



Former Mungiki Leader Maina Njenga To Record Statement At Nakuru DCI HQs
Former Mungiki leader, Maina Njenga was yesterday escorted to the Nakuru County Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) offices to record statement.
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News>>NCBA Group PLC Reports A Pre-Tax Profit Of Sh6.4B In 2023 First Quarter

P. 8. NCBA Group PLC has posted a profit before tax of Sh 6.4 billion in its this year's first quarter results.



Motivation>>Not Everything We Know Is Under Our Control

P. 12. ...at any rate in our minds, where we can dispose of them as we choose, and this gives us the illusion of a sort of power over them. Marcel Proust, Swann's Way.

Kenya Owes Oil Exploration Companies Sh3B For Early Oil Project

The Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Davis Chirchir, yesterday informed the Senate that Kenya owes the International Oil Exploration Companies (IOC) USD 23.7 million (more than KSh3 Billion) for the early oil project scheme in South Lokichar, Turkana County.



Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir arriving at Parliament Buildings yesterday

STORY ON PAGE 9

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NHIF Targets Sh.712 Million From Defaulting Employers

By: Chris Mahandara

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- This, he said, was out of the total Sh1.07 billion the national insurer is owed by employers dealing a blow on service delivery.
- The exercise, he added, aims at sealing the gaps in revenue collection to ensure that operations of the funds run uninterrupted.
- Workers, he said contribute 64 per cent of the national insurer's revenue adding that measures have been put in place to seal loopholes affecting collections.



NHIF acting CEO Dr Samson Kuhora addressing the media.

The National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) has mounted a crack-down on employers who fail to remit statutory deductions.

NHIF Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Samson Kuhora said the three weeks exercise targets to net Sh.712 million in remittances.

This, he said, was out of the total Sh1.07 billion the national insurer is owed by employers dealing a blow on service delivery.

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cent of the national insurer's revenue adding that measures have been put in place to seal loopholes affecting collections.

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.

NHIF, he added, was saddened by reports of some beneficiaries being denied services due to the pending bills, cautioning accredited service

providers against the vice.

This, he said, was a violation of the contractual provisions the insurer has with the facilities assuring them that all the pending bills shall be cleared.

"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," he said.

The delays in clearance of the bills, he added, were occasioned by a dip in the insurer's revenues.

Employer compliance, he said, remained the biggest challenge affecting revenue collections with medical

fraud and gaps in claims processing also dealing a blow to the exercise.

COTU Secretary General Francis Atwoli asked the NHIF board to crack the whip on corruption to safeguard employee contributions.

Corruption, he said, remained the biggest challenge in service delivery, calling for an audit of the accredited health facilities to ensure that only those that meet the threshold are allowed to operate.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Mudavadi's Take On Government's Decision On Fixing Economy

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

• “I have continuously cautioned Kenyans to gird themselves for hard times now and in the near future. As government we do not want to lie and give false hope and promises. I am being pragmatic, realistic and forthright in my assessment, that resuscitation of the economy will take at least two years or thereabout,” said Mudavadi.

• He added: “We are working towards tightening the loose ends and sealing the loop-holes in procurement processes and procedures. The Finance Bill 2023 is proposing some fundamental measures that will help in addressing the bottle-necks that have been riddled by outrageous procurement processes where what you think has been procured cheaply turns to be very expensive in the long run.”



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi in Mombasa yesterday.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi says It will take time and pain before the economy gets better. Consequently, he has urged Kenyans to stop politicizing the Finance Bill 2023 saying it is part of fixing the sorry state of the economy.

Mudavadi made the remarks as he stated the government has to make tough decisions and that it will take time to remedy the economic situation in the country.

According to Mudavadi, it will be a little painful before it gets better as turning the current economic situation in the country could take about two years.

“The government has taken a bold step towards broadening the tax base so that we increase what we collect locally as revenue. This is the only way we will be able to boost agricultural sector operations, enhance food production and create jobs for us to stir the economic growth,” said Mudavadi.

He made the remarks in Mombasa when he presided over the 40th Annual seminar for Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).

Mudavadi urged Kenyans to remain steadfast as government is burning the midnight oil to ensure it corrects the drain, pain and strain on the citizen's livelihoods.

“I have continuously cautioned

Kenyans to gird themselves for hard times now and in the near future. As government we do not want to lie and give false hope and promises. I am being pragmatic, realistic and forthright in my assessment, that resuscitation of the economy will take at least two years or thereabout,” said Mudavadi.

He added: “We are working towards tightening the loose ends and sealing the loop-holes in procurement processes and procedures. The Finance Bill 2023 is proposing some fundamental measures that will help in addressing the bottle-necks that have been riddled by outrageous procurement processes where what you think has been procured cheaply turns to be very expensive in the long run.”

Given his previous experiences in government, Mudavadi said the question of Value Added Tax (VAT) has been mis-conceptualized and the finance bill 2023 should cure the problem once and for all.

“The Government has shifted its subsidy policy from consumption to production. The few beneficiaries on the consumption side are crying out loud. For the Government, the principle of majority beneficiary applies and through the Finance Bill, the Government proposes to provide exemptions under the VAT Act for fertilizers and inputs or raw mate-

rials locally purchased or imported by manufacturers of fertilizers. This will lower the cost of fertilizer, which will in turn lower the cost of production,” explained Mudavadi.

“We all know things went bad before Kenya Kwanza took over and are still bad as we speak today. This experience should prompt us to work together to mitigate the dire situation,” said Mudavadi.

He said the Government is deploying all the measures within its power to address the challenges and foster a resilient and inclusive economic recovery process.

“As government, we are not sleeping on the job. The commitment to prioritize the lives and livelihoods of Kenyans above all else is our key priority,” he affirmed.

He defended the government's move to take hard, painful but strategic measures and decisions saying, the Kenya Kwanza administration wants to pick-up the can that was kicked down, since the previous regime thrived in postponing a problem rather than curing the mess.

“I raised the red flag a few years ago, that the kind of borrowing we were subjecting ourselves in as a country was going to wreak havoc on our economic stability, and now it has come to pass, someone kicked the can down the road and waited to see who will be the first person to

pick the can and for sure as Kenya Kwanza administration, we have decided to pick the can early enough before it gets too late for us to fix the country's economic base,” said Mudavadi.

“There is hope as no situation is permanent. We have to always work towards a better tomorrow, we have to work together in resuscitation of the economy and mitigate the dire situation,” he added.

Mudavadi explained that situation the country is in has necessitated the Government's move to amend various laws relating to taxes and duties for the good of the nation.

“We are in a difficult position as a country. The government intends to raise about Sh60 to Sh70 billion from the 16 per cent VAT imposed on fuel and petroleum products. Where else, at this point, do we get the revenue now that the legroom for our external borrowing is largely constrained?” posed Mudavadi.

According to him, the previous government in the run-up to the 2022 general elections introduced fuel subsidies but never told Kenyans who was funding it.

“They only hid themselves to pronouncement that VAT on fuel had gone down from 16 per cent to 8 per cent, which according to us was just postponing the problem,” said Mudavadi.

“Our tax debt portfolio stands at Sh1.5 trillion as we speak. This is tax that has not been paid to KRA, now KRA is looking for it and some is tied in tribunal and court cases and some through other dispute resolution processes and mechanisms that have not been finalized...How will we do project if we do not bring in more revenue as a country?” asked Mudavadi.

He regretted that some tax players are constantly using court processes to buy time and delay remittances to the tax-man.

“They always ensure that their bargain about taxes moves to court. We have to cure this menace and ensure everyone who is obliged and eligible to pay tax fulfills it as stipulated under the law and as part of the constitutional undertaking as a responsible citizen,” said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi was accompanied by the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Legislation in the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary Aurelia Rono.

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Stop Diverting Research Funds For Other Use, PAC Tells Ministries

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyatimes

The Public Accounts Committee has raised concern over a decision by Ministries to divert money for research to other use such as payment of allowances.

The committee chaired by Nominated MP John Mbadi said that auditor's reports tabled before them indicated that State Departments were fond of diverting research money to others functions adding that the move was illegal.

"Research is a very critical component in the ministries and the functions have been allocated a good sum of money which some senior government officers divert to payment of staff allowances," said Mbadi.

He added, "Most staff employed as researchers have been frustrated and rendered irrelevant after funds allocated for research was not used for the same purpose".

Mbadi made the remarks after the committee was told that millions of shillings meant for research had been diverted to payment of staff allowances by the State Department for Petroleum.

"Review of expenditure records revealed payment of Ksh.42,979,358,



John Mbadi.

some funds from research vote, as allowances to staff working beyond normal working hours," the report read in part.

The report further noted that these payments were irregular because they were paid to staff undertaking their normal duties at their regular working stations.

The Principal Secretary Mr Mohamed Liban was put to task to explain why officers in the Department authorised payments which were not

approved by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

The report that angered the committee indicated that over Ksh.5 million were paid to 61 staff for participating in preparation of second revision of revenue and expenditure estimates.

Another over Ksh.16 million paid to staff for participating in closure of financial year 3020/2021, Ksh.6,859,000 to workers to undertake payroll audit and data cleaning for FY 2019/2020.



Principal Secretary Mr Mohamed Liban.

"I am surprised that the Department has free money to pay 31 staff Ksh.3.5 million for preparing tender documents," posed Hon Mbadi.

In his response the PS told the Committee that funds paid was for refund of transport expenses for officers who worked beyond normal working hours during COVID-19 period.

"The year under review was difficult one due to the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted negatively on the movement and officers were forced

to use taxis to work due to limited public transport," said Mr Liban.

Solicitor General Mr Shadrack Mose also appeared before the committee to respond to audit queries from audited financial books for the State Law Office.

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NCBA Group PLC Reports A Pre-Tax Profit Of Sh6.4B In 2023 First Quarter

By: Our Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

NCBA Group PLC has posted a profit before tax of Sh 6.4 billion in its this year’s first quarter results.

This represents a 32 per cent increase compared to Sh4.8 billion reported during a similar period last year.

The Group registered a profit after tax of Sh5.1billion representing 49 per cent growth up from Sh3.4 billion in the first quarter of last year.

According to a statement released yesterday, the bank’s assets grew to Sh629 billion which is a 7 per cent increase, customer deposits closed at Sh500 billion which is also a 7 per cent increase and it disbursed Sh223 billion in digital loans which represents a 37 per cent increase.

Further, the operating it recorded an income of Sh15.5 billion which is an 18 per cent increase while the Operating profit before loan loss provisions of Sh8.3 billion which is 10 per cent increase.

The bank further stated that the provision for credit losses was Sh2.0 billion, a 23 per cent down year on year, profit before tax of Sh6.4 billion, 32 per cent up year on year while profit after tax of Sh5.1 billion, a 49 per cent up year on year.

Growth in profitability was attributed to increase in operating income and a decline in loan impairment charges by 23 per cent. Despite the tough macro-economic conditions, the Group’s prudent management of credit risk has resulted in an improved NPL ratio and a reduced cost of risk.

Commenting on the results, NCBA Group Managing Director, John Gachora remarked, “These strong operating results are attributable to continued focus on our strategic priorities, growth in customer numbers and improvement in regional entities profitability. Our market leading forex capabilities have led to an increased customer base and transaction volumes.”

NCBA’s strategic priorities remain unchanged as the Group heads into the second quarter: Become a distinguished brand known for customer experience, Scale retail banking to expand distribution, deepen leadership in corporate banking and asset finance, drive digital transformation, and develop a high performance culture.

The Group’s regional footprint across 5 key markets in Africa; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ivory Coast has increased the opportunity to be relevant to more customers.

All regional subsidiaries are contributing positively to the Group following 2022 turnaround efforts and increasing the Group’s diversification of revenues.

“We have a stable and growing deposit base which is an indication of our ability to invest and attract more retail and corporate customers by offering greater superior experience and convenience through a bigger network. Our systematic branch expansion has allowed us to cover 26 counties in Kenya, and we expect 36 in 2023 with target to add another 10 in 2023 which will enhance job opportunities across the regions we operate in.” said Gachora.

The affordable housing initiative of 105 per cent home financing offered by NCBA at 9.5 per cent interest rate with up to 25 years of repayment is aligned with Government commitments to address affordable housing needs and cost of living.

As the market leaders in asset finance, NCBA advocates for adoption of innovative solutions that meet the needs of the market. Partnerships signed with Delux Motors and D.Light Ltd provided unique financing solutions for a growing motor industry that has also embraced sustainable energy based products.

Through NCBA’s Digital Banking Business, the Group continued servicing over 60 million customers with organized mobile lending solutions through partnerships with Telcos across the Africa region. In the period under review, NCBA maintained its positioning as the most extensive digital banking solutions provider with Sh223 billion in digital loans disbursements representing a 37 per cent year over year growth.

The strength of NCBA’s universal business model is bearing fruit.

The Group’s Investment Bank which enables its customers to access a wide variety of investment advice and products, supports a savings culture which has seen year on year growth. The digitization of client engagement with NCBA’s unit trust products has facilitated onboarding of over 5,000 new unit trust customers.

NCBA connects company success with social progress.

Over 100 students benefited from its 2023 education sponsorship initiative. Through Change The Story programme, NCBA with a number of partners has so far planted over 7million trees as a corporate response to reforestation which is aligned with the Government’s target to plant 15 billion trees in the next ten years.

NCBA’s continued investment in the sport of Golf through the NCBA Golf series is a significant milestone in promoting and democratizing the sport and uplifting the social and economic livelihood of communities.

Gachora recognized that “While the macro-environment remains suppressed for customers driven by rising inflation costs, forex pressure and market liquidity concerns, NCBA Group’s regional employee footprint of more than 3,000 professionals remains committed to deliver financial solutions that help customers navigate the changing microeconomic environment.

Additionally, NCBA’s over 27,000 listed shareholders continue showing investor confidence in one of the fastest growing businesses in the region.”

Looking ahead, Gachora added that the business environment is showing signs of slowing down but the Government initiatives are set to create a more predictable environment for investment. Concerns on forex is being addressed through concerted efforts of the Government, the Regulator and the Banking sector. In the short term, the wide margins seen in forex will disappear but this should spur more customer activity.



John Gachora



Worth Noting;

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Kenya Owes Oil Exploration Companies Sh3B For Early Oil Project

.....Taxpayers To Foot The Bill, Despite the Country Not Making Any Profit From The Venture

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Davis Chirchir, yesterday informed the Senate that Kenya owes the International Oil Exploration Companies (IOC) USD 23.7 million (more than KSh3 Billion) for the early oil project scheme in South Lokichar, Turkana County.

While appearing before the House earlier, the Cabinet Secretary informed the Senators that Kenya didn't make any profits from the oil exploration in Turkana, adding that the sole objective of the project was to test the marketability of the crude oil, establish logistical infrastructure and enable the County Government of Turkana to gain the necessary experience and capability.

Below is an excerpt of how CS Davis Chirchir's inaugural Question Time transpired in the Senate Chamber:

Sen. James Lomenen (Turkana): What are the reasons for the Government's delay in disbursing funds from the sale of crude oil in 2019 to Chem China International (UK) to the Turkana County Government and the local community, despite the enactment of the Petroleum Act No. 2 of 2019?

Davis Chirchir: The crude oil sold from the South Lokichar Basin had been produced from exploration and appraisal activities: It was not commercial production. So, there were no excess funds to be shared in this early oil project scheme in line with the provisions of the Act. If anything, the IOC is owed USD23.7 million on account of the early oil project scheme.

Sen. James Lomenen (Turkana): What plans does the Government have to ensure the Turkana Community receive their fair share of the oil revenue, and could the Cabinet Secretary provide a timeline for this?

Davis Chirchir: All revenue from petroleum will be shared in accordance with Section 58 of the Petroleum Act, 2019. The process will be undertaken in strict compliance with the Public Finance Management Act (PFM), 2015. The oversight of the Senate Committee on Energy will ensure we obey the laws.

The Ministry is currently reviewing the Field Development Plan to confirm the commercial, economic and technical viability of the project. This report will be tabled in the



Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir in Parliament yesterday.

House soon for ratification by Parliament, after which the contractor will make the final investment decision within a year to be able to get our first oil into the market.

Sen. James Lomenen (Turkana): Why did the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum decide to sell the crude oil while they knew very well that it was not commercially viable?

Davis Chirchir: When you look at the cost of any business, you don't expect to make profits in the first two to three years because those are the years of investments. The initial phase of the project was expensive because the objective was to ensure that there is a seamless process and a ready market for the oil.

Sen. James Lomenen (Turkana): How will Turkana County trust the Government in the remaining crude oil which they intend to drill in more than a hundred boreholes?

Davis Chirchir: When we bring the comprehensive Field Development Report to this House, that will inform this House and the Country how profitable it will be to take this project to full financial closure.

Mohamed Chute (Marsabit): If you have taken four years to drill 240,000 barrels and you want to have a production of 2,000 barrels per day, are you telling us that it will take you another 100 years?

Davis Chirchir: When we come to this House with the Field Development Plan, we'll comprehensively be talking about our preparedness to go into the market either through a

refinery or through a pipeline, so that the daily production gets to the market on the same day. So, as a Ministry, we do not expect that we will take to the market 240,000 barrels in four years.

Sen. William Kisang' (Elgeyo Marakwet): Why don't we revive the refinery in Mombasa that we can use to refine and process the crude oil and generate employment for our youth in the country?

Davis Chirchir: As I had alluded earlier, I have a very comprehensive Field Development Plan report in my office on the economics of oil production, which is being looked at by the technical team to confirm the best option going forward.

Bonny Khalwale (Kakamega): CS can you just clear the air in very few words whether Kenya still has a chance as one of the world's oil-producing countries with the paltry production that you have announced in the last four years?

Davis Chirchir: Yes, there was hope and there's still hope. I urge this House and Kenyans at large to quickly go out of our way to support this project and be conscious of the climate change issue. Investors are not putting their money where their policies on climate don't agree with the developers of the climatic-challenged projects.

Sen. George Mungai (Nominated): Is it possible to liaise with our neighbours like South Sudan so that they can do the refinery of our crude oil to save on costs because the distance from Juba to Turkana is very

short?

Davis Chirchir: We are looking at all the economics. When we bring the Field Development Plan for our Turkana Oil Basin, we will show the economics of the small and big refineries in relation to the total reservoir of oil already discovered in Kenya.

Sen. Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu): Do we have evidence of the measurement of that volume so that we can confirm that actually, the oil that was extracted and sold is of that volume?

Davis Chirchir: An independent audit company from South Africa was hired to confirm the measurements of the product as they were off-taken, loaded and transported to Mombasa. We also have a report of the products as they were exported from the Mombasa Oil Refinery and loaded into the ships.

Sen. Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu): Can the Cabinet Secretary avail evidence that the revenue that was generated from this oil is USD27, 292, 479 just to assure this House and Turkana County that their oil was not sold for more but under-declared?

Davis Chirchir: The pricing has been published. We have that information and it can be verified. We have an independent audit report and a separate outturn report. To satisfy the House, I will provide the audit report which captures the pricing at the time we sold the product.

Worth Noting:

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- Davis Chirchir:** When we bring the comprehensive Field Development Report to this House, that will inform this House and the Country how profitable it will be to take this project to full financial closure.

Drish Shah Scoops Top Position In The Under 14 Category At The Crawford International School Inter-School Chess Tournament

By: Our Correspondent
 @themtkenyatimes

Crawford International School recently hosted its first inter-school Chess Tournament, bringing together 400 learners from 35 different schools in Nairobi.

The tournament highlighted the incredible potential of young minds and emphasized the significance of providing children with opportunities to engage in intellectually stimulating activities.

Among the talented players, Drish Shah, a renowned title holder, emerged as the first-place winner in the under 14 Open category, with a 6 out of 6 win, emerging as the only player in U14, U16 and U18 to finish with a 6 out of 6 win. Manyeki Nathaniel of Plainsview Academy came in second and Eddy Travis of St. Bakhita School came in third in the same category.

Drish holds an impressive track record having represented Kenya in



Drish Shah .

Zimbabwe, Egypt and India, Drish Shah’s victory further showcased the exceptional skill and dedication required to excel in chess.

When asked about the win, Drish Shah shared, “I have been playing since I was six years old. Chess is about passion, perseverance, and consistency. I am honoured to have received the top prize and eagerly await the next tournament.”

Miriam Gathogo, the Co-curriculum Coordinator at Crawford International School, expressed her enthusiasm for the growing popularity of chess as a sport in Kenya. She remarked, “For a first-time event, we received an overwhelming turnout, indicating the gradual acceptance of chess in our country. The tournament served as a platform for learners to showcase their incredible talent, fostering intellectual growth, critical thinking, and strategic skills. Encouraging children to play chess offers numerous benefits that extend

far beyond the chessboard itself.”

The importance of chess in shaping young minds was highlighted during the tournament. Chess offers several key benefits, including boosting concentration and focus, promoting sportsmanship, and cultivating resilience. Through chess, children learn to understand that winning and losing are part of the process, encouraging them to learn from their mistakes, persevere, and strive for improvement. Furthermore, regular practice enhances memory retention, pattern recognition, and overall cognitive abilities.

Crawford International School recognizes the profound impact that chess has on students’ intellectual and personal growth. By actively encouraging children to play chess, the school aims to equip them with invaluable life skills that will continue to serve them well beyond their academic years.



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Luke 6:38

Ruto’s Move To Greet Sabina As The Party Leader Did Not Come As A Surprise



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Former Muranga Woman Representative Sabina Chege.

Worth Noting:

- In seeking to stamp its authority, the team have been invoking the provisions of the Jubilee party constitution and playing smart politics.
- As a person who interacts frequently with the people at grassroots, allow me to say this without fear of contradiction.
- One would have expected Uhuru to this soon after completion of his two-terms of five year each at helm and handing over power to his successor.
- It is not however too late though the Presidential Retirement Benefit Act required him to hang the boot six months after leaving office.
- It is worth to note Parliament enacted this Act in 2012 and Uhuru became the president one year later.

A day after the Registrar of Political Parties (RPP) confirmed Kanini Kega-led line up as comprising the bonafide officials of the Jubilee party, former Muranga Woman Representative Sabina Chege attended a Kenya Kwanza parliamentary group meeting at State House.

She attended in her capacity as the nominated MP and being one of the Jubilee MP who had shifted allegiances to the ruling alliance.

Of 32 MPs elected on Jubilee ticket, it is only four who sided with the former president.

President Ruto in his welcoming remarks caused a prolonged laughter when he referred her as the party leader.

I expected the Azimio side to allege that this confirmed their widely held view that Dr Ruto was behind woes facing Jubilee party. Reason? They had been blinded to look at everything from the perspective of politics.

Here, they would forget one critical aspects of the political game.

You cannot succeed to maneuver you way if you turn deaf ear to the provisions of the constitution and law.

The laws governing the management and running of political parties were very clear.

The Kega team seems to understand this very well.

In seeking to stamp its authority, the team have been invoking the provisions of the Jubilee party constitution and playing smart politics.

As a person who interacts frequently with the people at grassroots, allow me to say this without fear of contradiction.

Majority of Jubilee supporters have and are changing thier mind.

Kega team, they say, is on the right course and means well for our party.

We appreciate the role the former President played to establish this party. It is however wrong to claim entitlement of this party forever.

A leader worth salt nurtures other leaders and pass the baton to them.

One would have expected Uhuru to this soon after completion of his two-terms of five year each at helm and handing over power to his successor.

It is not however too late though the Presidential Retirement Benefit Act required him to hang the boot six months after leaving office.

It is worth to note Parliament enacted this Act in 2012 and Uhuru became the president one year later.

During his tenure, I never heard the President Uhuru and his troops in the House faulting this law. Why are they now denouncing the Act?

Let me borrow the words of Cotu boss Francis Atwoli. Uhuru is too young to retire. Didn’t the lawmak-

ers know this?

Yes, the power is very sweet and this is why some leaders would become blinded and obsessed with it.

Get me right here. I’m not saying Uhuru should continue to cling on leadership of Jubilee party.

However, this is my advise to our leaders. Put aside your personal interests and make the laws that serve the will of the people.

For me, EALA MP Kanini Kega and MP Sabina Chege are young, vibrant and energetic. They also have a track record of building the Jubilee party from the scratch and championing the cause of the party leader Uhuru Kenyatta when he was at the helm.

Therefore, the party is so dear to them and is prepared to steer it to great heights of success and shared prosperity.

During the National Delegates Conference (NDC) that reports indicated it was not held in accordance with the Jubilee constitution, I heard Uhuru expressing fear that he does not trust them. When did he arrive at this decision and why?

These are the same leaders who stood with you during the entire electioneering period.

Your candidate lost and Dr Ruto won.

By shifting their loyalties to President Ruto, did they broke any law? With due respect to former presi-

dent, if yes, tell us which law?

Initially, President Ruto had restrained himself from commenting anything touching on infighting be-deviling his former party, Jubilee.

Therefore, I wish to disagree with the Azimio side. President Ruto referred Ms Sabina as the Party leader after the Registrar of Political Parties (RPP) confirmed and approved the changes that saw her elevated to replace Uhuru Kenyatta.

Jubilee is one of the strong affiliate parties in Azimio coalition.

If the coalition is disatisfied, it should direct the question to the Registrar.

When he took the reign of power, President Ruto promised to govern the country strictly in accordance with the provisions of the law and the constitution. He has remained true to this course.

The office of Political Parties Registrar is created by the law and so its decisions are binding unless overturned by the court of law.

The aggrieved parties have not filed a petition. So, the elevation of Ms Sabina stands out.

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

Not Everything We Know Is Under Our Control

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- It is important to know that as human beings we cannot contain the rain from falling all we can do is to prepare to benefit from its presence at the same time take measures to mitigate any negative effects that are associated with it.
- There are cases which have undesirable effects hence once detected we try to contain them or alert people to keep off so that they are not affected by them for example an outbreak of a disease people are informed about it, how it is affecting people and animals as well as its control measures to ensure that as minimal number of people as possible is affected by the disease.



To know a thing does not always enable us to prevent it, but at least the things we know we do hold, if not in our hands, at any rate in our minds, where we can dispose of them as we choose, and this gives us the illusion of a sort of power over them.

Marcel Proust, Swann's Way.

Every human being is always happy to acquire knowledge in fact the one who knows most of the things is appreciated by the rest who go ahead and wish to learn from him.

However no human being can claim to know everything we just know a small portion of the information that exists.

There are issues when we know them in advance but we can manipulate their effects if favourable encourage more of them or make many people to benefit from them for example meteorologists prediction of rain or signs of onset of rainfall can be used to inform farmers to prepare for the rainy season.

It is important to know that as human beings we cannot contain the rain from falling all we can do is to prepare to benefit from its presence at the same time take measures to mitigate any negative effects that are associated with it.

There are cases which have undesirable effects hence once detected we try to contain them or alert people to keep off so that they are not affected by them for example an outbreak of a disease people are informed about it, how it is affecting people and animals as well as its control measures to ensure that as minimal number of people as possible is affected by the disease.

Studying a certain family you will see the pattern taken by majority of its members and predict the path likely to be followed by their young ones.

You can try to train them so as for them not to have some habits but the traits being in family line it is diffi-

cult to control for example if they have a habit of stealing you can encourage someone to join investigative departments and be dealing with criminals as he will likely associate with crime only that he should be in the side that will be favourable to the society.

If someone loves you no matter how much you ignore him all you should do is appreciating his efforts treat him like your fan. Ignoring him will not stop him from admiring you probably you are his role model. Try to be good to him, this will promote your virtues as he will replicate what he see you do if you are his role model. As it happens to any public figure it is hard for them to know who knows them and admires them they just know they have huge fan base.

A mother knows who fathered her baby if they never married or divorced making the kid not to live with the father the mother expects

that at some time the kid will ask about his biological father unless he lies to him or fails to answer him no way she will successfully claim that he does not have a father. It is a tall order for her to disclose the dad to his kid otherwise relatives and friends who know who he is are likely to inform him who the dad is with or without letting his mum know that they have done so.

Once the kids becomes of age the kid's dad may search for him and make him know about his parentage.

Drunk Revellers Robbed At Gun-Point In Estate Bar - Police Launch Manhunt For Suspects

By: The DCI

Detectives based at DCI Starehe are looking for three suspects who raided a drinking joint at Ruaraka’s Kasabuni area and ordered all revellers to lie down before ransacking their pockets and fleeing into darkness.

The three miscreants who were armed with a firearm initially posed as vagabonds of unsound mind carrying sacks on their backs, before entering Reke Marie pub to seek for alms.

All this while, the revelers who were unperturbed by the trio’s presence continued corroding their esophageal glands with impunity as they downed cold swallows, until one of the presumed mad men whipped out a firearm and ordered everyone to lie down!

“Kila mtu lala chini!” ordered the thugs as the pub suddenly went qui-

et, save for the stereo that continued playing C.D.M Kiratu’s oldie hit song Kaba Kuinuka.

One of the revellers who seemed to have imbibed one too many retorted “Kari inyui aa?” because who are you?... as his mate quipped “dukire wee!” shut up! they are miscreants!

The thugs then had a field day ransacking their pockets for mobile phones, cash and other valuables. But as they made their exit, the reveller who was drunk as a fiddler and couldn’t keep his mouth shut bursted out unprintable words related to the canines family, much to the chagrin of his drinking mates who feared for their lives.

“Maina niugutuneana!,” You will deliver us Maina! whispered one of the worried revellers.

This prompted the thugs to fire two rounds in the air attracting the attention of police officers on patrol, who immediately rushed to the scene.

However, by the time of their arrival the thugs had vanished into darkness.



Two empty cartridges of 7.62mm were collected at the scene. Meanwhile, police are pursuing thugs masquerading as beggars. leads into the whereabouts of the FichuakwaDCI 0800 722 203.

Suspected Contaminated Sugar Impounded In Ruaraka

By: The DCI

Police have recovered bags of sugar that are suspected to be contaminated and unfit for human consumption, after a member of the public raised alarm.

In a raid conducted at a small scale shop within Riverside area in Ruaraka, police recovered 48 kilograms of the sugar and a further consignment of over 500 kilograms at a wholesale shop within the same area.

This is after a consumer who had earlier bought half a kilo at the retail shop for domestic use, noticed strange pellets and informed officers on patrol.

The recovery of the suspicious product comes hot on the heels of another recovery in Kisii County over the weekend, where a consign-

ment of the sugar was found being repackaged for sale to unsuspecting consumers.

The consignment has been kept as exhibit after samples were obtained and forwarded to the government Chemist for analysis.

Meanwhile, members of the public are urged to be on the lookout and report to authorities should they come across the suspicious product that could have devastating effects on their health once consumed.

FichuakwaDCI 0800 722 203.



Suspected Contaminated Sugar Impounded In Ruaraka.

Almuratova Hurliman Baxtiyor



Almuratova Hurliman was born on April 1, 2004 in the village of Dovkhara, Takhtakupir district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. She studied at school No. 12 named after Berdakh which is located in Takhtakupir. Due to her interest in poetry and literature, she begins to read many books and steps into poetry in the 4th grade. Also she worked on herself in the direction of poetry and prose. In 2016, the first story entitled "Alg'is alsan' kem bolmay-san" was published in the newspaper "Takhtakupir tani". In 2017, a poem entitled "Motherland" was published in the gazette "Jetkenshek". In addition, the young poet's poems entitled "Mother", "Poet", "Thanks teacher", "Lazy boy", "Constitution", "We need", "Autumn", "Dear father", "Grandma", "Winter" were published in newspapers.

In 2020, Hurliman continued her studies at the academic lyceum next to NDPI (Nukus State Pedagogical Institute) of the Republic Karakalpakstan. Almuratova is the winner of the "Best poem Author" nomination according to the 2020 which was conducted by the "Jetkinshek" newspaper. In 2020, Hurliman Almuratova's first collection of poems titled "Kitobdan kamol topdim" was published in Karakalpakstan.

From 2022, Hurliman is a 1st-year student at the Faculty of Foreign languages of KSU. Almuratova was distinguished by her knowledge, passion from the first days of studying at University. She is also a conference participant in different countries. Since 2023, she has been a member of Writer's Union of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Qo'sh qanot", a member of

Inida's Iqra Foundation, an ambassador of The UK SPSC organization and Iqra Foundation's Child Rescue Ambassador. Furthermore, on March 23, 2023, the scientific article entitled "Today's youth and teaching English" (New ways to teach methodically) was published in Canada.

Spring.

I wait for

Spring,

Sitting on the waves of the winds,
I wait for its graceful breeze,
Immersed in such a dream,
I expect a wonderful miracle from Spring.

Involuntarily following the trail of dreams,
As if I can reach her right away,
As soon as I knew that spring had come

I'm filled with immeasurable fortune.

There are many different topics in the world,

I want to know every one of them,
But I will stop for a moment,
Seeing an ember of the sun.

It seems to have a dignity on it,
The image of spring even on green grasses,

As charming as the description of Zulfiya,

I am waiting for such Spring.

The singing of the birds and the sound of the streams

The dew of the snowdrops and the colour of the sky,

Whoever doesn't like everyone loves,
This gives to you wonderful presence.

I have these endless feelings in my heart,
I will stay loyal to my expositions,
It is nature's way of attracting people,
If it comes, I will about my love to Spring.

The Equinox Of Day And Night



Humanity has lived in harmony with nature since its inception. From time immemorial, the mysteries of nature have fascinated people. That's why they tried to learn the secrets of nature and use them in everyday life. Any event related to nature evokes certain feelings in people, and one of the important historical traditions that arose from them on the basis of certain relations with the environment is Navruz holiday. Its origin goes back to ancient times. Navruz means "New day," and the equality of day and night on that day is scientifically based. Therefore, this holiday is a long-established tradition in the Middle East and Central Asia. It was created in the time of customs, traditions, daily life needs, relationships with the environment and natural factors, which began to form in the stages of human development. Over time, it became a tradition.

Based on the narrations of Iranian scientists, they assumed that Navruz was celebrated two thousand years ago. As it has been celebrated for centuries, it is not difficult to imagine how many people have absorbed this holiday into their lifestyle. When we mention the word Navruz, we all see joy, songs,

"boychechak" and the sun spreading the light of love.

Because we wait and celebrate Nowruz every year. We climb the mountains, pick (boychechak) flowers, sing songs from house to house. Fathers and mothers rub the ambassador of this spring and wish for safety and peace. They bring thanks to our day, even tears of joy appear in their eyes. Children are given gifts.

And we again saying:

"Qattiq yerdan qatalab chiqqan boychechak,

Yumshoq yerdan yumalab chiqqan boychechak" we will continue on our way!

Navruz has come and gone before I read the praises of Nowruz and give its definition to share with you!

Dear Friends, come to our places and witness the happiness of Navruz holiday. After all, it is not for nothing that our people say, "It is better to see once than to hear a thousand times!"

We go for a tulip walk, wear willow leaves, cook sumalak.

Niginabanu Amirova
8th grade student of the Samarkand Specialized Art Boarding School
Nurabad district, Samarkand region

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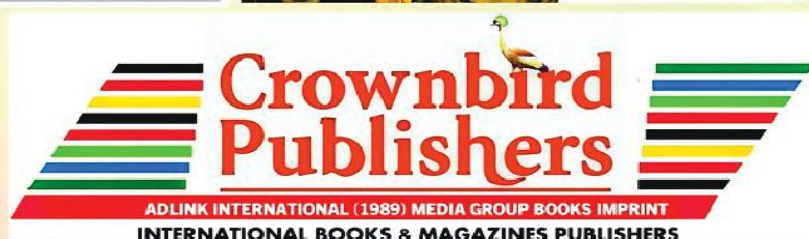
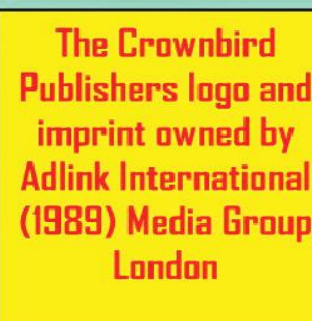
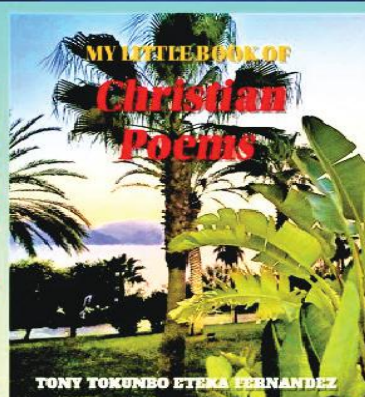
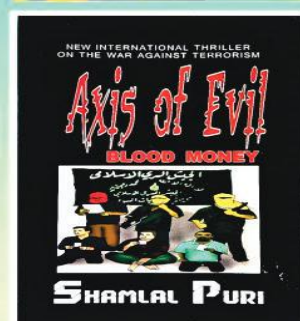
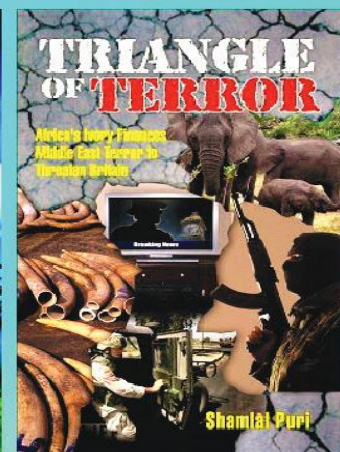
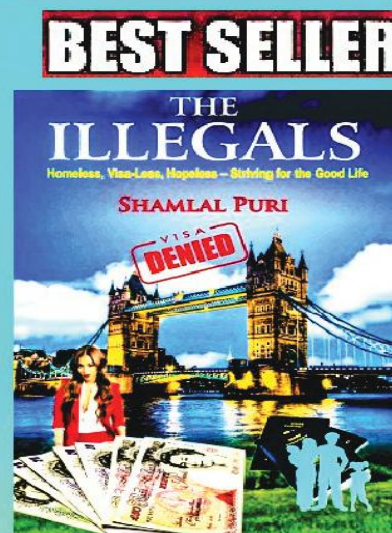
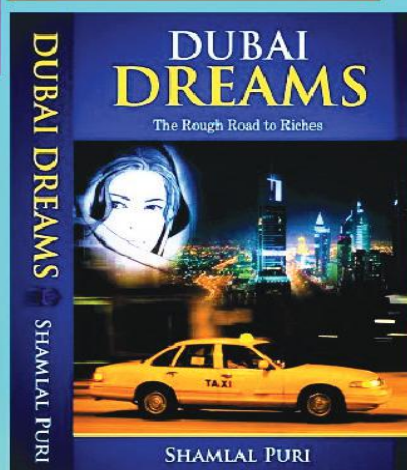
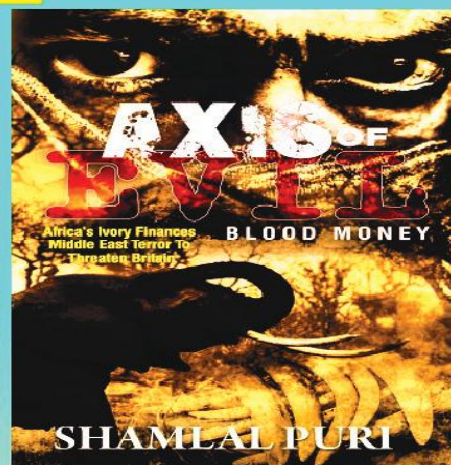
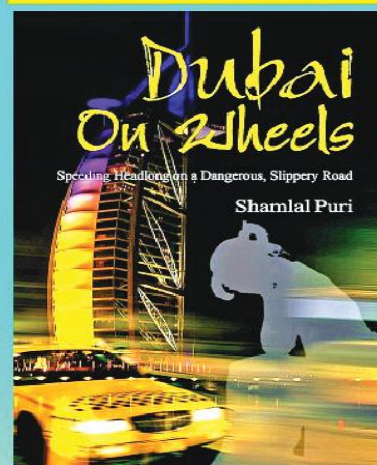
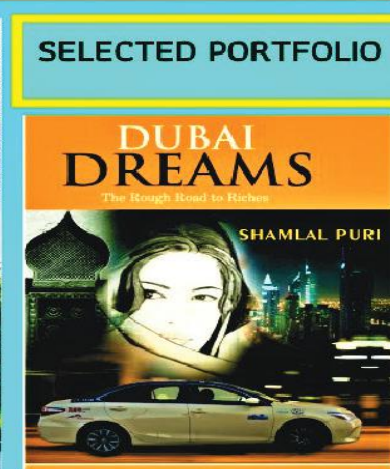
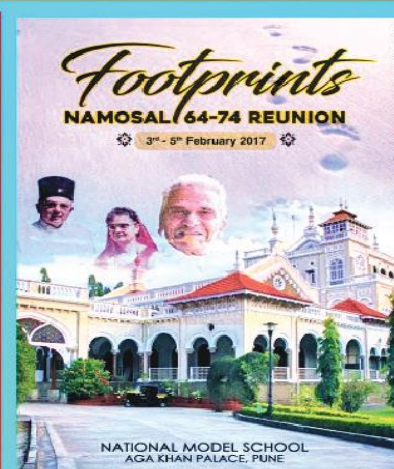
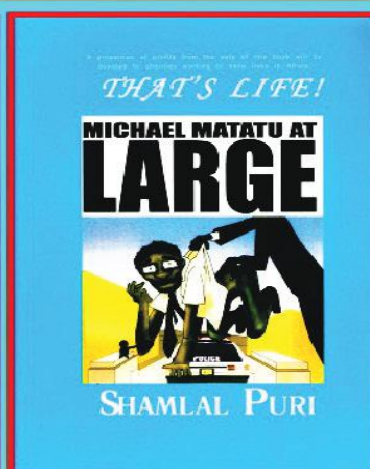
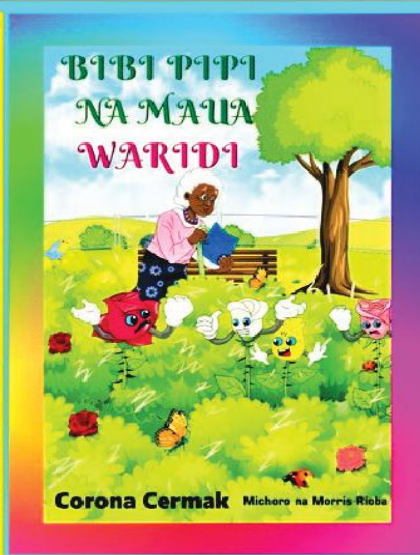
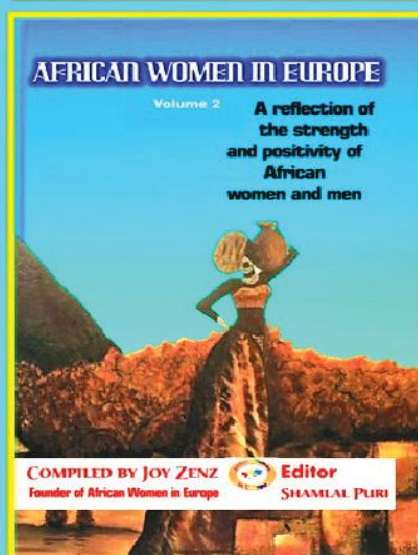
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BUSINESS

Tetra Pak East Africa joins the Packaging Producer Responsibility Organisation (PAKPRO)

By: Our Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- PAKPRO has a successful track record in supporting recycling value chains in Kenya. PAKPRO will be administering an EPR scheme to cater for the LBP sector from June month 2023, in addition to the other EPR schemes already being offered by PAKPRO.
- As part of this joining of forces, Tetra Pak and PAKPRO commit to improving awareness by increased educational activities among the Kenyan public on issues related to segregation and collection.
- In addition, the scheme will be implementing a model for value chain support to stimulate collection and increase end-use demand for recycled content. There is already existing recycling capacity and infrastructure in the country that has been developed over the years, and the intended model will seek to maximize use of this.



Tetrapak Managing Director, East Africa Jonathan Kinisu (left) and PakPro CEO Joyce Waweru (right) during the signing of the membership memorandum flanked by PakPro Chairman and Managing Director Kevin Ltd Kimani Rugendo and PakPro Board Director and Country Lead Regulatory and Stakeholder Engagement, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa Susan Maingi.

In an increased effort to drive collection and recycling, Tetra Pak East Africa has joined a well-established Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), the Packaging Producer Responsibility Organisation - PAKPRO. Tetra Pak's membership commenced on Tuesday. The decision for Tetra Pak to join the PRO was driven by the need for greater collaboration to improve the collection and recycling of Liquid Board Packaging (LBP) in Kenya.

Tetra Pak's initiatives on collection and recycling of LBP in Kenya are well aligned and support the recent events following the gazettelement of the Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022. Further, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has been working on the development of the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations (EPR), and this is an important step in developing further the Waste Management policies in the country, engaging all the actors in the value chain.

Tetra Pak has been actively engaging all stakeholders, including the government, PROs, collectors, and recyclers, and taking the lead to support the development of a strong ecosystem for collection and recycling of carton packages.

PAKPRO has a successful track record in supporting recycling value chains in Kenya. PAKPRO will be administering an EPR scheme to cater for the LBP sector from June month 2023, in addition to the other EPR schemes already being offered by PAKPRO.

As part of this joining of forces, Tetra Pak and PAKPRO commit to improving awareness by increased educational activities among the Kenyan public on issues related to segregation and collection. In addition, the scheme will be implementing a model for value chain support to stimulate collection and increase end-use demand for recycled content. There is already existing recycling capacity and infrastructure in the country that has been developed

over the years, and the intended model will seek to maximize use of this.

Recycling is at the centre of a low-carbon circular economy that aims to reduce waste and keep materials in use for longer. LBP can be recycled and transformed into a wide range of new products. However, segregation at source, collection and sorting are critical for recycling to work. Tetra Pak believes that EPR regulations are essential and in line with the company's ambitions of improving the recycling value chain.

The success of a circular economy requires collaboration beyond the traditional boundaries of business operators. Our partnership with PAKPRO® will ensure that both partners bring together a network of producers, collectors, suppliers, and other key stakeholders to develop circularity of LBP in the country.

Tetra Pak East Africa Managing Director Jonathan Kinisu, said, "A critical pillar of our sustainability strategy is founded on our

commitment to a low-carbon circular economy. At Tetra Pak, we are acutely aware of the broader impact of our operations on the environment and society and as such we are always striving to find more progressive ways to continue protecting what's good".

He added, "As Tetra Pak East Africa we are proud to be joining forces with other stakeholders, which will help us unite to build a circular economy together in Kenya. Our commitment is towards people and the environment which is connected to 'Producing Responsible Products'. Packaging has and continues to offer essential functionalities: protecting food and beverages, allowing their safe use and transport, and preventing food wastage. The beverage carton industry believes that packaging can, and should, contribute to mitigating the biggest global challenge: climate change, while not compromising on food safety."

On the other hand, Joyce Gachugi – Waweru, who is the PPRO Chief Executive Officer noted, "We are pleased to welcome Tetra Pak East Africa into our membership today. The alignment of the mission and vision of both organizations toward increasing the collection and recycling of liquid board packaging is coming together".

Further, she added, "As we seek to leverage each other's networks in strengthening the LBP value chain in the country, we are keen to ensure that more than just compliance is met for Tetra Pak, but that they too can participate in scaling the impact we have developed over the last 5 years by creating decent jobs for waste collectors, diverting post-consumer packaging from the landfills and dumpsites into the production of new materials. Our belief continues to be that at the sweet spot where people, profit and planet meet, then communities and businesses can operate optimally".



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Former Mungiki Leader Maina Njenga To Record Statement At Nakuru DCI HQs

By: Our Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

Former Mungiki leader, Maina Njenga was yesterday escorted to the Nakuru County Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) offices to record statement.

This was after Senior Resident Magistrate, Emmanuel Soita declined to issue clear orders on Maina's rearrest.

He was seized by DCI officers who had been trailing him since morning. The officers said that they were taking him for a brief interrogation after which he would be released.

His lawyers led by Ndegwa Njiru and Steve Biko had pleaded with the court to interpret the orders by Nairobi High court which stated that Maina should not be arrested until charges are preferred against him.

However, his lawyers were in limbo because Maina was presented in a different court from the one handling



Maina Njenga when he appeared in court yesterday.

his case.

Therefore the magistrate could not charge him because the prosecution was not ready and the matter was not listed for his court.

This meant that he could not issue orders or give bail and bond for the accused.

Lawyer Ndegwa told the court that they presented Maina to court after DCI issued a communique on Monday putting their client on its wanted list.

In the communique, the DCI said Maina was a fugitive who was wanted for among other things, in possession of illegal arms and belonging to an illegal group

An Instructor Petitions Senate On The Failure By Nyeri Government To Absorb Contracted Instructions

By: Our Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

A petition has been filed in the Senate concerning lack of implementation of a resolution to absorb the contracted instructors under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) by the County Government of Nyeri.

In the petition submitted to the Senate by Mr. Julius Wairiuko Wanjohi, the Petitioner prays that the Senate intervenes in the matter with a view to recommending to the County Government of Nyeri to implement the resolution as required and compensate the Petitioner for the period between June 30, 2015 to date.

The Petitioner reveals that despite the constitutional requirement to have the Youth Polytechnics be fully transferred to Counties with Instructors being absorbed by the County

Governments, Nyeri County Government has not implemented the same to date.

“On 2nd December 2014, a consultative meeting was held between the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Transition Authority to address numerous issues that were facing the transition of Youth Polytechnics, the meeting resolved among others that the contracts of the instructors under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) be extended up to 30th June 2015 and thereafter, the instructors be absorbed by the County Governments on permanent and pensionable terms,” explained the Petitioner.

“The County Governments were required to make budgetary provisions to pay the staff following the passage of the County Allocation of Revenue Act and on 15th December 2014, the Transition Authority communicated



Senate.

the resolution to the County Governments for implementation, several Counties implemented the resolution but the County Government of Nyeri has not implemented the same to date,” added the Petitioner

The Petitioner reveals that despite making efforts to have the matter addressed by the relevant authorities, no satisfactory response has been provided.

The Petition was committed to the Senate Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations.

Nakuru County Invests In Sustainable Avocado Farming

By: Esther Mwangi and Sam
Karanja
@themkenyetimes



Avocado Farming.

Worth Noting:

- At least 15 firms have been cleared by Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (Kephis) to export avocados to China following a stringent inspection of their facilities. This is in addition to the fact that more than three million Kenyan smallholder farmers who grow avocados are expected to benefit from greater access to the Chinese market.
- The partnership, Mr. Bor said, was critical in ensuring the success of a sustained campaign launched to revitalize avocado farming, adding that farmers have been trained on good harvest and post-harvest handling practices of the fruit and good manufacturing practices for smallholder processing.
- He further said avocado value-addition, besides increasing the county's export portfolio, was also targeting to reduce post-harvest losses and shield farmers from exploitation by middlemen.

The County Government of Nakuru has launched a sustained campaign to revitalize avocado farming, with eyes set on international markets. County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in Charge of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives, Mr. Leonard Bor, said the devolved unit was collaborating with stakeholders in the avocado subsector in training farmers on enhancing the competitiveness of avocado value-added products. The CECM said the venture, a partnership with the Avocado Society of Kenya (ASOK), mainly targets smallholder farmers, who are also being trained on export processes, quality planting materials, proper farming techniques, farm mechanization, accessing reliable market links, and affordable credit facilities. He added that the county was keen on focusing on international markets instead of selling the fruit to middlemen at throwaway prices, where he said they buy the one fruit for about Sh10 and Sh15, reaping huge profits at the expense of farmers. The CECM stated that Governor Susan Kihika's administration had embarked on diversification to promote the farming of avocados and macadamias alongside other tradi-

tional crops like coffee and potatoes. "We have mainly singled out the avocado crop as a potential income earner for our farmers due to the high demand both locally and internationally," said Mr. Bor. Speaking at his office after meeting officials of the Nakuru Association for Avocado Growers, the CECM indicated that the devolved unit and its partners were further sensitizing the farmers on the new avocado export regulations announced by the Horticulture Crops Directorate towards ensuring that Kenyan fruits are competitive in the global export market. At least 15 firms have been cleared by Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (Kephis) to export avocados to China following a stringent inspection of their facilities. This is in addition to the fact that more than three million Kenyan smallholder farmers who grow avocados are expected to benefit from greater access to the Chinese market. The partnership, Mr. Bor said, was critical in ensuring the success of a sustained campaign launched to revitalize avocado farming, adding that farmers have been trained on good harvest and post-harvest handling practices of the fruit and good manufacturing practices for small-

holder processing. He further said avocado value-addition, besides increasing the county's export portfolio, was also targeting to reduce post-harvest losses and shield farmers from exploitation by middlemen. "Value addition and processing prolongs the shelf-life of the produce and minimizes post-harvest losses. It also offers more profit on the same produce and improves the nutrition and living conditions of those involved," he added. The CECM at the same time urged avocado farmers to join cooperative societies to boost their incomes and prevent their exploitation by middlemen, adding that through bulk- ing, cooperatives have been able to reduce the cost of marketing and enabled farmers to realize higher returns through the provision of a reliable and remunerative outlet for produce. He appreciated the fact that the co- operative movement had evolved over the past two decades into a key cog that turns the wheels of the agriculture sector in Kenya by extending its business beyond the primary role of marketing produce for small-holder farmers and venturing into the provision of financial ser-

vices. The CECM also noted that cooperatives were the only structured channels through which the national and county governments could support smallholder farmers in value addition, accessing quality equipment and affordable credit facilities, and procuring superior seedlings, among other benefits. On revised export regulations, Mr. Bor said most farmers were now aware that the Horticulture Crops Directorate had raised the minimum solid content for export avocados from 20 and 21 per cent for Fuerte and Hass varieties respectively to 24 per cent in order to comply with international standards. According to the Horticulture Crops Directorate, avocados rank as the fourth most important national fruit crop and have grown to represent 17 per cent of Kenya's total horticultural exports. About 70 per cent of avocado production is by small-scale growers who grow it for subsistence, local markets, and export.

20 AD



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2023

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CHAMPION PRIZES :

Prizez

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- ✓ Trophy
- ✓ 20 Gold Medals
- ✓ Ball & 10 Beeps



Time

09:00 AM

VENUE

Green Central Sports Ground, Madibogo, NW

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National Employment Authority Makes Appearance Before House Committee Over Audit Queries

By: Our Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Acting Director General of the National Employment Authority Ms. Edith Okoki has cited lack of sufficient budgetary allocations as one of the biggest constraints the institution is facing as they struggle to discharge their duties.

She was speaking before the National Assembly’s Public Investments Committee on Social Services, Administration and Agriculture when she appeared for the first time since the institution was established in 2016.

She had been invited to respond to audit queries emanating from Audit Reports of three Financial Years; 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

Ms. Okoki and the Acting Director Corporate Affairs Caleb Okello told the Committee that the institution is currently headed by Acting managers seconded from the ministry of Labour.

This was after Committee Members Ekwom Naibun (Turkana North) and Fatma Jeho (Wajir) asked for an explanation behind the acting capac-



Ms Edith Okoki.

ities which could affect the operations of the institution.

Narrowing down to audit queries, the committee flagged out two issues from

the report of the Financial Year 2018/19.

According to the report, the Auditor General cited lack of segregation of duties where procurement and accounting were handled by one person. There was also the lack of a comprehensive information (IT) pol-

icy where services offered could not be confirmed.

“It is true the Authority as constituted lacked internal control system as at financial year ended June 2019. This was due to lack of sufficient staff resulting to one employee handling more than three responsibilities. The Authority was awaiting approval from the Salary and Remuneration Commission (SRC) on the salary structure to enable us hire more staff, though the Public Ser-

vice Commission is addressing the issue,” she responded.

With regard to the lack of information technology policy, Ms. Okoki told the committee that a Data Recovery strategy was established in the financial year 2019/18 and presented before the board.

While reviewing the report of the Financial Year 2019/20, the Emanuel Wangwe - led Committee pointed out shortcomings in the Budget control and performance.

The committee discovered that Sh47 million or 16 per cent of the allocation was not spent and resulting to a negative impact on the plans and achievements of the Authority. Weak internal control was also cited here.

“With such challenges, how are you able to help Kenyans seeking for jobs outside the country, it’s annoying to see our people out there mistreated. Can the same situation for example, occur to American in any country? You need to have strong structures to deal with some of these issues”, said IBishop Jackson Kosgey who is a nominated member.

The committee wound up the sitting by reviewing the audit report of the 2020/21 Financial Year where four issues were pointed out. They

include Budgetary control and performance, where underperformance of 41.4% was noted. In her response, the Director General told the Committee that this was as a result of a planned move to a new office block failing to materialize. She pleaded for leniency even as she endeavored to plan and budget accordingly.

Another issue of concern was on catering and conferencing where the remuneration of board of directors’ expense was wrongly classified under catering and conferencing budget line.

There was also the failure to update the fixed assets register. The Committee directed that the NEA produces the register of the assets together with the valuation register next week.

“During the year under review you did not know where your assets were. Now you are responding by telling us that you updated, what procedures did you use?”, Wangwe asked before closing the sitting.

Ms. Okoki in her closing remarks told the committee of the plans the Authority has initiated to tag their assets by providing details of responsible officers who are custodians of specific assets.

The Senate Petitioned Concerning Legislation To Regulate The Credit Profession

By: PSCU

The Council of the Institute of Credit Management (Kenya) through CCP. Mokaya Magembe Bernard has petitioned the Senate concerning the enactment of legislation to regulate the credit profession.

The petitioners argue that the enactment of the legislation regulating the credit profession will establish a recognized legislated position of credit professionals in matters credit and debt management, provide a qualified and well regulated credit profession as well as provide accountable, reliable and certified credit profes-

sionals among other benefits. “Credit professionals do not have a guiding statute that regulates the credit profession to ensure high professional standards among practitioners in the credit sector exposing consumers to a number of risks including breach of transparency, unconscionable conduct and loss of assets which can be mitigated by having certified credit professionals,” they submitted.

The petitioners reveal that despite making efforts to have the matter addressed by the relevant authorities, no satisfactory response has been provided.

Their prayers is to have the Senate enact a legislation to regulate the credit profession and specifically provide for among other relevant

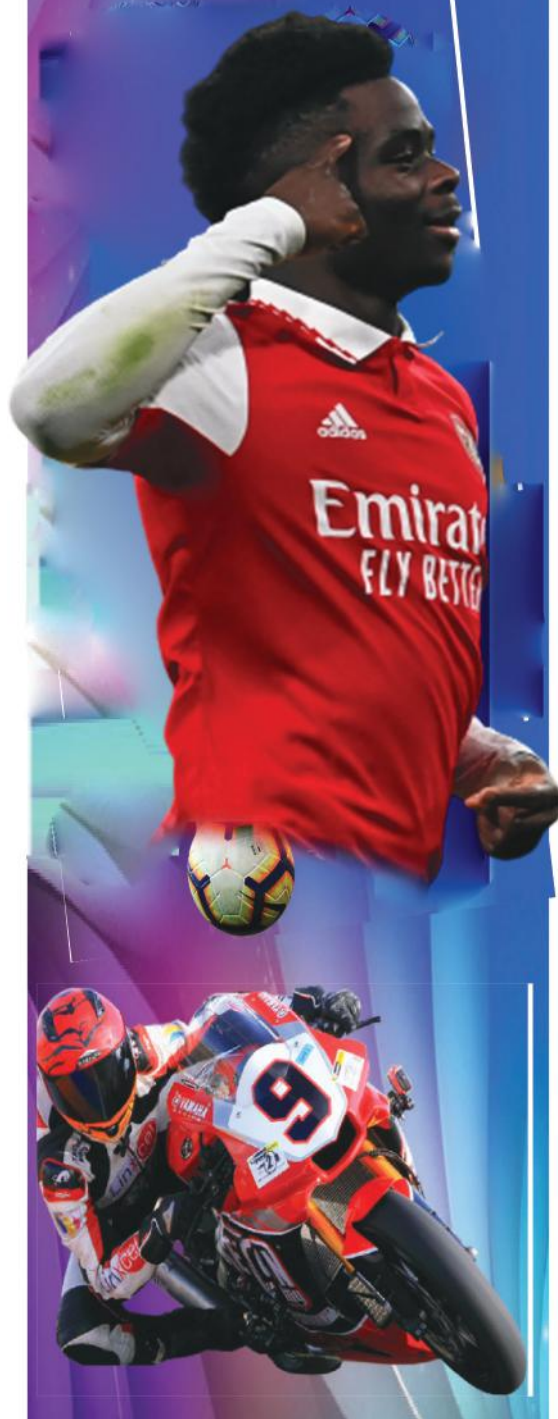
provisions, establishment and membership of the Institute of Certified Credit Professionals, functions and management of the institute, registration of credit professionals and issuance of annual practising certificates, disciplinary provisions that include establishment of a disciplinary committee, inquiry and appeal mechanisms.

The petition was committed to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget which is required as per the Standing Order 238(2) to respond to the petitioners by way of a report addressed to the Petitioner and laid on the Table of the Senate in not more than 60 calendar days.



SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *The national women's rugby team lost 48-0 to South Africa in the second match of their Rugby Africa Women's Cup campaign in Antananarivo, Madagascar on Wednesday afternoon.

Bad Day In Office For Lionesses In Madagascar After Loss To South Africa



Kenya Lionesses in a past match. .

The national women's rugby team lost 48-0 to South Africa in the second match of their Rugby Africa Women's Cup campaign in Antananarivo, Madagascar on Wednesday afternoon.

The Lionesses were all out at sea in the first half as the South Africans ran riot with six tries, courtesy of a Nomawethu Mabenge hattrick, a brace from Libbie Janse van Rensburg and one each from Zintle Mpupha, Sizophila Solontsi and Chumisa Qawe.

The Women Boks led 34-0 at halftime as their resolute defensive performance and their opponents' ball handling errors seemed to play into their hands. A yellow card to Grace Adhi-

ambo did not also help the Lionesses' cause as the Boks capitalised on the numerical advantage to camp in the Kenyans' 22.

The second half began scrappily as both teams sought to settle into a rhythm with the Kenyans in particular struggling to get out of their defensive half.

Amidst the tug and push between the two sides, Mpupha completed her brace of the afternoon, eight minutes after the restart, benefitting from some good interchange of passes between the Boks' backs and forwards to make it 41-0.

Not to be cowed into submission, the Lionesses, however, fought back bravely in a bid for a first try and had the South

African backs on the wall for a majority of the second half.

The pressure on coach Louis Koen's side told when three of their players – Lusanda Dumke, Unam Tose and Mabenge – were banished to the sin bin at different points of the game for ill-discipline.

However, for all their Amazonian strength, the Lionesses lacked the bite to penetrate the Boks' defence and score a try.

With a minute to the end of the game, the wastefulness proved costly when Mabenge received the ball out-wide to dash and jump over the try line and with it, push in the final nail into the coffin.

Regardless of the result, captain

Sheila Chajira was full of praise for her teammates, pointing out that they had fought gallantly from the first minute to the end. "First of all, congratulations to South Africa. We put our bodies on the line...we gave our next game our very best because we want to be the best of the best. Our next game against Cameroon is a do-or-die and we will do all we can to win it," she said. Lionesses, who began their campaign with a 29-20 win over Madagascar on Saturday, next play the West Africans at the same venue.

Capital Street

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Sports >> *England manager Gareth Southgate took aim on Wednesday at an eight-month ban from all football-related activity for Brentford striker Ivan Toney for breaches of betting rules

England Boss Southgate Says Toney Ban Not How Rehabilitation Works

England manager Gareth Southgate took aim on Wednesday at an eight-month ban from all football-related activity for Brentford striker Ivan Toney for breaches of betting rules.

Toney was capped by Southgate for the first time in March, while betting charges were hanging over the 27-year-old.

He will not even be allowed to train with his teammates until the halfway point of his ban is up in September.

An independent regulatory commission imposed the sanctions after Toney admitted to 232 breaches of gambling on football.

Players are banned from betting even on matches they are not involved in.

“I have spoken with him. I don’t know if that’s allowed, by the way. If it isn’t then they can ban me and not add to his,” said Southgate as he announced his squad for Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia next month.

“Look, the ban is the ban. It is what it is. I think he recognised and accepted the punishment. What bothers me is we’ve got to look after people.

“He’s injured at the moment, what does he do about getting fit? How do we give him some structure over the next few months that he can develop himself or be a better person at the end of it or have experiences that he might not experience?

“I don’t like the idea that we just leave somebody so they are not allowed to be a part of the football community.

“I don’t think that’s how we should work, I don’t think that’s how the best rehabilitation programmes would work.”

– Sterling struggles –

Raheem Sterling was the big-name omission from Southgate’s squad as he revealed the Chelsea



He will not even be allowed to train with his teammates until the halfway point of his ban is up in September.

winger does not feel fully fit.

Sterling, who has won 82 caps, has endured a difficult first season since joining the Blues from Manchester City.

“He’s not happy physically with his condition, having been carrying a hamstring problem. He really wasn’t in consideration,” added Southgate.

“We didn’t get to the point of whether he should be in or out. He doesn’t think he is operating at the level he needs.”

Crystal Palace’s Eberechi Eze received his first call-up, while Brighton captain Lewis Dunk is rewarded for his fine season with a return to the squad for the first time in four-and-a-half years.

Eze’s performances have caught the eye, with six goals in eight games under Roy Hodgson, who returned to Selhurst Park as coach in March.

“We have liked him for a long time. I think he has finished the

season really strongly,” said Southgate on Eze.

“He is a goal threat, he’s got nice ability and speed to go past people and can take people out of the game with his dribbling skills. We are looking forward to seeing him a bit closer.”

England are well on course to qualify for Euro 2024 in Germany after beating Italy and Ukraine in their opening Group C fixtures.

The Three Lions travel to Malta on June 16 before hosting North Macedonia at Old Trafford three days later.

Squad in full:
Goalkeepers: Jordan Pickford (Everton), Aaron Ramsdale (Arsenal), Sam Johnstone (Crystal Palace)

Defenders: Harry Maguire, Luke Shaw (both Manchester United), John Stones, Kyle Walker (both Manchester City),

Kieran Trippier (Newcastle), Marc Guehi (Crystal Palace), Lewis Dunk (Brighton), Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool), Tyrone Mings (Aston Villa)

Midfielders: Jude Bellingham (Borussia Dortmund/GER), Conor Gallagher (Chelsea), Declan Rice (West Ham), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool), Calvin Phillips (Manchester City), Eberechi Eze (Crystal Palace)

Forwards: Phil Foden, Jack Grealish (both Manchester City), Harry Kane (Tottenham), Bukayo Saka (Arsenal), Marcus Rashford (Manchester United), James Maddison (Leicester), Callum Wilson (Newcastle)

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The Emotional Perspiquity In A School Farewell:

By: Somdatta Mitra

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Don Bosco School , Park Circus , Kolkata branch , India is one such divine educational institution where all the students are imbued with great spirits , positive vibes , strength to combat adversities , respect ideologies , believe in a self - confidence and cradle humanity towards a goal. This institution caters to the overall development of students, and enables them to sustain their emotional strength to great heights.
- They also instill good morality to ensure that all students are devoted to their work and aim high with their respective goals. Their existence must not disappoint anyone; rather their contributions in school and society must enlighten lives.

It was a moment of great emotional recalcitrance over a formal school farewell, where the boys gathered in a somber mood, although with a genuine smile over their countenance. This was the official last interaction with their school authorities. The teachers, who taught them various subjects in a steadfast manner, were silently embracing all the final year students of class 12 and encouraging them all for selecting their desirable goals.

This was a moment where there weren't any breach in emotional perspicuity. Generally, when students get punished or are deprived of their rights due to an annoyance of a teacher, or are at times even despised for their severe malpractices or mistakes, teachers apply strict vigilance and strict punishments for those students, which instill a certain agony in the adolescent child. Not been able to understand and mirror their mistakes, they deliberately start mocking at them, thinking it to be their weapons to become smart and confident.

But on this auspicious day, all were in tears, emotions fluttered like a bird wants to fly in the free firmament. The inner pain couldn't be reciprocated by any means with a silent thanksgiving to the temple of worship which was a second home of these bright kids.

In their cheerful disposition they received their teachers with pride and affection. They bowed down to them offering their earnest regards by touching their feet. Their ardent desire to be associated with this school is registered in the school alumni for tying up with the passing students who will be veterans. They moved to the auditorium in contentment. Life seemed to have halted as their emotions triggered to the fact that they never wanted to be segregated with this institution which they worship as a temple.

Don Bosco School , Park Circus , Kolkata branch , India is one such divine educational institution where all the students are imbued with great spirits , positive vibes , strength to combat adversities , respect ideologies , believe in a self - confidence

and cradle humanity towards a goal. This institution caters to the overall development of students, and enables them to sustain their emotional strength to great heights.

They also instill good morality to ensure that all students are devoted to their work and aim high with their respective goals. Their existence must not disappoint anyone; rather their contributions in school and society must enlighten lives.

With such a motivation the teachers , the Principal and the Rector guides the students to enable these students to contribute in society for the needy , deprived and underprivileged with compassion and empathy.

The day of farewell churned all those sensitivities in an emotional palindrome. They entered the auditorium and maintained silence in a queue. Receiving a desirable, attractive moment and the school magazine enhanced their solemn composure. Some were happy to have enrolled in various colleges , some were in an await to select their desirable courses and then attempt for an admission in respective colleges , and some students decided that they will reappear for some medical and engineering examinations next year with much thorough preparations. Time and tide waits for no one. So is the prime time in these 12 years in school. The benches, chairs, the cheerful vibes, the canteen, the principal's room, the playground and the staff room, all were reminding them that this temple is a place of worship.

Do visit it whenever it is favourable and be a part of the school alumni. Some photo shoot with teachers, the venerable Rector and the honorary Principal and among friends, the felicitation and the verbiage united those fresh spirits in an union. Life has to move on. And the academic life has to be uplifted in its expected goal. They learnt that "School is always a beautiful place to learn and grow."



Somdatta Mitra .

