

However, allow me to say this. President Ruto is a charismatic leader who listens to the views of the people. He is also a strong believer in the rule of law and constitution.

As an independent and being one of the three arms of the government, he knows that parliament will have the final say on this Bill.

So I'm sure he will accept the house verdict.

With this, Raila's call to resume to street protests would once again flop.

Allow me to conclude by saying this. On this issue of proposed taxes, Raila has been engaging in a double-speak. On one hand, he accuses President Ruto of supporting taxes that would add a new burden on public shoulders.

On the other, he advises the President to explore other ways of raising the taxes. A good leader is the one who offers tangible solutions. So I would have expected him to go to the specifics.

Nevertheless, I'm happy to note he has accepted one thing. The government needs money to rollout projects and provide other services to the public.

The government has no money of its own. The main source is the money collected from citizens. This is what is called taxes.

President Ruto's position has remained clear. As Kenyans, a time has come to live within our means.

This is the only way we can rebuild our economy.

The pain we are going through right now was caused by the mistakes of the previous government.

It had developed insatiable appetite for borrowing foreign loans.

As a result, we inherited a debt of more than Sh9 trillion. Most of these loans have since matured. Today, 65 percent of revenues we collect goes to service the loans.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga is a writer and Political Analyst based in Nairobi

Worth Noting:

- This means the people of Kenya are the ones who vote and elect the president of their choice and leaders eyeing other elective positions.
- While noting that Raila has a history of contesting the outcome of all presidential elections (except one) held since the repeal of Section 2A in 1992 to usher multiparty democracy, his decision to move to the Supreme Court of Kenya was only a matter when he will file the petition.
- After hearing the petition, the seven judge bench, in a unanimous decision, dismissed the petition on grounds that it had failed to meet the requisite threshold.
- This is because the petition had been built from shaky ground of personal vendetta, rumors, propaganda and half-truths.

Let Everyone Be Faithful To Where He Belongs

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The young boy who speaks to those around him whenever he has issue to voice out no matter how senior they are to him will likely be one courageous enough to raise issues in his class as well as in public rallies and in future time he will seek for a leadership role.
- The experience he has gained from his past interactions with people is the one that he will bank on in his leadership. It is something in him that is calling him towards leadership roles so do not use his age or physic to judge his ability to lead.



Miracles only happen if you believe in miracles. Paulo Coelho.

Diehard soccer fans can travel for miles to go and watch their favourite team playing. They always have hope that their team will emerge the best. To them watching their team play is a major milestone in life. If the game is not being played too far from their home ground they would not mind trekking for long distances to watch live game.

Smokers especially of cigarettes hardly fail to have a penny to buy cigarettes if they do someone who smokes will come to their aid. They never argue that since they do not have monies that they can stop smoking so that they can reduce their budget rather they continue albeit in small quantities. Fellow smokers will not hesitate to lit cigarettes for them if need arises as they see nothing wrong with what their colleagues are doing. Smoking being a hobby to them denying them is taking away one of their fun.

Slums are associated with low income earners in urban centers but do

not be surprised that those who are used to reside in such zones when their incomes grow some opt to continue staying in these locations due to them having used to such climates and enjoying their stay in fact they have a sense of belonging. Economic liberation is not a solution to what could be troubling them some have never experienced any other live so cannot imagine how they could cope with change in residential zones.

Prostitution is not just because one is unmarried or does not enjoy the marriage life that he or she is in rather it is a mindset that one is not satisfied with the relationship one is in. No matter how responsible the partner to such a person is, the economic status of the person involved, his or her religion or the surveillance put on that person he or she will look for an avenue to continue with the trade.

The young boy who speaks to those around him whenever he has issue to voice out no matter how senior they are to him will likely be one courageous enough to raise issues in his class as well as in public rallies and in future time he will seek for

a leadership role. The experience he has gained from his past interactions with people is the one that he will bank on in his leadership. It is something in him that is calling him towards leadership roles so do not use his age or physic to judge his ability to lead.

You cannot win a betting competition unless you participate. Not a guarantee that once you participate in betting you will win. Losing in a bet does not assure you that you will win in your next play nor does winning in one participation rule you out in the next bet that is you can win two or more bets consecutively. Those eligible to winning are so because they participate, the fact that they participate is a sign that they have a mentality that they can win.

If you are rich you will be able to easily associate with people of similar social status. If your fortunes dwindle high is likelihood of your colleagues joining hands to support you regain your empire or put you in-charge of their businesses hence you will still enjoy privileged status in the society.

The proud people are weak people so whatever opportunity they get they think that it is rare or impossible for anyone else to obtain hence they use it to show off. In their thinking that they are better than the rest no matter the social class they are in they will not respect their colleagues.

The level of knowledge they possess relative to those of others will not deter them from claiming that they are special even when dealing with their seniors for example a proud student will think he is better than his teacher despite the former attending the class to be taught on subjects he has limited knowledge in. The believe in superiority is their compass even when doing wrong they leave no room to be corrected by other people.

UNI GLOBAL Union Urge, Affiliate Unions In Africa To Invest In Membership Campaign Drives

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

UNI Global Union is currently hosting capacity building empowerment program under Uni Africa- SASK Project in Maputo, Mozambique.

The theme of the meeting is Strengthening Workers and Gender Equality in Africa.

During the sessions UNI Global Union has urged participating Countries drawn from Africa to invest and be innovative on membership organisation, formulation of laws and regulations and policies aimed at protecting and cushioning worker's in order to remain strong and relevant.

Kenya National Private Security Workers' Union (KNPSWU), Communication Workers (COWU) and Kenya Union of Commercial, Food and Allied Workers (KUCFAW) are among Unions under COTU(K) participating in the workshop.

UNI Global representatives from Africa noted that Unions are currently under threat, combative fights from trade and labour resistant regimes as well emerging technological evolution.

The convention is a progressive campaign geared towards training its affiliates on various key areas affecting workers across the world.

The training in Maputo is focusing on organisation leverage campaigns, communication techniques and SWOT Analysis towards respective affiliate Unions on membership organisation as well as financial planning and reporting, monitoring & evaluation and networking strategies to boost goals, targets and growth

The power and strength of Unions is solely on membership capacity, said Bro. Joash Soita, the National Organising Secretary at KNPSWU attending the forum.

Let us keep networking, maintain the focus and push for the growth trade Unions in our respective Nations, added Bro. Soita.

In attendance too from KNPSWU is Sis. Nelly Zighe Shop steward from Mombasa Kenya.

UNI GLOBAL UNION has lined up two training workshops to be carried out in Nairobi, Kenya this year: Gender equality and parental care in July 3-6 and Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiation skills, 1- 2 August, 2023.

The workshops will see UNI GLOBAL affiliates across Africa converge in Kenya.



Representatives at the Mozambique capacity building forum..



Training session at the UNI GLOBAL UNION workshop in Maputo, Mozambique



Centre: Sis. Leboham from Botswana, the Deputy manager UNI AFRICA SASK project.



UNI Global Union Affiliate Members from Africa currently in Maputo, Mozambique..



Representatives from various Unions at the UNI GLOBAL UNION convection in Maputo Mozambique.



L- R: UNI AFRICA SASK project manager and Bro. Joash Soita, National Organising Secretary, KNPSWU in Maputo, Mozambique..

14 POEMS

God, Save My Mother For Me

His hair is gray, his eyes are dull
Wrinkles on their faces, furrows on their
eyebrows.
In the world of light, it did not stop for me,
God, save my mother for me.

The worries of the world never end.
The river of life never stops.
O life, my mother's soul
God, save my mother for me.

He thinks about me without sleep at night,
They have more sorrows for me than I do.
Whatever happens in this wide world
God, save my mother for me.

I don't need wealth, possessions,
A career is not necessary in a rare world
Okay, bear with me, but I agree
God, save my mother for me.

Ah years, won't go back even for a moment,
The sun shines in the blue.
Whatever happens, it's okay in life,
God, save my mother for me.

Maybe I hurt you a lot
It's sad that I stole your heart.
I have only one request, from you, my God
God, save my mother for me.



Nothing is needed in the world without you
Friends, let them go, let them leave.
Your presence means the world to me,
God, save my mother for me.

Mother, you are my everything, my existence,
The jewel of my eye, the light of my heart.
Always be happy, never cry.
God, save my mother for me.

Dilnurabonu Vajisova, Uzbekistan

Dear purity



Dear purity,
My angelic damsel,
A girl with beauty and brains,
To the moon and back,
Six feet down the earth,
If I shall go and leave ya,
I shall dearly and madly keep on lovin' ya,
Thy love has blinded me beyond the
reasonable doubt,
I deserve to celebrate ya with everything
I have.

I, born a writer and poet,
I have read and written so many books,
But I must speak the veracity,
You're the only book I've been searching
in my life,
The book I can't read and write with
exhaustion,
I'll forever read and write about ya in my
all days of Larkin',
Seeing ya migrate from my girl to my
wife,
And from my wife to the mother of my
children,
And from the mother of my children to
the mother of a great nation,
Is my joy and the satisfaction of my
heart.

All this began the day ya was born,
I join the rest of the world in wishing ya
a happy birthday my love,

My dear blow thousands of candles in
your days of living,
Let's live together and see the fruits of
us aging together,
"My mtoto" have a happy belated
birthday,
Toss in air for it's thy special day,
A special moment to reflect thy life,
A special day to reminiscence the lass ya
was born to be;
A great lass in making,
Happy birthday my love.
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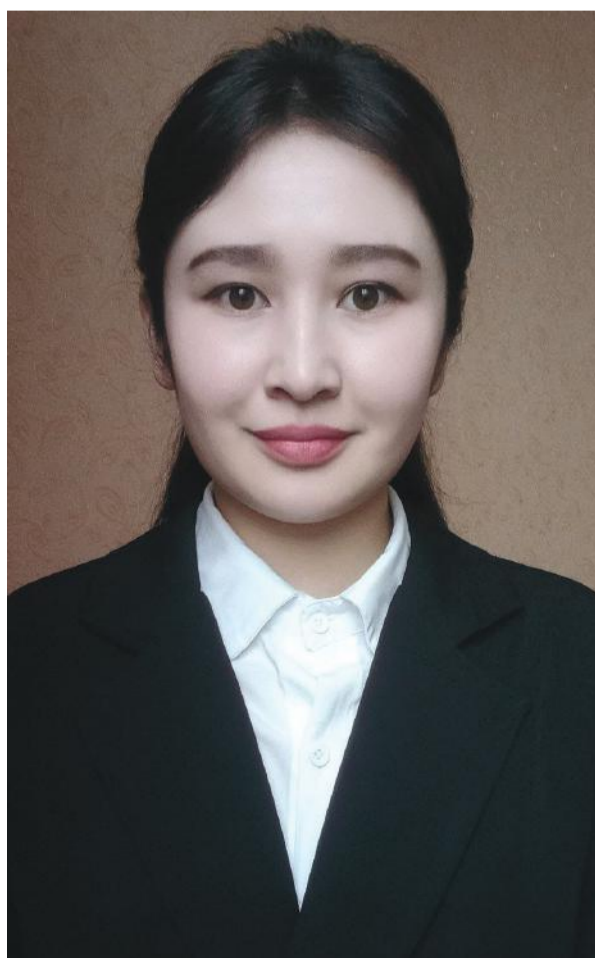
My Daughter, Take Care Of Me

My daughter, always be with
me,
I am worry about you, darling,
Your young mother is old today,
My daughter, take care of me.

Holding my hem you are
walking,
Having stumbled you are grown
up.
I will smile when I look at you,
My daughter, take care of.

If you are patient, you will
reach anything,
Time passed and these days
are here.
We are grandma and grandpa
today,
My daughter, take care of me.

Sulaymonova Maftuna



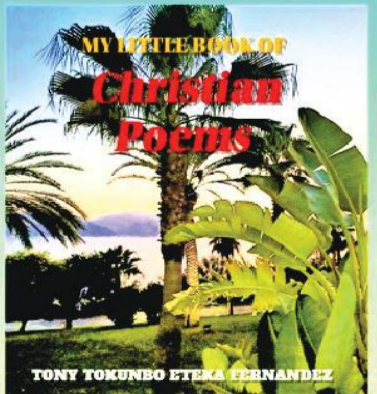
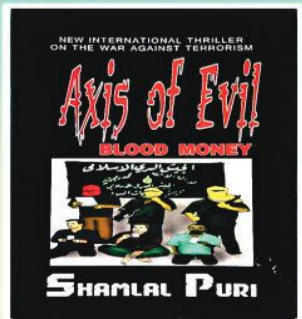
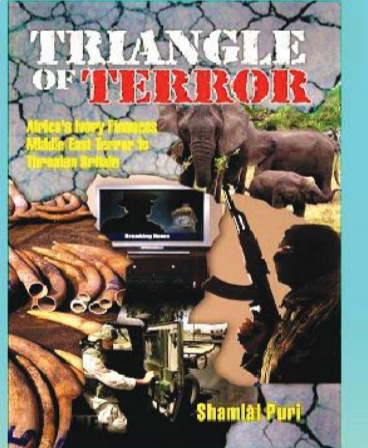
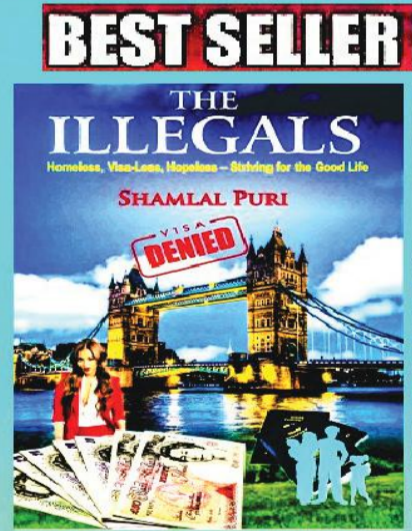
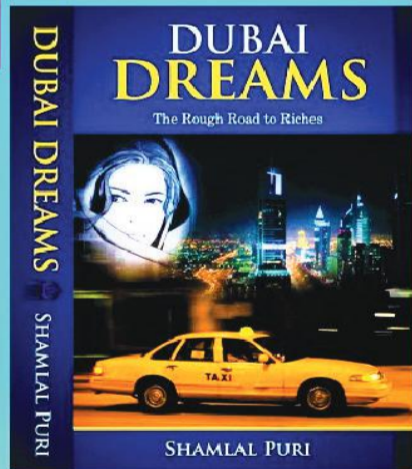
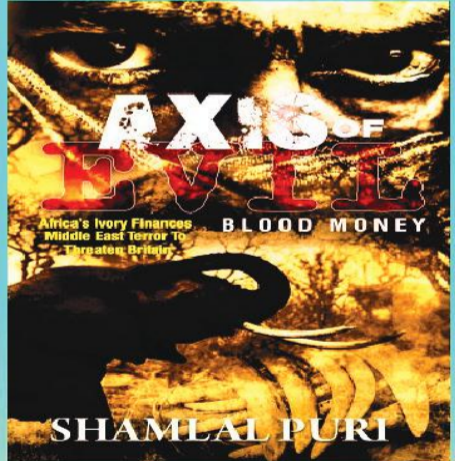
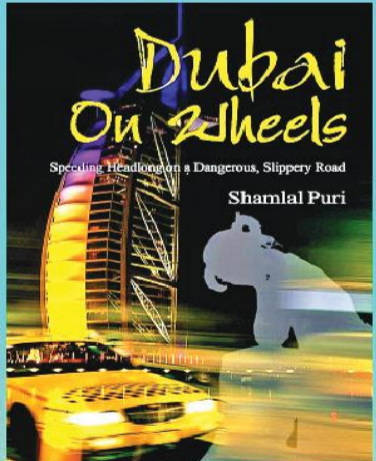
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BUSINESS

Uganda's Martha Muhwezi Named Top 10 Finalist For Africa Education Medal 2023

By: Business Reporter

@themkenyatimes

Founded by T4 Education and HP in collaboration with Microsoft, the Africa Education Medal is Africa's most prestigious education accolade.

Uganda's Martha Muhwezi, Executive Director of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE Africa), has been named as a Top 10 finalist for the Africa Education Medal 2023. Founded last year by T4 Education and HP in collaboration with Microsoft, the Africa Education Medal is Africa's most prestigious education accolade.

Dr. Reeta Roy, President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation, congratulated Martha Muhwezi:

"Congratulations, Martha, on this nomination as a finalist for the Africa Education Medal 2023. This is such a well-deserved nomination. We have worked together for 10 years. The Mastercard Foundation and FAWE have been strategic partners. I've seen your leadership in action. And I've seen the impact of our work in Uganda. And I know that this recognition will confer even greater influence, and will benefit even more lives of young people as we move forward."

The Africa Education Medal was established to recognise the tireless work of those who are transforming education across the continent - to celebrate the stories of those who have lit the spark of change so others will be inspired to take up the torch. It is given to an outstanding individual who has demonstrated impact, leadership, and advocacy in the field of education.

Martha Muhwezi from Uganda is Executive Director of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), a pan-African NGO working in 33 countries to empower girls and women through gender-responsive education.

Her passion for education began 18 years ago, in a remote village in the eastern part of Uganda where many girls were not able to attend school and others dropped out due to early marriage and pregnancy. She joined FAWE in 2005 as a Technical Ad-

visor, before becoming Executive Director of FAWE Uganda and then going on to head up the organisation across the whole continent.

Under Muhwezi's leadership, FAWE designed the Higher Education Access Programme (HEAP), a bridging course that has provided young women as well as men an additional pathway into higher education in Uganda. Since its launch, enrolment in higher education in Uganda increased from 250,000 in 2019 to 270,000 students in 2022. The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) in Uganda has recognised HEAP as a Fourth Pathway to university in Uganda.

In Uganda, she also spearheaded a range of initiatives including Mother Tongue Resource Books, Gender Responsive Pedagogy manuals and the Competence Profile for primary school teachers. FAWE Uganda has influenced the formulation of a gender in education policy in the country.

FAWE runs a range of initiatives including a comprehensive scholarship programme that helps prepare young women to transition to university or the world of work and a number of its alumni have gone on to prominent positions in governments across Africa. Over 6,500 girls and boys have benefited from FAWE's Centres of Excellence, which were established in 1999 and have led to increased enrolment, performance, retention and completion rates, particularly for girls. A further 80,000 children have further benefited from FAWE's Tuseme model since 1996, which has led to an improvement in girls' self-esteem and in their leadership, social and life skills, teachers' positive attitudinal change towards girls and a significant reduction in sexual harassment. Meanwhile, over 6,600 teachers have benefited from FAWE's training model, while 15,000 students have benefited from FAWE's STEM programme which has boosted girls' participation in STEM subjects.

As FAWE Africa Executive Director, Muhwezi led the organisation to develop the Gender Equality Strategy for the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (GES4CESA), which calls for investment in equal education in Africa. She also gained

FAWE the \$1 million 2017 Al-Su-mait Prize in the field of Education.

Mayank Dhingra, Senior Education Business Leader, Southern Europe, Middle East and Africa, at HP said:

"My warmest congratulations to Martha Muhwezi on being named a Top 10 finalist for the Africa Education Medal 2023. Her tireless work to improve education stands as an inspiration to us all and I hope many others will follow in her footsteps to become leaders in the field.

"HP has a bold goal to accelerate digital equity for 150 million people globally by 2030. Only by joining forces and aligning with NGOs, government, educators and businesses can we truly improve the education environment. The Africa Education Medal brings together all those who are changing the face of African education, whose vital work deserves to be celebrated."

Vikas Pota, Founder and CEO of T4 Education, said:

"Africa's teachers and school leaders, and its leaders of governments, NGOs and businesses, all play a crucial part in unlocking the continent's potential through quality education. African education stands at a crossroads in the wake of the pandemic, but if leaders from across the continent in every field can work together then they can build the lasting change needed.

"I congratulate Martha Muhwezi on her achievements empowering girls and women with education and I hope her success serves as a rallying cry for changemakers to come forward and make a difference."

The Top 10 finalists for the Africa Education Medal are:

- Mary Ashun, Principal of Ghana International School, Ghana
- Laura Kakon, Chief Growth & Strategy Officer of Honoris United Universities, Morocco
- Rogers Kamugisha, Country Director of Educate!, Rwanda
- Grace Matlhape, CEO of SmartStart, South Africa
- Mary Metcalfe, former policymaker and CEO of Programme



Martha Muhwezi from Uganda is Executive Director of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)

to Improve Learning Outcomes (PILO), South Africa

- Martha Muhwezi, Executive Director of FAWE Africa
- Jean-Claude Nkulikiyimfura, Executive Director of Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, Rwanda
- Simi Nwogugu, CEO of JA Africa, Nigeria
- Sara Ruto, Former Chief Administrative Secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Education and former CEO of PAL Network, Kenya
- Snehar Shah, CEO of Morning School, Kenya

Nominations for the Africa Education Medal opened in February 2023 for individuals working to improve pre-kindergarten, K-12, vocational and university education who are

either educators, school administrators, civil society leaders, public servants, government officials, political leaders, technologists, or innovators.

The winner of the Africa Education Medal will be announced in July. Finalists will be assessed by a Jury comprising prominent individuals based on rigorous criteria.

Take Action Against Truant Staff, Parliamentary Committee Orders Marsabit Governor

By: Our Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

A Senate watchdog committee ordered Marsabit Governor Muhamud Mohamed Ali to take administration action against county staff believed to have colluded with suppliers to alter price quotations for a tender.

The County Public Accounts Committee took the decision after the governor failed to provide a compelling response to a query raised by the Auditor General in the county's book of account for the 2019/20 financial year.

The Sh2.99 million tender was for the purchase of a solar system, construction of water tank and water kiosk at Laonit borehole.

But after a review of the submitted quotations from five bidders, the auditor general established their quotes were cancelled and obliterated with white wash and new amounts inserted which was later used by the evaluation committee as the quotation price.

“What on earth could explain this? Is it a coincidence that the quotes of the five bidders were white washed? Is this not collusion?” wondered senator Kajwang who chairs the



Marsabit County governor Muhamud Mohamed when he appeared before the parliamentary committee yesterday



Murang'a governor Irungu Kang'ata when he appeared before the same committee



Committee chairman Senator Kanjwang

Worth Noting:

- “What on earth could explain this? Is it a coincidence that the quotes of the five bidders were white washed? Is this not collusion?” wondered senator Kajwang who chairs the committee, adding that the query symbolized the most primitive form of theft.
- Attempt by the Governor to explain away the problem as a small issue and that the alteration only concerned one bid was dismissed by Senator Fatuma Dullo.
- “The fact that the query got its way into the report proves that it is matter of concern,” said the Isiolo senator, who challenged the governor to explain the issue.

committee, adding that the query symbolized the most primitive form of theft.

Attempt by the Governor to explain away the problem as a small issue and that the alteration only concerned one bid was dismissed by Senator Fatuma Dullo.

“The fact that the query got its way into the report proves that it is matter of concern,” said the Isiolo senator, who challenged the governor to explain the issue.

The county team would get in more trouble when its head of procurement told the committee that there

is nothing in the law that outlaws alteration of bids submitted for evaluation.

“The is no provision in the law on what we should do be done in such circumstances. The law is quiet on what an entity should do when a supplier submits altered bids,” said Francis Kaminde, the director of Procurement in the county.

However, the response angered senator Kajwang who dismissed the response as falling short of expectations of a member of professional body.

“There is no way prices of five bids can be altered and you seek refuge in the law. This stinks as corruption,” said senator Kajwang, while asking the EACC to investigate the matter.

In its report to the committee, the National Treasury argues that cases of such alterations, then members of the tender committee must counter sign the bids at the point of opening the bids.

“Whether the law is silent or not, it is a must that such alterations are indicated as early as possible,” said the advisory from the Treasury to the committee.

“The purpose of counter signing is to ensure that such alteration is identified at the earliest opportunity to determine that is not collusion between the supplier and the members of the tender committee.”

Muranga governor Irungu Kang'ata also appeared before the same committee where he defended the county's books of account for the 2019/20 financial year.

How Digital Entrepreneurship Bridges The Gender Gap In Tech And Creates New Opportunities For Financial Independence



By: Elizabeth Angira



Judy Wairimu Copia Agent applauds for transforming her to embrace digital technology. Photo /Elizabeth Angira.

Worth Noting:

- Wairimu says that digital entrepreneurship allows women to work from home or a remote location, which is beneficial for those living in rural areas with limited job opportunities, this flexibility has also helped them to balance their work and personal responsibilities.
- Through Copia's work with Agents, have increased women's access to equitable work opportunities. They have empowered Kenyan women, who make up 81% of our over 60,000 Agents. These women provide essential goods to 75% of our customers, who are also women and contribute to their communities and families.
- On average, an agent goes from handling thirteen Customers per day before becoming a Copia Agent to handling twenty-four Customers per day after becoming a Copia Agent in their overall business.

Copia is continuously investing in digital literacy as they believe that more women need to be trained in skills that will empower them to take advantage of the digital opportunities. Through their Agent training programs, Copia has been able to boost capacity development and community literacy.

The United Nations theme for International Women's Day 2023, on 8 March is "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality." It advocates that women have better access, representation and protection in technology. World Vision is facilitating access to technology, particularly in the areas of economic empowerment and financial services.

While they work to help women climb this ladder of digital equity and access, never forget the women who have not yet approached the ladder at all. We must be careful not to let these women fade into the backgrounds of our minds or be deprioritized in our work.

Through Copia women have embraced technology unlike in the past. Judy Wairimu Copia agent lauds Copia for transforming her to embrace digital technology.

Wairimu says that she was reluctant in the past not to embrace technology, she used to live in fear how she will transform from analog to digital till her friend introduced her to Copia.

"I can proudly say, my life has drastically changed unlike in the past where we used to travel long distance to seek services over not embracing technology," she says.

Wairimu cites that Copia has reduced costs and saves time, one can order goods and receive them instant as they pursue with other activities.

"Unlike in the past where we used to walk long distances going to purchase goods in the market, nowadays, it is a phone call away and orders," she says.

She says that through Copia she has expanded her business and sells clothes, groceries, and vegetables and it has increased additional source of income.

Wairimu says that digital entrepreneurship allows women to work from home or a remote location, which is beneficial for those living in rural areas with limited job opportunities, this flexibility has also helped them to balance their work and personal responsibilities.

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handling thirteen Customers per day before becoming a Copia Agent to handling twenty-four Customers per day after becoming a Copia Agent in their overall business.

According to them they focus on giving our customers a variety of quality products and creating access to them, online platform allows for middle to low-income Customers to purchase desired goods which are then delivered to their family and friends for free. This in turn opens our local suppliers and manufacturers to a wider market.

The United Nations theme for International Women's Day 2023, on 8 March is "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality." It advocates that women have better access, representation and protection in technology.

Dr Abel Mokoro, an economist, says that while the country is working to help women climb the ladder of digital equity and access, never forget the women who have not yet approached the ladder at all.

"We must be careful not to let these women fade into the backgrounds of our minds or be deprioritized in our work," he says.

Dr Mokoro says by using digital platforms, women entrepreneurs can reach a wider audience beyond their local area, this can help them to expand their customer base and increase their revenue.

According to him starting a digital business can provide women with an additional source of income and improve their financial independence and this can have a positive impact on their overall well-being and their ability to invest in their families and communities.

He says that Digital entrepreneurship has empowered women by giving them the tools and resources to start and grow their own businesses, thus help them to build their confidence and leadership skills, and increase their participation in the economy.

Breakdown of barriers to digital inclusion

According to UNESCO, only 30% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa participate in the tech sector and receive STEM training.

Dr mokoro cites that technology has also helped women with the opportunity to overcome traditional barriers that have historically limited their participation in the workforce. These barriers can include lack of access to funding, networking opportunities, and mentorship.

He cites that digital entrepreneurship allows women to work from anywhere at any time, giving them the flexibility to balance their work and personal lives.

"This is especially beneficial for women who have caregiving responsibilities, as they can work from home or at flexible hours," he says.

According to Copia, they have invested in capacity development and community literacy initiatives through their Agent training programs, which equip women and girls with skills to compete in the digital economy.

They continuously work to increase women's access to financing and accelerate digital finance innovations, which we believe will help unlock more opportunities.

In 2021, Copia launched its digital and financial services to enhance its E-commerce offering by building payment, credit, and loan products for its Agents and Customers.

These solutions enable low-income consumers to gain access to financial services using technologies that are more readily accessible to them.

How Digital Entrepreneurship Bridges The Gender Gap In Tech And Creates New Opportunities For Financial Independence

Contd from Page 18

Access of Global Markets

Josephine Omanwa an entrepreneur, says that, Digital entrepreneurship enables women to access global markets without the need for physical infrastructure or a large workforce, thus allows women to tap into markets that were previously inaccessible to them, thereby increasing their potential for growth and profitability.

She also alludes that Digital entrepreneurship typically requires lower startup costs compared to traditional brick-and-mortar businesses.

“This is because digital businesses do not require physical infrastructure or inventory, and marketing can be done through social media and other online channels,” she says.

According to Omanwa Digital entrepreneurship provides women with

access to online communities and networking opportunities, which can help them to build relationships and collaborate with other entrepreneurs. These communities can provide support, advice, and mentorship, which can be invaluable for women starting their own businesses.

Lucy Njenga a customer applauds Copia cites that that many digital businesses can be run from home, which offers women the opportunity to work around their existing commitments, such as caring for children or elderly relatives, this can significantly reduce the cost of childcare and other expenses associated with working outside the home.

Njenga says that digital entrepreneurship offers the opportunity for women to reach a global audience, which increases sales and revenue for women entrepreneurs. This can help to lower the cost of living by increasing income and reducing the need for other forms of financial support.

She cites that Copia it does not

require physical storefront offices or warehouses helps to reduce the cost of running a business, which is especially beneficial for women entrepreneurs who may be operating on a tight budget.

According to Muthoni Njenga provides them with a more accessible and flexible way to start and run a business, to lower the high cost of living and increase financial independence.

Empowerment

Copia ‘s Vice President Marketing East Africa Catherine Mudachi cites that online platform allows for middle to low-income Customers to purchase desired goods which are then delivered to their family and friends for free, this in turn opens our local suppliers and manufacturers to a wider market.

Mudachi says that E-commerce Copia technology gives the women high access to order their good, hence saves them time and money.

Copia is continuously investing in digital literacy as we believe that more women need to be trained in skills that will empower them to take advantage of the digital opportunities. Through our Agent training programs, Copia has been able to boost capacity development and community literacy.

Through Copia’s work with Agents, they are increasing women’s access to equitable work opportunities.

They have empowered Kenyan women, who make up 81% of our over 60,000 Agents, provides essential goods to 75% of our customers, who are also women and contribute to their communities and families.

On average, an Agent goes from handling thirteen Customers per day before becoming a Copia Agent to handling twenty-four Customers per day after becoming a Copia Agent in their overall business.

Victor Agona, the Copia’s sells manager, Gusii region, said the company has identified the need of middle- and lower-class people in-

cluding vulnerable groups where majority are women.

Agona said they have 40,000 agents in both Nyamira and Kisii counties who are able to link the customers and the company.

“Copia is a problem solver and this was witnessed during covid19, this is the time we got many customers and build trust with them,” said Agona on the sell.

Agona said the company makes sells of Ksh. 50M months from Kisii and Nyamira counties where they serve at least 30,000 customers.

LSK Launches Crackdown on Quacks

By: Herman Ngatia

@themkenyatimes

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) is undertaking a thorough crackdown on lawyers operating in the country without practising certificates, thereby tarnishing the repute of the profession.

Through the Society’s President Eric Theuri, the nationwide crackdown on “quacks” is aimed at weeding out the charlatans masquerading as “learned fellows”

Mr Theuri said they are rolling out the operation in tandem with the National Police Service and the Office of The Director of Public Prosecutions.

“We’ve received several complaints from members of the public by people masquerading as advocates. This is a campaign that will be carried out

countrywide,” Theuri noted.

“We are working closely with the National Police Service and DPP to ensure proper action is carried out against them.”

In furtherance to that the society said it has already sent a warning letter to some renown lawyers.

“We have done a letter to some notable lawyers for practising without a practising certificate. Some of them have been appearing in court without a practising certificate,” Theuri said.

He added: “We urge our trained colleagues to desist from practising until they’ve attained a practising certificate. If they do, we will object to their admission to the bar when the time comes.”



LSK President Eric Theuri.

Finding My Zipporah...



By: Njonjo Mue

Worth Noting:

- The play had not just been modernised, it had also been translated into Sheng and it had been truly funny, so much so that it had left both of us feeling warm, relaxed and giddy, and reluctant to take leave of each other.
- And so, still having some time on our hands, she had offered to drive me home. But we both knew the dangers that came with that proposal, and in any case, we had an unspoken rule about not spending time alone together indoors.
- And so we had settled for having tea at the food court on the first floor of Prestige and savouring the breathtaking feeling of discovering that we were actually starting to fall in love.

Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. – Exodus 2: 21 [Moses was forty years old when he decided he could no longer take the abuse of his Hebrew people by the Egyptians.

He took the law into his own hands and killed an Egyptian whom he found mistreating a Hebrew.

When word got out about his well-intentioned crime, Moses fled to Midian to escape the wrath of Pharaoh.

But Moses's flight was not just a case of a man escaping arrest and death; it was also part of God's plan to complete Moses's education for his role as the future deliverer of His people from slavery in Egypt.

Before He could use Moses for this important leadership assignment, God also needed to sort out his domestic situation by giving him a suitable helpmate, Zipporah.

Below is a true story of how a budding friendship and an unlikely romance led me to finding my Zipporah...]

PART ONE

THE DAY THAT DID NOT WANT TO END...

For a few moments, it felt like I had fallen into a deep sleep and was having such a beautiful dream that I did not want to ever wake up again.

Except this was not a dream and I was very much awake, although my eyes were firmly shut as I breathed in the sweet smell of her lightly scented perfume and held my breath, trying to record the moment with my mind's eye in the most vivid detail for endless future recall.

For you see, I was finally kissing her. Yes, we were actually kissing. For the very first time since I had first laid my eyes on her almost five years before.

This was one of those milestones in a relationship that remains etched in one's memory regardless of how many great and wonderful moments are destined to follow.

It was late one Saturday afternoon in early 2006 as we sat in her small grey Toyota Starlet parked at the basement parking of Nakumatt Prestige along Ngong Road.

There were other cars parked all around us, but by this time, we had long ceased to care who might be watching us.

We had spent the afternoon together watching a play at the Alliance Francaise. She had then driven me to Prestige to do some shopping before I caught a matatu to my bachelor pad at Riruta Satellite after which she would drive back to her mum's house in South B.

The play we had seen was a modern-day adaptation of the story of Joseph in the Bible titled ' Joseph na

Dreams Zake '.

The play had not just been modernised, it had also been translated into Sheng and it had been truly funny, so much so that it had left both of us feeling warm, relaxed and giddy, and reluctant to take leave of each other.

And so, still having some time on our hands, she had offered to drive me home. But we both knew the dangers that came with that proposal, and in any case, we had an unspoken rule about not spending time alone together indoors.

And so we had settled for having tea at the food court on the first floor of Prestige and savouring the breathtaking feeling of discovering that we were actually starting to fall in love.

After tea, and being mindful of the time, we had gone into the supermarket and I had bought a few supplies comprising a loaf of bread, four eggs and two packets of milk (I could not buy more than two packets as I did not own a fridge; I would make a mug of tea for supper tonight with one packet and put the second one out on the window ledge of my second-floor apartment to keep it cool and fresh overnight for breakfast the following morning).

I had then escorted her to her car at the basement with the plan that I would then walk the few metres to the bus stop and board my old faithful ' Simba wa Yuda ' Ma3 that would shuttle me home within half an hour.

Still, we did not want to bring this magical day to a close and so we had sat in the car talking some more about Joseph and his brothers although, if truth be told, Joseph was very far from our minds at that moment.

By this time it was starting to get dark and as I held her hand and sought for the right words with which to say goodbye, we found that we were both suddenly tongue-tied, having so much still to say and yet not quite finding the words to say it.

Suddenly the silence between us seemed to develop a strange magnetic quality as we found ourselves helplessly drawn to each other, ending up embraced in a kiss that seemed to have caught both of us quite by surprise.

This new level of intimacy was the latest, if unplanned, step on a journey that had begun with a chance meeting at work five years earlier, developed into an unlikely friendship as the months went by, and was now blossoming into a surprising romance which would end up in a breathtaking wedding on Jamhuri Day in 2007.

But I have gotten ahead of myself. Perhaps the better place to start this journey should have been at the beginning, and so, please come with me, if you will, to the day before Moi Day in the year of our Lord 2001.

For that was the day that I had first laid my eyes on her and when this unlikely journey towards making the two, one, had inauspiciously begun.

PART TWO

NOT LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Betty Chemutai Maina! Yes, the immediate former Cabinet Secretary for Trade and Industrialisation.

In the same way that we credit the Wright Brothers every time we cover long distances of travel by air, I credit Betty Maina for having facilitated our first meeting, albeit by default rather than design.

In October 2001, Betty was the CEO of the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) where Katindi Sivi was serving as a programme assistant, having only recently been elevated from being an intern.

On my part, I was almost half-way through my fifth month as the Regional Director for Eastern Africa of a London-based NGO known as Panos, having recently returned to the region from Johannesburg where I had served for four years as the head of the regional office of yet another London-based NGO, ARTICLE 19.

With Panos, I was based at the regional office in Kampala and was responsible for eight countries in East Africa and the Horn.

During the previous year, IEA had completed a unique project known as ' Kenya at the Crossroads', which explored different scenarios that the country might go through following the impending retirement of President Daniel Arap Moi.

As I preparing to take up my new position in Kampala at the end of May, Ford Foundation, which was the main funder for Panos's new regional office, proposed that our two organisations collaborate in developing similar country scenarios for Uganda and Tanzania using the same model that had worked so successfully in Kenya.

As a starting point, we thought that Panos might come on board by conducting an evaluation of the recently concluded Kenya scenarios programme.

I was to arrive in Nairobi to conduct the evaluation on 9th October 2001 and spend the first day meeting with Betty at her office being briefed about the project, and then I would spend the rest of the week meeting those who had participated in developing the scenarios.

However, when I arrived at the Reception of the IEA offices at Bishops Court next to the Israeli Embassy at 9 a.m. as scheduled and asked to see Betty, I was duly informed that she had unexpectedly had to be out for the day but that she had delegated another staff member to hold her brief. And that was when I first met

my future wife.

It was not love at first sight.

But please don't get me wrong. The first thing I noticed about her when she walked out of the offices through the glass door into the Reception area was her glowing dark skin and those intense eyes that alternately narrowed and widened behind her glasses as she spoke, depending on the points she needed to emphasize.

Her small pretty face had little make-up and just glowed with a simple natural beauty. Her long hair cascaded delicately down to her shoulders, and she smiled often, exposing a set of white teeth that seemed to glow in perfect contrast with her beautiful dark gums. She was smartly dressed in a grey skirt suit and a light purple blouse.

I took note of all this almost from the first glance. So, when I say that it was not love at first sight, it had nothing to do with her appearance, which was both attractive and immaculate.

It is just that she had such a petite body and girlish face that she seemed like she was fresh out of school, and it appeared obvious to me that she was just too young for me.

And indeed she was. For when I later got to know more about her, I found out that she was a whole ten years my junior. And while I was already a regional director of an international organization, she was a programme assistant who was just getting her feet wet in the world of work.

And so at this point and for a very long time afterwards, it never even remotely occurred to me that any serious friendship, let alone a romantic relationship, could develop between the two of us.

"Good morning Mr. Mue," she said a little tentatively at first as she walked into the reception, stretching out her arm for an unusually firm handshake. "My name is Katindi Sivi. I am a programme assistant here at IEA. I am sorry that Betty had to leave the office and she will not be back until after Moi Day. She asked me to brief you about the project and show you the relevant documents so that you are prepared for the meetings that we have lined up for you. Please come with me."

She ushered me into the boardroom adjacent to the reception where she had already neatly arranged the paperwork that we were to go through.

After she fixed us a cup of coffee, we spent the next ninety minutes talking about the scenarios project.

Once I had gotten the gist of what had gone on, she left me with the stacks of files and returned to her work station, asking me to send for

Finding My Zipporah...

Contd from Page 20.

her if there was anything that I needed to be clarified.

I quickly got absorbed in reading the paperwork to get acquainted with how a small group of thinkers and researchers including people like Anyang' Nyong'o David Ndi, Chris Kirubi, Ali Hersi, Sam Mwale, Josefine Ogai, Atsango Chesoni, Wachira Maina and Oduor Ong'wen, among others had gone about exploring and documenting possible alternative paths for the future of our country.

Although, as I said, I did not feel any immediate attraction to her at this point, three things immediately stood out and impressed me about her during this first meeting.

First was her immaculate appearance, which I have already described. Second was the fact that when I went to her workstation, I found that her neatness extended to her desk where everything was kept in its proper place.

I was also impressed by the fact that she was not shy about publicly owning her faith, as there were a number of Bible verses printed out and neatly pinned on her soft board sharing the space with a number of photos from workshops that she had attended.

Finally, I was very impressed when, later in the week, she narrated how she had traveled alone from the office on the back of a lorry all the way to Moyale on the northern border with Ethiopia, over seven hundred kilometres from Nairobi, to disseminate the scenarios.

Her passion for work and commitment to reach people in the grassroots was something we had in common.

After spending Moi Day reading and resting in my hotel room at the Fairview Hotel where I was staying for the week, I returned to IEA on 11th October to meet with Betty.

After a short formal introductory meeting, she informed me that it was actually Katindi whom she had designated to take me around various offices in the city to meet with the various intellectuals and other stakeholders who had been a part of the group which had developed the scenarios.

As the week progressed, I noticed a peculiar pattern. We would have two or three meetings in the morning before returning to the office. I would then join Betty for lunch mostly at the Fairview, but I never did get to find out where Katindi would disappear to over lunch time before we reconvened in the afternoon to do a postmortem of the meetings we had held and prepare for the next day.

On the fourth day as we walked back from Chris Kirubi's office, my



Njonjo Mue

curiosity got the better of me and I asked her where she usually went for lunch and half-jokingly asked how come she never invited me.

"The place where we go is not for people like you," she said, forcing a laugh but with a finality that suggested a reluctance to discuss the matter further.

"But how do you know that if you haven't tried me?" I protested.

"You are free to come on the last day before you leave?" She said after a brief pause, still, no doubt, hoping to dissuade me. Her eyes narrowed behind her glasses to express her doubts about this even being a good idea.

"How about today?" I insisted. And with that, we made our way to a kibanda that was only a stone-throw away from her office opposite the Ministry of Lands Head Office at Ardi House.

We joined three of her colleagues and I immediately discovered the reason why she did not think I would fit in that space and with that company.

The kibanda was a simple temporary mabati structure that really did not deserve the name 'restaurant'.

One could tell that the main clientele comprised mainly junior civil servants from the nearby government offices.

Among the party we joined was the IEA receptionist, an intern and another programme assistant.

Clearly, in those days, IEA had a pecking order that operated during lunch hour. Senior staff tended to have lunch at such places as the Fairview or Panafric Hotels while junior staff came here.

But the food was great. I ordered a whole fried tilapia fish, brown ugali and traditional vegetables.

Much later during our budding friendship, Katindi was to confess that she was extremely nervous as we walked to lunch that day, thinking that the place was beneath a person of my stature at the time. But that once we got there and she observed me unceremoniously take off my jacket, loosen my tie and fold my sleeves as I sat down for my meal,

she knew that she had grossly misjudged me.

It is said that when it comes to relationships between the sexes, women usually know what they want in life while men tend to be quite slow on the uptake.

In fact Katindi later jokingly told me that by the second date, not only does a woman know whether there is a future for the relationship, but that if there is, in her imagination, the woman has already chosen her wedding gown and is waiting at the altar for her man to catch up.

If this be the case, then as this visitor from Panos started to dig in to his ugali and fish in this unlikely place, and despite their difference in age, the pretty, petite, dark-skinned lass from IEA must have begun slowly making her way to the altar to await her man who at this point was busy enjoying his meal without a clue as to what kind of future old cupid was busy preparing for him.

But alas, the lass would end up standing at the altar for a whole six years waiting for her man to finally

catch up with her.

**

PART THREE

OF BLACK TEA, WHITE CHOCOLATE, AND A FEW LINES FROM A SHY POET

I left Nairobi for Kampala on Thursday evening, October 18, 2001. I remember clearly thinking about her while sitting on the plane as it taxied slowly to the runway at JKIA preparing for take-off.

I had been entirely impressed by her sense of order and the simple quiet dignity with which she carried herself.

And if I am to be completely honest, I even allowed myself momentarily to imagine what a fine wife she would make to some lucky guy some day. But that guy was just not me.

My mind was still fixated on the impossibility of that idea due to the age gap between us.

And so, no sooner had I landed at Entebbe airport and was met by my driver, Fred, than I had promptly forgotten her as he started to brief me on the goings-on while I was away.

Forgetting her was made all the more easy by the fact that just two days after I got back to Kampala, I was off again on an extensive trip that started with a conference in London and included a swing through several European capitals to meet with some of our key donors.

I did however remember to add her email address to my mailing list, which I used to send random thoughts to Kenyan friends around the world from time to time. This was before the advent of the blogging phenomenon.

If I had been paying attention, I would have noticed that whenever I sent out an article or the odd poem to this general mailing list, she always took the time to send a personalised response, mostly one-liners confirming receipt and thanking me for including her in the mail, but once in a while, she would take the time to send a more detailed response.

One of those times was when she had actually taken the time to compose a whole poem in response to one that I had sent out a few days earlier, which I had originally composed a decade before while I was a student at Oxford.

The poem was one that I considered then, and still consider today, to be the closest I would come to articulating my philosophy of life and mission statement. It reads:



15 & 16
DEC
2023



Thembelani Majingo 4th annual tournament

CHAMPION PRIZES :



Prizez

- ✓ Soccer Kit Premier Set of 15 Branded TMT
- ✓ Trophy
- ✓ 20 Gold Medals
- ✓ Ball & 10 Beeps

Time

09:00 AM

VENUE

Green Central Sports Ground, Madibogo, NW

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE BEST FOOTBALL

Sports >> *Kenya's 10 kilometres road race world record holder Rhonex Kipruto became the latest Kenyan athlete to be suspended for a doping offence on Wednesday by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU).

“I Don’t Cheat Or Dope! Rhonex Kipruto Says After Doping Suspension



Rhonex Kipruto breaks the world 10km record in Valencia (Organisers) © Copyright

Kenya's 10 kilometres road race world record holder Rhonex Kipruto became the latest Kenyan athlete to be suspended for a doping offence on Wednesday by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU).

The AIU said the 23-year-old — who won 10,000 metres bronze in the 2019 world championships — had been “provisionally suspended” for the “use of a Prohibited Substance/Method (ABP)”.

The ABP (Athlete Biological Passport) can show discrepancies that can reveal the effects of doping.

But Kipruto insisted he did not take drugs and his management team also said they believed he was a clean athlete.

“I don’t cheat or dope! The truth is on my side,” he said in a statement.

Kipruto set the 10km record of 26 minutes 24 seconds in Valencia in 2020 but he finished a disappointing ninth in the 10,000m

at the Olympics in 2021.

Close on 70 Kenyan athletes — mainly distance runners — have been banned in the last five years for drugs offences in a crisis that has tarnished the East African track and field powerhouse.

Kipruto's Prague-based management company Ikaika Sports protested at the AIU decision, saying the athlete was “being publicly prosecuted with no direct evidence” but admitted that Kipruto had been informed by the AIU of alleged inconsistencies in his blood tests since 2018. — ‘Honest young man’ —

Kipruto's coach Colm O'Connell, who is based in Kenya's renowned athletics training hub of Iten, also voiced concern about the AIU move.

“I know Rhonex is an honest young man and it hurts to see him suffering now,” said O'Connell, who has coached more than 20 Kenyan world and Olympic champions, including the 2012 London Olympic 800m gold

medallist David Rudisha.

“I have said many times that I am in favour of systematically combating doping so that we can protect clean athletes like Rhonex.”

In March, AIU head Brett Clothier warned during a visit to Kenya that the international anti-doping body was stepping up its investigations and testing in the country.

The AIU also said in April that Kenyan athletes were being assisted in covering up doping offences by a “medically-savvy operation”.

Its claims followed an investigation into falsified medical documents from marathon runner Betty Wilson Lempus and 800m specialist Eglay Nalyanya.

Lempus was given a five-year doping ban in January while Nalyanya was suspended this month for eight years for using a prohibited substance.

Kenya reacted by promising on April 20 it would more than

triple annual drug testing of athletes.

Sports Minister Ababu Namwamba said Kenya was targeting 3,445 tests a year — compared to the current 1,000 — for its 37,900 athletes and support personnel.

The plans were unveiled in a report issued by an anti-doping steering committee set up in December, 2022, after the government announced it was committing \$5 million a year over five years to try to combat drug abuse in the sport.

The committee also announced proposals to beef up its investigation mechanisms and monitoring of athletes, with, for example, biological passports, as well as developing educational programmes.

Capital Sport

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Karigithu, Kenya's Candidate for the Post of IMO Secretary-General Shares Her Vision With Us

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyatimes

Kenya's Ambassador and Special Envoy for maritime Affairs and blue economy Ambassador Nancy Karigithu has taken a moment to share with us her vision as she positions herself for the Secretary General of international maritime organisation.

"I have looked hard and thought through the current and potential challenges in the maritime sector, challenges which need a clear undistracted mind, maturity of thought and action, neutrality, member States-led decision making and no personal agenda or vested interests, and concluded that I must anchor my candidacy on five key pillars, namely:

- Restoration of multilateralism and rule based system in in IMO meetings.
- Continued modernization of the IMO Secretariat to keep up with the fast-changing methods of doing business.
- Effective and realistic decarbonization of the maritime shipping sector.
- Gender mainstreaming of the maritime industry led by maritime administrations and supported by the IMO Secretariat.
- Transparency in the conduct of IMO business, Inclusivity and Partnership between and amongst players in the maritime sector.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We need to adopt more open and participatory approaches to consultations and decision-making, as well as structure and strengthen the engagement and representation of civil society, industry, and other non-state actors.

To this end, I draw the attention of Members States to the founding objectives of the IMO. We must not lose sight of the purpose for which the organization was established and how it serves our collective interests to work together in tackling our common challenges, in particular as it relates to climate change.

I therefore aim to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with other international organizations, governments, industry, and civil society to ensure that the IMO achieves its mandate, addresses shared challeng-



Kenya's Ambassador and Special Envoy for maritime Affairs and blue economy Ambassador Nancy Karigithu .

es, as well as promote greater coordination and coherence in global governance of the maritime industry.

Truth be told, it is now beyond peradventure that our beloved IMO is perceived as 'fractured' because of some external influences. Our meetings both at the Committee and Council levels often start with acrimonious statements and interventions. This has started creeping into our Intersessional Working Groups (ISWG) and Correspondences Group (CG), making it longer to reach consensus on some of the pertinent issues that are critical to the work and future of the IMO.

As a Kenyan national, an IMO member state which has a long and illustrious history of brokering peace and building consensus in multilateral fora, I will personally approach and directly engage with those different interests be they individual member states and regional organizations to resolve the supposed difference and their concerns at the root so that they don't spill over at our IMO meetings, thereby restoring multilateralism at the IMO. With tact, consultation, sensitivity and mutual respect, impossible is not in my lexicon! My mantra is, Yes, we can!!

Secondly, I do appreciate and recognize that tremendous efforts have been made to modernize IMO secretariat operations and I commend the current SG for his indefatigable efforts and achievement in this regard during the last 7 and half years. The impacts are all too clear for any discerning mind to appreciate. I shall

build on this progress to shorten and simplify the obvious red tape in processes and operations of the Secretariat. To ensure that valuable time is not lost in unnecessary layers of bureaucracy. I will adopt modern user-friendly technology in operations as well as optimize the roles of IMO regional presence offices to deliver the much-needed human and institutional capacities through technical to member states which will ensure that there is value-added for every dollar spent on implementation of activities, national, regional or global. Technical assistance to developing countries is at the core of IMO's work.

Combating climate change is the battle of our generation. There is no escaping this truism. The effects of climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity are all around us. IMO in 2018 adopted the Initial IMO GHG Reduction Strategy and now efforts for its review are underway at the Intersessional Working Group (ISWG) with the forthcoming 80th session of MEPC which is expected to adopt the Revised IMO GHG Reduction Strategy. While we all agree that the maritime Sector must be decarbonized, the end result must be "just and equitable" so that NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND, with an agreed basket of measures having both economic and technical proposal suitable for all of us. This is as crucial and critical to developing countries as it is with developed countries. Disasters and climate impact do not discriminate between rich or poor nations. As the saying goes, 'we are

all in it together'!

I shall work with IMO member states and industry players to ensure that indeed the decarbonization process is just and equitable so that the measures in the basket agreed by IMO members states do not unfairly target or harm a particular economic sector of any member state. This is important and would allay the fears and concerns of all.

The adoption of Sustainable Development Goal in 2015 by the UN General Assembly heralded an era for recognition of the need to ensure gender inclusivity in different economic sectors as mandated by SDG 5. As an established champion of the rights of women in the maritime industry and co-founder and patron of Women in Maritime in Eastern and Southern Africa (WOMESA) I shall engage the maritime industry players for the institutionalization of specific quotas to ensure that women and girls get access to job opportunities, apprenticeship, mentorship, and training to be able to scale up the ladder in the maritime sector. Not just because they are women and or girls but because they are equally qualified, competent and can deliver. I will also engage IMO affiliated institutions such as IMLI and WMU so that tailor-made short courses and academic outreach programs are designed and developed to target girls in secondary schools by publicizing careers in the maritime sector. The slogan, 'Catch them young' will certainly be deployed.

I shall also endeavour to identify

men and women who have made significant contributions to the maritime sector and interest them to volunteer as effective IMO Goodwill Ambassadors in their respective regions so as to champion the cause of gender inclusivity in the maritime sector. This is doable. It is not rocket science!

Let me sum up. The Maritime industry is fast evolving; thus, the need to embrace innovative technology, which comes with security risks and the desire to have seafarers at the center and forefront. On this I shall create more collaborative frameworks and partnerships with other UN Agencies including IMO's active participation and representation in relevant deliberations at the UN Headquarters in New York. IMO is not an Island and should be seen to learn and leverage from the wider UN in matters of common and global interests. This will create synergy and quick engagement with UN organs such as UN Security Council which is mandated to deal with global peace and security which directly impacts IMO work in varying degrees.

We shall actively engage at the UN General Assembly deliberations on ocean governance as regards implementation of UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as the recently adopted UN Convention on Conservation of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and in the now ongoing negotiation of the Convention on Ban of Plastics, so that IMO input is incorporated during the negotiation process.

I humbly request the support of your respective countries for my election to the post of the next IMO Secretary General after the successful tenure of the current SG Kitack Lim. My election would be significant in that for more than 75 years of the history of this great UN Specialized noone from the South or indeed a woman has occupied this position. My election would have positive ramifications far and near and would reposition our IMO for the tasks ahead by making the Organization fit for purpose.

Ambassador Nancy Karigithu launched her candidacy for the post of Secretary-General of one of the most important specialized Agencies of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, IMO.