



CHINA'S PROPOSED
BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

Debt trap: Growing Unease In Africa Against BRI Projects Of China

A recent attack on Chinese workers in a gold mine in the Central African Republic has brought into limelight the grievance of the common people in the continent of Africa against the Belt and Road Initiative projects of China.

Page 18

THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US
For any news you would wish us to publish,
email us: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke
For Adverts & Sponsorship
email us: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

The

MT. KENYA TIMES

Daily ePAPER

Where Investors Get Returns

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

No. 00513 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

[f](https://www.facebook.com/themtkenyatimes) [ig](https://www.instagram.com/themtkenyatimes) [tw](https://www.twitter.com/themtkenyatimes) themtkenyatimes



News>>Tullow Assumes Full Ownership In Oil Project Equity Ownership

P. 8. Global independent oil and gas, exploration and production firm Tullow Oil plc has acquired complete control of the Turkana County-based Project Oil Kenya development following the withdrawal of its two joint venture partners.



Motivation>>No One Has Monopoly Of Feelings And Ideas

P. 12. I found when I left that there were others who felt the same way. We would meet. They would come and seek me out and we would talk about the future.

Murathe, Kioni Expulsion From Jubilee Ratified By Parties Registrar

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta Jubilee faction has been dealt a blow after the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties ratified disciplinary process by the National Executive Committee (NEC) led by the Kanini Kega faction.



Former Gatanga MP David Murathe and Former Ndaragwa MP Jeremiah Kioni

STORY ON PAGE 9

nhif
Afya Yetu. Sima Yetu

AFYA YANGU

Bila stress

Nobody is too old to register and enjoy the UHC Supa Cover

REGISTER TODAY

[0800 720 601](tel:0800720601)

www.nhif.or.ke



Mudavadi: Government Is Serious About Fiscal Discipline In Public Service

By: Prudence Wanza

Worth Noting:

- “The myth that our public service in Kenya is filled with dinosaurs (old-fashioned or unable to adapt to modern times) is just hearsay. Out of a 394,792 strong mainstream civil service that comprises of national government civil service, police, teachers and county employees, those under 40 years form 50% and those under 50 years old form 77% of the workforce,” he added

Mudavadi further stated that government will going forward prioritize domestic resource mobilization in an effort to reduce reliance on non-concessional foreign borrowing.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has reiterated government’s commitment The government has reiterated its commitment to entrench fiscal discipline in the public sector.

In a speech read on his behalf by Legislative Affairs PS Aurelia Rono during official opening of the second phase of the economic governance programme between Kenya and South Africa at the Kenya School of Government, Mudavadi noted that proper management of public resources will enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability as government works on fulfilling its

campaign pledges.

“Giving an example of Kenya’s public service which is relatively young, this program targets serving pubic officers in their nascent years within the service. Since they are beginning to display signs of future potential, we ought to empower them at an early stage to ensure progressive growth within the civil service.” said Mudavadi.

“The myth that our public service in Kenya is filled with dinosaurs (old-fashioned or unable to adapt to modern times) is just hearsay. Out of a 394,792 strong mainstream civil service that comprises of nation-

al government civil service, police, teachers and county employees, those under 40 years form 50% and those under 50 years old form 77% of the workforce,” he added

Mudavadi further stated that government will going forward prioritize domestic resource mobilization in an effort to reduce reliance on non-concessional foreign borrowing.

“We will ensure borrowed funds are used primarily for productive and inclusive projects, well outlined and with a clear plan. Implementing fiscal consolidation and discipline measures will also reduce the budget

deficit and stabilize the debt-to-GDP ratio. transparency and accountability in public debt management are paramount.” said Mudavadi.

His sentiments on prudent utilization of public resources come in the wake of a stern warning issued by President William Ruto to all government officers in the public sector that his regime will not at any point tolerate corruption, mismanagement of public resources, laxity and lack of transparency and accountability in running of government and public affairs.

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/>

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Diaspora Times Global

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...

Education CS Machogu Urge Opposition Members Of Parliament To Put Aside Their Differences And Unite

By: Elizabeth Angira

@themtkenyatimes

Education Cabinet Secretary, Ezekiel Machogu has petitioned opposition Members of parliament in the Gusii community to forget their political differences unite and work with the government.

The Cabinet Secretary revealed that he took some Members of Parliament and governors to President William Ruto to negotiate for the community’s development, adding, some were reluctant.

“We are rooting for the community’s unity and development. I am ready to work with all leaders for the sake of the community’s development” Machogu said

The Cabinet Secretary was speaking at Mobamba Mixed secondary school, Nyaribari Masaba constituency, Kisii County during prize giving-cum fundraising for Mobamba mixed secondary school.

He urged the area Member of Parliament, Daniel Manduku, elected through the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party to support president Ruto’s government.

The Cabinet Secretary recalled that Manduku was Ruto’s supporter but joined ODM, stressing, he tried to lure him to join the United Demo-



Education Cabinet Secretary, Ezekiel Machogu

cratic Alliance (UDA) party in vain.

Machogu assured school Heads that the government will send funds for capitation to schools next week to ease the school’s operations, adding, 30,000 teachers will be employed once the economy improves.

He lauded the school’s performance in last year’s Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) Examination, stressing the government will improve infrastructure to boost the performance in national examinations.

The Cabinet Secretary, accompanied by Kisii County Director of Education, Philp Chirchir, and the school’s Principal, Dr George Ogochi said the school had school’s 348 candidates qualified to join universities and had a mean of 9.28, stressing, it was possible to push it to 10 this year.

Manduku said he has given education a priority and will fight for the students to attain good grades to join universities to exploit their potential.

The Mp said he has tabled a Bill in



Mobamba Senior Principal Dr George Ogochi.

parliament to amend the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) Act to review the promotions of teachers to enhance fairness.

“I am going to champion the promotion of teachers nationally. I want the promotions to be based on design” Manduku said.

Ogochi said the school has 2018 students and 37 teachers and urged the government to post more teachers to the school, adding, the school requires 83 teachers to cope with the high number of students

Bishop Released On A Bond For Conning Church Members

By: Elizabeth Angira

@themtkenyatimes

Bishop Samson Obonyo, a middle-aged individual affiliated with the PEFA Churches in Nyamache Sub County, Kisii County, has been released on a bond of Ksh three million or a cash bail of Ksh 600 thousand.

The bishop appeared before Kisii Kaw Courts and was charged with seven counts of embezzling money from church members and their relatives, which is in violation of section 317 of the penal code.

According to the allegations, Bish-

op Obonyo deceived church members and their relatives by promising to connect them with job opportunities abroad.

It is said that the accused convinced individuals to provide him with money, which he claimed would be used to process their visas for overseas employment.

However, after a considerable amount of time had passed without any progress, the church members began to suspect that they were being conned by the bishop.

During the court proceedings, the prosecution officer argued against granting bail to the defendant, citing concerns that he may interfere with the ongoing case.

On the other hand, the defendant’s

lawyer, Benard Omari, pleaded with the court to grant bail to his client, asserting that he was entitled to it.

Bishop Obonyo pleaded not guilty before Magistrate Kugwa Wahinya.

The next court hearing, where the case will be mentioned, is scheduled for June 6th, 2023.

Earlier on a section of the church members said that the said Bishop promised them he will connect them and get the Jobs.

They said that they were paying money to him so that he can process the Visa.

The church members said that they felt that Bishop was conning them after it took long time for them to travel.



Bishop Samson Obonyo photo /courtesy



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



Waiguru Releases Ksh53M As She Launches County Development Plan

By: Christine Muchira

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has released Ksh. 53.2 million to fund 146 farmers groups to undertake various value chains projects as she launched county's five-year development plan.

The funds will be shared by farmers groups undertaking tomato, dairy, avocado, poultry, bee keeping, fish, pig and dairy goat farming among others.

Waiguru says the projects under the "Wezesha Kirinyaga Empowerment Programme" aims to empowering the beneficiaries to make at least Ksh. 1,000 per day from the various value chains.

Speaking at the County Headquarters in Kutus, where she released the funds to the farmers, Waiguru said that through Wezesha, her administration has cumulatively disbursed Ksh. 344.3 million with Ksh. 225.3 million supporting 619 groups in tomato, dairy, avocado, poultry, bee keeping, fish, pig and dairy goat farming. Ksh. 119 million went to support producer organizations in dairy, avocado, tomato and poultry.

"The money that we are releasing today will go a long way in helping the farmers put money into their pockets. We are implementing the bottom-up economic model by empowering farmers to engaging in small scale agri-business and in return earn money to feed their families," she said.

The Wezesha Kirinyaga Empowerment Programme which is support-



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has released Ksh. 53.2 million to fund 146 farmers groups.

ed through the National Agricultural Rural Inclusive Growth (NARIG) is in its third phase of funding.

"This money has uplifted the living standards of the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are now empowered to make at least Ksh. 1,000 per day from various value chains," she added.

At the same time, the governor has launched County's third Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2023-2027) that offers a cohesive framework of development for the county.

The governor said the plan seeks to improve the quality of life for everyone that lives and works in Kirinyaga.

While unveiling the plan, the Council of Governors chair said her administration will work together with the national government, development partners, Public Private Partners to mobilize resources for the implementation of key projects.

"Despite the scarcity of resources, we shall endeavour to equitably allocate the available resources to ensure equitable development across the county. We shall also enhance effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation systems that will see to it that the projects are implemented within the given timelines," Waiguru added.

"The CIDP takes into account the inclusion of special groups such as

the youth and women as key factors of production in our county's economic growth. As such the projects identified herein will ensure that they will translate to their economic empowerment," said the governor.

She said the plan's main strategic goals includes; job creation through the establishment of new industries and product diversification and better health through accessible and affordable health care.

The plan also seeks to increase income from improved and efficient agricultural productivity, market access, product marketing, and competitive market prices.

"In our five-year plan, we also seek to have improved urban planning and

infrastructure to create state-of-the-art towns and cities and at the same time have enhanced knowledge and skills development to establish demand driven, adaptive, diligent, talented and unique workforce," the COG chair said.

She further said that her government will enhance effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation systems that will see that the projects are implemented within the given timelines.

Waiguru said her government will prioritize actualization of the establishment of the Sagana Climate Smart Agro-Industrial City which will host an array of development, including an Export Processing Zone (EPZ), the County Aggregation

Industrial Parks (CAIPS), affordable housing units and a sports complex.

In health, the governor said she will equipping and operationalisation of Kerugoya County Level 5 Referral Hospital, completion, equipping, and operationalisation of Kimbimbi and Kianya Level Four Hospitals will take center stage.

"This will be supported by the completion and operationalisation of more than 20 dispensaries across the county, to support primary health-care. The facilities will be managed through Hospital Information Management System for accurate management of hospital commodities and supplies," the governor added.

In agriculture, Waiguru said she plans to expand the Wezesha Kirinyaga program to incorporate an additional 100,000 households into the program.

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
 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
- Joint Pains
- Ligament Tears
- 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

Tullow Assumes Full Ownership In Oil Project Equity Ownership

.....As It Commits About KSh2 Trillion Capex Investment

By: Our Correspondent

[@themkenyetimes](#)



Tullow Oil plc .

Worth Noting:

- “As a result, Tullow’s working interest in these blocks will increase from 50% to 100%. The Board considers that owning 100% of the project creates more optionality, gives Tullow more flexibility in the ongoing process to secure strategic partners, creates a simpler Joint Venture Partnership and streamlines project delivery.” Srinivasan said.
- He said the project progress continues, and the updated Field Development Plan (FDP) was submitted to the Kenyan regulator, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), in March 2023 and is now under review by EPRA. Tullow will continue to work collaboratively with the Government of Kenya and EPRA to get the FDP approved.

Global independent oil and gas, exploration and production firm Tullow Oil plc has acquired complete control of the Turkana County-based Project Oil Kenya development following the withdrawal of its two joint venture partners.

With the strategic exit of Africa Oil Corp and Total Energies from the Project, Tullow will assume a 100 per cent equity position, subject to the Government of Kenya’s approvals and will continue its work with the Government and its host communities to make the region a significant energy-producing province.

While reiterating the firm’s commitment to progressing the development of the South Lokichar basin project, Tullow Kenya BV Managing Director Madhan Srinivasan disclosed that the firm is engaging strategic partners who have expressed an interest in the project based on its economic viability.

“Project Oil Kenya is a low-cost development project that has the potential to unlock material value.

Prospective strategic partners remain engaged, and detailed farm-out discussions continue with a number of companies.” Srinivasan assured.

A communique from Tullow indicated that the firm had, been informed by its two minority partners of their intention to issue notices of withdrawal from blocks 10BB, 13T and 10BA in the South Lokichar Basin for differing internal strategic reasons.

“As a result, Tullow’s working interest in these blocks will increase from 50% to 100%. The Board considers that owning 100% of the project creates more optionality, gives Tullow more flexibility in the ongoing process to secure strategic partners, creates a simpler Joint Venture Partnership and streamlines project delivery.” Srinivasan said.

He said the project progress continues, and the updated Field Development Plan (FDP) was submitted to the Kenyan regulator, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), in March 2023 and is now

under review by EPRA. Tullow will continue to work collaboratively with the Government of Kenya and EPRA to get the FDP approved.

Following the withdrawal of the minority partners, Tullow’s net Project 2C contingent resources are expected to increase from 231 mmboe to 461 mmboe, taking the Group’s total contingent resources from 605 mmboe to 836 mmboe. Net capex guidance for 2023 in Kenya will increase from c.\$10 million to c.\$15 million, less than 5% of Group capex.

Tullow had notified its prospective strategic partners of the equity developments, who remain engaged as detailed farm-out discussions continue. “Whilst introducing strategic partners has taken longer than expected, Tullow remains focused on securing strategic partners this year.” The Tullow communique noted.

The Programme Based Budget of the National Government of Kenya for the year ending 30th June 2024, published last month by the Nation-

al Treasury, indicates a Kshs 651.2 million budgetary allocation for the State Department for Petroleum geared at advancing Project Oil Kenya. The document also indicated that finalising the FDP process is a high priority within the programme.

The document currently in parliament indicates that: “In the medium-term 2023/24-2025/26, the State Department has prioritized programs and sub-programs intended to provide policy, the legal and institutional framework for exploration, development, production, and commercialization and ensure the security of supply of oil and gas products for sustainable development. In this regard, the State Department will finalize the Field Development Plan for the South Lokichar Oil field; review, demarcate and gazette a new Block Map in view of the anticipated bid rounds during the period; construct a water pipeline from Turkwel to the South Lokichar Oil field.”

Parties Registrar Nderitu Ratifies Expulsion Of Murathe, Kioni From Jubilee

By: IRENE MWANGI

Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta Jubilee faction has been dealt a blow after the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties ratified disciplinary process by the National Executive Committee (NEC) led by the Kanini Kega faction.

In her ruling, Registrar of Political Parties Anne Nderitu noted that the move to expel Jeremiah Kioni (Secretary General) and David Murathe (Deputy Party Leader) as well as suspension of Kagwe Gichochi (Treasurer) was done in accordance to the Party Constitution.

“Following a review of the submitted documents in line with the PPA, and the Party Constitution, this office is satisfied that the party adhered to the due process,” stated Nderitu.

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties has moved to expunge the names of Kioni and Murathe from the Jubilee Party List.

“Accordingly, pursuant to section 34(da) of the PPA, this Office has updated its records and the register of Party members,” Nderitu stated.

The current confusion on who is the bonafide Jubilee Party Leader between retired President Uhuru Kenyatta and Nominated MP Sabina Chege still lies with the Internal Dispute Resolution Committee.

“The tribunal observed the need to internally resolve the issues emanating from the Jubilee Party NEC meeting of 10th February 2023,” Nderitu said.

The ratification of expelling of Murathe and Kioni comes a day after Kenyatta led faction ratified resolutions to expell a dozen officials in an attempt to reconstitute a National Executive Committee (NEC) dominated by President William Ruto loyalists.

The Kenyatta-backed camp axed Kanini Kega, the Acting Secretary General according to changes ratified by a Ruto-backed NEC.

Monday’s meeting also removed Sabina Chege whom the Kioni-led group named as Acting Party Leader



Former Gatanga MP David Murathe and Former Ndaragwa MP Jeremiah Kioni.

replacing Kenyatta in changes upheld by the Political Parties Tribunal. Kenyatta has been ousted as Jubilee party leader in escalating wrangles in the former ruling party.

The Kanini Kega-led faction of the party said former Murang’a Woman Rep Sabina Chege is the new party leader on an acting capacity following a National Executive Council

(NEC) held on Tuesday. “Uhuru Kenyatta is no longer our party leader,” Kega said after the meeting in Nairobi, “we have replaced him with Sabina Chege.”

Fresh Twist As Azimio Now Suspends Bipartisan Talks For 7 Days

By: Erick Owenga

The Azimio la Umoja One Kenya coalition party has now made an abrupt about-turn and suspended its participation in the bipartisan talks for 7 days citing lack of goodwill from the Kenya Kwanza side on the issues they raised.

This comes despite both teams last week stating that they were happy with the progress of the talks, and that that they were making headway in arriving at peaceful agreements to resolve the matters of contention.

The Azimio team, addressing the media after closed-door deliberations on Tuesday evening, said among the issues that have caused what they termed as “irreconcilable differences” in the dialogue include auditing of the Independent Elec-



The Azimio bipartisan team, led by Chair Otiende Amollo [L], after a meeting on May 11, 2023. PHOTO | COURTESY

toral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) server.

The opposition faction, led by bipartisan Chair Otiende Amolo, noted

that they’re hence going to consult their leaders for further direction.

“We understand two [of the issues raised by Kenya Kwanza], but the other issues are foreign to us, and we expected them to today explain to us, but they were not here,” said Amollo, who is also the Rarieda Member of Parliament.

“We conclude that our colleagues are not negotiating in good faith. According to our agreement, we’ve invoked Article 37 and we suspend these talks for seven days.”

In a subsequent press address, the Kenya Kwanza team led by George Muragara on their side said they’re open to continuing with the talks with a focus on the constitution of the IEBC.

Murugara, who is also the Tharaka MP, went ahead to dismiss Azimio’s claims of a stalemate, further adding that the talks will continue after the said 7 days.

“We last week agreed on the most fundamental issue of IEBC so that we begin discussion today. The issue of IEBC is so dear to us because of the current state of the IEBC,” he said.

“Our colleagues have however, insisted that the Selection Panel be suspended and the election servers be reserved. We’ve indicated to the them that the issue of servers is solely the responsibility of the commissioners. That is why we focused on the constitution of the poll body first.”

He added: “Our colleagues have decided to further consult for a week and we will prepare a response to that. There may be a lull today, but the talks are on.”

Mind Is Greater Than All The Computers Put Together



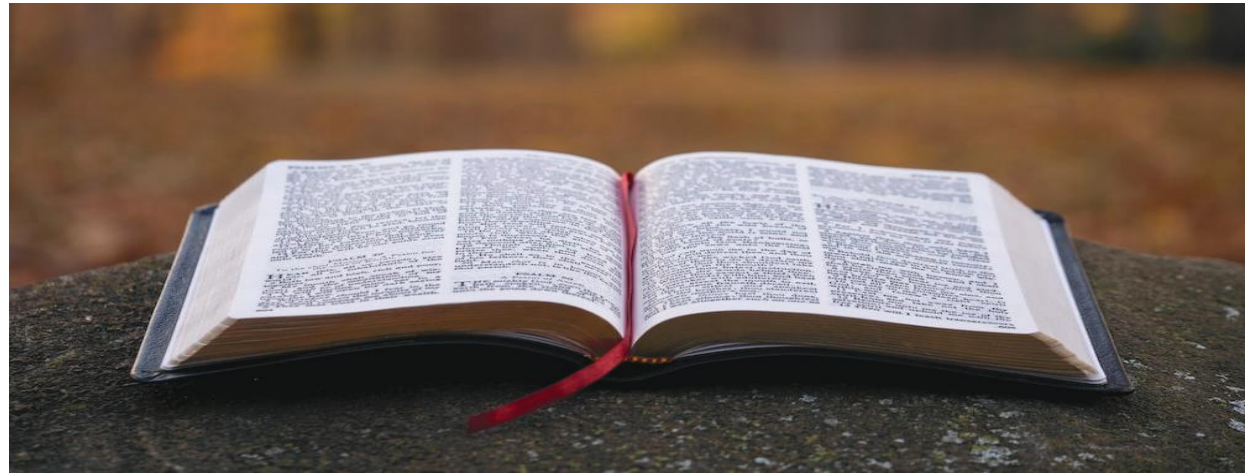
By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

It is bizarre to have complacency in reading and studying the word of God — especially when a commitment to Christ is a commitment to believe in things that go far beyond the surface of life. Sadly, the bulk of the non-reading Christian public are men, who buy only 25 percent of all Christian books. Men, to deny ourselves the wealth of the accumulated saints of the centuries is to consciously embrace spiritual anorexia. Great Christian writing will magnify, dramatize, and illuminate life-giving wonders for us. Others have walked the paths we so want to tread. They have chronicled the

pitfalls and posted warnings along the way. They have also given us descriptions of spiritual delights which will draw us onward and upward. Men, you need to fill your mind with good stuff. I am not suggesting a manic spree (Certain Christians, for example George Will, are able to read two hefty books a week). But many of you would do well to commit to reading two or three good books this next year.

What amazing instruments reside in the three or four pounds between our ears, instruments with greater capacity than a thousand busy Nairobi City switchboards. The mind is greater than all the computers put together, for it can possess the mind of Christ and think God's thoughts after Him, wear His heart, and do His works. What an eternal tragedy it is, then, to have this mind and have it redeemed, yet not have a Christian mind. We must protect our minds. We must refuse to allow our culture's media to write our program.

We must say no to the wastelands



that invade our homes. And we must make a conscious effort to submit to the Divine Programmer through reading His Word. There has got to be some holy sweat. "... train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come" (1 Timothy 4:7, 8). Prayerfully commit yourself to reading and studying God's Word. Further, read

the great works of those who have gone before you. Prayerfully make your commitments now.

HALELUJAH : "For we have the MIND OF CHRIST JESUS."

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, re-

ceive 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



The Family and Fund raising committee for Mrs. Mary Edith Kimama,

Cordially invites

Hon/ Mr/Mrs/ Dr/ Prof [Redacted]

To a fundraising function in aid of Mrs. Mary Edith Kimama's hospital bill and care amounting to **Ksh 5Million.**

The fundraising will be held on Saturday 3rd June 2023 at the Holy Family Basilica (St. Johns Hall) in Nairobi CBD starting at 2p

Kindly Send Your Contribution to:

MARY KIMAMA
MEDICAL FUND

PAYBILL NUMBER
8 0 5 3 3 9 3

ACCOUNT NAME
YOUR NAME

R.S.V.P

Patricia Kimama, +254757810838, Njoki Maina +254721310774

Your prayers, generous contributions and presence will be highly appreciated.
 Luke 6:38

Does Ruto Have A Hand In Woes Facing The Jubilee Party?



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- EALA MP also stated the President has no justification to insist he is still the leader of the Jubilee party.
- This is because a majority of elected Members of the party had abandoned him. Out of 32, it is 4 who attended NDC.
- Since Kega held NEC meeting and announced the new changes, the Uhuru camp have been dragging the name of President William Ruto. ‘Dr Ruto has a hand in this. He is using the Kega camp to settle political scores with his predecessor, Uhuru Kenyatta. In run up to 2022 polls, President Uhuru forced Dr Ruto, who was his deputy, out of the Jubilee party.



Former Gatanga MP David Murathe and Former Ndaragwa MP Jeremiah Kioni.

As I write this, the reports circulating in a section of media indicate that the Registrar of Political Parties have approved the ouster of the Jubilee camp led by former President Uhuru Kenyatta, Jeremiah Kioni and David Murathe.

This comes a day after Uhuru kept his word and convened the special national delegates’ conference (NDC) at Race Course in Nairobi.

In the countdown, the rival Jubilee camp led by Eala MP Kanini Kega and Nominated MP Sabina Chege had denounced this meeting and Kega invoked the power conferred on him as acting secretary General to cancel it. This will be an illegal gathering. Don’t attend it.

To justify this move, he stated that the Uhuru faction had grossly violated the constitution of the Jubilee party.

The former president has no legal power to call for NDC as this power is vested in the hands of Secretary General.

Secondly, the provisions of Presidential Retirement Benefits Act are very clear.

The former President is required relinquish the position he held in the party six months after handing over power to the successor.

The Kega camp further stated. With the exit of our party leader, we want-

ed to ensure our party remains strong and vibrant.

This explains why we convened the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting which was attended by 22 members out of 28.

We deliberated on this matter and made the necessary changes.

Later in a swift reaction to Uhuru led NDC, Kega observed.

Yes, we have had heard that they had sacked us and appointed new officials.

This was an illegal meeting. Where will they take the names of these ‘officials?’ Are they recognized by the law? The answer is a big No.

Eala MP also stated the President has no justification to insist he is still the leader of the Jubilee party.

This is because a majority of elected Members of the party had abandoned him. Out of 32, it is 4 who attended NDC.

Since Kega held NEC meeting and announced the new changes, the Uhuru camp have been dragging the name of President William Ruto. ‘Dr Ruto has a hand in this. He is using the Kega camp to settle political scores with his predecessor, Uhuru Kenyatta. In run up to 2022 polls, President Uhuru forced Dr Ruto, who was his deputy, out of the Jubilee party.

For Dr Ruto, this is a payback time,

they would allege.

But to this far, I’m yet to hear them present tangible evidence to support their claims.

Yes, it is true Kega and Sabina Chege have been attending meetings at State House and also accompanying the head of state to some events across the country.

However, this is not a good reason to drag the name of the president into the woes facing the Jubilee party. We used to see this happening when Uhuru was at the helm.

The main reason why this continues. There is no law barring a Member of Parliament from working with the president.

The member represents a constituency and ours is a presidential system. This means the member has to work with the president so that the interests of his people are realized.

Turning Jubilee’s woes, I have never heard President Ruto commenting anything touching on factional fighting within Jubilee. This is even when Kega and Sabina openly take on former President in his presence.

To me, President Ruto has demonstrated he is not vengeful.

The other day he appointed military General Francis Ogolla to be the chief of CDF.

He made this decision while knowing Gen Ogolla was a member of National Security Council who wanted to overturn his victory.

Reports indicated IEBC chairman refused to heed the call by NSC members who visited him at Bomas of Kenya national tally center.

He stood his ground and declared Ruto as the President-elect.

Given this scenerio, Uhuru camp should stop dragging the name of the President.

Kega camp has been defending its decision by citing the provisions of the Jubilee constitution.

If Uhuru camp believes they are misreading these provisions, I challenge them to counter Kega team by giving us the ‘correct interpretations’.

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



President William Ruto

No One Has Monopoly Of Feelings And Ideas

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Do not come up with strategies aiming at driving your competitors out of the market as doing so will be unfair to them as they too require to make profit furthermore several of them may agree to merge with an aim of enjoying a larger market share than you.
- The synergy will help them to lower the selling price ejecting what was previously giant enterprise out of the market hence it is preferable that the current big firms should remain considerate of fellow industry players aware that any harm you could be deciding to carry out on them they could also be strategizing a similar approach of dealing with you.



I found when I left that there were others who felt the same way. We would meet. They would come and seek me out and we would talk about the future. And I found that their depression and pessimism was every bit as acute as mine. Wole Soyinka.

When dealing with other people and you feel excited with what you are doing to them remembering that when someone else did the same to you there was joy then there is a high possibility that you are right the way you are thinking. If you happen to seek an honest opinion from those people probably by asking one of the participants to conduct a survey where the respondents would not disclose their names the verdict will likely remain as per your thinking.

In my community there is a saying that states that whatever you do to other persons you need to put yourself in their position and try to imagine the repercussions. If the deal is good to you feel free to transact it

but if it is painful refrain from conducting it as whatever you do will sooner or later come to haunt you.

In a competitive business the larger the market share the bigger your profit compared to fellow players in the industry. Economies of scale analysis show that large scale production lowers unit production cost up to a certain limit.

Do not come up with strategies aiming at driving your competitors out of the market as doing so will be unfair to them as they too require to make profit furthermore several of them may agree to merge with an aim of enjoying a larger market share than you. The synergy will help them to lower the selling price ejecting what was previously giant enterprise out of the market hence it is preferable that the current big firms should remain considerate of fellow industry players aware that any harm you could be deciding to carry out on them they could also be strategizing a similar approach of

dealing with you.

If you meet someone and admire his mannerisms probably the same case is happening to him about you. Do not be shy to express your contentment with him, you may find him making a similar comment genuinely. If you wish to have a long term relationship he could be willing to enjoy the same kind of relationship with you. What is attracting you to him is a common factor in both of you.

On the other hand displeasure with any person you meet indicates that there are fundamental differences in the way both of you operate. Waste no time trying to fake that you are contented with him as he will take you for a ride and inflict more pain to you aware that in the previous instance you knew he is misbehaving yet tolerated him so you can bear with him no matter what mess he takes you through.

When experiencing challenges in life yet you are failing to get solu-

tions whenever you try to figure out do not allow them to overwhelm you rather seek support from other people. What is causing you sleepless nights to you may be a simple issue to someone else.

When interacting with strangers respect them rather than feeling extremely important than them as they too could be harboring similar feelings to yours hence they too will ignore you. Respect others be open to learn from them they too could learn something from you.

NHIF Eyes Ksh 1.07B Unremitted Contributions From Employers

By: Ronald Owili

The National Health insurance Fund (NHIF) has mounted a crackdown on employers who do not remit their monthly statutory fund. This exercise aims to seal the gaps in revenue collection to ensure that the funds run uninterrupted. NHIF acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Sam Kuhora says the three weeks exercise targets to collect Ksh 712 million in remittance out of Ksh 1.07 billion which is yet to be paid by employers. Speaking at Tom Mboya Labour College in Kisumu during a consultative meeting with the Central Organisation of Trade Union (COTU) officials, Dr Kuhora said the move will help clear pending bills and ensure NHIF beneficiaries continue to enjoy services at all the accredited facilities. According to Dr Kuhora, 64pc of the national insurer’s revenue comes from workers adding that measures have been put in place to seal loop-

holes affecting collections. “We have had engagements with them through the Kenya Health Care Federation and briefed them on the status of payments and the challenges affecting the process,” said Dr Kuhora. The NHIF was saddened by the reports of beneficiaries being denied services due to pending bills. Dr Kuhora said this was a violation of contractual provisions the insurer has with the facilities assuring them that all the pending bills will be cleared. He further added that employer compliance remained the biggest challenge affecting revenue collections with medical fraud. COTU Secretary General Dr Francis Atwoli has said corruption has remained the biggest challenge in service delivery. He further called on NHIF to crack the whip on corruption to safeguard employee’s contributions. He asked for an audit of the accredited health facilities to ensure that only those that meet the threshold are allowed to operate.



NHIF Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Samson Kuhora addressing the media in Kisumu. PHOTO | KNA.

Court Suspends Talanta Hela Initiative

By: Christine Muchira

The High Court has suspended the implementation of the Talanta Hela program, an initiative of President William Ruto that was created to nurture grassroots talent. Talanta Hela Council which has two technical committees, one for sports and one for creatives was established by the President on February 10, 2023, vide a Kenya Gazette Notice No.1649 (Vol.CXXV No.32). High Court Judge Lawrence Mugambi who issued the orders Monday, granted the Sports Ministry 14 days to put their house in order and respond to the petition and application, which shall be its last chance. “Pending the hearing and determination of this application inter-parties, an interim orders be and is

hereby issued suspending the special issue of the Kenya Gazette Notice 1649(Vol.CXXV No.32) dated February 10,2023 publishing the establishment of the Talanta Hela Council and its Technical Committees and consequent appointments for a period of 3 years,” ruled Mugambi. The order has been issued after a petition was filed by an advocate of the high Court who is also the petitioner Charles Mugane challenging the Sports Cabinet Sectary’s appointment of the Creative Technical Committee. According to Mugane, the appointments were politically engineered to reward cronies while ignoring qualified Kenyans “This was a betrayal of the public trust bestowed upon you by the Kenyan citizenry,” Mugane told Namwamba in the petition. The petitioner further states that the appointments were made in breach of Article 10 of the Constitution. The Article sets out the national



values and principles of governance, including public participation, good governance, transparency and accountability. Mugane wanted the judge to suspend the implementation of the council and its relevant committees in all 47 counties. The judge also allowed Sports

Kenya, Kenya Academy and Kenya Copyright Board to be enjoined in the case and also allowed Mugane to respond to issues raised by the new parties. “That the payer to join Sports Kenya, Kenya Academy of Sports and Kenya Copyright Board is granted.” Ordered Justice Mugambi.

Adding that: “That the petitioner is granted leave to file a rejoinder once responses to the petition are filed and served.” The case will be mentioned on June 12, 2023 for further directions.

Flowers in Garden



The different colours of flowers
Make me amazing.
I am looking to garden.
Butterflies are dancing.
I am alone in garden
To view nature that gives me joy.
The beauty in inner art of nature
Attracts my mind.
Roaming in garden to hide in flowers.

I am singing the words of deception.
I am singing the song of lost love.
The flowers are dancing in storm as
me.
The storm is my strong creation.
That comes from my womb of mind
My sunshine as in grave
But there is garden of flowers too.
Grave as undead art in which small home
is established.
My art of eternity makes my grave
bright.
Really I am amazing in the art of words.

© Til Kumari Sharma (Pushpa Bashyal)
Paiyun 7- Hile
Parbat
Now Kirtipur Kathmandu Nepal

What Is Happiness For You?



Everyone imagines happiness differently, but the scope of this concept is much wider than our scope of thinking and it cannot be expressed in a single case. Let's say that the birth of a person is happiness, marrying someone you love is happiness, and having children is happiness. Also, receiving parental blessings is happiness for a child, to have a car, to build a house, to achieve some other dreams... They are, all of them can be happiness for some people. These states, which people know as happiness, can be continued as long as they want.
But there is such happiness among them that to be a guest of it is a great example of perfection. This is to be loyal to the Motherland, to show self-sacrifice for the development of society, peace, and tranquility of compatriots. Also, happiness can be, to love people, to look at them impartially, with the eyes of love, to recognize that everyone

is a person like himself and that they are equal before the Creator. Even greater happiness for me is that I am a young generation of a peaceful country called Uzbekistan.

The word "Motherland" itself has a broad meaning. Our world is one of the meadows, where

nature is our land, and faith in God is a blessing. Unfortunately, many estimate happiness to be wealth in this life. Wealth is not an indicator of happiness. For example, a great Russian scientist saw his happiness in creating rockets. He lived by eating leftovers from kitchens. But even in such conditions, he considered himself happy. Being full can be a small factor in feeling happy. Satisfying human needs at least to a moderate level also creates the basis for happiness.

Sometimes even people who have enough of everything feel unhappy. What should people do to

feel happy?

Coming into this world as a human is happiness, and leaving it as a human is even more happiness. Nonetheless, we are not always able to appreciate the value of happiness. Getting up early to see the sunlight and breathing every moment of our life is unlimited happiness. It's about

being able to feel it and enjoy the blessings of the world.

"Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn, or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude." Denis Waitley.

Nasiba Kamalova A'zambekovna

We were in the park



A girl, about 16-17 years old, looked confused. His movements were shaky, I thought he was rude and went to him;
-Hello there:?
-...; , looked at my face and did not say a word;
- I'm fine, I'm sorry to bother you, let me sit here for a while
will it be
-...; looks did not change;
He took out some book from his bag and started reading. After about half an hour, he frowned:
- Fools, he said;
Not realizing anything:
-excuse me? Did you say something?
I said;
He blushed a little:
"I'm sorry, I'm obsessed with the book, not you," he quickly got up.
Then my thoughts became confused;

- Is it possible for a girl whom I thought was angry to be so affected by one book?
The next day, I came to the garden again to see if I would meet him. I have some thoughts
I walked with him and I saw him.
What a feeling it was that without even knowing him, I would sink his eyes into the depths of my heart. Seeing him read books with so much love, my love for books increased.
I didn't have the courage to start a conversation that day. I started looking for it in libraries. It's amazing how a person can inspire others to think with their beautiful behavior.
In fact, when a person who thinks he is awake starts reading a book, he realizes that he is dreaming.
I started to be interested in that girl, I don't even know her.
It's been a long time, I learned a lot, My eyes were opened, I woke up.
I became a true Muslim. Now my thoughts were in a certain pattern.
Only My Eyes were looking for the girl reading the Book who caused this. I really want to thank her..

by Fariha :)

The Flower fell in love with water...



To water:
"I love you," he said.
Water:
"I love you too," he said.
After some time, again to Gul Suv:
"I love you," he said.
Water:
"I love you too," he said..
The flower got sick and withered...

Suv could not bear to see this situation and called a doctor. After a thorough examination of Gul, the doctor nursed Gul desperately. Water is worried:
- What happened to the flower? he asked.

And the doctor:

- He didn't do anything, he just ran out of water. - he said...

This means that love does not consist in saying, "I only love you!"

Love is loving someone who you believe can give you everything...

- Rumi

Translated by: Baratov Quvonchbek

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

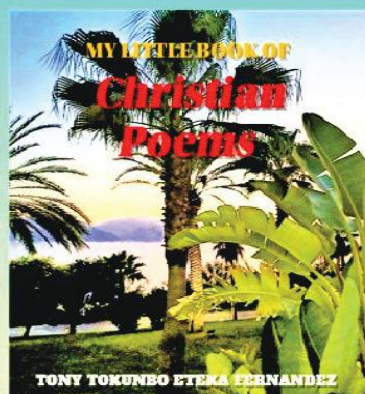
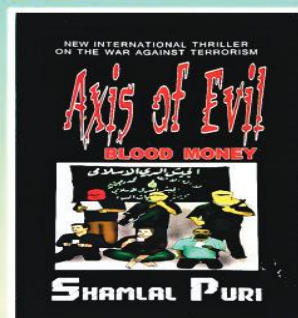
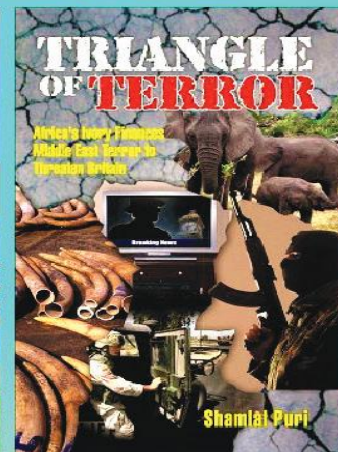
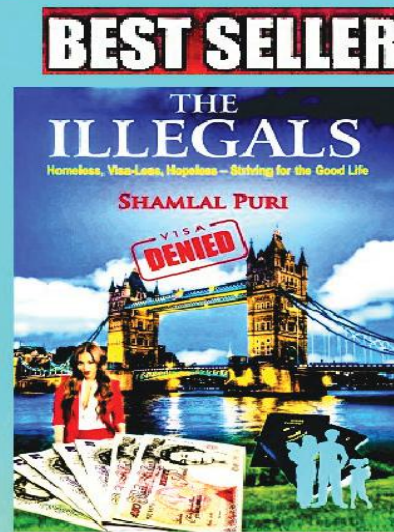
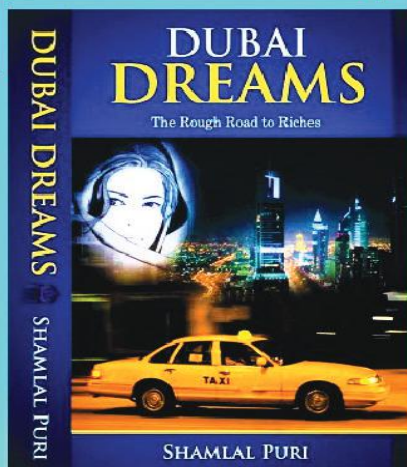
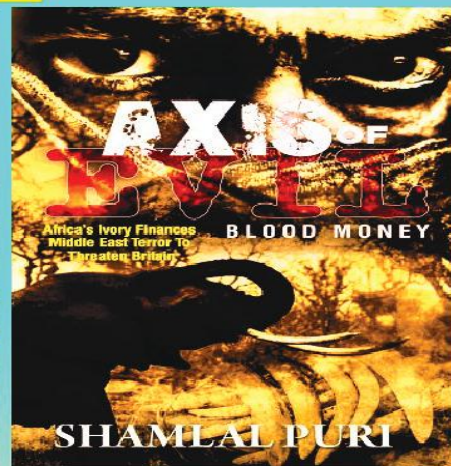
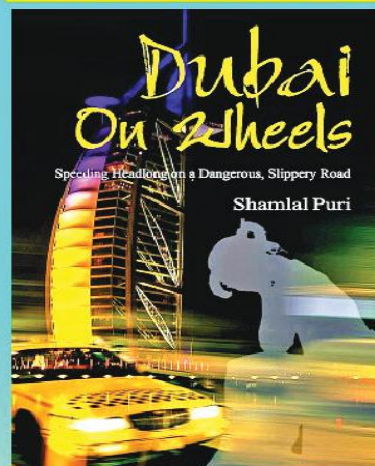
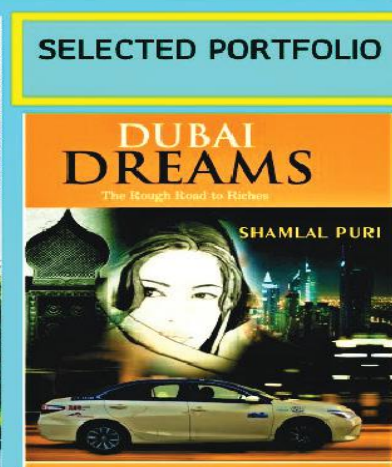
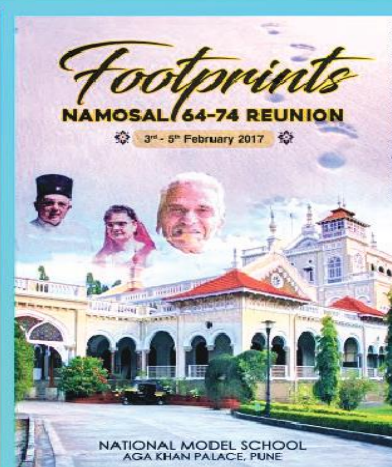
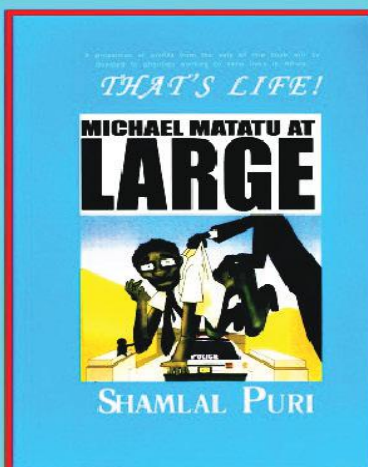
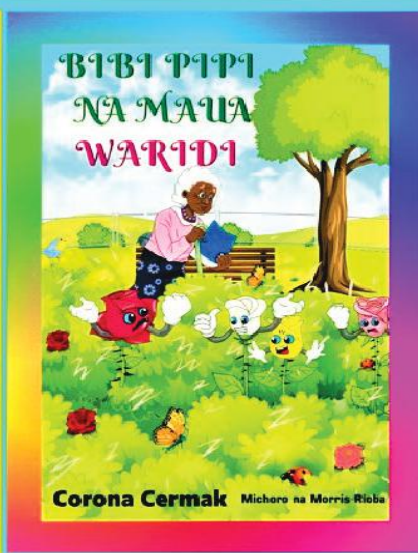
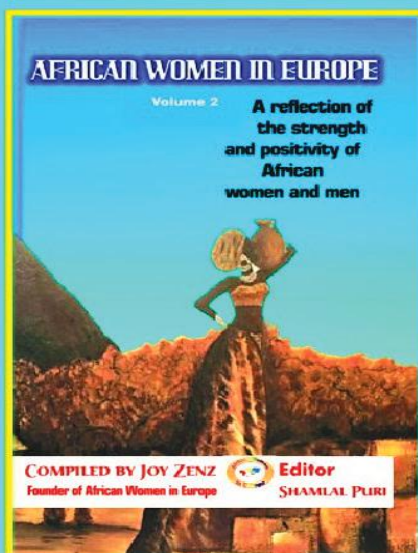
ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

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

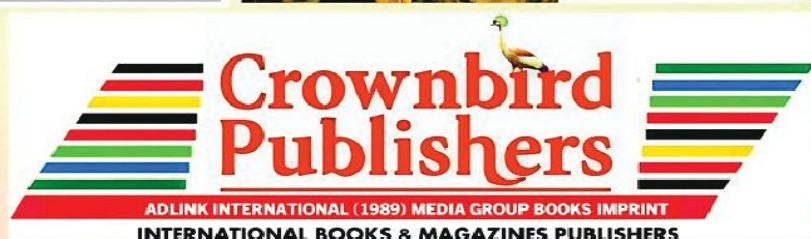
London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

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

BUSINESS

Zoho Accelerates Upmarket Growth with Office Opening and Investments, Announces Strategic Partnership

Soho Witnesses 65% 3-Year CAGR in Mid-Market and Enterprise Segment; New Office to Help Cater to Demands of Large Organisations

Zoho Corporation, a leading global technology company, marked a significant milestone today with the official opening of its new office in Nairobi. This expansion signifies the establishment of Zoho's seventh office in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region. The event coincided with the announcement of a strategic partnership between Zoho and the Institute for Small Business Initiatives (ISBI), which is part of Strathmore Business School (SBS).

Zoho also announced sweeping investments across its entire portfolio, strategically designed to fuel the company's upmarket momentum and meet the evolving needs of mid-market and enterprise customers.

"Our humble roots in SMB have helped us systematically build powerful software with strong everyday usability," said Veerakumar Natarajan, Country Head - Kenya, Zoho Corp. "With our strong DNA as a technology platform company, we have been able to steadily improve our maturity and readiness for large organisations by investing in adjacent areas. Our Nairobi office will enhance our account management capabilities and enable us to cater to the specific needs of large organisations."

"Staying true to our roots, we have also partnered with ISBI, in order to help SMEs and start-ups in Kenya gain access to enterprise technology, and gain a competitive edge and quickly adapt to the changing market landscape," he added.

Partnership with ISBI

Institute for Small Business Initiatives (ISBI) works largely with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Kenya, helping entrepreneurs scale their businesses, streamline operations, and build a competitive edge. Zoho's partnership with ISBI will aim to digitalise the operations of the local SMEs by empowering them with the latest enterprise technology. As part of the partnership, all the SMEs that are or have ever been associated with ISBI will be granted access to Zoho One, a unified platform of 50+ business applications, that seamlessly connects



Zoho Corporation.

diverse business functions including customer relationship management (CRM), finance, human resources, project management, collaboration, marketing, sales, and more.

This will enable SMEs to take their business operations online quickly, automate their processes, and manage their entire operations from a single unified console. Businesses in Nairobi that avail access to Zoho One will additionally receive tech support and product training to maximize the benefits of this collaboration.

"ISBI has been training over 1000 MSMEs in Kenya for the past 8 years. Our research-driven approach ensures successful outcomes in capacity building, as we advocate for enterprise formalization and provide effective management tools. Our results demonstrate significant improvements, including increased revenue, company value growth, and job creation. While manual data recording poses a challenge, we recognize digitization as the solution. Our partnership with Zoho supports SMEs through their diverse product portfolio. As the Director for Programs at ISBI, I am excited about our collaboration with Zoho

and look forward to achieving further growth," said Maryanne Akoth, Director for Programs, Institute for Small Business Initiatives.

Investments for upmarket momentum:

Zoho has witnessed a three-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 65% in the mid-market and enterprise segment, which now represents one-third of the business. The company now boasts more than 90 million users across more than 600,000 global businesses of all sizes. The company has made upmarket investments across the following areas:

Go-to-market Investments:

Enterprise Business Solutions: Zoho aims to expand EBS across skills, industry depth, and regional presence to help enterprise businesses manage their technology stack better in today's economic climate. EBS provides expertise to large organisations across solutions engineering, account management, and customer success.

New SI Partnerships: Zoho will strengthen its network of SI (system

integrators) partners to enhance its platform, create industry-specific solutions, and develop customer best practices. Currently, Zoho's SI partners include Tata Consultancy Services, Deloitte and Wipro.

Global Procurement: Zoho accepts payment in over 15 currencies worldwide, facilitating global procurement efforts for enterprise organisations with regional operations through unified multi-currency invoicing.

Platform Investments:

Marketplace Expansion: Zoho Marketplace offers over 1,800 extensions and has surpassed 1 million installations, and receives over 30,000 new monthly installations. Large organisations can create private extensions to address workflow nuances and deploy them through the Marketplace. Partners have been trained and certified to provide extensibility skills.

No-code and Low-code Extensibility: Zoho's no-code and low-code capabilities simplify large deployments, enabling faster time-to-market and lower overhead costs. From UX design to workflow orchestra-

tion and custom applications, Zoho's low code capabilities support every stage of deployment.

New Applications and Enhancements:

Contract Management Software: Introducing Zoho Contracts, a secure solution that centralizes contract management, including authoring, approval, negotiations, and signatures. With full visibility and AI-powered automation, Zoho Contracts simplifies the complex process, mitigating risks and improving governance for large organisations, driving new business and growth.

Data Transformation for CX:

Zoho DataPrep is now deeply integrated with Zoho CRM, enabling users to transform, cleanse, and format customer data within their CRM system. This integration simplifies data migration, eliminates duplicates, and validates information, making the process more efficient and precise.

Security and Privacy Investments Identity & Authentication:

Introducing Zoho OneAuth, a comprehensive, multi-factor authentication application, which now includes Smart SignIn and Passkey Support, enabling automated cross-device user login and account access assistance.

Directory Management:

Zoho Directory is a secure platform for workforce identity and access management supporting 250+ pre-built integrations. Zoho Directory's Authentication and SignOn module has been proven with over 100 million users from Zoho and ManageEngine, serving the needs of multi-national enterprises including Disney, AT&T, and Sony.



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

Debt trap: Growing Unease In Africa Against BRI Projects Of China

By: Agencies

Worth Noting:

- In Kenya, China is engaged in the construction of a gigantic project; a railway line linking the city of Mombasa with the Rift Valley at cost of \$5 billion. Beijing is financing 90 per cent of the project. Tanzania has signed a contract of \$2.2 billion with a Chinese company for a railway line linking the main port of the country to its neighbours.
- The real benefit for all these projects lie with Beijing, with maintenance contracts that can last up to 99 years. The local benefit is low because the employees are overwhelmingly Chinese. An Observer Research Foundation study sums up succinctly the real nature of BRI projects in African countries: “Over the past two decades, China has established a significant economic presence in most African countries.



A recent attack on Chinese workers in a gold mine in the Central African Republic has brought into limelight the grievance of the common people in the continent of Africa against the Belt and Road Initiative projects of China.

On March 9, 2023, gunmen stormed the Chinese-operated gold mining site at 5 a.m., overpowered the guards at the site and opened fire, killing nine Chinese nationals and seriously wounding two others. They were employees of China’s Gold Coast Group. The mining site had only recently been launched.

A panicked Chinese embassy in the CAR has advised Chinese nationals not to leave the capital city of Bangui for the threat of killing and kidnapping. The attack at the gold mine came only days after gunmen had kidnapped three Chinese nationals near the borders of CAR with Cameroon. After the kidnapping, President of CAR Faustin Archange Touadera had to make a trip to Beijing to reassure Chinese investors not to panic.

The CAR is one of the poorest countries in the world, despite having a vast mineral wealth of gold and diamond. This has attracted the attention of Chinese companies which want to extract these valuable minerals and carry them off, to the detriment of the interest of the poor

African nation. Many of the mining exploration companies in CAR are now Chinese-run and they have faced security challenges.

Earlier in 2020, two Chinese workers were killed when local residents led an uprising against a mine operated by a Chinese company in Sosso Nakombo. Again in 2018, three Chinese citizens were lynched by an angry mob after a local leader died in a boat accident while accompanying Chinese miners to a site.

By multiplying heavy infrastructure projects in Africa, China aims to establish its influence in the continent. But experts warn that the poor African nations run the risk of being trapped. China is the main donor in gigantic projects like railway lines and civil infrastructure, being built under the highly criticized Belt and Road Initiative of China.

“One in three major infrastructure projects in Africa are built by Chinese stateowned companies, one in five is financed by a Chinese institutional bank,” Paul Nantulya of the African Center for Strategic Studies has been quoted as saying. He reports to the U.S. Department of Defence. Western countries were hesitant to invest in these projects. “The Chinese saw this void and decided to invest in infrastructure,” says Nantulya.

For the poor African nations, how-

ever, this hobnobbing with China is proving to be costly. Anna Borshchevskaya of the think-tank Washington Institute warns of a “debt trap” for African countries. “China offers loans for expensive infrastructure projects and when a country cannot repay its loans, China takes control of its strategic assets,” she has said. “Be careful about tempting deals. These can be opaque and ultimately fail to help the people they were meant to help,” U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said about deals China has made in Africa.

Many of the poorest states in Africa are heading towards over-indebtedness or default, U.N. agencies have warned at a conference of the least developed countries organized by the United Nations in Qatar in early March, 2023.

In Kenya, China is engaged in the construction of a gigantic project; a railway line linking the city of Mombasa with the Rift Valley at cost of \$5 billion. Beijing is financing 90 percent of the project. Tanzania has signed a contract of \$2.2 billion with a Chinese company for a railway line linking the main port of the country to its neighbours.

The real benefit for all these projects lie with Beijing, with maintenance contracts that can last up to 99 years. The local benefit is low because the employees are overwhelmingly Chi-

nese. An Observer Research Foundation study sums up succinctly the real nature of BRI projects in African countries: “Over the past two decades, China has established a significant economic presence in most African countries.

Its lucrative economic investment package, flexible political approach and focused big-ticket investment projects under the BRI provide an ostensibly massive opportunity to African countries. However, the unilateral nature of the initiative, the lack of transparency and accountability to African countries, and the absence of projects that directly benefit the locals have raised suspicion and fuelled local resentment.

There are increasing instances of African countries cancelling or postponing BRI projects over rising debt concerns.” The claim of Beijing that the BRI projects offer a “win-win situation” to both China and the recipient country of a project is really a facade. Beijing is driven by its need to find new emerging markets for its overcapacity amid a slowdown in the domestic economy of China.

Besides, Beijing is using the BRI to

Debt trap: Growing Unease In Africa Against BRI Projects Of China

Contd from Page 18.

mask its geopolitical and geostrategic objectives. Chinese investments in ports along the east coast of Africa and the first Chinese military base in Djibouti are pointers to this.

The local African population benefits little from these projects. The skilled labour in most projects is from China, with a few African locals engaged in low-end employment. Many BRI projects in China in Africa have been cancelled or postponed because of lack of employment opportunities for local people, rising debt concerns, undermining of quality and standard and malpractice at the ground level like bribing officials.

As early as 2015, present External Affairs Minister of India S. Jaishankar had rejected the concept of the BRI and correctly described it as “China’s national initiative” with-

out any discussion with the recipient countries, saying there was no need for the latter to buy these projects.

To serve its strategic interests, China is investing in ports along the coastline from the Gulf of Aden through the Suez Canal towards the Mediterranean Sea. Of the 49 countries China has claimed to have engaged through BRI, 34 are located along the coasts of Africa. China can use these ports for a typically colonial pattern of trade of transporting out raw materials and bringing in finished goods and also use the ports for the military purpose of surveillance and blockade of overseas and deep sea maritime traffic.

In 2017, China built its first overseas naval base in Djibouti. The connectivity projects like railways and roads link the industrial and energy projects of China like mineral processing, oil and renewable in the hinterland of Africa to projects along the coastline like ports. These in total make up for 90 percent of all BRI projects in Africa.

An oil refinery in north Sudan is located close to a railway line connecting Port Sudan and Dakar Port in Senegal. A petrochemical and phosphate transformation industries hub at Gabes in Tunisia has been connected by a railway line to the Zarzis Port.

The transportation network under the BRI has been built in such a way to use the maritime route to ship out raw materials like phosphate, copper, cobalt, gold, iron ore, cocoa, bauxite, coal, lithium and granite back to mainland China and bring in to Africa finished goods and Chinese labour.

The claim of China that the BRI projects are being used to build infrastructure and thus meet local necessities is not correct. Though the majority of Chinese projects in Africa are in the infrastructure sector, the African Development Bank has estimated that till 2021 the annual deficit in the infrastructure sector in Africa is \$93 billion.

The Chinese projects only help to ease the overcapacity of Chinese companies in sectors such as steel, iron and cement. The local population in China do not benefit from the connectivity projects under the BRI. The bidding processes for these projects are opaque and bribes are paid to local officials. Particularly in the case of energy and industrial projects, the local population living in the proximity of the key resources have to be relocated. The transport projects encroach upon existing human settlements and are environmentally damaging. Because of this, local protests against Chinese projects in Africa are mounting, together with kidnapping and harassment of Chinese workers.

There were protests in Nigeria in April 2017 over lack of compensation for buildings demolished for a railway line. In Kampala local traders have protested against Chinese traders setting up small businesses.

The Bagamoyo Port project in Tanzania was suspended as over 2,000

people were forced to relocate in 2016. Local fishermen are protesting against Chinese investments in the blue economy.

In Kenya, Chinese nationals are found to have created a small kingdom in which Kenyan workers are being discriminated against. Besides, there are growing concerns amongst African nations that they are going to be caught in a debt trap. The public debt of Sub-Saharan Africa rose to a record of \$789 billion in 2021. Of this \$636 billion was long-term external debt. China owns 72 percent of the external debt of Kenya which was nearly \$40 billion at the end of 2022. The Auditor General of Kenya has warned that the country runs the risk of losing control of Mombasa Port if it defaults on loans from the China Exim Bank.

Mbeere North MP Voices The Needs Of His People

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyaintimes

Mbeere North Member of Parliament GK Ruku took the golden chance during Tuesdays parliamentary group meeting to raise pertinent issues he needs addressed.

“On making a request to the President William Ruto earlier yesterday at State House during the Kenya Kwanza Parliamentary Group meeting, the president agreed that sand harvesters from Mbeere North will supply sand to the National Housing Project,” Ruku said.

The President instructed the Principal Secretary Housing Charles Hinga to facilitate and help sand harvesters from Mbeere North to supply sand to the housing project.

Sand harvesting will be done in accordance with NEMA’s National

Sand Harvesting Guidelines and other environmental laws, and in a way that protects our rivers, the environment and our road and transport infrastructure.

We’re going to move with speed to assist our youths in sand harvesting business to form sand aggregation centers in Mbeere North to take advantage of the National Housing Project. We The North thank the President for this development gesture to provide employment opportunities to our young people.”

Mbeere North Member of Parliament
GK Ruku .



20 AD



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

Over 7 Million Children In Horn Of Africa Malnourished-UNICEF

By: Christine Muchira



Worth Noting:

- In Somalia, the rains have caused floods that have damaged homes, farmland, and roads, as well as washed away livestock and led to closures of schools and health facilities.
- Initial estimates indicate that the flash and riverine floods across the country have affected at least 460,470 people, of whom nearly 219,000 have been displaced from their homes mainly in flood-prone areas, and 22 killed.
- Floods have also caused widespread destruction and displacement in several regions of Ethiopia.
- The flooding has deepened the vulnerability of populations already highly affected by the drought as the areas hit hardest by flooding and drought overlap.



1.9 million children under five could die from severe malnutrition..

The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has disclosed that more than seven million children under the age of five remain malnourished and in need of urgent nutrition aid.

According to the grim statistics by UNICEF, over 1.9 million boys and girls are at risk of dying from severe malnutrition.

It further points out that children in the Horn of Africa are living through an unprecedented large-scale crisis of hunger, displacement, water scarcity, and insecurity.

As the region comes out of one of the worst droughts in 40 years, vulnerable communities have lost cattle, crops, and entire livelihoods over the past three years of failed rains.

“The crisis in the Horn has been devastating for children,” said Mohamed Fall, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Adding that: “Over the past three years, communities have been forced to take extreme measures to survive, with millions of children and families leaving their homes out of pure desperation in search of food and water. This crisis has deprived children of the essentials of childhood: having enough to eat, a home, safe water, and going to school.”

Floods

While the rains postponed the worst, they have also led to floods, as the extremely thirsty ground is unable to absorb large quantities of water, leading to further displacement, increased risk of disease, livestock loss and crop damage.

In Somalia, the rains have caused floods that have damaged homes, farmland, and roads, as well as washed away livestock and led to closures of schools and health facilities.

Initial estimates indicate that the flash and riverine floods across the country have affected at least 460,470 people, of whom nearly 219,000 have been displaced from their homes mainly in flood-prone areas, and 22 killed.

Floods have also caused widespread destruction and displacement in several regions of Ethiopia.

The flooding has deepened the vulnerability of populations already highly affected by the drought as the areas hit hardest by flooding and drought overlap.

The floods have also worsened health risks, including cholera, with the current outbreak among the longest ever recorded in Ethiopia.

“The rains have brought some relief and hope, but also new threats, and recovery doesn’t happen overnight,” said Fall. “It takes time for crops

and herds to grow again, for families to recover from years of hardship. That’s why continued support is still critical.”

Domino effect

Across the region, 23 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. The number of severely malnourished children seeking treatment in the first quarter of this year remains much higher than last year and will likely remain high for quite a while.

On top of nutrition needs, extreme weather, insecurity, and scarcity have also had devastating consequences for women and children, worsening the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse.

Major outbreaks including cholera, measles, malaria, and other diseases are ongoing across the region, worsened by extreme weather conditions and fragile health systems. Food prices remain high in local markets, burdening children, and families. The climate crisis is compounding the severity of the situation, worsening mass displacement, malnutrition, and disease.

Fall underlined the need for greater funding. Thanks to donor support, UNICEF was able to provide ser-

vices for the prevention of malnutrition to over 30 million children and mothers in 2022.

“This year, further flexible funding will not just help children recover from a crisis of this magnitude, but also go towards developing more resilient, sustainable systems for children in the region that can withstand future climate impacts and other shocks,” he said.

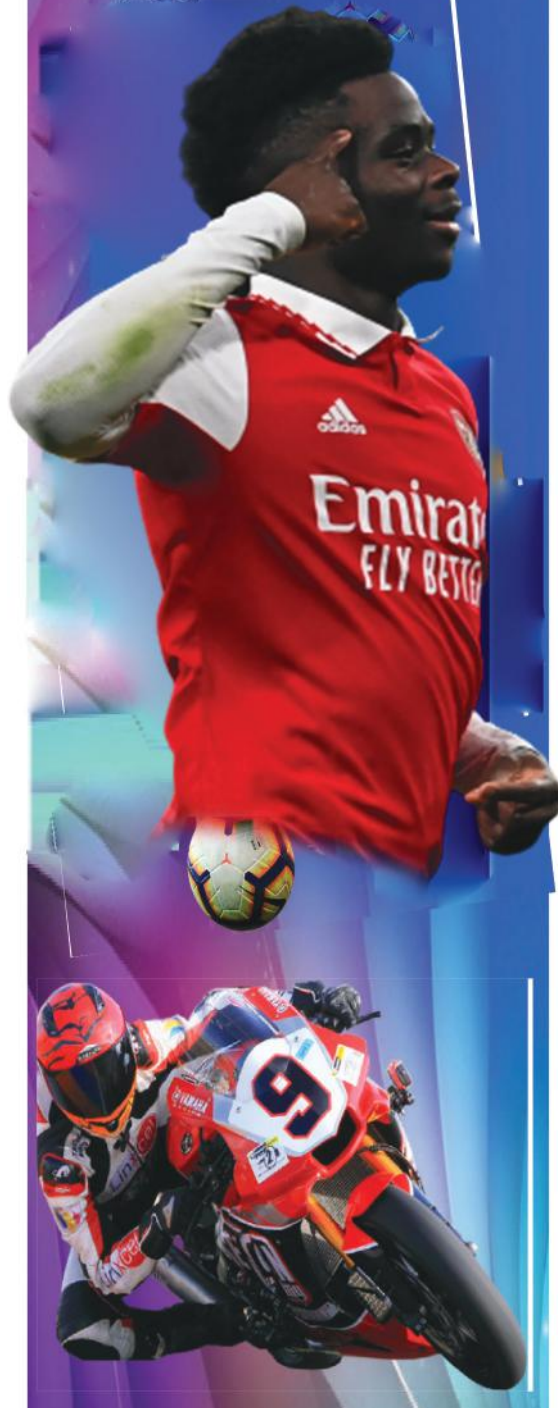
“With the extreme weather cycles that we see today in the Horn of Africa, the next crisis may hit before children and families have had a chance to recover,” he added.

This year, UNICEF is appealing for US\$759 million to provide life-saving support to 16.6 million people including 12.2 million children in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, a 39pc increase compared to 2022.

An additional US\$690 million is required to provide climate-sensitive resilience.

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Spain's refereeing committee sidelined official Ignacio Iglesias Villanueva on Tuesday for his upcoming matches after his involvement in Vinicius Junior's red card against Valencia.

VAR Official Cut After Vinicius Red Card Incident



Vinicius Junior reacts to racist taunts from fans

Spain's refereeing committee sidelined official Ignacio Iglesias Villanueva on Tuesday for his upcoming matches after his involvement in Vinicius Junior's red card against Valencia. Spanish media report that the 47-year-old has been sacked although the Spanish football federation would not confirm that when questioned by AFP.

Iglesias Villanueva was in charge of VAR during Valencia's 1-0 La Liga win over Real Madrid on Sunday, in which Los Blancos forward Vinicius

was racially abused by home supporters at Mestalla.

Later in the game the 22-year-old was sent off for hitting Valencia's Hugo Duro, after referee Ricardo De Burgos Bengoetxea watched VAR footage of a brawl between the two teams.

However the video Iglesias Villanueva showed did not include Duro grabbing the Brazilian around the neck with his arm first, which would also have been a red card offence.

Vinicius was dismissed and is

poised to miss between two or three matches, which means he may not play again for Madrid this season.

The Brazilian forward was at Real Madrid's training ground on Tuesday but not working with the rest of the team, as he will not be able to face Rayo Vallecano on Wednesday.

Iglesias Villanueva was set to be the main VAR official for Real Betis' match against Getafe on Wednesday, and a VAR assistant for Athletic Bilbao's visit to face Osasuna on Thurs-

day.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Seven years ago, Leicester lifted the Premier League trophy. Now they are on the brink of relegation from the top-flight after a miserable season.

Leicester On Brink Of Premier League Exit After Sorry Season



Kelechi Iheanacho celebrates his goal for Leicester. PHOTO/Leicester.

Seven years ago, Leicester lifted the Premier League trophy. Now they are on the brink of relegation from the top-flight after a miserable season.

The Foxes, who drew 0-0 at Newcastle on Monday, will only avoid relegation if they beat West Ham this weekend on the final day of the season and fourth bottom Everton drop points at home to Bournemouth.

Dean Smith adopted a safety-first approach against Newcastle and Leicester failed to muster a shot until stoppage-time, but they kept their first clean sheet in the league since November.

It is a far cry from the heady days of 2016, when Claudio Ranieri delivered a fairytale triumph for the ages, overcoming monumental odds to win the title after Leicester narrowly avoided relegation the previous year.

Despite that incredible success, the Italian did not last long at the King Power Stadium, but the arrival of Brendan Rodgers in 2019 gave fresh impetus to the Thai-owned club.

They finished fifth in the Pre-

mier League two years in a row — just missing out on Champions League qualification — and won the FA Cup for the first time in 2021.

Even last year the club ended a comfortable eighth and reached the semi-finals of the Europa Conference League.

But things began to unravel for Leicester in the first game of this season when they let a 2-0 lead slip to draw 2-2 with Brentford.

What followed was a horror show as they lost six straight league matches and despite sporadic mini revivals they have been unable to pull themselves clear of danger.

Leicester have scored more goals — 49 — than any other club in the bottom half of the table but their defensive problems have cost them dear.

Smith, who was appointed as interim manager after Rodgers left by mutual consent in April, was unapologetic after his side’s defensively minded performance against Newcastle.

“We haven’t kept a clean sheet for too long and the reason we

are where we are is because of that in my opinion,” he said.

The former Aston Villa boss added: “If it’s too little, too late, who knows? But we’ve taken it to Sunday now.”

Problems mount

Leicester have long been a byword for canny recruitment with Jamie Vardy, Riyad Mahrez, N’Golo Kante and Kasper Schmeichel playing starring roles in their title-winning side.

They continued to recruit well, bringing in players of the calibre of Youri Tielemans, James Maddison and Wesley Fofana.

Fofana signed for Chelsea last year while Schmeichel left for Nice, depriving the club of leadership and experience on the pitch. Vardy is now a fading force.

Signings including Patson Daka, Boubakary Soumare, Jannik Vestergaard and Wout Faes have not made the desired impact.

Rodgers raised the alarm in the early weeks of the season, saying he had “not had the help in the market this team needed”.

“I came to Leicester to compete and initially I was able to do that,” he said in September. “You have to add quality but in the last two (transfer) windows we haven’t been able to do that.”

Two of Leicester’s star names — Tielemans and Maddison — are likely to leave the club if they go down.

Vardy, for so long the team’s talisman, is 36 and has had a peripheral role this term, while central defender Jonny Evans has only played 12 league games all season.

Dropping into the Championship is not the financial calamity it once was, with clubs cushioned by generous parachute payments for up to three years.

But losing their Premier League status for the first time in nine years will be a huge blow to the pride of a club who had experienced the unexpected thrill of winning silverware so recently.

It will be a long way back to the top.

Capital Sport

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS





RESPECT FOR PUBLISHERS



Paula.O.M Otukile
paula200500293@gmail.com
Senior Editor Botswana & S. Africa

editors etc!

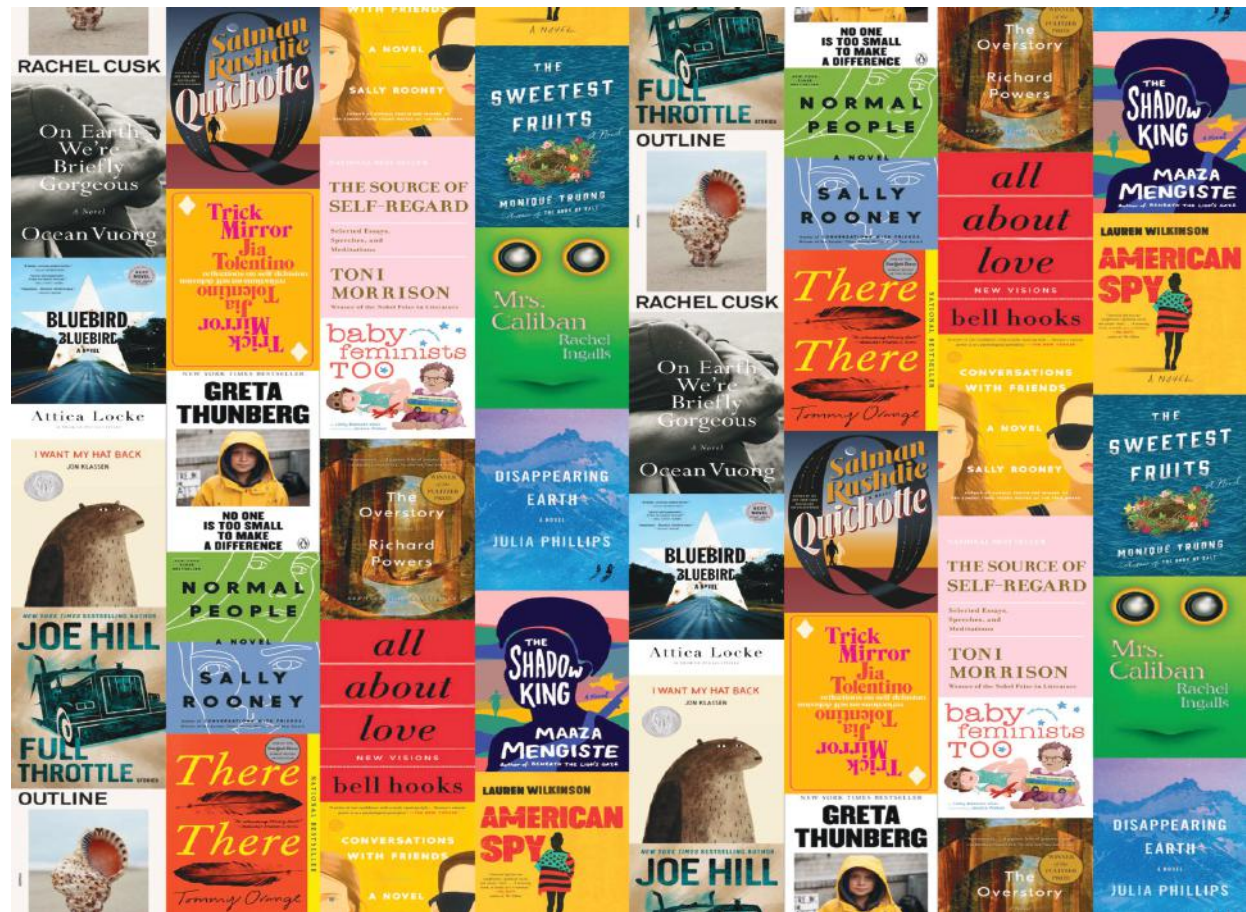
If one gets into hyper market they make sure they have enough resources in order to buy or make a purchase. However it is common for some of the writers to come with half the price or less resources and go publish but only to inconvenience the publishers by having difficulty to pay.

In order to do this easier, publishers must demand payment upfront before they deliver the job. The time has come for publishers to never settle for half baked stories by some of the writers!

If you delay to pay publishers, the illustrator will not be paid, the editors and the livelihoods of publishers gets on hold because of you!

Can you take goods from choppies or Woolworth without paying? No! Therefore let's cooperate well in the book making business.

We have a heart break as publishers on keeping up rentals and other services just because some authors are not paying on time.



WHAT MAKES ONE A BEST SELLER?



Paula.O.M Otukile
paula200500293@gmail.com
Senior Editor Botswana & S. Africa

Sales depends upon an individual's marketing strategies. The power of network in book market is very vital. Acknowledgements of any kind of chain distributors, individuals is important as it can simply help in finding some people who can help on the sales market.

Authors must make it a habit to give themselves a research path to grow and expand their horizons.

Be yourself and knock on doors. Do not give up, simply grow and continue saying am selling a book, some will buy and others can reject your offer but carry on with passion.

Few others will fail in the beginning, rebrand and go back to the ones who seem to be doing well ask for advice and act on it.

Not all of you shall be curriculum authors, not all of you shall be considered the best, but your push can take you near and closer to your destination, if you do something on it.

In no time you shall be a good seller too.

Is it appearing in the newspaper more? Television, going to all writing events or it is the money getting in the pocket and bank account?

A best seller is one who has a good written book, with more sales and book stores, individual sales sky rocketing.

This is a possibility to any serious author however just a dream to many writers.

Publishers offers market opportunities available but others are quiet good on publishing that's it.

