

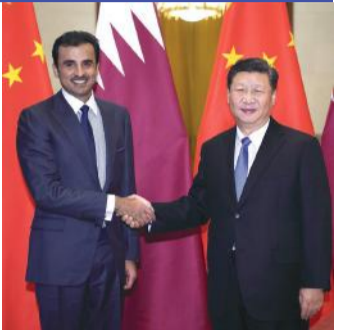
Mukurwe-ini TTI Presides Over Its Inaugural Graduation Ceremony
P.8



Major Reasons For Our Actions Are Our Natural Setting
P.12



Geo-politics: China making suspect inroads in the WANA region
P.16



Ruto: No One, Not Even My Friends Will Be Spared In Graft War



P.9

President William Ruto



Opinion: Sugar Scam: Ruto's Pledge To Crackdown Cartels Endangering The Lives Of Kenyans Has Started To Bear Fruits P.11



News: Former President Kenyatta Mourns Popsy Bastiana D'Souza Gitonga P.13

AGRI-BUSINESS DP Vows To Remove Cartels, Brokers In Coffee Production P.18



Prioritise The Lives Of Learners, Mudavadi Urge Schools Management

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, Njoro MP Catherine Kathambi Chepkwony and other leaders during yesterday's event

Worth Noting:

- “Many of these accidents could have been avoided if the drivers were keen. It is their responsibility to ensure that they do not allow our children to perish because of reckless driving. Always ensure that the safety of the students is paramount,” said Mudavadi.
- He added, “Statistics show that the deaths arising from accidents are now competing with deaths from other pandemics. This has now turned to be catastrophic, thus diverting focus of government to contain deaths resulting from pandemics and other diseases to handling of accident incidents as a result of reckless driving. This is unacceptable.”

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called on basic and higher education institutions to enhance safety of learners, saying drivers should always exercise caution while on the road.

Speaking when he launched seven buses under the Njoro National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF), Mudavadi said it is saddening to see many learners lose their lives through road accidents.

He also regretted the increased number of accidents involving school buses, saying it should be controlled

by all means.

“Many of these accidents could have been avoided if the drivers were keen. It is their responsibility to ensure that they do not allow our children to perish because of reckless driving. Always ensure that the safety of the students is paramount,” said Mudavadi.

He added, “Statistics show that the deaths arising from accidents are now competing with deaths from other pandemics. This has now turned to be catastrophic, thus diverting focus of government to con-

tain deaths resulting from pandemics and other diseases to handling of accident incidents as a result of reckless driving. This is unacceptable.”

Mudavadi said that caring for the lives of learners goes hand in hand with ensuring they are not only nurtured but also protected as future generations.

He encourages all learners at which-ever level to focus on their academic programmes so that they can excel.

“As government, we do not want to have any gap in relation to professions in various sectors of our econ-

omy and livelihood. We must ensure we channel qualified, hard-working and dedicated citizens out of our learning institutions, by providing practical courses towards the current needs of our country,” said Mudavadi.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by the Principal Secretaries Belio Kipsang (Education) and Aurelio Rono (Parliamentary Affairs in the Office of PCS), Njoro MP Catherine Kathambi Chepkwony among other officials.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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

Group Executive Chairman

M. Danson

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-mwangi-1b47446b/>

Our Contacts

P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262

Editorial Desk: editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, Adverts: ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke,

News Desk: news@mtkenyatimes.co.ke, Web: www.mtkenyatimes.co.ke

Facebook: Mt. Kenya Times, Instagram: Mt. Kenya Times, Twitter: @themtkenyatimes

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mt-kenya-times-a07999115/>

20 Kabwithirwe!
23



Tharaka Cultural Exhibition



Nkondi Chapter 2

At: Nkondi Chief's Camp
Date: June 8th, 9th & 10th

Come and Enjoy

- **Authi** ● **Nchungo** ● **Njai** ● **Mboboi**

And so much more...

Jubilee Faction Expels Murathe And Kioni, Declares Monday NDC Illegal

By: KBC Reporter

The Kanini Kega and Sabina Chege Jubilee Party faction has declared the party National Delegates Conference scheduled for Monday illegal.

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta is the convenor of the NDC meant to discuss, draft, and ratify party policies.

Efforts by Kenyatta to hold a Delegates' conference have been thwarted after the Kega faction canceled it, saying no gathering had been sanctioned.

At the same time, Bomas of Kenya management said repair works were ongoing hence the venue was unavailable.

The faction further announced Jeremiah Kioni, David Murathe and Kagwe Gicohi are no longer party officials after being expelled following a resolution of the party's Internal Disciplinary Committee which

was also adopted by the National Executive Committee (NEC).

Kioni and Murathe have been expelled from the party on grounds of gross misconduct, failing to respect the party's organs and carrying out stipulated duties while Gichohi has been suspended for allegedly refusing to carry out the party's instructions and not respecting the party's headquarters.

But Murathe maintains the NDC is on and would be held at a different venue to be announced later.

Kega (EALA MP) is the acting Secretary General while nominated MP Sabina Chege was appointed the party leader after Kenyatta was ousted.



Kanini Kega and Sabina Chege FILE.

CS Mutua: Canada To Unveil Available Immigration Programs

By: Asha Khamis

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Alfred Mutua, says Canada will soon unveil available immigration programs for interested Kenyans.

In a joint statement after meeting Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Sean Fraser, CS Mutua said Canada will highlight the existing temporary and permanent pathways, which foreign nationals may use to apply to live, work, visit, and study in Canada.

Mutua said they discussed economic pathways such as Canada's flagship Express Entry program and the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

He said they agreed with Minister Fraser to soon provide Kenyan officials with a comprehensive briefing

of all of Canada's available immigration programs and additional insights into how Kenyans and other foreign nationals can apply to the programs.

"Minister Fraser was pleased to highlight the existing temporary and permanent pathways, which foreign nationals may use to apply to live, work, visit and study in Canada. In particular, they discussed economic pathways like Canada's flagship Express Entry program and the Temporary Foreign Worker Program" the statement read.

"Minister Fraser and the Cabinet Secretary agreed that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials will provide Kenyan officials with a comprehensive briefing of all of Canada's available immigration programs and additional insights into how all foreign nationals can apply to these programs" it added.



Canada .

He advised Kenyans who are interested in migrating to Canada to consult the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada- IRCC's website

to determine the programs for which they may be eligible.

CS Mutua said Canada values its close ties to Kenya and recognizes

the tremendous economic, cultural and social benefits of Kenyans who choose to immigrate to Canada.



AUTISTIC VOICE MATTERS

AUTISM & ADHD AWARENESS

DEPARTMENTS THAT WILL ATTEND ARE OFFICE OF MEC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, MUNICIPALITY, CPF, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GAUTENG, AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT



SINDILE MAYEKISO

JUSTICE MOKHACHANE

HOST

SISTER BOSS & ISHMAEL MONKHE

MICHAEL MAIELE

ATHENKOSI MNENO

DATE: 12 MAY 2023

TIME: 10:0AM

THEME: BLACK & WHITE

WALK WILL START FROM MZANSI TO MASTER NAKEDI SPORTS CENTER



Governor Kahiga Attends Interactive Forum With Newly Recruited Officers

By: Our Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga yesterday met the newly recruited officers who recently joined the County Government.

The officers have already been undertaken through induction whereby they were trained on public service; the devolved structure, rules and regulations, County Government Public Ethics Act and national values and principles, performance management, drug and substance abuse, disability mainstreaming, HIV and non-communicable diseases, payroll management and welfare issues.

“You joined the County Government of Nyeri which is a tight ship that is run with diligence and its stellar performance this far is evidenced through the streak of wins under its belt. In the last ranking done by the World Bank in the Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP), Nyeri was ranked at position one,” the governor told them.

Already, the government has a performance management system that is designed to ensure efficient and effective service delivery, they were informed.

It provides a clear link to the responsibilities of each employee and ensures that policy decisions are cascaded from the top management to the lowest cadre.

The performance management process ensures every person in the government has a clear responsibility and thus their performance can easily be measured.

This is to provide the staff with a



Nyeri County governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga addressing the newly recruited staff.

clear road map that will guide them in the execution of their duties.

“Our government is built on a foundation of teamwork, focus on the great people of Nyeri county, passion, focus on set goals, integrity, hard work, and innovation. We value collaboration and encourage you to share your ideas, insights, and perspectives with your colleagues. We believe that diversity of thought and experience is essential to driving progress and achieving our goals,”

he noted.

Governor Kahiga also urged the staff to work hard having been fully made aware of the process and procedures in the public service and making a commitment to adhere to the values, principles, and ethics of the public service.

Nyeri County Secretary Ben Gachichio, Chief of Staff Paul Wambugu, CECs Peter Macharia (County Public Service), Ndirangu Gachunia (Lands), Hanif Hussein (Transport),

Esther Ndung’u (Gender), Diana Kendi (Trade), Dr. Joseph Kiragu (Health), Chief Officers Joseph Kanyi (County Public Service), Violet Koigi (Environment), George Mwangi (Trade), Julius Ringera (Transport), County Public Service Board Chairman Paul Kimondo among others were also in attendance.

Worth Noting:

- Already, the government has a performance management system that is designed to ensure efficient and effective service delivery, they were informed.
- It provides a clear link to the responsibilities of each employee and ensures that policy decisions are cascaded from the top management to the lowest cadre.
- The performance management process ensures every person in the government has a clear responsibility and thus their performance can easily be measured.

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe Advertising and Marketing representatives.**

ADLINK INTERNATIONAL
 (1989) MEDIA GROUP
 GLOBAL PRINT, BROADCAST OUTDOOR & DIGITAL ADVERTISING
 SERVING YOU SINCE 1989

ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
 Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
 Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
 www.adlinkinternational.com
 Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri



ST. THERESA MISSION HOSPITAL - KIIRUA

in conjunction with

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS AND UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Brings to you the

ANNUAL ORTHOPAEDIC SCREENING CAMP



Monday - Wednesday

29th - 31st MAY 2023

ST THERESA MISSION HOSPITAL

- KIIRUA GROUNDS -

SERVICES TO BE OFFERED

- FREE ORTHOPAEDIC CONSULTATION**
- FREE PHYSIOTHERAPY CONSULTATION**

Conditions to be screened include but not limited to:

- Severe osteoarthritis of the hip, spine and knee
- Back Pain
- Ligament Tears
- Joint Pains
- Frozen Shoulder



Patients will be required to pay for medicine and any investigations required by the doctor

For more Information & Booking:

Call Us : 0727 811041 / 0703 726321 | Email: info@sttheresahosp-kiirua.com

To Love & To Serve

Mukurwe-ini TTI Presides Over Its Inaugural Graduation Ceremony

....Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua graces the colourful occasion

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

This is a great milestone of the institution where 845 trainees graduated after a robust training, hard work and dedication as it will transform the lives of many youths which will help them in venturing into entrepreneurship and create employment. I would like to applaud the Mukurwe-ini TTI board and management for the tremendous work they have been doing and especially putting the institution on the national map and ensuring rigorous involvement of all Mt. Kenya stakeholders in the activities of the institution. This ceremony could not have come at a better time than now. Indeed, it marks a turning point in the history of the institution and the country as a whole." Noted the Deputy President.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Mukurwe-ini TTI chairman Anthony Mithanga and Principal Patrick Muchemi.

Over 800 students yesterday graduated at Mukurwe-ini Technical Training Institute (TTI) during its inaugural graduation ceremony.

The graduands were conferred with diplomas and certificates during the ceremony at the institution based at Gikondi Trading Centre.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua presided over the ceremony where he called on the youth to take up the technical courses saying they had better returns.

This is a great milestone of the institution where 845 trainees graduated after a robust training, hard work and dedication as it will transform the lives of many youths which will help them in venturing into entrepreneurship and create employment. I would like to applaud the Mukurwe-ini TTI board and management for the tremendous work they have been doing and especially putting the institution on the national map and ensuring rigorous involvement of all Mt. Kenya stakeholders in the activities of the institution. This ceremony could not have come at a better time than now. Indeed, it marks a turning point in the history of the institution and the country as a whole." Noted the Deputy President.

The DP also advised the graduands to use the skills attained to positively impact the world.

Mukurwe-ini TTI remains one of the few TVET institutions in the country that has witnessed one of the highest growths in enrolment from 450 in 2028 to over 2,000 this year.

While congratulating the graduands, the BoG Chairperson Anthony Mithanga noted that the first graduation ceremony symbolizes the institution's success and rigorous effort and sacrifice from the BoG, Staff, students, boundless support from the community, parents and the

development partners.

The chairman also thanked Gikondi residents and the Catholic Church for donating over 60 acres for the institution.

Mukurwe-ini TTI is one of the colleges that have been constructed with the support from the Africa Development Bank (AFDB) to the tune of Kshs. 500 Million. It can accommodate over 5,000 trainees.

"The skills you have acquired has prepared you to meet the challenges of life out there. You are equipped with the relevant knowledge, skills and positive attitude to succeed. Go forth with confidence, resilience. Remain adaptable to the rapidly changing situations in the world and this world will be for you to conquer." Principal Patrick Muchemi advised the graduands.

State Department of Vocational and Technical Training PS Dr. Esther Thaara and Mukurwe-ini MP John Kaguchia lauded the good work of the institution and also thanked those who were founders of the learning institution.

A five-year strategic plan was also unveiled which will be implemented in the next five years.

Before presiding over the ceremony, the DP visited Wamutitu Secondary School where he handed over a new bus for the institution.

Among the leaders who accompanied him were Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina, Kieni's Njoroge Wainaina and Eric Wamumbi of Mathira constituency.



Mukurwe-ini Technical Training Institute (TTI) inaugural graduation ceremony.

Ruto: No One, Not Even My Friends Will Be Spared In Graft War

By: PCS

President William Ruto has said he will be ruthless in confronting corruption in the country.

He said no one will be spared; not even his friends adding that Kenyans must get value for every tax that they pay.

“No one will steal or waste public resources. I will take them head-on.” He said he will not talk much but actions will.

“I will take personal responsibility in accounting for resources of the people of Kenya,” he explained.

He made the remarks in Kandara, Murang’a County, on Friday during the burial of David Wawerū Ng’ethe — father to Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie.

He described the former Kandara MP as a respected, thoughtful and consummate leader who was purpose-driven.

“He was a gentleman and a visionary who dedicated his life to serving humanity.”

The President assured the country that the economy will be back on track soon.

“We have a long-term plan that will stimulate a sustainable and inclusive economic growth.”

He insisted that no part of Kenya will be left behind.

Present were Cabinet Secretaries Njuguna Ndung’u, Alice Wahome and Moses Kuria, Governor Irungu Kang’ata, MPs and MCAs.

The leaders asked President Ruto to remain steadfast in his anti-corruption war.

Governor Kang’ata said it was wrong for individuals to profit from public resources.

“This fight must stretch to counties so that resources follow development not individuals,” he said.

This was echoed by Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichungw’ah who maintained that the President means business in protecting public resources.



President William Ruto in Kandara, Murang’a County, on Friday during the burial of David Wawerū Ng’ethe — father to Dagoretti South MP John Kiarie (Right)

“Do not be derailed by anyone. We must fix those who loot public resources. We will support you by offering meaningful oversight.”

On his part, Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro asked the President to deepen and widen his action against corruption.

“That is the only way we can take Kenya back to its glorious days.”

War On Graft On Course, Senator Mandago Says

By: KNA

President Dr. Willian Ruto has set the precedent to end corruption in the country, Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago has said.

The president’s decision to sack former Health Principal Secretary Josephine Mburu days after the Ksh 3.7 billion anti-mosquito nets scandal emerged at the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency, he said, was a clear indicator of the government’s commitment to fight corruption.

“We are coming from a history of saying we are going to investigate and report back after 30 days. This is why nothing has happened years after the KEMSA heist was uncovered,” he said.

The move, he said, must be cascaded down to all the government

departments and agencies to give impetus to the fight against graft in the country.

All Chief Executive Officers, accounting officers, board members and section heads must ensure that corruption is fought at their level to save the government billions of shillings lost through the vice.

The president’s responsibility, he said, was not solely to fight corruption adding that the duty bearers who have been appointed to head different departments must play an active role.

“If all the organisations deal with this matter in the manner the president has done then we shall make a lot of progress,” he said.

Speaking in Kisumu where the Senate Committee on health visited medical facilities, Mandago said corruption in government was not only being assisted by government officers but also individuals who do



Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago with other Senators.

business with government.

He challenged the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) to join the fight by looping

in on their members.

“Let us do genuine business with the government. If you are doing business with the government and mak-

ing profits of up to 70pc then you are part of this problem,” he said.

10 GOODNEWS



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com



**Access
NSSF Services
Via USSD *303#**

Register as an NSSF member

Check your NSSF statement

Make Contributions and top-up your savings

Follow up on benefits claims

Pay your NSSF T.P.S Housing dues

Sugar Scam: Ruto's Pledge To Crackdown Cartels Endangering The Lives Of Kenyans Has Started To Bear Fruits



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Sugar.

Worth Noting:

- The other day I heard him taking on President Ruto following the revelations that Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) had been rocked by the new scandal.
- This was in relation to a botched Sh3.7 billion tender for supply of treated mosquito nets to low income households.
- The Global Fund, a Geneva based organization, had agreed to support Kenya in war against Malaria.
- The Fund had opted to withhold the money after its senior officials received information that one of the PS in the Ministry of Health and members of KEMSA board had hatched a plot to steal a huge chunk of donor money.

The public discourse is currently pre-occupied with reports that 1,000 metric tonnes of condemned brown sugar has been released to the market.

The Kenya Bureau of Standard (Kebs) records showed consignment arrived in 2018 and upon testing the results showed the sugar was unfit for human consumption.

Consequently, Kebs earmarked the consignment for destruction.

The other recommendation was that it should be converted into Ethanol.

This did not come to pass. Powerful personalities from Mount Kenya region and senior state officials stepped out and thwarted the move.

Reason? An opportunity has presented to mint billions of shillings.

While reports indicated that they were not the original consignee, one would want to know. How did they end up owning this sugar? Did they bought it? Did they used their influence to blackmail and intimidate the original owner to surrender the sugars?

Remember this sugar had already been condemned.

So, it was easy to have their way. They would tell the importer. If you fail to surrender it, you will not only lose everything but we will make sure you have been prosecuted.

Well, this scam was conceived at a time when the country was being governed by the 'Handshake' government led by President Uhu-

ru Kenyatta and ODM leader Raila Odinga.

I'm, therefore, waiting to anxiously to hear Raila's response.

The other day I heard him taking on President Ruto following the revelations that Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA) had been rocked by the new scandal.

This was in relation to a botched Sh3.7 billion tender for supply of treated mosquito nets to low income households.

The Global Fund, a Geneva based organization, had agreed to support Kenya in war against Malaria.

The Fund had opted to withhold the money after its senior officials received information that one of the PS in the Ministry of Health and members of KEMSA board had hatched a plot to steal a huge chunk of donor money.

This is by awarding the tender to a supplier who will play the ball.

Reportedly, the supplier apart from buying a few pieces would have gone for substandard and nets of low quality.

Upon receiving report, President Ruto would not take this matter lightly.

He immediately cracked the whip by sacking the PS and entire board of KEMSA. He also called on anti-graft agencies to commence investigations and bring all the culprits to book.

To me, this demonstrated that Dr

Ruto was committed to walk the talk.

We recall that during the swearing in of CSs and PSs he warned those who will engage in such malpractices that they will face his full wrath.

I have appointed you to help me in fulfilling the pledges I made to Kenyans.

If you deviate from these goals, you are not with me.

In light of this, it was too early for Raila to start attacking Ruto. This was like putting a cart before the horse.

It should be noted Kenyans witnessed the worst KEMSA scandal during the era of 'Handshake' government.

Reports indicated key allies of Uhuru and Raila took advantage of Covid-19 pandemic to raid and milk dry public coffers.

They were awarded tenders to supply Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) given upfront all the money set aside for their respective tenders.

This was contrary to the Public Financial Management laws which required the bidders to be subjected to competitive bidding and those who have won the tenders to be first paid a deposit.

I remember during that time President Uhuru and his government defended itself by stating. This was a crisis that required emergency intervention.

To me, however, there was no jus-

tification to pay contractors all the money before supplying the PPEs, which were procured from outside the country mainly in European countries and China.

As it turned out, most of the suppliers did not deliver the equipment.

For others, they delivered a small number and substandard ones.

This explains how billions of shillings were diverted and lined up their pockets.

We ended up minting Covid-19 millionaires.

If Raila is sincere, I would have expected him to challenge President Ruto to call on anti-graft bodies to pursue them.

Turning to the condemned sugar, the President again moved with speed and purged 26 senior state officials drawn from KRA, Anti-Corruption Agency, Kebs and DCI who had slept on their job. He sacked and suspended some of them.

Further, the head of state called on anti-graft bodies to hunt down the main architect and bring them to book.

Reports indicated two MPs from Mount Kenya region and two senior state officials were the key players in this scam.

They had reportedly ordered the toxic sugar to be released to the markets two months earlier.

They knew they would rake in good money as the sugar prices had not dropped. A kilo of sugar is currently selling at Sh212.

The president is working very hard to reduce the high cost of living.

As we know, he assumed office at a time when the country was facing four main challenges; drought (the worst in 40 years), dilapidated economy, huge foreign debts, Russia-Ukraine war.

The country was also recovering from devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

The price of 2 Kg packet of Unga was selling at Sh230 when he took over. It has now come down to between Sh180 and Sh190, a fall of Sh50.

As I conclude, this is what I want to tell Hon Raila. It is too early to criticize President Ruto. Give him time. For me, he means well for the country.

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

Major Reasons For Our Actions Are Our Natural Setting

By: N. George

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- A musician does not need to know the musical instruments or attend music classes but he can compose and sing a song, know whether the tune is in line with what he expects. He can listen to music even if it is not his composition and be able to identify hits and misses yet he has never trained to be an adjudicator.
- A teacher will continue with his mannerisms even during the school holidays. There are those who will wonder why he is treating all people as if they are his students. These analysts or commentators are unaware that behaving like a teacher is fun to that person so provided what he is doing is not harming others he should be allowed to enjoy the life.

One is loved because one is loved. No reason is needed for loving. Paulo Coelho.

When you cover a seedling with a container you will notice that the shoot will bend towards any place where there would be inlet of sunlight if any. If there happen to be nowhere for sunlight to be accessed by the seedling it will become weak and turn yellow eventually die.

When you find that you admire someone he does not need to do any favour to you, you will just feel attracted to him no matter in what circumstances you have met for example in a busy avenue you may step on someone by mistake and that become your meeting point instead of him condemning you he seek to know what could be going on in your mind and the story begins there that lasts for a long time.

There is someone you meet at bank despite him transacting huge amounts of money and constantly smiling at you, you fail to admire him. Someone else you meet in a supermarket or hotel stand or sit close to him for several times but you fear

initiating any talk with him.

Watching rugby match would be fun for some people others will go a step further and participate in the field by being players. However there are those who would see both playing and watching such a game as wasting time as they have no interest in such a sport. They too have a game that entertains them whether chess, soccer, volleyball, racing car, athletics, theatre or swimming.

Do not wonder whether the blacksmith gets burnt by the furnace he uses at work but goes ahead doing the work on the following day. This is simply because dealing with metals is his calling and would feel bored almost sick if he happens not to carry out such operations.

A musician does not need to know the musical instruments or attend music classes but he can compose and sing a song, know whether the tune is in line with what he expects. He can listen to music even if it is not his composition and be able to identify hits and misses yet he has never trained to be an adjudicator.

A teacher will continue with his

mannerisms even during the school holidays. There are those who will wonder why he is treating all people as if they are his students. These analysts or commentators are unaware that behaving like a teacher is fun to that person so provided what he is doing is not harming others he should be allowed to enjoy the life.

He could be explaining a concept by breaking it down into small bits like he does to his class at school. He is not at all wasting time but ensuring everyone he is instructing is able to understand the concept from a well-informed point. He cannot easily tire in what he is doing. Do not see him as following lengthy route that is his calling as a teacher not only by training but also by gifting.

A kid gifted as an engineer will try to make structures no matter the kind of materials that he has access to whether maize stalks, maize cobs, used plastics, clay, empty cans, used books, carton boxes and any other material. He will keep running his trade as long as he is hearing the call.

It is when he professionalizes his trade that many who know him from

earlier on will come to realise that he has been chasing his dream all the time that they have known him.

Provided what others are doing is not harmful to you and the society in general appreciate the diversity in gifts. It is a natural setup, the person you see has limited role to making it a reality. Look at best ways to make them useful to great extent to the society.

The creature can never be superior to the creator hence let us learn to follow the natural path to remain innovative, original and genuine to ourselves and to those we interact with. Channel your energies to the right course. It would be amazing as systems that support mankind would be improved.

Former President Kenyatta Mourns Popsy Bastiana D'Souza Gitonga

By: Christine Muchira

Uhuru Kenyatta, the Fourth President of the Republic of Kenya and former First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, Friday joined family and friends for a requiem mass of the late Popsy Bastiana D'Souza Gitonga, wife of former President Mwai Kibaki's personal assistant Alfred Gitonga, at St. Austin's Catholic Church in Nairobi.

Until her demise, D'Souza was the Seychelles Tourism Ambassador and a successful Nairobi tour and travel operator whose business acumen was greatly admired in the tourism and hospitality industry.

D'Souza, popularly called Popsy, was eulogized and celebrated by her family and friends as a warm and passionate person who breathed energy into her environment.

Massachusetts, together with her husband Alfred and their peers, eulogized Popsy as a loyal and faithful friend who never shied from speaking her mind.

He described her as one who touched the lives of many in different ways.

Other leaders who paid their glowing tributes included The Seychelles President Wavel Ramakalawan, whose condolence was read by a government representative and who eulogized the deceased as one who dispensed her duties diligently and with great enthusiasm.



Former President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta and former First Lady Margaret Kenyatta

Court Defers Contempt Of Court Sentencing In Sarrai Case To June 15

By: Capital Correspondent

The High Court in Nairobi has rescheduled the sentencing of Sarbjit Singh Rai, Rakesh Kumar and Stephen Kihumba of Sarrai Group to June 15 in a contempt of court case.

This is after Justice Dorah Chepkwony recused herself from the Mumias Sugar lease case since she has been transferred.

The three officials were directed to appear before Justice Alfred Mabeya, the Presiding Judge of the Commercial Division, and show cause why they should be jailed for contempt of court, for continued operations at Mumias Sugar Company (MSC) despite being ordered to stop. Justice Chepkwony found the three officials guilty of contempt of court last month and fined them

Sh100,000 before directing them to appear before judge Mabeya for sentencing because she was on transfer.

Justice Mabeya, on his part, pushed the sentencing of Rai, Rakesh Kumar and Kihumba to June 15 before Justice Josephine Mongare.

Sarbjit Singh Rai is the owner of Uganda-based Sarrai Group that controversially won 20-year lease to operate Mumias Sugar Company.

In April, Judge Chepkwony ruled that Sarrai Group had proceeded with the operations at the miller despite being ordered to cease operations on July 28, 2022.

The Uganda-based company had been awarded a 20-year-lease to operate the troubled miller but it was later cancelled.

Contest over Mumias administration

KCB Group, which had placed

the miller under administration had challenged the decision and were granted temporary orders in September 2022, for them to continue operating, a stand supported by Sarrai Group.

In his ruling on April 14, 2022, Justice Mabeya said if the lowest lease amount of Sh5.8 billion by Sarrai Group was accepted, the sugar miller would never bounce back to profit.

He said the amount was not even sufficient to settle the debt owed, pay cane farmers and resume the company's operations.

"The receiver manager cum administrator was seriously conflicted in awarding the lease to Sarrai Group."

"The lease should have been awarded to a company with financial muscle to bring the company back to life. I do not understand why he disregarded the highest bidders," Mabeya said in his ruling.

Tumaz and Tumaz emerged as the



Milimani Law Courts/FILE.

top bidder with Sh27.6 billion for a 20-year lease in the Mumias Sugar bidding process which had attracted a total of eight bidders.

14 POEMS

The Teacher Who Left Thousands Behind



Guljakhan Rabbimova, a 69-year-old teacher from Kattakurgan, has been working as a primary school teacher for 48 years. Until now, his students who have received his lessons are achieving success in various fields of our country. Guljakhan Rabbimova studied for 8 years at the 14th school of Aytangali village, Payariq district. He continued 2 years of the academic year in the 20th school in the center of the district among excellent students.

- I graduated from school with excellent grades, - says. - Then, from 1972 to 1975, I studied at "Kattakurgan University of Education". After 8 years, I continued to study at the Tashkent branch of "Navoiy Shahar Pedagogical Institute". One of the most memorable moments in my life is when I was first accepted into a school. By fate, we came from Payarik to Kattakurgan, and then to Samarkand.

During 1976-1996, the "Mingchilar" competition was held among teachers. During this period, teacher Guljakhan had not a thousand, but "Fifty" handiwork and technical exhibition tools.

- I still remember, during the class assignment for teachers, he put a picture in the class for 2-3 minutes and handed over the 1st category, - says our hero, who was named Sister Mulla. This is because I had a lot of visual aids. I did not compete with colleagues who looked down on my success.

During her 46-year career, Guljakhan Rabbimova differs from other teachers with her kindness, attractiveness and simplicity.

- Our teacher has many years of experience, is simple-minded and enterprising, - says one of his students, Nilufar Hamidova. The teaching method was also unusual in its own way. "Iris candy" was awarded as a reward to interest the students who had just entered the school. I always said to my teacher, "Even if I am, I will be a teacher like you." Admittedly, almost all of his students were excellent.

Guljakhan Rabbimova has more than 1000 students. Among them are doctors, journalists, diplomats and many teachers.

Flight of Imagination:

The higher my creativity around world,
Me to have cosy days of flying,
Alone with wings of imagination,
Free in horizon of sky,
To find out the close mate of words,
Demanding the peace and ethics,
Moral clothing of words and art,
Life is joyful in spiritual art.

Shining and blooming with higher rank,
World is covered by my genuine art.
Beauty of essence there,
Life is peace in calm of mind.
Grief is lost, happiness in high rank.
Beauty is nature to save us.
The imagination is new and innovative.
My light is spreading all over world.

© Til Kumari Sharma
Paijun 7- Hile
Parbat, Nepal
Now in Kirtipur, Kathmandu



Youth...



I gave my speech to youth,
It delivered to dream as breeze.
My eyes were opened in amazement
It reached the hope destination

My life goes on harmoniously on the road
Pride in my heart, high my temperature
Save me Allah, I will not say pity
Let be repose with me relaxation

My heart flutters to kindness today,
It gifts also good sense.

This tongue is fastened to Ash'or
Every morning I felt a new felling

I asked good luck from the youth...

Mashhura Ahmadjonova, daughter of Akramjon, was born in 1999 in Uychi district of Namangan region. 3rd year student of Namangan State University. Creative and cultural promoter of school 36 in Uychi district.

Crocodile lake

A group of tourists was visiting a crocodile farm and they were in a floating structure in the middle of a crocodile lake.

The owner of the farm shouted: "Whoever jumps into the water and swims to shore, will receive 10 million dollars. The silence was deafening. Suddenly, a man jumped into the water. He was chased by crocodiles, but with great luck he was unharmed. The owner announced: "We have a winner!!!". After receiving their reward, the man and his wife returned to the hotel room. The man tells his wife: "I did not jump in myself ... Someone pushed me!!!" His wife smiled and said coldly: "It was me!"

Moral of the story: "Behind every successful man, there is always a woman to give him a little push." 😊

May your day be blessed 🍀👍

Written by Eric Kyalo



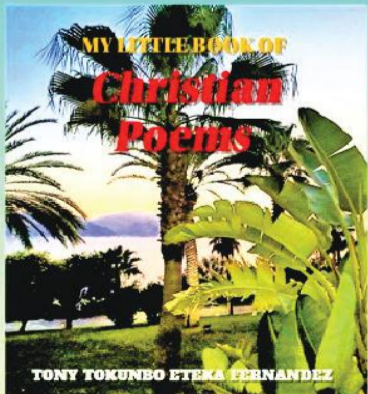
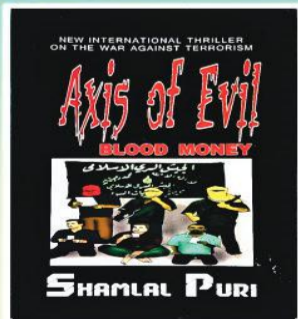
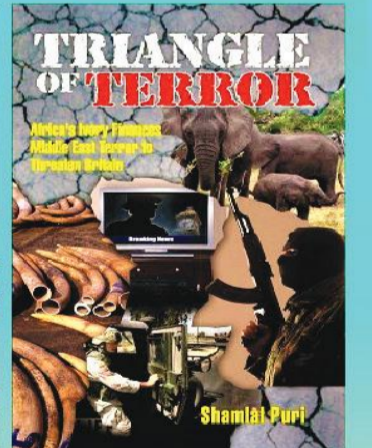
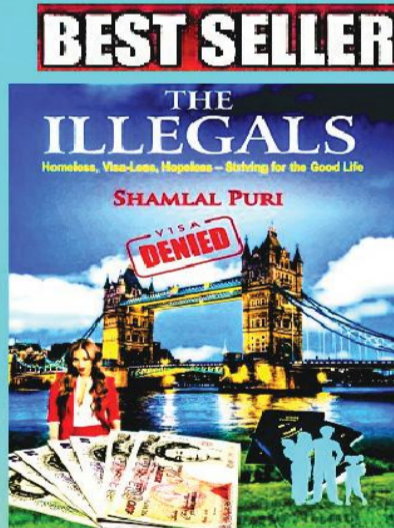
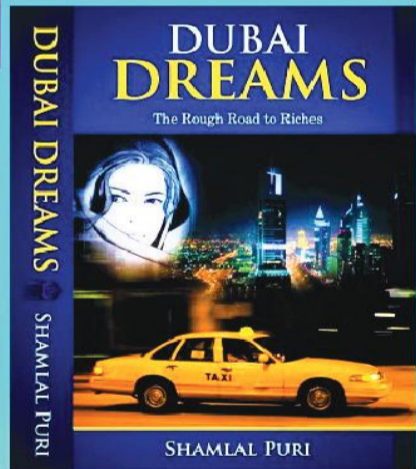
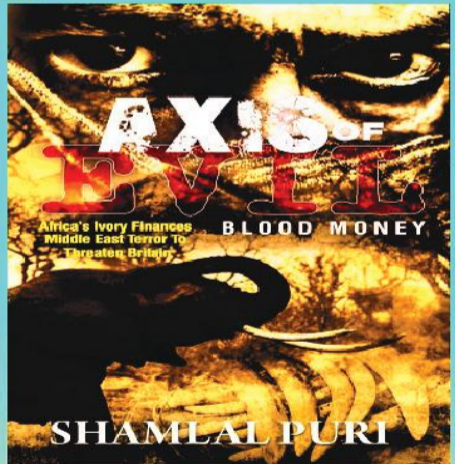
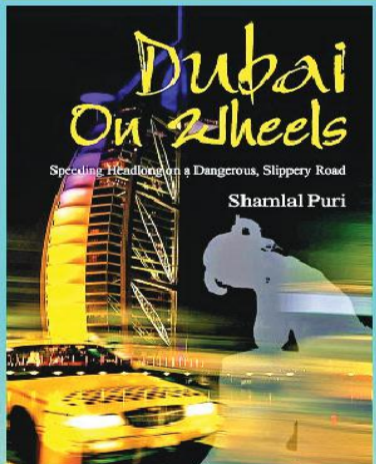
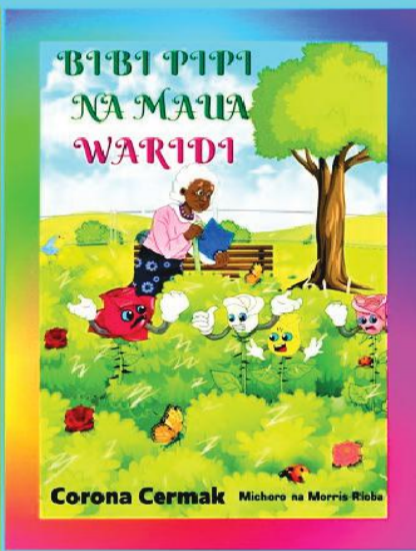
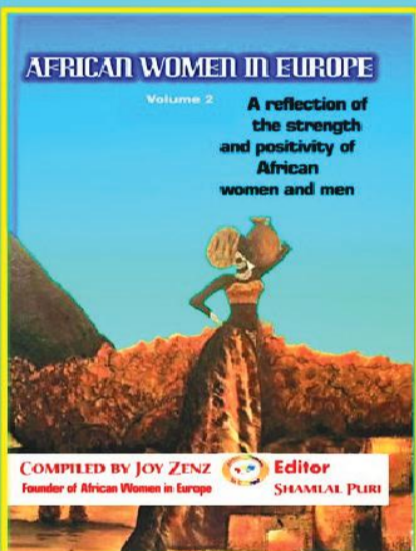
DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?
Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/ digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
Books Division
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)
Tel: 44 330 606 1438
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com

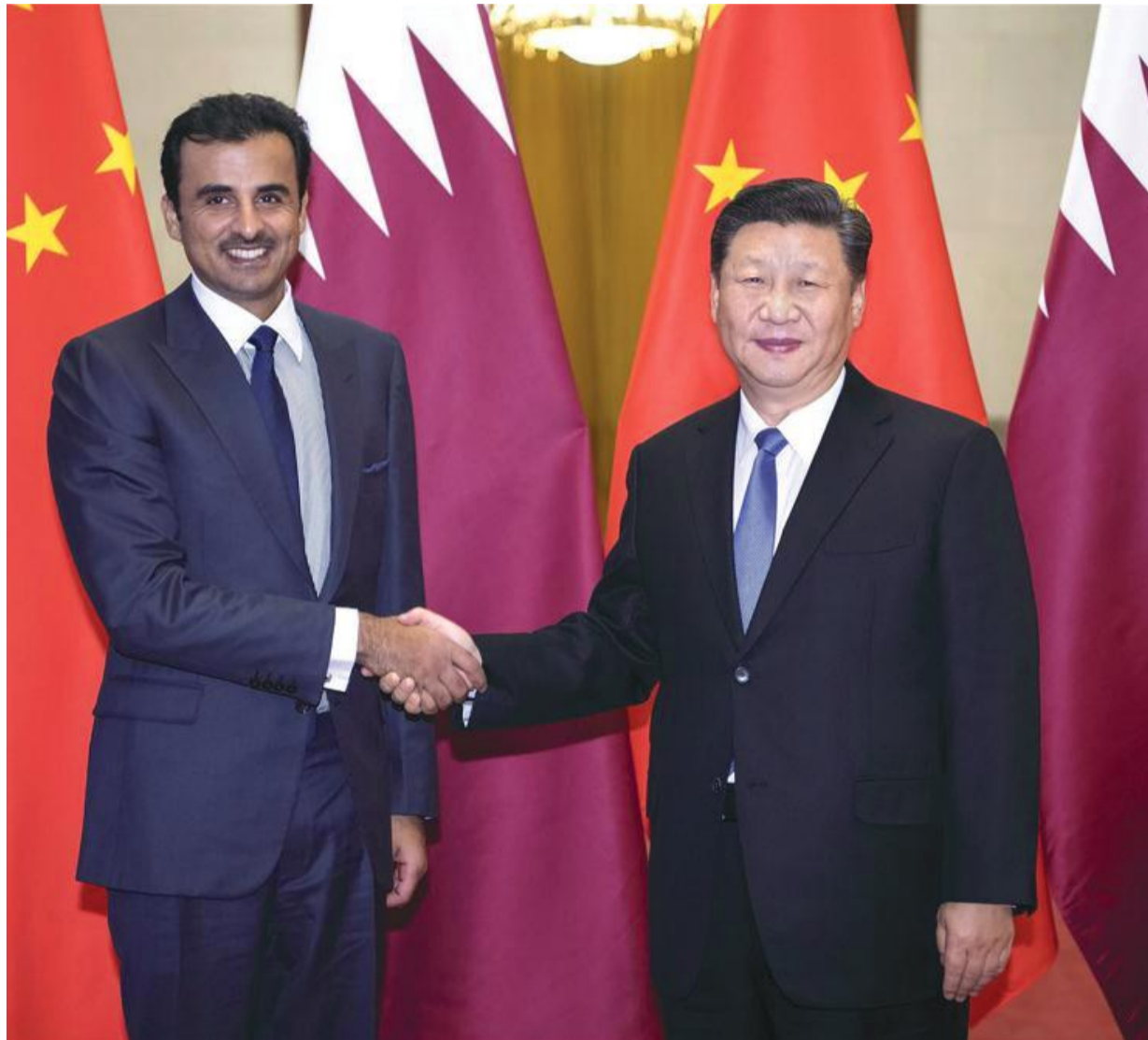
Geo-politics

Geo-politics: China making suspect inroads in the WANA region

By:Agencies

Worth Noting:

- Zhu Rui urged Qatari people to visit China in large numbers to explore possible avenues for economic interest. Later, the Chinese delegation visited Iraq and met Iraq's Foreign Relations Committee representatives.
- The visit focused on activating the Iraqi-Chinese Parliament Friendship Committee. In the last leg, Zhu Rui led delegation visited Kuwait and held bilateral discussions with Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister.
- Expressing concern about slow pace of progress on Chinese projects under Kuwait's 'Vision 2035', he expressed China's readiness to cooperate with Kuwait in the development process. Separately, Zhu also met 50 Kuwaiti businessmen and a large number of representatives from various companies having business interests with China.



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani, emir of Qatar, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 31, 2019. Prior to the talks, Xi held a welcome ceremony for Tamim at the Great Hall of the People..

The resource rich West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region continues to grab Beijing's attention.

Emboldened by its superior technical knowhow, China is making fast inroads in several countries of the region, especially in areas like infrastructure, weapons procurement, oil exploration, space research and sustainable development.

A flurry of visits by regional leaders towards mending ties with their arch rivals in the aftermath of China mediated Saudi-Iran deal marked important events in the region. A six-member Chinese delegation headed by Zhu Rui, Assistant Minister, International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (CCCP) of China, visited three WANA countries (Qatar, Iraq and Kuwait) during February 2023 with the aim of strengthening bilat-

eral relations.

In the first leg, the delegation visited Qatar and held bilateral discussions with Secretary-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs underlining the importance of maintaining bilateral consultations and regular exchange of views between the two countries. Zhu Rui urged Qatari people to visit China in large numbers to explore possible avenues for economic interest. Later, the Chinese delegation visited Iraq and met Iraq's Foreign Relations Committee representatives.

The visit focused on activating the Iraqi-Chinese Parliament Friendship Committee. In the last leg, Zhu Rui led delegation visited Kuwait and held bilateral discussions with Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister.

Expressing concern about slow pace

of progress on Chinese projects under Kuwait's 'Vision 2035', he expressed China's readiness to cooperate with Kuwait in the development process. Separately, Zhu also met 50 Kuwaiti businessmen and a large number of representatives from various companies having business interests with China.

Interestingly, Kuwaiti businessmen were unimpressed as they opined that Zhu's speech at the event was more about "muscle flexing" rather than announcing any attractive offer to enhance business.

With Saudi Arabia, China is looking to augment its overall cooperation. China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC) has bagged one of the seven contracts worth US\$ 2.1 billion by ROSHN, a real-estate developer, to develop infrastructure facilities in Saudi Arabia including construction

of housing units, schools etc.

Besides, two officials of China's largest state-owned media and cultural organization, Shanghai Media Group, visited Riyadh in mid-March to explore the possibility of setting up their bureau office in Saudi Arabia.

The office will promote Chinese interests in the Gulf including the benefits of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In Egypt, Arab Industrialization Organization and China's 'CACHC Group' signed an agreement on transfer of technology and coproduction of three-dimensional radar system, which is specialized in detecting drones.

It was also agreed to provide training to 2 Egyptian in China on latest digital manufacturing systems and maintenance of this radar system. China has also stepped up its penetration in the defense sector of the Gulf Countries. China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC) is in negotiations with Abu Dhabi Police to sell AR-36 UAV System, a vertical take-off /landing UAV, which is equipped with all-weather image sensor and is capable of long-term reconnaissance and surveillance at low altitude.

Similarly, CATIC has also offered to sell to the UAE, an unmanned Helicopter UAV AR500, widely used by Chinese Police. The helicopter has Electronic Warfare (EW) capability, Maritime reconnaissance capability, and emergency communication.

Separately, Advanced Aviation Technology (AAT) of UAE has accepted a proposal sent by ALIT China for supply of thermal batteries. Thermal batteries are the current mainstay power source for military applications (e.g., missiles, rockets and bombs) and for nuclear weapons.

Though these agreements might appear lucrative for recipient countries in short term, in the long term these projects may lead these countries into 'debt trap' as has been the case with Pakistan, Sri Lanka etc.

The countries in the region need to be aware that Chinese agreements, which are ostensibly commercial in nature, also have political clauses. They go a long way in serving politico-strategic objectives of the Chinese state.



Stuck with
your taxes?

We are one call away!

0711 099 999
020 4 999 999

7am to 9pm - Monday - Friday

9am to 4pm - Saturday

9am to 1pm - Sunday



020 4 999 999 / 0711 099 999



callcentre@kra.go.ke



www.kra.go.ke

DP Vows To Remove Cartels, Brokers In Coffee Production

By: DPPS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Friday promised to get rid of cartels in the coffee sub-sector and work with stakeholders to address the challenges affecting farmers' income.

Mr Gachagua said the government will deal firmly with the multiple brokers and middlemen in the coffee production chain, so as to improve the situation of the farmers.

"There are multiple brokers between the coffee farmer and the consumer. Those brokers have oppressed farmers for many years. President William Ruto gave me the mandate to lead the exercise of removing the middlemen so the farmer can reap more," said the Deputy President.

Speaking at St Benedict Wamutitu Secondary School in Mukurweini Nyeri county after launching a school bus, Mr Gachagua said he has convened a three-day coffee stakeholders' conference in Meru to address the challenges facing the sector.

The bus was purchased through the Mukurweini National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF).

The Deputy President said the coffee conference will be held in Meru from June 6 to 8, 2023 and the stakeholders expected to attend include government officials, lawmakers, governors, coffee farmers, experts, marketers and roasters among others.

"After the three days we will decide on the way forward such as proposals on legal reforms and the strategies to deploy so that the coffee farmers can regain the lost glory of the sub-sector and have money in their pockets," said Mr Gachagua.

In January, President Ruto tasked Mr Gachagua to lead the coffee sector reforms spearheaded by the Coffee Sub-Sector Reforms Implementation Standing Committee.

Leaders accompanying the Deputy President were Nyeri Deputy Governor David Kinaniri and MPs Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya), Njoroge Wainaina (Kieni), Jane Kagiri (Laikipia Woman Representative), Patrick Munene (Chuka Igamba-Ng'ombe) and Dr Robert Pukose (Endebess).

Also present were Members of County Assembly of Nyeri and national government administration officers.

In regard to the ongoing operation by the government against illicit brews in the Central Kenya region,

the leaders lauded the exercise.

He said the reluctant administrators where we will lose a generation be-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua being received by Nyeri County leaders at Kiahugu stadium yesterday.

"We are excited that the results of the operation can be seen. Families that had broken down have started to reunite," said MP Munene.

For his part, the Deputy President asked chiefs and their assistants to put more effort towards the exercise.

and those taking bribes from the illicit brew traders risk losing their jobs for failing to discharge their mandate.

"I do not want them to lose their jobs but if they fail we will have to part ways. I cannot allow a situation

cause of illicit brews. Stop associating with those operating illicit brews and illegal alcohol. Those bribing you will dump and avoid you once you lose your job," he said.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua at St Benedict Wamutitu Secondary School in Mukurweini Nyeri County.

Worth Noting:

- The Deputy President said the coffee conference will be held in Meru from June 6 to 8, 2023 and the stakeholders expected to attend include government officials, lawmakers, governors, coffee farmers, experts, marketers and roasters among others.
- "After the three days we will decide on the way forward such as proposals on legal reforms and the strategies to deploy so that the coffee farmers can regain the lost glory of the sub-sector and have money in their pockets," said Mr Gachagua.
- In January, President Ruto tasked Mr Gachagua to lead the coffee sector reforms spearheaded by the Coffee Sub-Sector Reforms Implementation Standing Committee.

Dr. Alfred Mutua Okeys Amb. Karigithu for IMO SG

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua has reaffirmed the unwavering Government support for the candidature of Ambassador Nancy Karigithu for the position of Secretary General of the international maritime organisation.

Dr. Mutua notes, “I have the pleasure of reaffirming President William Ruto’s endorsement of the candidature of Amb. Nancy Karigithu as the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for the period 2024-2027.

Amb. Karigithu’s candidature has also been reconfirmed and reiterated by the African Union which is a reaffirmation of the trust that the AU has in Amb. Karigithu’s leadership abilities in the pursuit and advancement of the object and purpose of the IMO.

As Kenya’s Special Envoy for Maritime and blue economy and also the Advisor on blue economy in the Executive Office of the President, Amb. Karigithu’s decision-making experiences and steady demeanour will certainly stand the global maritime welfare in good stead.

I wish to restate Kenya’s commitment to the protection and promotion of our shared and common maritime security interests under international law that will allow for optimal exploitation of the blue economy. Amb. Nancy Karigithu’s candidature provides a firm, dependable and experienced safe pair of hands in this regard.



Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua and Amb. Nancy Karigithu

31 To Face Banditry-Related Charges

By: Margaret Kalekye

31 people are set to be arraigned in court next week to face banditry-related charges.

The revelation was made by Interior CS Kithure Kindiki Friday when he chaired a joint security meeting in Samburu.

The CS warned no one will be spared in the war against the criminals noting that an arrest warrant has also been issued against an Assistant Chief, that he did not name.

“A resounding message that the government will unleash a cascade of accountability, bringing it down to the individual level where responsibility for any criminal actions will be subjected to swift justice” he stated.

He further disclosed that 148 illegally-owned firearms have been surrendered under the ongoing Operation Komesha Uhalifu in the North Rift. Out of these, 96 have been re-

covered from Samburu County.

Kindiki who yesterday (Thursday) extended the operation in six Rift Valley counties for 30 days insisted that the government won’t let up on the disarmament efforts, and will keep its foot firmly on the pedal to rid the area decades of insecurity and violent livestock theft advanced through illegally-owned guns.

“All guns illegally in the hands of civilians must be recovered. The intelligence-led security operation will continue until all criminals are flushed out of their hideouts.

He hailed residents for surrendering the guns.

“The multi-agency security team pursuing armed criminals and bandits in the North Rift Valley region will continue to partner with residents to identify and disarm criminals,” he said.

The CS met with the Rift Valley Regional Security and Intelligence Committee to review and assess the success and challenges of the ongoing Maliza Uhalifu Joint NPS- KDF Operation.



148 illegally-owned firearms have been surrendered.

We Brought The Laughter Home To Stay



By: Njonjo Mue

[In the last Episode, I had met a young programme officer at the Institute of Economic Affairs with whom I was to work for one week in October 2001. Little did I know that as we discussed the 'Kenya at the Crossroads' Scenarios Project, God was preparing the mother of all scenarios for us that would lead us to becoming partners for life...

But before continuing with the details of how I finally became Moses to Katindi's Zipporah, here are a couple of brief interludes...]

INTERLUDE ONE...

OF IGNORANCE, WITCHCRAFT AND GOD'S SENSE OF HUMOUR

I grew up in Thika in the 1970s.

Despite the town being a melting pot of people from different parts of the country, who came from the villages in to the budding town in search of work in the factories of Kenya's 'Industrial Capital', I was still ignorant enough to believe some of the myths peddled by adults about different ethnic communities.

In particular, we were strongly led to believe that people from Kitui were witches and could do us great harm by remote control from a long way away.

I was an avid reader of the children's magazine 'Rainbow' and I often contributed short stories, poems, puzzles and quizzes for publication in the magazine.

One day when I was ten years old, day I wrote to 'Rainbow' seeking a Pen Pal, and you can imagine my shock when I received a letter from a girl from Kitui asking me to be her Pen Pal.

Horror of horrors!

What was I to do with this letter from the child of a witch? It was a Catch 22.

If I replied to the letter, I would definitely come under her spell forever; if I didn't, she surely had the powers to track me down to my very bedroom and unleash some terrible calamity.

I was surely done for.

In a state of total panic, I sought the wise counsel of my elder brother, Kamau, who calmed me down and

told me that if I did not respond to the letter, the girl from Kitui would have no way of knowing if I ever received it at all.

And so, with a great sense of relief, I burned the letter, scattered the ashes to the four corners of the earth and slept soundly, knowing that I had had a narrow escape.

Many years later, I met a charming young woman. We became friends, fell in love, dated for two years and got married on Jamhuri Day 2007.

She is the best thing to have happened to me. Her name is Katindi Sivi Njonjo. And guess what, she comes from Kitui!

And am I so glad that I came under her spell forever!

Surely, our God has a sense of humour....

INTERLUDE TWO...

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

For Katindi...

By Njonjo Mue

We met inauspiciously
Became friends unhurriedly
Grew fond of one another genuinely
Enjoyed each other's company profoundly

We laughed, often uncontrollably
And slowly but surely
We fell in love unconditionally
And got married gleefully

Now we enjoy life intentionally
And because I love you completely
I look forward to living joyfully
With you... ever after, happily.

And here are the details of how all this came to pass...

WON'T YOU PLEASE BUY LUNCH FOR A POOR STUDENT?

At the end of May 2002, I resigned my job as Regional Director of Panos Eastern Africa and returned home to Nairobi from Kampala to enroll in a two year Masters in Theology Programme at the Nairobi International School of Theology (NIST).

Shortly after school started, I wrote an email to Katindi saying, "Now that I am a broke student, I am not ashamed to ask you to buy me lunch."

She did not hesitate to invite me to lunch at the Fairview Hotel. She had recently been promoted to Programme Officer following the departure of her former boss and best friend, Angella Kitonga from IEA, but still I knew that even with her new salary, buying me lunch at the Fairview must have been a sacrifice for which I was very grateful.

During my time at NIST, Katindi and I would often meet to share a meal or tea. We also started to go out for entertainment in town. She would choose the plays we would see at Alliance Française or the National Theatre, and I would be responsible for

recommending the movies we could watch.

After the show, we would find a restaurant with a reasonably priced menu (Generations Restaurant on Moi Avenue was a particular favourite) and share a cup of tea, which we would deliberately drink very slowly, even asking the waitress to warm it again, so as to extend our time together without having to burst our very modest budget for entertainment.

I would then walk her to her matatu stage behind Gill House, continuing as we went our animated conversations about our experiences navigating our way as pilgrims in a hostile world, where she would board her transport home to Kariobangi South where she was living with her parents.

Katindi was also a member of Christians for a Just Society (CFJS), an organization that had been recently formed to mobilize the church for social action, and she would often invite me to the weekly CFJS prayer meeting.

Following Easter of 2004, I joined members of the Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) in forming an advocacy NGO, the International Institute of Legislative Affairs, whose mission was to advocate for just legislation and lobby Parliament to pass the same.

I invited Katindi to join the group, not only because I knew she would make a great contribution given her academic and professional background, but because it would also give us the opportunity to spend more time together.

THE SCALES FALL OFF

In October 2005, I was arrested at the American Embassy and imprisoned for thirty days at the Industrial Area Prison for advocating compensation for the victims and survivors of the 1998 bomb blast.

Immediately following my release from custody, I fell ill and was admitted in the hospital for a week.

Throughout that week, Katindi used her lunch hour to visit me in the hospital where we would just sit in the garden and talk.

All this time, it had never occurred to me that ours would ever become anything more than a good friendship. Remember the small matter of that age difference?

However, during the fourth day of her visits, something unexpected happened. As we sat talking in the garden of Chiromo Lane Medical Centre, like the apostle Paul in Damascus, the scales seemed to fall from my eyes. Alas, the young girl who had stood before me disappeared and, behold, in her place stood a beautiful young woman.

In addition to all her other qualities, I specifically remember noticing, as if for the very first time, her curvy hips which were beautifully if subtly amplified by the pinstripe brown skirt she wore that stopped just shy of her knees.

HE WILL NOT LET YOUR FOOT SLIP..

The age gap between us seemed to vapourize, and I did not waste time in asking the question that urgently came to my mind.

"Katindi, we have been friends for four years now," I told her, trying to hide my excitement at the prospect of what I was about to propose. "Have you ever wondered if our friendship could become something more?"

"Absolutely!" she said without hesitation, her sincere smile lingering somewhere between shyness and confidence.

I was pleasantly surprised by her quick response. The usual protocol when a Christian girl was asked out by a guy those days was to say, "Let me go and pray about it," even if it was obvious her eventual answer would be "yes."

It was part of an unspoken code that Christian girls should not be seen to be too eager to enter into romantic relationships.

When I asked her later about her prompt response to my suggestion that we upgrade our friendship to a relationship, Katindi said that she already knew what she wanted and did not want to play games.

Clearly, the lass who had been waiting at the altar resplendent in her wedding gown were getting impatient and could not wait any longer for her lad to catch up!

Nevertheless, she would also confess that once she had said yes on that Thursday lunchtime at Chiromo Lane, she did pray about it during her evening devotion, and God had unequivocally answered her question about whether it was the right thing to do by leading her to Psalm 121: 3, "He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber."

ATTENTION WITHOUT INTENTION?

We dated for just over a year during which time I grew even fonder of her. But like most men, I suffered an acute case of commitment-phobia and I feared that I might have fallen into the trap that many Christian young men fell into when it came to relating with girls, the trap of attention without intention.

On the afternoon of New Year's Eve on 31 December 2006, we had a long conversation over a cup of tea during which Katindi gently confronted me.

"We've known each other for five years now and have been dating for over a year," she said methodically, clearly trying not to sound like she was complaining. "What are your intentions for this relationship?"

She said that while she valued my friendship, she did not want the New Year to start with us still being in a state of limbo. We needed to decide whether we were taking it to the next level and if not, we needed to release each other.

I told her that, honestly, I was gen-

uinely unsure as to the direction our friendship should take.

As we usually did, we parked her car outside Hilton Hotel and prayed together inside shortly before I crossed the road to the Kencom bus stop to catch my KBS Bus Number 4 home to Riruta Satellite where I was living at the time.

"Father God," I prayed aloud as I gently held her hand. "Thank you for this special friendship that you have given us. Lord you know that I am scared and confused about whether to move forward or not. I need your help. Please speak clearly to me and show me the way. In Jesus' name. Amen"

A LITTLE HELP FROM MR. GRAHAM

God did not take long before answering my desperate prayer for clarity. That very night as I sat in my one bedroom flat at Riruta Satellite randomly flipping my TV channels while waiting to tune in to KBC to join President Kibaki and First Lady Lucy as they led the nation in ushering in the New Year from State House Mombasa, I came across a Billy Graham Classic programme that was just starting to air on Family TV.

The evangelistic crusade must have been recorded somewhere in the US in the late 1960s or early 70s, for the recording was in black and white and the dress fashion and hairstyles of those in attendance indicated those of a different generation.

Before he started preaching, Billy Graham, rather unusually and quite out of the blue, stated, "Young people surprise me these days. A young man comes to me and tells me to pray for him because he is confused as to which girl to marry, and yet every so often I see the young man serving in the church with a pretty young girl beside him. They seem to enjoy each other's company so. They run errands together and they sing together in the choir. Everybody it seems, except him, seems to know that they were meant for each other, but he continues to pray to God to show him whom to marry. God must laugh at such a young person who refuses to see the answer to his prayer right before his very eyes."

Mr. Graham may have been speaking that word to a different audience in a different country, three or four decades earlier, but on that New Year's Eve as I sat sipping a cup of tea at my little apartment in Riruta Satellite, God used him to speak very clearly to me and to once and for all settle my dilemma.

WILL YOU MARRY ME?

The next time I saw Katindi was two days later on 2nd January 2007, as we drove to Kitui to visit her Cùcù.

We Brought The Laughter Home To Stay

Contd from Page 20.

I waited until we had just exited Thika Road over the fly-over that would take us to Garissa Road. It seemed somewhat appropriate that I make my auspicious announcement as we passed by my alma mater, General Kago Primary School.

"Guess what... the Lord has spoken in answer to my prayer of New Year's Eve." I explained to her how Billy Graham had gone out of his way to address a young man about a young maiden and how his short detour from his evangelistic message left me in no doubt about God's intentions for us going forward.

"Katindi, will you marry me?" I asked.

She was the one on the wheel. She stopped the car on the roadside, gave me a warm long hug and simply declared, "Of course I will marry you."

Her signature smile and the dancing in her eyes made it unnecessary for her to say anything more.

EE NA MUTEETHESYA?

When we reached her Cùcù's house in Katutu Village, it seemed like Cùcù had been having tea with Billy Graham...

"Eena mûteethesya?" she asked Katindi shortly after I had been introduced, "Does he have a helper?"

It was too early to announce our intention to get married, so Katindi tried to brush her off and change the subject.

However, later in the afternoon, after the chicken had been caught, cooked and eaten, and as we were having tea and enjoying the sights and sounds of Katutu village, Cùcù suddenly and without warning started to sing an old gospel song. It was a Kiswahili song but she sang it sweetly with a Kamba accent. Her sweet voice made me realize from where Katindi had inherited her own voice, which she used as part of the worship team in her church.

"Hoodi hodi
Hoodi hodi
Mwakaribisha
Fungua milango, madirisha
Mwokozi aingie..."

[Knock knock
Knock knock
You are welcome to come in
Open the doors, and the windows
That the Deliverer may come in]

She then turned dramatically to Katindi and declared with a knowing smile, "Uù tiiwe Mwokozi waku." ("Isn't this gentleman your Deliverer?")

We all laughed and soon we said our goodbyes to start our journey back to the City as we did not want to drive at night.

As we passed by Thika on our way back and discussed our visit to Cùcù, we realized that in her own subtle

way, she had spoken a blessing to our impending union and we could now go ahead and start preparing to embark on the adventure of our life together.

SHERIA HOUSE IS NOT AN OPTION

As the New Year 2007 began, we also started to prepare for our wedding.

By this time, I had been without paid work for four years, three of which I had been a student in Bible College and one of which I had worked without pay as Executive Director at CFJS. I had long depleted my reserves and was really living hand to mouth.

I was therefore really concerned that I would not be able to raise enough money for the wedding.

Also, I was turning forty years old that year, and I felt too old to convene a committee to help us plan and fundraise for the wedding. What is more, I feared that having worked in high profile international jobs, I would be ridiculed by friends if I tried to ask them for donations to help fund our wedding.

But it was just my pride speaking...

After I shared the news of our forthcoming wedding with my friend Karobia Njogu, he asked me when we would form our wedding committee, which he was eager to join.

"We won't be forming a committee," I told him flatly. But he would hear none of it.

"Refusing to form a committee," Karobia said, "Would be denying your friends, whom you have always stood with during their time of need, a chance to reciprocate."

We therefore did eventually, albeit reluctantly on my part, form a wedding planning committee. But we decided that when it came to donating for the wedding, we would not prescribe any minimum amounts from committee members as was the tradition at the time, but would leave it entirely up to individuals to determine what they were comfortable giving. Even for those members who for one reason or the other were unable to give financially, we considered their very presence and help in planning a gift enough.

In April of that year, we attended the wedding of two friends of ours, Joshua and Faith Kikuyu. It was just the kind of wedding that we imagined having later in the year, a good celebration but not too ostentatious, and so we requested them to give us a copy of their budget.

Shortly thereafter, Katindi and I were sitting at her office one Thursday evening after everyone else had left to start working on our wedding budget.

We considered how much money we could reasonably expect to save from our respective monthly salaries (I had recently been employed by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights as a Senior Human Rights Officer).

We were dismayed to realize that even if we were to backdate our sav-

ings to January, we would still not raise half the amount required by the date of the wedding in December.

In a panic, I proposed a number of alternatives, including postponing the wedding to April 2008 to enable us to save some more money, or going to the State Law Office at Sheria House for a civil ceremony and hosting a few friends for lunch afterwards. Katindi flatly rejected each of these proposals.

"I have waited all this while to have a church wedding, and there's no way I am going to the AG's office for a civil ceremony," she said emphatically.

She even suggested that I was developing cold feet about marrying her and that was why I was looking for a way to break the engagement.

This accusation hurt me deeply. I was desperate to get married to her, but I was just being realistic about the cost and our inability to meet it.

IT'S YOUR GLORY ON THE LINE

God must have been listening in on our conversation, for at that very moment, I had an epiphany.

"Katindi," I said. "We are going about this the wrong way. You see, in our plan to save for the wedding, we don't need anything other than a bank account. Where is the place for God in this equation?"

She asked what I had in mind. Instead of explaining, I told her let us pray.

Holding both of her hands in mine, I said a simple prayer: "Lord, we know that you called us together to be husband and wife. We plan to get married on 12th December 2007. We need this amount of money for the wedding, yet we can only raise half the amount in our own strength. We believe that you want your name to be glorified at the wedding. If we can't have a good celebration on that day, it is your glory that is on the line. Please provide for us the balance of the amount we need. In Jesus' name. Amen."

OPENING OF THE FLOODGATES

The very following morning, Katindi called me to ask if I could take her to the Ministry of Planning. For a number of weeks, she had been volunteering in a think tank that was brainstorming and conceptualizing what became Vision 2030. At least she thought it was voluntary.

But on the morning following our prayer, she received a call from the Ministry.

"Hello Katindi," her caller greeted her. "I am calling you from the Ministry of Planning to ask you when you are coming to collect your consultancy fee."

Katindi was genuinely confused since she did not know that the meetings that she had been attending, chaired by Dr. Wahome Gakuru, were part of a consultancy. But her caller explained that indeed it was,

and that all the other consultants had long since collected their money.

When I took her to the Ministry offices, we were both pleasantly surprised when she was given an envelope containing KSh. 60,000 in brand new bank notes, which we banked into our wedding account.

She was to receive further payments for the ongoing work on Vision 2030 as well as a number of other consultancies that brought in even more money. Our wedding kitty was growing steadily.

One morning in mid-October during my time of devotion at 3.30 a.m., I had a candid talk with God.

"Dear Lord, thank you so much for the way that you have come through for us since we prayed for provision for our wedding. But all the money so far has come through Katindi. Now, Lord, we are going to have a crisis if we are going to be equal partners in this marriage and yet my tap remains dry. Please send some of the blessings through me as well. Amen."

Amazingly, following that prayer, Katindi's taps were shut dry, and I mean not one single cent came through her from that day until the wedding in December.

My taps on the other hand opened like floodgates.

The week before I made that prayer, I had been interviewed for a promotion at the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. When I got to the office later in the morning of that prayer, I was called in by the Commission Secretary, Mburu Gitu, to give me the good news that my promotion to head of department had come through with a commensurate increase in salary, and we started to bank the difference in our wedding account.

In mid-morning of the same day, I received a call from my friend Anne. "Hi Njonjo," she said. "I have been receiving your email updates about your wedding plans. How much are people contributing?"

I told her that we had decided to leave it open for each person to give as they felt able to.

"Just give me a figure," she persisted.

Half jokingly, I told her, "Well, my dear, I would have asked you to give us one million shillings, but since we also want others to be able to contribute, how about you give us 100K?"

"Ok," Anne replied nonchalantly. "Can you come and collect the cheque on Wednesday next week?"

When I expressed my pleasant surprise, indeed shock, at her generosity, she retorted, "Njonjo, you have sown into many people's lives. It's just harvest time."

And she was not joking! She honoured her pledge the following week. Shortly after I hang up the phone from speaking to Anne, I opened my email to find a note from my friend Robert Mbugua who was working in South Africa.

"Njonjo, if you had my cheque book in front of you," he wrote. "How

much would you write as a contribution for your wedding?"

I responded to him that I would write KSh. 50,000. He wrote back and said that he and his wife Josephine would be sending us the 50K. As if this was not enough, he added, "At the time of your wedding in December, my family and I will be home in Kenya for Christmas. You and your bride are welcome to stay at our home in Sandton for your honeymoon."

Later that day, I received a donation of KSh. 33,000 from my friend Kagwiria Mbogori, who was working with the UN in Monrovia, Liberia. In addition, she told me that she had a new car that she was importing at the time and that it would be at our disposal as soon as it got registered to use for running errands as we prepared for our wedding.

Kagwiria's email was followed by another phone call from my friend Christine Wambaa, also working with the UN in Geneva informing me that she had wired me KShs. 10,000.

Finally, to crown it all, just before I left for home at the end of the day, my friend and former law school classmate, Commissioner Winnie Lichuma, called me to her office and gave me a cheque of Ksh. 20,000.

In one day alone, I received contributions of over KSh. 200,000. I was utterly gobsmacked.

Surely, God had "thrown open the floodgates of heaven and poured out so much blessing that there was hardly room enough to store it," as he promises in Malachi 3:10.

By the time of our wedding in December 2007, we had received over two and a half times the amount that we had budgeted for, including cash to pay for our travel to South Africa for our honeymoon.

We also had a wedding register at Nakumatt Supermarket and we received all the gifts that we had requested for, and then some.

KJ IS IN THE HOUSE...

Wednesday, the 12th of December 2007 eventually dawned.

It was Kenya's 44th Jamhuri Day. It was also the date that we had chosen to exchange vows before an audience of close to one thousand friends and family at the Moi Educational Centre in South C.

Our wedding will surely go down in history as one of the most joyful events. As our wedding party went for our photo session and to freshen up before the reception at the beautiful grounds of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anzaya Akatsa in Karen, we left behind our guests being thoroughly entertained our Emcee who was one of the most talented and humorous comedians of all time. Formerly of the famous Redykulass comedy Trio, John Kiarie, more popularly known as KJ, had a reservoir of fresh jokes and of funny stories that never seemed to run dry, and he did not disappoint.



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 >> *

Pool Officially Hunched As A Professional Sport In Kenya And Kenya Pool Team Selection - An Exercise To Select The National Team Commences



Pool Officially Hunched As A Professional Sport In Kenya

By: **John Kariuki**

Pool is now officially a professional sport in Kenya. The Kenya Pool and Billiards Federation (KPBF) in partnership with Halo-pay Ltd- a payment solutions provider on Thursday launched the sport at PINS Entertainment Sarit Centre which also kicked off the Kenya Pool Team Selection event to select the national team to represent Kenya in South Africa later this year.

The event was themed; “Pooling for Mental Health” which is a campaign to change the narrative around the Pool game and position it as a game that impacts the mental health of the youth positively. The launch is also aimed at building a conversation about Pool and to shape public opinion on it.

The Kenya national team will comprise of 5 men and 5 women who will represent Kenya in the All Africa Pool games to be held in South Africa in October 2023. The Pool games have been organized by the All Africa Pool Association (AAPA) of which Kenya through KPBF is a member.

Speaking during the event, KPBF Tournament Director Morgan Mutua said that it was time for Pool to be recognized as a professional sport in Kenya because it carries immense benefits to an individual. “Playing pool requires an incredible amount of Hand-eye coordination which improves the physical, mental and social capacity of a person. It is a game where one utilizes physical coordination, balance and flexibility. Additionally, a player needs to engage their

mental capacity as they need critical thinking, planning, coordination and accuracy, He added. “We are living in unprecedented times where the cost of living is getting more depressed by the day.

There is need to look for ways in which the youth can dispense some of the life’s pressures and Pool is one of those that can be used since it does not require a high investment like golf or chess” he concluded.

AAPA Vice Chairlady Doreen Wandia commented. Pool is a game played worldwide by both amateurs and pros alike. It is a sport that can be mastered from childhood and played till a ripe old age and it can benefit the player as it helps one focus and be clear and have mental clarity.

Pool is not just a pub game. It

is a sport, which includes all the variations of pool such as American pool. English Pool. Heyball, Snooker and many more. Cue Sports are recognized internationally and even have their own governing bodies. Pool is also recognized by the International Olympics Committee (IOC).

The phrase Cue Sports is an umbrella term to describe any variation of snooker or billiards. The World Confederation of Billiards Sports oversees Cue Sports on an international level.

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



STIHL Announces Sh1.3mn Sponsorship Ahead Of Rhino Charge

By: Capital Correspondent



Worth Noting:

- “As Team 33 we are glad to be associated with STIHL East Africa as we raise funds towards fencing of our parks. We are confident that this year we will perform better than last year and will do our best to claim the ultimate prize,” said Jeremy Holley, Team Leader, Team Huzi.
- The starting point for the Rhino Charge will be in Rumuruti, Laikipia County, where route notes will be issued for the location of the final venue.
- This year’s charge has attracted over 60 entries.
- The Clerk of the Course, Don White, has indicated very wet conditions and to expect a lot of water and mud.



STIHL East Africa has announced Sh1.3 million sponsorship for Car number 33 belonging to Team Huzi ahead of the Rhino Charge 2023 competition set for June 3, 2023.

STIHL East Africa Managing Director Francois Marais said the investment is instrumental in helping Kenya’s conservation of its water towers.

“We are impressed by the work done by the Rhino Ark in conserving Kenya’s natural resources and this investment is our commitment towards protecting our nature,” Marais said.

Team Huzi has been getting very close to the top of the podium over the last few years.

In 2021 the team scooped the third overall winners and third in the modified category.

Car number 33 is charging in a modified Toyota Landcruiser.

Last year the team won the Gauntlet, one of the highly sought after prizes, which is the shortest distance between three checkpoints.

This year, the team is intent on getting down and dirty with mud caked fingers and a beast of a machine.

The team consists of Mikey and Russel Hughes, Matt Evans, Jeremy Holley, Ryan, and Ollie Outram.

“As Team 33 we are glad to be associated with STIHL East Africa as we raise funds towards fencing of our parks. We are confident that this year we will perform better than last year and will do our best to claim the ultimate prize,” said Jeremy Holley, Team Leader, Team Huzi.

The starting point for the Rhino Charge will be in Rumuruti, Laikipia County, where route notes will be issued for the location of the final venue.

This year’s charge has attracted over 60 entries.

The Clerk of the Course, Don White, has indicated very wet conditions and to expect a lot of water and mud.

“We are confident that the team will navigate all of the challenges thrown at us and are confident of a strong finish despite the intimidated difficulties. The harder the terrain the harder we work,” Holley added.

What is unique about the team is that it started with Tony Hughes (Driver) and Martin Evans (Navigator) who

have passed the mantle onto their son’s Mikey Hughes (Driver) and Matt Evans (Navigator).

Four of the current team have charged together for the last 12 years, giving them a wealth of experience.

“As a family run business, we are excited and proud to be sponsoring Team Huzi, who also operate the team as a family. At STIHL East Africa, conservation is key to our core business and we will continue to invest in preserving Kenya’s ecosystem through environmentally conscious initiatives,” said STIHL East Africa Regional Marketing Coordinator Pauline Ngigi.

The Rhino Charge is an annual off-road 4×4 Event, held in Kenya, with the sole purpose of raising funds to support the activities of the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, an NGO which works towards the conservation and protection of Kenya’s mountain range ecosystems, the so-called “Water Towers”.

Rhino Ark Executive Director Christian Lambrechts welcomed the STIHL East Africa sponsorship in supporting the goal of protecting

nature.

“Last year we raised Sh150 million, this year we are hoping to raise even more as we continue with our conservation works. To date, we have built 650km of electric fences where over 80,000 families are being protected from the dangers of human-wildlife conflicts through fencing programmes,” Lambrechts said.

The annual Rhino Charge has raised over Sh1.6 billion for vital projects managed by Rhino Ark, which seek to create a win-win equilibrium that balances the needs of local communities and the goal of protecting nature. Rhino Ark’s electric fences protect critical mountain forests that are the “water towers” of Kenya.

These mountain forests are vital ecosystems that support the country’s economic development and the well-being of most Kenyans. Together, the Aberdares, Mt. Kenya and the Mau Forest —the three mountain ecosystems where Rhino Ark operates—provide yearly ecological services to Kenya worth Kshs 412 billion (\$4.12 billion).