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PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC WORKS, MR. JOEL ARUMONYANG, has taken a moment to tell us about the

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MPs Take PS Hinga To Task Over The National Housing Development Fund



News>>EAC And Asal CS Appears Before Senate Committee On National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity And Regional Integration

P. 8. On Drought, CS Miano told the committee that the March-April-May 2023 long rains season continues to perform well



Motivation>>Once In Your Path Fear Not

P. 12. When you find your path, you must not be afraid. You need to have sufficient courage to make mistakes. Disappointment, defeat, and despair are the tools God uses to show us the way..... Paulo Coelho.

Committee members Joseph Makilap (Baringo North), Joseph Oyula (Buntula), John Ariko (Turkana South), Adipo Okuome (Karachuonyo) and Kitui North legislator David Mboni, wondered if the government had conducted enough research on the Housing model given that most rural folk already have their own homes or would not be open to living in skyscrapers.



PS Charles Hinga when he appeared before the committee yesterday

STORY ON PAGE 9

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High Cases Of Stunted Growth In Meru County Worry Health Experts

By: Muguongo Judy

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The nutritionist said the high cases of stunting have been linked to poor feeding and low uptake of antenatal and post-natal care among mothers.
- “Many mothers feed their children with one type of food. In this county for instance, mothers give their children mashed potatoes and bananas, which are all carbohydrates. We encourage mothers to ensure a child’s food includes proteins, vitamins and other minerals,” she said.
- She challenged families to establish kitchen gardens and rear small stock such as chicken, rabbits and goats to diversify their children’s diet.



High Cases Of Stunted Growth In Meru

A worrying trend of children with stunted growth is creeping in Meru County, raising concerns over the value of food that parents feed their children.

Data by Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS), shows that about 25 per cent of children under the age of five in Meru County, face stunted growth problem.

Meru ranked fourth after Kilifi, where 37 per cent of children are stunted, West Pokot (34 per cent) and Samburu (31 percent).

Stunting is described as low height for age. It can be managed for children below the age of two years.

Ms Hellen Ringera, head of Nutrition in Meru County, notes that the trend is worrying since stunting is

known to affect cognitive performance of a child in their adulthood. She pointed out that on average 188,000 children in the region are stunted due to poor feeding habits. “If the stunting is not reversed before the age of two years, the child cannot achieve their full potential in life,” she said.

The nutritionist said the high cases of stunting have been linked to poor feeding and low uptake of antenatal and post-natal care among mothers. “Many mothers feed their children with one type of food. In this county for instance, mothers give their children mashed potatoes and bananas, which are all carbohydrates. We encourage mothers to ensure a child’s food includes proteins, vitamins and

other minerals,” she said.

She challenged families to establish kitchen gardens and rear small stock such as chicken, rabbits and goats to diversify their children’s diet.

Ms Ringera also attributed the feeding inadequacies to the high percentage of teenage mothers in the County.

The KDHS report indicated that 24 per cent of women aged 15-19 have ever been pregnant in Meru.

The survey showed that only 45 per cent of women go for the recommended four antenatal care visits during pregnancy.

“In most cases, teenage mothers do not seek antenatal care where advice on taking care of the unborn child starts. The teenagers also lack

knowledge and skills on parenting,” she explained.

According to Ms Ringera, Igembe North has the highest cases of stunting followed by Igembe Central, Tigania East and Tigania West as well as Buuri East.

“You also find that the affected areas have challenges of food insecurity. We are intensifying community education and Vitamin A supplementation to address the challenge. More resources are needed to reach out to mothers with education on child feeding.”

She said the County intends to reduce stunting to below 10 percent by 2027.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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How To Feed A Lactating Cow For Maximum Milk Production

By: Alex Gathii

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Other requirements are access to continuous fresh air, Air: all cows should continuously breathe fresh air, be in a place where it is should be able and willing to lay down for between 14 and 16 hours per day, have enough space where it is able to walk around comfortably and also ensure that you group dairy herd according to segments.
- Protein is expensive and therefore cheaper sources are preferred. However, high levels of proteins may lead to low fertility. Plant tissues contains less than 60% dry matter content while cereal grains contains more than 80% dry matter content.
- A cow requires on a daily basis, dry matter content 3% of its body weight which is about 2.5 – 4.0 percent intake per day.



Alex Gathii tending a cow.

For a cow to reach maximum milk production, it requires to be with feeds which are rich in protein, energy, minerals, dietary fibre and water coupled with sound management and cow comfort.

There are four reasons for feeding a dairy herd with these combinations whose end results are; maintenance, growth, reproduction and production.

Feeding a dairy cow of 650kgs and produces about 50kgs of milk per day.

To maintenance Peak production, such a dairy requires a lot of Protein and energy which includes 4.6kgs of Protein (not Crude Protein) and 44 Megacalories. For maintenance purposes, she requires 10.30 Mcal and 0.428kg of protein. Also requires Calcium and Phosphorus respectively both for maintenance and milk production. Look out for Ca:P Ratio for peak milk production

The dairy cow needs a comfortable environment which will ensure that all Cowsignals parameters are met.

These parameters include access to palatable feed of the right composition and clean water for at least 22 hours per day.

Others are allowing cows access to enough light whose end result is their

experience to a day-night rhythm.

Other requirements are access to continuous fresh air, Air all cows should continuously breathe fresh air, be in a place where it is should be able and willing to lay down for between 14 and 16 hours per day, have enough space where it is able to walk around comfortably and also ensure that you group dairy herd according to segments.

Protein is expensive and therefore cheaper sources are preferred. However, high levels of proteins may lead to low fertility. Plant tissues contains less than 60% dry matter content while cereal grains contains more than 80% dry matter content.

A cow requires on a daily basis, dry matter content 3% of its body weight which is about 2.5 – 4.0 percent intake per day.

Ensure that you provide a deep dry soft material for cow's bedding. A cow spending her 24 hours eating, drinking water and resting. A complete cycle takes 2-3 hours, repeated in 8-20times in a day.

Pregnant cows with no shelter have metabolic rates which were 18 – 36% higher than cows provided with shelter. Feeding costs takes about 60-80% of the total production costs.

Most dairy investors believe that

having Boma Rhodes hay in store is feed security. What's the nutritional value of Boma Rhodes hay? At what stage was it harvested? What's the cost per dry matter content?

When feeding a dairy herd, we normally use 3 ratios;

Protein: Energy Ratio (depending on X1, X2, X3 and X4 – Growth, maintenance, reproduction and milk production). The more the X's for any segment of the dairy herd, the more protein and energy you provide in the daily ration)

Forage: Concentrate Ratio (60:40, 50:50 and 40:60, ensure you provide protein and energy from diverse sources – forage and concentrates). American Dairy Association goes up-to 35:65 – a lot of care when you get to these levels.

Provide 20 kgs of good quality maize silage for a lactating cow, less Boma Rhodes (2.0 – 1.5kgs per cow per day, should have higher leaf; stem ratio, harvested at 30% flowering – highest Crude Protein).

Feed to Gain Ratio – bio-availability of the nutrients provided. A source could have higher levels of protein with reduced digestibility.

A cow takes in 3% dry matter of its body weight per day. Amount of dry matter could vary depending

on stage of lactation, milk production and physiological status of the cow. Maize silage, sunflower silage and dairy meal contributes a greater percentage of the dry matter; hence their qualities must be guaranteed.

Quality maize silage has 3.5 times more nutrients than Boma Rhodes hay.

It costs 1.4 times higher than Boma Rhodes hay. For your cows to produce more milk, ceteris paribus, it requires more maize silage (15-20kgs/cow/day), more dairy meal (between 4-12kgs/cow/day) but less Boma Rhodes hay (1-2kgs per cow per day). A cow producing more milk takes in less Boma Rhodes hay, it is an inverse relationship.

4 kgs of wilted Sweet potato vines has a protein equivalent of 1kg of dairy meal, however do not provide more than 8kgs of sweet potato vines/silage.

Alex Gathii is a Dairy Consultant with Tanolope Consultancy Limited. He can be reached on 0723331611

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Decongestion Of Prisons Dominate Approval Hearing Of Two Members To The Judicial Service Commission

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyentimes

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee led by the chairperson George Gitonga Murugara yesterday vetted Ms. Caroline Nzilani and Isaac Rutto for appointment as members of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

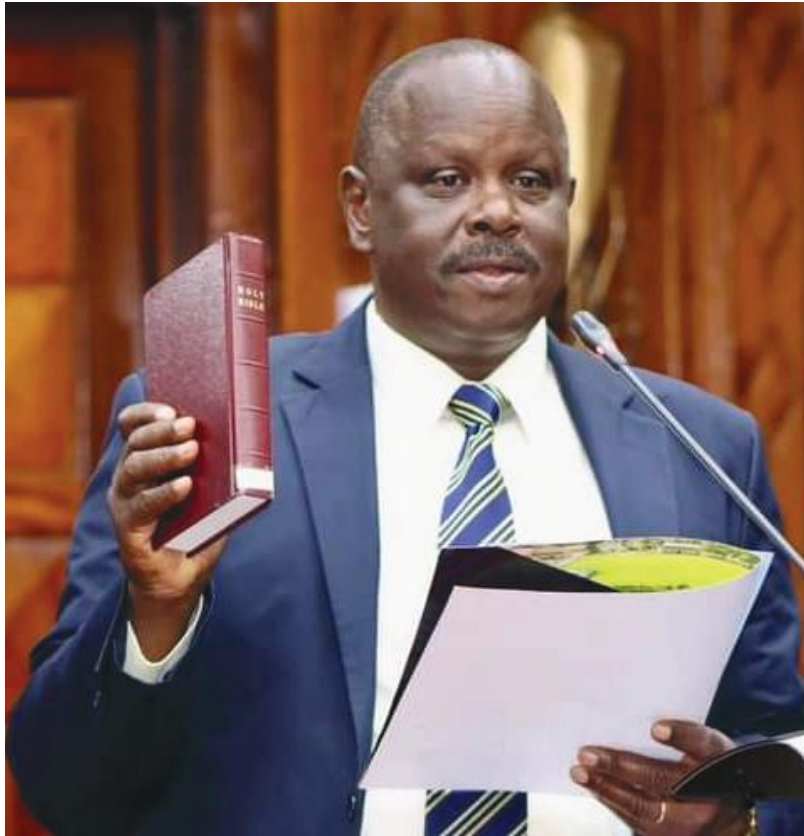
Rutto is a seasoned politician who served as the Governor for Bomet County from 2013 to 2017, and also served as the MP for Chepalungu Constituency between 1998 and 2002, and 2008 to 2012.

The former legislator said that if he is successful with the appointment, he will ensure that there is fairness in the administration of justice.

“My job is basically to represent the public, and to bring their concerns to the Commission not to the Magistrates,” said Rutto.

On the question of how he will help decongest the prisons, Rutto pointed out that one of the ways is to embrace the alternative methods that include arbitration as long as it does not contradict the written law.

The committee also vetted Ms. Caroline Nzilani, a Strategic Human Resource Expert with extensive professional experience in Human Resource Management.



Former governor Isaac Rutto.

Members wanted to know how she will handle the issue of the backlog of cases in the Judiciary if approved, to which she said she will help champion the alternative dispute resolution mechanism through recon-

ciliation and negotiations.

Ms. Nzilani also said that she will use her Human Resource expertise to enhance performance management by ensuring that every judicial officer is able to set goals that



Ms Caroline Nzillani swearing before being vetted.

are “smart”, to ensure that they have clear-cut timelines to conclude cases hence decongesting prisons.

Further, the nominee emphasized on the need to digitize court cases and to amplify the use of virtual sittings to help move services closer to the people and reduce the high number of people in court rooms.

The Murugara-led committee will now do a report on the two nominees and either accept or reject their nomination.

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To Love & To Serve

EAC And Asal CS Appears Before Senate Committee On National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity And Regional Integration

By: Our Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano appeared before Senate Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration, Chaired by Marsabit County Senator Mohamed Chute to deliberate on the current drought and food shortages in the country and strategies for disaster risk management and also status of One Stop Border Post Project for East Africa Community Integration.

On Drought, CS Miano told the committee that the March-April-May 2023 long rains season continues to perform well with majority of the ASAL Counties receiving good amounts of rainfall.

She said the arid counties of Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, Tana River, Garissa, Turkana, Marsabit and Samburu received considerable amounts of rainfall being the regions that had



East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano before committee.

been worst affected by drought.

Further, the semi-arid Counties of Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Kajiado, Meru, Makueni, Kitui, Lakipia, Narok, Baringo, Nyeri, West pokot, Kwale, Kilifi and Lamu have received average rainfall amounts of rainfall.

“Based on the range of indicators

monitored, three countie; Wajir, Taita Taveta and Lamu remain in alert drought phase while Seven counties namely Embu, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, West Pokot, Baringo, Garissa and Narok are in Normal drought phase while Thirteen Counties are in the recovery drought phase,” she stated.

On the issue of food security, the CS informed the committee that as a result of little rain the number of people in need of assistance remains at 4.4million .

“This is because most farmers have not started harvesting with pasture regeneration still on course,” she said.

She informed the committee that the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) plans to conduct an assessment to establish the number of people that may require immediate food assistance .

She added that the exercise with be done with the help of National and County level stakeholders to prioritize the sectoral drought response plans and implementation strategies.

She also explained to Senator Chute led committee that in East Africa One Stop Border Post Projects (OSBPS) are being implemented under the East Africa Trade and Transport Facilitation project (EATTFP) framework.

The main objective is to enhance trade facilitation, trough the efficient movement of goods and persons within the East African Community

(EAC) region.

Further, they are intended trade transaction by combining the activities of both Counties’ border control agencies at a single location.

OSBPS are part of the Coordinated Border Management system designed to achieve greater trade facilitation efficiency by combining border clearance activities in a single location so as to benefit from economies of scale, reduce transit delay, simplify clearance procedures, foster data and intelligence sharing and deepen regional integration and solidarity.

Legislators also hosted a delegation of Members of the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security from the Republic of Zimbabwe who are on a benchmarking tour.

Senators in attendance were Mwendu Gataya, Gloria Orwoba, Betty Batuli, Joseph Kamau and Beth Kalunda.

Give Statement On The Death Of Wakili Wachira J.M – Sen. Nyutu

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyatimes

Murang’a County Senator Joe Nyutu is seeking a statement from the Senate Standing Committee on Health on the circumstances that led to the death of Wakili Wachira J.M at Murang’a Level 4 Hospital.

Sen. Nyutu want the committee to explain the circumstances leading to the death of Wakili Wachira J.M on Wednesday, 17th May 2023 while undergoing treatment at Murang’a Level 4 Hospital disclosing the state of health facilities including availability of medical oxygen and ambulance services at the hospital during the time of his demise.

The legislator requires the committee to report on the overall state of health facilities in Murang’a County, particularly Muriranga and Maragua



Senator Joe Nyutu

Hospitals, stating the type of medical services and procedures provided at the hospitals and whether the facilities have sufficient wards to admit patients and adequate competent

staff across hospitals in the county to respond to medical emergencies.

In addition, the lawmaker wants the committee to state whether the said hospitals have adequate drugs and



Wakili Wachira J.M.

related supplies to meet patient demands, stating the type and quantity of drugs available beside addressing allegations that doctors employed by

the County hospitals are directing patients to private clinics owned by the same practitioners.

MPs Take PS Hinga To Task Over The National Housing Development Fund

By: Our Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes



PS Charles Hinga when he appeared before the committee yesterday.

Members of Parliament from the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning yesterday took the Principal Secretary, State Department of Housing Charles Hinga to task over the proposed National Housing Development Fund (NHDF).

PS Hinga was appearing before the Committee to make his submissions over the Finance Bill, 2023 during the ongoing public hearings on the proposed law.

The PS presentation to the committee was geared towards exhibiting the impact of the proposed Housing Fund which is expected to revolutionize the housing sector in the

country.

He informed the lawmakers that the State Department has plans to set out 200 units per constituency, yielding about 58,000 units across the country.

He explained that the National Housing Program is expected to net over 108 billion per annum if lawmakers approve the provision for the establishment of the Fund as proposed in the Bill.

MPs however took issue with the PS over the confusion surrounding the question as to whether the proposed Fund is a voluntary contribution or a tax charged alongside the Pay As You Earn.

The legislators expressed concerns that very little information regarding the Fund whose date of commencement is set for July 1, 2023 if the Bill is passed, had been relayed to those expected to be contributors.

Committee members Joseph Makilap (Baringo North), Joseph Oyula (Butula), John Ariko (Turkana South), Adipo Okuome (Karachuonyo) and Kitui North legislator David Mboni, wondered if the government had conducted enough research on the Housing model given that most rural folk already have their own homes or would not be open to living in skyscrapers.

They told the PS that the model is

not a good fit for pastoralist communities whose lifestyle is not matched by the crafting of the model.

The lawmakers also wondered why the State Department had not elected to use the Private-Public Partnership model to implement the project.

They observed that in the past, agencies under the Housing State Department had not been transparent enough on the projects they were undertaking and sought to know the measures the government had undertaken to entrench transparency and accountability in the proposed program.

They expressed fears that without a proper regulatory framework for the Fund's management, the project would come a cropper.

While noting that the concept had more merits than demerits, they noted that it may have been conceived in a hurry and urged for its delayed implementation to allow time for proper planning.

"The reason why many projects fail in Kenya is because they are conceived and implemented in a hurry. There is need to delay the implementation of this program to allow more consultations and research to allow an accurate projection on its impact", observed Ariko.

The other concerns raised by members were if the government would be able to match its part of contribution (three per cent) for all public servants, what would be the impact of the Housing program on the real estate industry, and what would be the criteria for allocating the units.

On his part, the committee chairperson Kimani Kuria from Molo constituency noted that though the program has the potential to create employment and scale up consumption of building materials thus giving a shot in the arm to the manufacturing sector, there was need to first effect an amendment to the law to guarantee a housing relief as envisaged by the drafters of the Bill.

The PS had told the committee that those who are saving for home ownership will also get a tax relief of Sh8,000 per month, a provision that the chair noted would not be applicable to the Fund.

The PS did not however manage to respond to the members' queries due to a prior engagement.

He was therefore granted leave but is expected to appear again before the committee before the end of the week-long public hearings.



Committee chairman Kimani Kuria during yesterday's session.

Worth Noting:

- The legislators expressed concerns that very little information regarding the Fund whose date of commencement is set for July 1, 2023 if the Bill is passed, had been relayed to those expected to be contributors.
- Committee members Joseph Makilap (Baringo North), Joseph Oyula (Butula), John Ariko (Turkana South), Adipo Okuome (Karachuonyo) and Kitui North legislator David Mboni, wondered if the government had conducted enough research on the Housing model given that most rural folk already have their own homes or would not be open to living in skyscrapers.
- They told the PS that the model is not a good fit for pastoralist communities whose lifestyle is not matched by the crafting of the model.

DISCIPLINE OF DEVOTION: ALIGNING TO THE WILL OF GOD

AS MY PERSONAL understand-

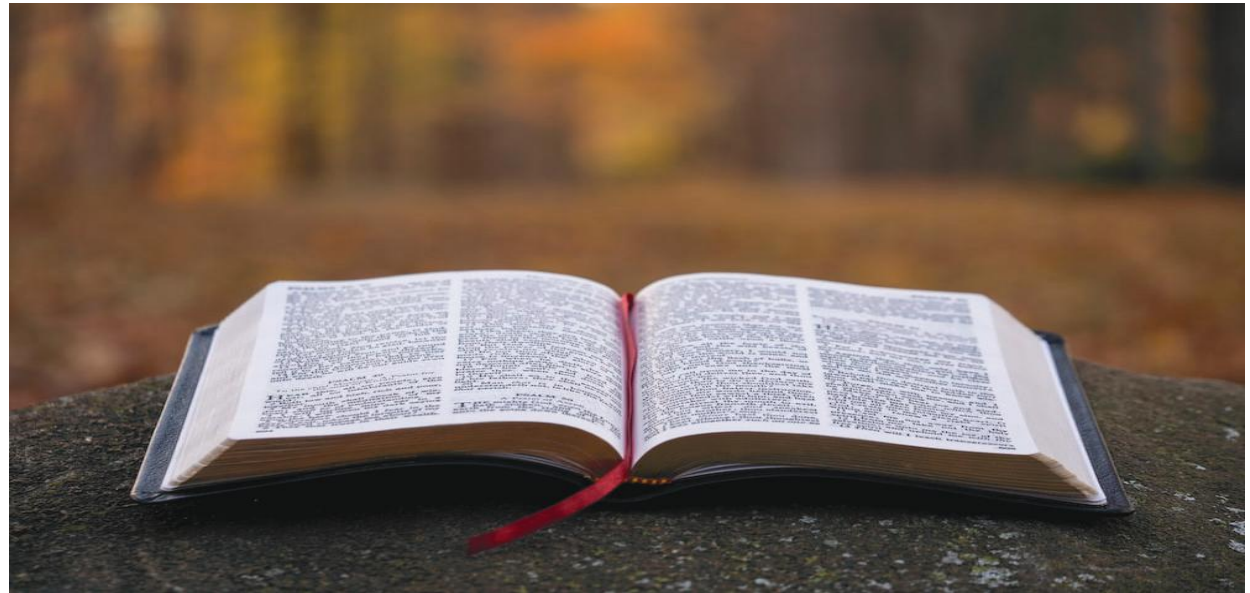


By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

His integrity, His humility. This was true of the renowned General William Harrison, who MAINTAINED A DISCIPLINED DEVOTIONAL LIFE FOR OVER SEVENTY YEARS. People say his presence brought a distinct sense of Christ.

The second corresponding reason is that prayer bends our wills to God's will. E. Stanley Jones, the world-renowned missionary and man of prayer, explained it like this: "If I throw out a boathook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? PRAYER IS NOT PULLING GOD TO MY WILL, BUT THE ALIGNING OF MY WILL TO THE WILL OF GOD." What tantalizing personal benefits are offered by time spent in the presence of God in prayer! Herein lies the spiritual desolation of our day.

As Dallas Willard has said in The Spirit of the Disciplines, "The 'open secret' of many 'Bible-believing' churches is that a vanishing small percentage of those talking about



prayer . . . are actually doing what they are talking about." This is especially true among men, to our detriment and shame. As George Gallup's statistics show, men are considerably less likely to pray than women!

GOD HAVE MERCY ON US, ENABLE US IN YOUR UNFAILING LOVE.

References:

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

Evangelist Eric Musa:

(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TO-

DAY 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



MARY EDITH KIMAMA MEDICAL APPEAL

The family and fundraising committee invites you 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 2pm.

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Luke 6:38

Hustlers Set To Reap Big In Ruto's Housing Plan



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Affordable Housing.

Worth Noting:

- The outgoing President had no doubt that Dr Ruto had won the elections after the Supreme Court of Kenya upheld his victory.
- As required by the constitution, he immediately started the process of handing over. This culminated to the big event at Kasarani Sports Center during which he peacefully handed the instruments of power to Dr William Ruto, who became the fifth President of the Republic of Kenya.
- In the housing plan, a huge chunk of the funds earmarked for the construction of these houses will be raised through deductions of 3 per cent from the salaries of employees and employers in the civil service and private sector. The employers will also contribute 3 percent.

In the run up to 2022 polls, Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate William Ruto's campaign strategy was anchored on a key fulcrum of 'Bottom Up Economic Model'.

The model was designed to narrow the widening gap between the haves and have-nots.

The message resonated very well with millions of Kenyan voters and this explains why he wrestled down his competitors at the ballot with ease.

Up to date, his main competitor Raila Odinga, the leader of Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition, is yet to come to terms.

The outgoing President, the Deep State and the system was on my side. So, do really lose these polls? Seemingly, this is the question that keeps disturbing his mind.

I remember his elder brother Oburu Odinga repeatedly expressing his confidence during the campaigns that Raila was poised to win the elections.

This is because he was enjoying the full backing of the outgoing government.

In the previous elections, this was not the case. He was a thorn in the flesh of the establishment.

Here, he forgot two things. Kenya is a democratic country and it is governed by the rule of law. As such, the final decision on who becomes the President of Kenya rested with

the people of Kenya.

One did not need to be a rocket scientist to note that Dr Ruto was enjoying the support of majority of Kenyan voters.

Besides, Ruto, who had managed to rally the church to his side, reiterated: God is on my side.

With this, how did Oburu expect his brother to win? This could have only happened if the 'Deep State' resorted to rigging the election in favor of Raila.

If they dared to do this, they could have plunged Kenya into political anarchy and bloodshed.

The outgoing President did not want his legacy to be marked by blood in his own hands.

This would have contradicted his earlier repeated vows that never again will the blood of innocent Kenyans be shed due to unhealthy political competitions.

He, therefore, resisted all pressure piled on him by Raila brigade to sneak Baba into power.

The outgoing President had no doubt that Dr Ruto had won the elections after the Supreme Court of Kenya upheld his victory.

As required by the constitution, he immediately started the process of handing over. This culminated to the big event at Kasarani Sports Center during which he peacefully handed the instruments of power to Dr William Ruto, who became the fifth

President of the Republic of Kenya.

Dozens of the world leaders graced this auspicious ceremony.

When he convened the special National Delegates Conference of Jubilee Party a few days ago, the former President remarked: I handed power to the current President peacefully and in broad day light.

This demonstrated my commitment to tenets and ideals of democracy, constitution and the rule of law.

As a former President, I will continue to champion these ideals.

Back to Dr Ruto's election pledge, the question we should ask ourselves is.

Has kept his word? This in terms of kick-starting the process of narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

To me, he has so far made great strides.

The rolling out of the Hustler Fund and Affordable Housing Programme stood out as the key milestones.

In the housing plan, a huge chunk of the funds earmarked for the construction of these houses will be raised through deductions of 3 per cent from the salaries of employees and employers in the civil service and private sector. The employers will also contribute 3 percent.

It is worth note some of those contributing are well endowed Kenyans who are already homeowners.

This explains why Hustler will reap

big. The government will give them priority to buy these houses.

I heard Nyandarua woman representative Faith Gitau saying the cost of some units (each) will be less than 1 million.

For starters, I want to give them a picture of how the plan is being rolled out.

The government had been contracting the real estate developers to construct these houses.

The State provides them with incentives such as free land; waiving taxes on the construction materials and becomes the guarantor of money borrowed from the banks by developers.

Once constructed, the State assures the developers it will buy in bulk all houses.

This will be done at prevailing market rates and so they will rake in good profits.

Yes, the deductions are compulsory and this does not mean as a contributor you will lose your money. You are free to withdraw your money after seven years.

This is your money. The only difference is that it is being held by the government in trust.

Why Housing plan is a good idea? In Kenya, 65 percent of Kenyan population, who had migrated to Urban areas, live in slums.

Here the living conditions are deplorable: No water, no toilets, no electricity. The area is also filthy, with poor drainage and hence prone to communicable diseases. The crime rate is also very higher.

As I conclude, allow me to say this. Many countries across the world which had adopted similar plan of Affordable Housing Programme have had success stories.

One of them Singapore, a middle income economy.

Today, 90 percent of the population in this country live in decent houses constructed by the government in partnership with private developers.

I'm sure those who have read our constitution would agree with me. Shelter is one of the basic human rights. When people live in deplorable conditions, this hinders their contribution to economic growth.

So, Ruto's Housing Plan is a move in right direction. It is a show of his commitment to rebuilding our economy. Let us support him.

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

Once In Your Path Fear Not

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- If you train in disciplined forces it is obvious that your work will be of high risk but you need not to fear as your subjects who are the criminals will take advantage of the situation rendering vulnerable to their traps hence you become ineffective.
- Not all times that you have good flow of things despite being in your rightful path. However these challenges should not distract you from following your path in fact you should take them as training so that those you will teach or your followers will seek to know more from you and you will authoritatively describe some issues that affect the discipline that you are dealing in.



When you find your path, you must not be afraid. You need to have sufficient courage to make mistakes. Disappointment, defeat, and despair are the tools God uses to show us the way..... Paulo Coelho.

It is well known that the role of teacher is to take the students through the curriculum. When alone a teacher can a class of fifty students while doing this he is expected to be in control of the class. Various learners behave in different ways it is upon him to know how to deal with them that the disciplined ones he will be easy to handle while the rebellious once need extra caution however he have to keep them in control aware that no matter their physical strength, cumulative ages, background, political leaning or religious beliefs he is their leader and

all must obey his instructions for efficient operation.

If you train in disciplined forces it is obvious that your work will be of high risk but you need not to fear as your subjects who are the criminals will take advantage of the situation rendering vulnerable to their traps hence you become ineffective.

Not all times that you have good flow of things despite being in your rightful path. However these challenges should not distract you from following your path in fact you should take them as training so that those you will teach or your followers will seek to know more from you and you will authoritatively describe some issues that affect the discipline that you are dealing in.

You will be in a position not only to state but also deal with such chal-

lenges conclusively as you are fully aware of what they entails.

When you discover that you are a musician go ahead and write songs, produce them if possible provided they are not against the morality do not be afraid of composing and releasing them no matter how famous they might be or might not be just be aware that they are gifts from your creator channeled through you and your major task is to release them

Like the river that makes its own path so they will in fact you may get a lot of your fans coming to search for you inquiring whether there are other compositions that you are yet to release as they have found something valuable to them in your message in the songs.

There is always a way whenever you are in the correct path. You tend

to be innovative as you are in natural path hence even without someone to show you the way out like the small baby knows how to suck milk so do they.

Whatever you face that demotivate you once in decision making position you should try to avoid subjecting other people to it.

Advisory From Sharp Education Centre Director

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyetimes

The Director of Sharp Education Centre Dr. Paul Wanjohi has taken a moment to share with us the real threat that exposure to ICT poses to our children.

Dr. Wanjohi also doubles up as the Treasurer of APBET schools.

Dr. Wanjohi’s major concerns are based on the fact that most children are faced with uncensored content which is readily available either on the mobile phone or television.

“It’s a real issue we must face and we cannot bury our heads in the sand and assume that all is well. As parents we have a big role to play in ensuring that we deny our children access to the uncensored sites, some of which contain inappropriate content for the children such as pornographic material,” Dr wanjohi advised.

Dr. Wanjohi advised parents to make use of the child protection fea-

ture which disables the sites which might contain unpalatable material.

This he said in the wake of shocking revelations that some of the unsocial habits such as gayism and lesbianism start through access to such uncensored material.

Dr. Wanjohi urged parents and guardians to always be keen and on the look out of the children whenever they are using electronic gadgets

The Director of Sharp Education Centre
Dr. Paul Wanjohi.



Muthama Wants Clergy To Back Efforts To Scrutinize Religious Organizations

By: KBC

Former United Democratic Alliance (UDA) chairperson Johnson Muthama has urged the church to support government’s initiative to vet the religious institutions to ensure that the country is free from radicalization.

Mr Muthama who is now a member of the Parliamentary Service Commission says the move taken by President William Ruto to form a taskforce to look into operation of churches within shouldn’t be interpreted as curtaining the of worship but one that is aimed at sanitizing the environment following the Shakahola massacre.

“I would also like to call church leaders to cooperate with the government in vetting exercise to get rid of radicalization as witnessed in certain

churches and by so doing, it would create a safe and secure environment within our religious institutions,” said Mr Muthama while in Tala, Machakos County.

According to the former Machakos Senator, the clergy collaborating with the government will help to weed out extremism in the places of worship.

“Cooperation between religious organizations and the government will help identify any potential threats or extremism early hence ensuring the well-being and safety of the congregation and the society as a whole,” he said.

He added: “Let Kenyans be vigilant about the churches they worship in and put more emphasis on the Bible when it comes to spiritual matters.”

Mr Muthama’s comment comes at the backdrop of increasing numbers of those being exhumed in Shakahola forest.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki on Thursday said five human skeletons were found in the land linked to Kilifi cult leader Paul Mackenzie.

Early this month, President Ruto appointed a Taskforce to review the legal and regulatory framework governing religious organizations.

Johnstone Muthama is a member of the
Parliamentary Service Commission..



Kenya: Reuters Report On Chinese Hackers Is Sponsored Propaganda

KBC



Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration Dr Raymond Omollo ..



Worth Noting:

- “The bulk of the critical networking infrastructure deployed by the Government of Kenya is sourced from the People’s Republic of China. It is reasonable, therefore, to contemplate that if the country of origin desired to infiltrate the same systems it has helped install, it would unlikely engage third-party hackers,” he averred.
- In addition, he said that the wide circulation and the alacrity for its attribution by other foreign media with well-known inclinations further hint at a choreographed and concerted attack against Kenya’s sovereignty.
- The PS further noted that Kenya is also enhancing its threat detection and mitigation systems and capacities through the National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee (NC4) as well as also investing in a stronger and better coordinated cyber security regime.

Kenya has termed a news article published by Reuters (<https://reuters.com/>) under the headline “Exclusive: Chinese hackers attacked Kenyan government as debt strains grew” as sponsored propaganda.

Through a statement on Thursday, the Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration Dr Raymond Omollo said the story, which was first posted on May 23, 2023, and updated on May 24, 2023, features serious claims about a series of cyber-attacks and infiltration of critical and sensitive systems belonging to and operated by, the Government of Kenya.

“It insinuates that the attacks were carried out under the aegis of the Government of the People’s Repub-

lic of China, which is an act tantamount to deliberate economic espionage against Kenya,” the statement read in part.

Dr Omollo said that having carefully interrogated the claims, the allegations presented in the article have not been subjected to authoritative proof of existence by the relevant persons from both the Kenyan and the Chinese governments.

“The bulk of the critical networking infrastructure deployed by the Government of Kenya is sourced from the People’s Republic of China. It is reasonable, therefore, to contemplate that if the country of origin desired to infiltrate the same systems it has helped install, it would unlikely engage third-party hackers,” he

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In conclusion, the PS stated that just like in many other countries across the globe, Kenya’s cybersecurity infrastructure is formative, and this portends inherent high-risk exposure

to cyber threats. Therefore, attempted cyber-attacks are not extraordinary occurrences.

“The Government and its agencies are alive to this reality, and the necessary precautions that are under constant review to match the dynamic nature of the threats landscape have been deployed,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese embassy in Nairobi has also dismissed reports alleging that a group of Chinese hackers attacked networks belonging to the Kenyan government terming them mere falsehoods.

While vehemently refuting the claims, the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya on Wednesday described the latest claims as “groundless, far-fetched and sheer nonsense,” for the reason that those who have made the allegations are yet to corroborate them.

“It is a highly sensitive political issue to pin the label of cyber-attack to a certain government without solid evidence,” said the spokesperson.

The spokesperson echoed the PS sentiments that hacking is a common threat to all countries and China is also a victim of cyber-attack but was quick to point out that China has no business infiltrating either Kenyan or any other government’s systems.

“China consistently and firmly opposes and combats cyber-attacks and cyber theft in all forms. Tracing the source of cyber-attacks is a complex technical issue,” the spokesperson said in a statement

The spokesperson maintains that “China and Kenya are good friends, good partners, and good brothers,” and efforts should not be made to drive a wedge between the two countries.

“The relevant media should adopt a professional and responsible attitude and underscore the importance to have enough evidence when conducting reports, rather than make groundless assumptions and accusations,” concluded the embassy spokesperson.

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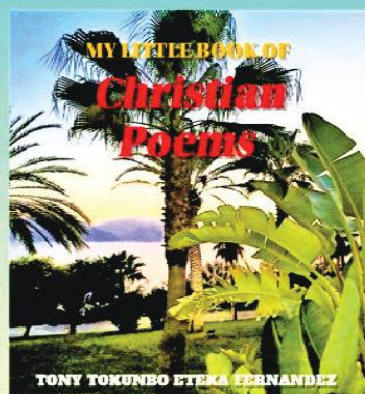
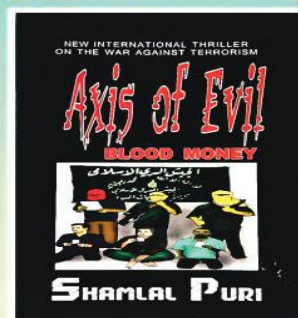
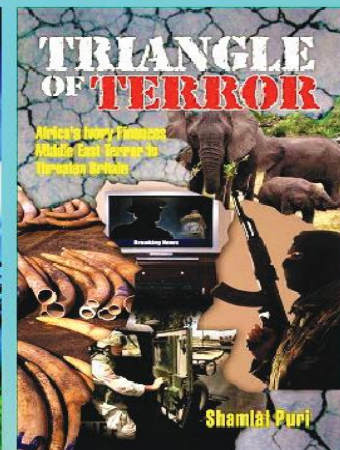
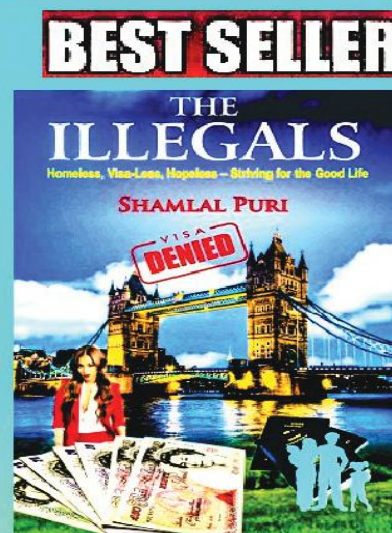
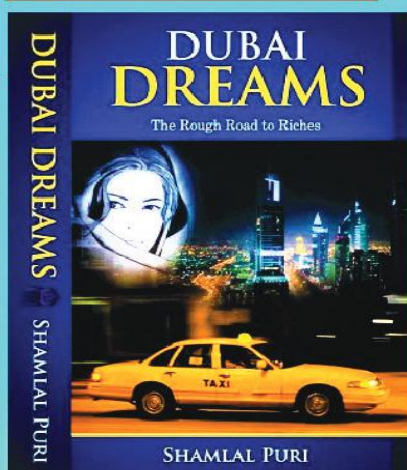
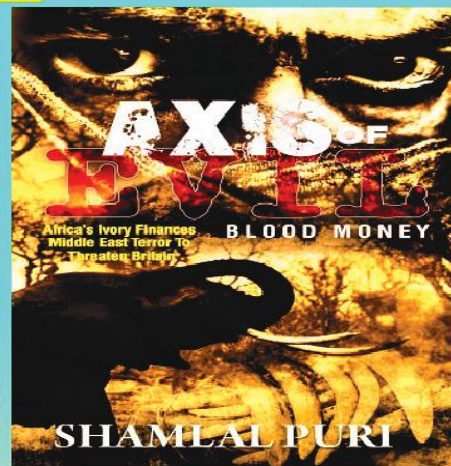
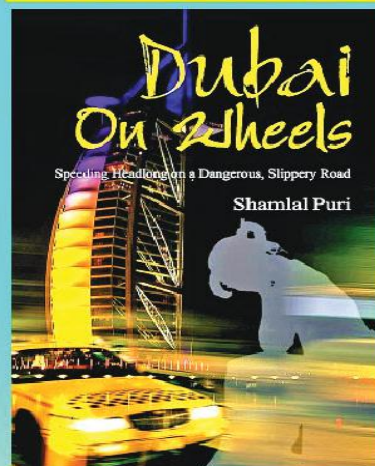
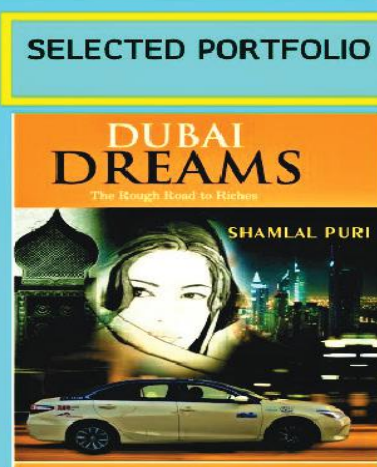
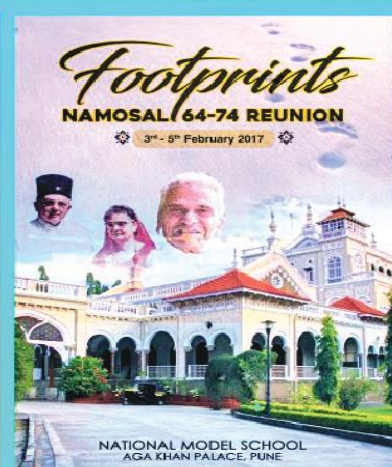
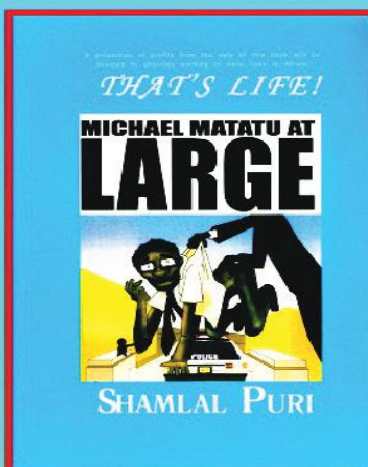
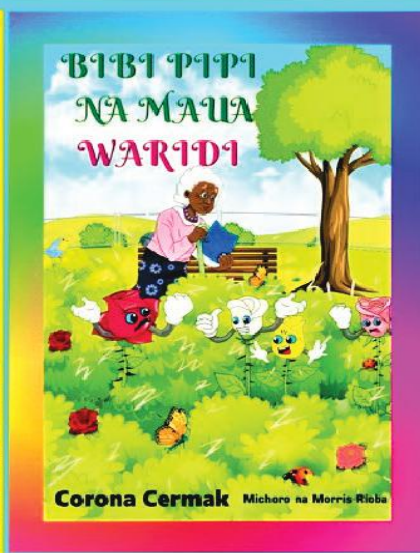
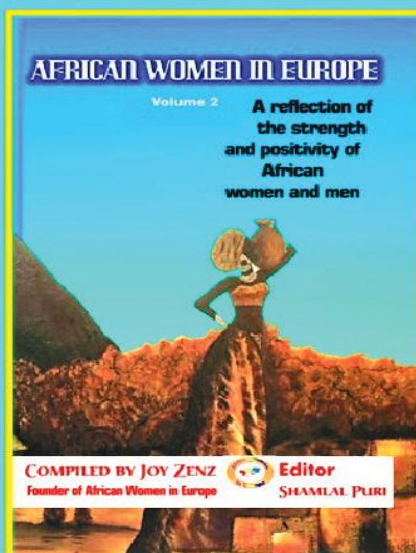
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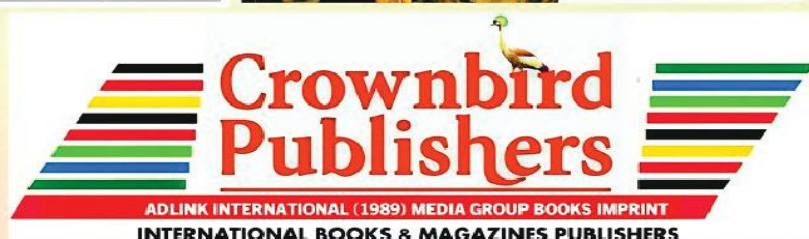
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NEWS

Involve Street Children In Tree Planting Exercises, Pastor Dorcas Says

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has challenged religious leaders to involve street children in tree-planting exercises in line with the government’s plan to plant at least 15 Billion trees. Speaking at the Kenyatta Stadium Machakos County when she met over 4,000 religious’ leaders for a thanksgiving Pastor Dorcas said by doing so the street children will be kept busy after being rehabilitated by her office. The religious leaders, Muslims and Christians, drawn from Machakos, Kitui and Makueni counties have offered to mentor, counsel and register the boys in the streets in their respective areas for rehabilitation and feeding program. She further called on them to be at the forefront of the fight against drug and substance abuse. She said the religious bodies cannot be quiet about



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi

drug barons who are poisoning the youth in the country. “We have a ‘pharaoh’ who is killing our boychildren and we must go for him. The drug barons must stop it, they cannot poison our children, kill

them, make them zombies and keep quiet. We will pray and do something,” she said. “And that is why we are saying that every primary school, secondary school, and TVET there should be a chaplain, so instil family values to our children so that the future of children is secured,” she added. Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti promised to establish a rehabilitation Centre in her county to support Pastor Dorcas’s initiative in rescuing the boychild. The governor said the increased use of drugs and substance abuse had affected many youths in her county. They spoke during the Lower Eastern Thanksgiving prayer service. Others present were Machakos Deputy Governor Francis Mwangangi, Lands, Public Works and Urban Development CAS Victor Munyaka and former Mbooni MP Kisoi Munyao among other local leaders.

Kajiado, Kiambu, Machakos, Makueni To Be Part Of Nairobi Rivers Commission

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Four counties neighbouring Nairobi have been co-opted into the Nairobi Rivers Commission as they are critical in the government’s ongoing reclamation of the targeted rivers. Kajiado, Kiambu, Machakos and Makueni will henceforth be part of the commission whose objective is to restore the rivers in the city and its surroundings. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Thursday said the four counties will together with Nairobi fully participate in the Commission’s activities. “We have co-opted the counties because the rivers under the commission have a direct impact on the people in the counties. We will bring all of them on board,” the DP said.

The Deputy President spoke when he chaired a consultative meeting at Harambee House Annex bringing together the Commission, which is domiciled in his office, and all the actors that will play a critical role as it discharges its mandate. Governors Johnson Sakaja (Nairobi), Joseph ole Lenku (Kajiado) and Wavinya Ndeti (Machakos) attended the meeting while the others sent representatives. Noting that inclusion of the counties was crucial, the Deputy President said the decisions that will be made by the Commission and the implementation will have a direct impact on residents of the said counties. Mr Gachagua said President William Ruto is eager for the commission to get going and will ensure it gets the backing it requires to ensure the ecosystem of the rivers is properly rehabilitated. The DP also said the Kenya Defence Forces have been seconded to

the commission. Brigadier Joseph Muracia will be the Commission’s Chief Executive Officer. He assured the counties that they will be part and parcel of the Commission and their input will be fully integrated. Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti welcomed the decision saying they were ready to work with the Commission. “This is a noble cause. We support the cleaning of the rivers 101 percent. We have to get it right this time around. Whatever is required of us we will do,” said Ndeti. Kajiado counterpart Joseph Lenku promised to throw their weight behind the commission saying they will send representatives and allocate funds to support its work. “We will allocate resources for the project and we will have our representatives fully participate,” said Lenku.



The Commission is chaired by Dr Pamela Olet and has a three-year mandate. The Commission has also formed six sub-committees to address the different strategic areas and ensure faster realization of its objectives. They include committees on Catchment Protection, Riparian and Wetland Protection and Reclamation along Nairobi River Basin, Waste to the Rivers and Clearance of Clog Waste and Dumpsites. Others are sub-committees on Industrial and Institutional Waste and Drainage and Hydrology.



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PS PUBLIC WORKS TALKS ON “Digital Transformation In The Built Environment

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Digital transformation in this industry has the potential to revolutionize the way we design, construct, and manage buildings as well as infrastructure. This leads to greater efficiency, sustainability and cost savings.
- In addition to what I have mentioned above, allow me to highlight more benefits to be accrued from the digital transformation such as reducing overall cost, cutting down on human error, time efficiency on jobs, eliminating instances of repeat jobs, easy calculation verification, and improved collaboration between stakeholders. The use of digital technology will improve the project's clarity as it tracks how information is shared among the various stakeholders involved in the project.



PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC WORKS, MR. JOEL ARUMONYANG, has taken a moment to tell us about the “Digital transformation in the built environment adopts the use of technology to improve the way buildings and infrastructure are designed, constructed, and managed through a range of digital tools and technologies, including Building Information Modelling (BIM), artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, drones, and data analytics. One key aspect of digital transformation in the built environment is the use of BIM, which involves creating a digital representation of a building or infrastructure project that can be used to manage its design, construction, and operations. BIM enhances collaboration amongst stakeholders and supports the identification of potential issues before construction begins, leading to greater efficiency

and fewer errors.

In the State Department for Public Works we have embraced digital technology in most of our projects. We are working closely with our stakeholders to ensure the use of BIM by the technical officers in the state department on the projects and services offered to our clients: Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

Digital transformation in this industry has the potential to revolutionize the way we design, construct, and manage buildings as well as infrastructure. This leads to greater efficiency, sustainability and cost savings.

In addition to what I have mentioned above, allow me to highlight more benefits to be accrued from the digital transformation such as reducing overall cost, cutting down on human error, time efficiency on jobs, eliminating instances of repeat

jobs, easy calculation verification, and improved collaboration between stakeholders. The use of digital technology will improve the project's clarity as it tracks how information is shared among the various stakeholders involved in the project.

In order for us to stay relevant, we are required to embrace and adapt to changes that arise as a result of Digital Transformation in the industry to increase our efficiency, uphold a competitive advantage and increase profitability.

Finally, as I conclude, I want to leave a challenge for the symposium, what innovative ways can you initiate and champion to address the barriers to digital transformation in quantity surveying in the area of personnel competency, cost and affordability, data and cyber security issues as well as stakeholders' concerns.

I thank all of you for attending this special event, and I hope that you

will make the most of this opportunity to learn and grow. I am excited to hear the presentations and participate in the interactive sessions, and I look forward to the discussions and networks that will be made.”

The PS spoke as he officially opened the IQSK SYMPOSIUM AND AGM that is taking place ON 25TH – 26TH MAY, 2023 HELD AT SAROVA PANAFRIC HOTEL, NAIROBI.

Cancer Advocacy Groups Call For Increased Patient Involvement In Shaping Cancer Research and Treatment

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Cancer Survivors and Educators group.

Cancer patient advocacy officers and researchers are calling for increased patient involvement in shaping approaches to cancer research and treatment in Kenya. This is aimed at addressing the alarming challenges in breast cancer care and management to reinforce existing health policies, program planning, and healthcare delivery approaches. Speaking during a media roundtable facilitated by Pfizer, representatives from Kenya Network of Cancer Organisations (KENCO), and Center for Public Health Development (CPHD) reiterated the need for patient involvement in research to limit the negative impact cancer is having on people’s lives, environments, and the economy. This is aimed at making it possible for women to access breast cancer diagnosis and treatment as well as addressing the psychological distress for most cancer patients⁵. The advocates are convinced that increased patient involvement is key to the pursuit and implementation of evidence-based solutions and appropriate programs to inform policy makers on sustainable healthcare

solutions formulation. For increased engagement between patient advocates and relevant stakeholders, more opportunities for education and engagement need to be created and foundations laid. Pfizer Oncology Medical Manager for East Africa Dr. Josephine Muiru said, “We have not yet found a way to prevent or cure all cancers, so it is vital that we are listening to people living with these diseases and supporting them with a holistic cancer care approach. At Pfizer we remain committed to providing this support, from working with healthcare professionals to help them to understand the needs of people living with cancer and how to best communicate with them, to leveraging digital technology to empower them to learn about their own disease and treatment options and to improve their quality of life.” “All over the world, breast cancer patient advocacy initiatives have proven to be a powerful force for the enhancement of cancer research, treatment, management, and care. Patient advocacy also provides peer support for the affected and is key

to raising awareness, reducing stigma, educating the public, influencing healthcare policy by bringing the public’s concerns about cancer to policymakers and stakeholders within the health sector. To reduce the impact and limit burden of cancer on the economy, patient advocacy should be encouraged across the country,” said Ms Lucy Njeri Kariuki – Member of the Cancer Café. Ms Kariuki also says patient advocacy will help counties develop and maintain sustainable healthcare sys-

tems geared towards addressing the enormous burden of breast cancer on the country. She says informed approaches to breast cancer research, care and management will more than halve the mortality rate of breast cancer, which stands at 3,107 deaths annually according to the Ministry of Health⁴. Limited cancer research both in capacity and availability to inform healthcare policy has largely contributed to the lethal prevalence of breast Cancer. According to the 2020 GLOBOCAN Report on Global Cancer Burden, the annual incidence of cancer was reported as 42,116 cases in 2020³. In Kenya, cancer is the third leading cause of death and the second leading cause of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) deaths after cardiovascular diseases⁴. “Thanks to the progress made in healthcare over the recent past, breast cancer and many other cancers are no longer a death sentence. Patient advocacy should, therefore, extend into education programs so that more and more women are shielded from the psychological torture related to healthcare access,” said Mr Evan Mapelu - Director, Kenyan Network of Cancer Organizations (KENCO) A 2020 report by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), found that new cases of all types of cancers increased to nearly 20 million worldwide, and there were 10 million cancer deaths¹. The global cancer burden is projected to rise by about 50% over the next 20 years mainly due to lifestyle changes across the world. While this calls for increased access to quality healthcare services, a 2018 WHO survey found that at least 1 million Kenyans are pushed into poverty as a result of out-of-the-pocket health expenditures.



Worth Noting:

- High cost of cancer diagnosis and treatment identified as a key challenge to prevent the disease⁶
- Cancer is the third leading cause of death both globally and in Kenya and the second leading cause of NCD deaths after cardiovascular diseases with GLOBOCAN reporting 42,116 cases in 2020³. Cancer patient advocacy officers and researchers are calling for increased patient involvement in shaping approaches to cancer research and treatment in Kenya. This is aimed at addressing the alarming challenges in breast cancer care and management to reinforce existing health policies, program planning, and healthcare delivery approaches.



By: Njonjo Mue

Worth Noting:

- On seeing our colourfully decorated car, everyone we encountered along the way, from the security guards at The Mayfair to the police officers at the gate of JKIA, treated us like royalty, saluting us fastidiously as we passed, shouting their best wishes, and waving at us as we disappeared from view.
- I found myself wondering what it is about a wedding that makes people instinctively so excited and I concluded that it must be the promise of renewal, the reminder that despite the drudgery of life, it is still possible to find love and that love ultimately triumphs over every adversity we encounter as we make our way through this broken world.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD



[In the last Episode, the newest couple in town had just retired to Room 241 of The Mayfair Hotel where they were spending their first night as husband and wife, and where they quickly fell into a deep sleep as their bodies finally surrendered to the fatigue of a long but wonderful wedding day filled with love, laughter, song, and dance.]

TWO FOR ME AND TWO FOR MY WIFE...

“Two fried eggs for me and two for my wife,” I told the chef at the pool-side restaurant of The Mayfair Hotel where we were having our first breakfast as husband and wife.

“My wife.” Those two words rolled off my tongue, sounding like they had been spoken by someone else. They sounded strange to my ears and tasted sweet on my tongue. I could not believe that finally, I could use them to refer to Katindi.

“My” meant that finally she was mine, and “wife” signified that our union was now permanent. We could finally start walking together as life partners.

YOUR INTERDEPENDENCE DAY...

I recalled the sermon that Pastor Oscar Muriu had preached at our wedding the previous day.

“Today is Kenya’s Independence Day,” he had reminded us and the congregation. “But for you Katindi and Njonjo, this is the day that your independence as individuals comes

to an end.

“Today is your Interdependence Day. For, going forward, you will need to forget all the dreams you had for yourselves individually before you met each other, and start dreaming a new dream that incorporates both of you.”

TREATED LIKE ROYALTY...

After breakfast, our best maid, Angela Kitonga, came to pick us up from the hotel in her blue Honda CRV to drive us to the airport to catch our flight to begin our honeymoon in South Africa.

Angela, who still seemed to be on a high from the previous day, had decided not to remove the wedding decorations from the car. She now insisted that she would act as our chauffeur as Katindi and I sat at the back seat of the car giggling like love-struck teenagers discovering the feelings of falling in love for the first time.

On seeing our colourfully decorated car, everyone we encountered along the way, from the security guards at The Mayfair to the police officers at the gate of JKIA, treated us like royalty, saluting us fastidiously as we passed, shouting their best wishes, and waving at us as we disappeared from view.

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to find love and that love ultimately triumphs over every adversity we encounter as we make our way through this broken world.

At the check-in counter for South African Airways in the Terminal Building, I once again found an excuse to use those magical words, “My wife.”

“I am checking in my wife and I,” I told the check-in clerk, chuckling gleefully to myself as I handed over our passports and tickets to her while Katindi stood glowing and laughing beautifully a short distance away as she chatted with Angela.

TAKING HER TO THE THRESHOLD...

An hour later, as we boarded flight SA 183 for Johannesburg, we were welcomed aboard by the melodious sound of the hit duet ballad ‘A Whole New World’ by Peabo Bryson and Regina Belle from the soundtrack of the movie Aladdin, which was playing on the in-flight entertainment.

The song nicely articulated what I was feeling but was previously unable to express as I took my new bride to the threshold of a whole new world:

“I can show you the world
Shining, shimmering, splendid
Tell me, princess, now when
did you last let your heart decide?
I can open your eyes
Take you wonder by wonder
Over, sideways and under
On a magic carpet ride”

“A whole new world
A new fantastic point of view
No one to tell us “No”, or where
to go
Or say we’re only dreaming”

WARM, COSY AND INTIMATE...

Four hours later, as the sun was setting over the Johannesburg skyline, we landed at Oliver Tambo Airport and took a taxi to the home of our friends Robert Mbugua and his wife Josephine in Sandton, which they had left for us to use as they were away in Kenya for Christmas.

The house was huge and beautifully furnished with a swimming pool at the back, and although we were free to use any part of it, we chose to stay in the self-contained guest-wing, as it was warm, cosy and intimate.

In the kitchen of the main house, we found that Josephine had thoughtfully stocked the fridge with all sorts of food, and in the garage, we found that Robert had equally thoughtfully fully fuelled the slick Mercedes Benz which he had left for our use during the honeymoon.

AS IF DISCOVERING THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME....

Having lived and worked in South Africa for the last half of the last decade of the last century, I was delighted to be able to take my bride to visit various places of personal, historical and touristic significance.

I had visited most of these places in my earlier sojourn as a single pilgrim in South Africa, but taking Katindi with me during our honeymoon made me feel as if I was discovering them for the first time. A whole new world....

“A whole new world
A dazzling place I never knew
But when I’m way up here
It’s crystal clear
That now I’m in a whole new world
with you”

FROM VILAKAZI STREET TO THE MALLS OF JOBURG...

We were delighted to visit Nelson Mandela’s house on Vilakazi Street and we were anguished to see the Hector Peterson Museum in Soweto.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Contd from Page 20.

to. We were excited to go on the rollercoaster at Gold Reef City and we wept as we walked through the Apartheid Museum. We shared our dreams over a candlelight dinner at the Randburg Waterfront and we quarrelled as we shopped in the malls of Joburg, discovering for the first time just how much Katindi enjoyed retail therapy while I had such little patience for it. A whole new world....

“Unbelievable sights,
Indescribable feelings
Soaring, tumbling, freewheeling
Through an endless diamond sky”

THE PLACE WHERE THE SUN
RISES...

We took a two day tour of Mpumalanga Province, the place where the sun rises, where we were awed by

the majesty of God’s Window, we beheld the sights and sounds of the Blyde River Canyon, and we tasted the world famous pancakes in the quaint mining town of Pilgrim’s Rest. A whole new world...

“A whole new world
(Don’t you dare close your eyes)
A hundred thousand things to see
(Hold your breath, it gets better)
I’m like a shooting star, I’ve come so far
I can’t go back to where I used to be”

AFRICA UMOJA...

Back in Johannesburg, we took in the entertainment scene, watching several movies and plays, including an unforgettable musical play, ‘Africa Umoja’, at the Victory Theatre in Houghton, that chronicles the evolution of African song and dance over the centuries.

As people back home in Kenya

went to the polls on 27 December 2007, we took a road trip to Sun City Resort where we had great fun playing, talking, eating, and swimming in the large artificial lake. A whole new world....

“With new horizons to pursue
I’ll chase them anywhere
There’s time to spare
Let me share this whole
New world with you”

A CERTAIN ALLURING QUALITY...

We also had our first major fight when Katindi asked me to carry her hat for her and I told her that she should not have brought it with her if she knew she would get tired of wearing it or carrying it for herself. It was a silly quarrel but during your honeymoon, you realise that even quarrels have a certain alluring quality to them if not in the quarrelling itself, then in the making up afterwards. A whole new world...

“A whole new world
(A whole new world)
That’s where we’ll be
(That’s where we’ll be)
A thrilling chase
(A wondrous place)
For you and me.”

PURSUE, OVERTAKE, AND RECOVER ALL...

On our first Sunday morning in Johannesburg, I took my bride to worship at Rhema Bible Church in Randburg, which had been my home church in the years I lived in South Africa. The sermon was titled ‘Pursue, Overtake, and Recover All’.

It was taken from 1 Samuel 30: 3 – 20 where David leads his troops to pursue an Amalekite raiding party that had burnt down their town of Ziklag and abducted their wives and children.

It reminded me that back in August 2007, as we were preparing for our wedding, Katindi and I had spent

a weekend praying at the Carmelite Community Retreat Centre on Lang’ata South Road in Karen.

We prayed that having called us to walk life’s journey together, God would use us and enable us to lead his people of Africa “in taking back all that has been stolen from our families, our communities, our country, and our continent over centuries of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, and imperialism.”

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM...

As we prepared to return home after seventeen wonderful days in South Africa, we did not really know what awaited us in our troubled motherland following the disputed presidential election, or that our honeymoon bliss would soon prove to have been just the calm before the storm.

Civil Society Gives Outgoing DPP Pat On The Back

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Members of The Consortium of Grassroots Civil Society Organizations and the general public at large Tuesday afternoon convened to express their solidarity with Noordin Haji the outgoing Director of Public Prosecutions who was recently appointed by the president to head the National Intelligence Services. “We as members of the grassroots communities, we understand the sensitivity and importance of the national security and we wouldn’t like to play politics or take publicity stunts around such a delicate matter but we are forced to respond and object when we see a section of the mainstream civil society play the ignorance card dismissing the appointment of Noordin Haji on baseless grounds minus understanding the nature of operations at the law courts. Whereas many are struggling to

taint the spackling reputation of Noordin Haji that he has built over a period time dedicating his life to civil service and the general public, it must be noted that Noordin Haji has been the most outstanding Director of public prosecution Kenya has ever had ever since the promulgation of the new constitution.

Ever since his appointment as the DPP, we’ve seen tremendous changes in court operations, many cases that were stagnated and frustrated for ages, got a new life as they came to conclusion.

Acting as the DPP, the former backward culture of lost files was brought to and halt by Haji’s personal intervention.

It’s shocking to learn that a section of the civil society have easily forgotten the journey that the Haji walked with them to ensure Police Reforms and defending the gains.

Under Haji as DPP, the civil society under a program dubbed the missing voices, organized several series of community dialogues in Kayole, Aga Khan Walk, within the CBD Nairobi, Isiolo, Wajir, Mombasa and

invited the DPP who has been faithfully attending these meetings and taking cases from the public directly with most of the against powerful police officers that would have never seen the light were it not for Noordin Haji.

Powerful police officers have been brought books and are now serving time. Case on point being, the former Ruaraka OCS, the infamous three police officers who murdered lawyer Willy Kimani and several Killer cops currently interdicted like the former Pangani OCS. Mr. Yakub.

Arbitrary arrest under Noordin haji has been a thing of the past. Mr. haji decriminalized touting and legal assembly that was violating the rights of many youths and civil society actors.

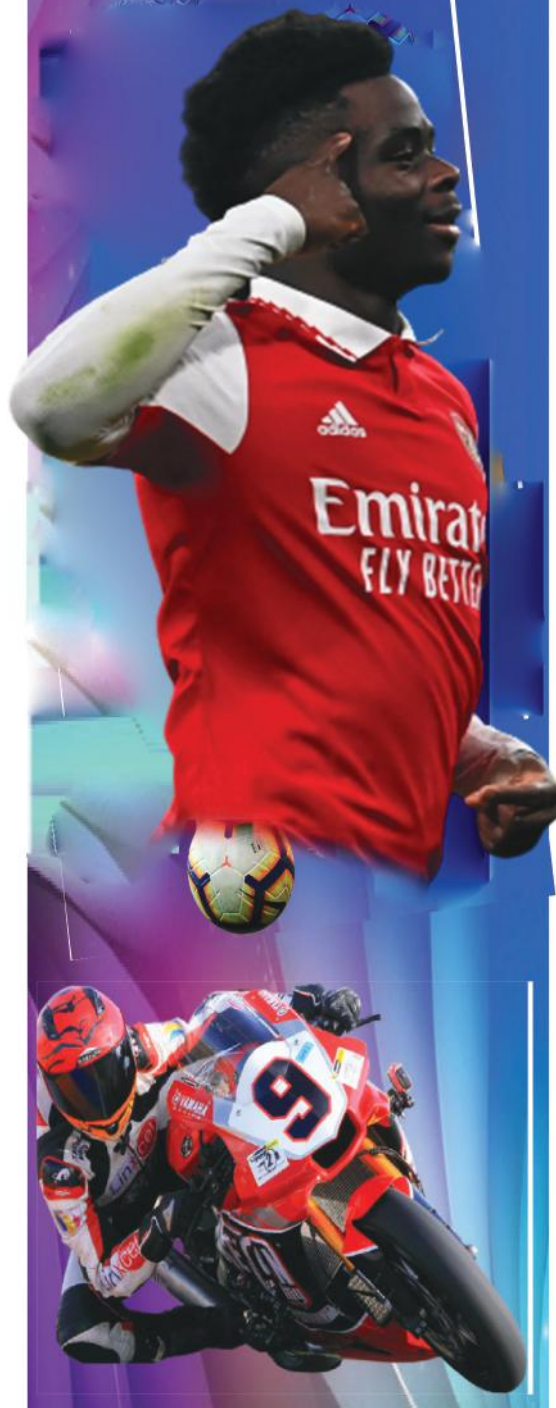
The allegations brought against the DPP concerning the withdrawal of corruption cases are responsibilities of the DCI and the EACC to investigate and provide water tight evidences top stand trial and not to be used for political witch-hunt as the former regime did with many state actors.



Civil Society .

We further note that there has been a new trend of attacking the security agencies in the country. The military head, the CS Interior, the CAS for Interior, the Inspector General and several junior police officers have been on constant attack and we are worried that there is a motive by foreign powers behind these sponsored attacks trying to discredit and destabilizes our security.

We therefore demand that the relevant vetting agencies to dismiss the baseless petitions and the petitioners and protect the sovereignty of our country.

SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *The government has intensified efforts in demonstrating commitment aimed at making Kenya's preparations towards next year's Paris Olympics a success, three years after the 2020 rescheduled Tokyo Olympics

CS Namwamba, NOCK in a strategy retreat meeting ahead of Paris Olympics



The government has intensified efforts in demonstrating commitment aimed at making Kenya's preparations towards next year's Paris Olympics a success, three years after the 2020 rescheduled Tokyo Olympics where Kenya was the best African nation and 19th overall, with 10 medals – four gold, four silver and two bronze – all panned from athletics.

On Thursday morning, Cabinet Secretary for Sports Ababu Namwamba attended a retreat meeting with National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) and Athletics Kenya (AK) officials in a move seen as a booster towards the country's medal prospects at the Olympics.

The CS lauded the organizers for setting up the strategy retreat, saying that only a proper plan would ensure that Kenya return good performance at the premier sporting event, that is

barely a year away.

"There is no doubt that failing to plan is planning to fail. If you don't plan, then you are definitely setting yourself up for failure. You know that previously we have paid dearly for not planning well, for doing the classical Kenyan thing of last minute. We are definitely changing this through our #RoadToParis Olympics 2024 plan," noted the CS.

The CS added that it was important to pay attention to detail and not take anything for granted in the course of planning for the Olympics.

He called on the team to prepare the athletes well, with a keen reminder of the significance of the Olympics to Kenya and the world.

"What these games have done for us in branding our nation and profiling brand Kenya to the world cannot be quantified. The

Olympics mean a lot to us as a nation as these games have risen to hold a very special profile in the world diplomatically and politically," he said.

"The Olympics have been used to make bold diplomatic and political statements that have gone on to shape the history of the world, like the 1976 boycott by 28 African countries, that helped bring an end to the apartheid regime in South Africa," added former Budalangi MP

The Olympics Committee already disclosed they would send a selected team of Kenyan athletes to pre-Olympic training camps in Southern France to boost Kenya's medal prospects.

NOCK said it is strategising to field more sports to raise Kenya's stakes at the quadrennial Olympics.

"We are planning to start training in Southern France about 30-35 days in advance before

the Paris 2024 Olympics. The idea is to give our athletes a chance to enhance their qualification chances and allow them to acclimatize ahead of the games," read part of their previous statement.

Last year in Japan besides athletics, Kenya featured in seven sports for men and women, boxing, swimming, volleyball, beach volleyball and taekwondo.

The organisers of 32nd Olympic Games in Japan overcame huge challenges, most significantly rising coronavirus cases and growing opposition to the staging of the world's greatest sporting spectacle in 2021.

KBC

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Julio Enciso hammered in a goal-of-the-season contender as brilliant Brighton pegged back champions Manchester City to draw 1-1

Brighton guaranteed to finish sixth and Europa League qualification after City draw



Julio Enciso hammered in a goal-of-the-season contender as brilliant Brighton pegged back champions Manchester City to draw 1-1 and secure qualification for the Europa League for the first time in their history.

The 19-year-old scored a long-range stunner in his side's win at Chelsea last month and this one was similar but perhaps even better, with his ferocious strike bending the ball into the top corner from 25 yards.

Erling Haaland, who served Phil Foden's 25th-minute opener on a plate, thought he had won it for City with just over 10

minutes to play when he put a string of missed chances behind him to head in at the back post. But when VAR advised referee Simon Hooper to check the pitchside monitor, he saw a shirt-pull on Levi Colwill had aided the Norway striker and the goal was ruled out, to Pep Guardiola's anger.

It would have been harsh on a Brighton team who had seen two goals of their own rightly ruled out and Danny Welbeck hit the bar during an enthralling contest. Roberto De Zerbi's side fired off a staggering 20 shots against the best team in England.

No opponent had managed more than 13 against City in the Premier League before Wednesday. Only two sides have ever hit more against a side managed by Guardiola.

With the point, they ended Man City's run of 12 straight Premier League wins – although the visitors, who celebrated their title win with a party on Sunday night, have the FA Cup and Champions League finals on their mind. They are now eight points clear of their nearest challengers Arsenal.

Brighton gave Manchester City a guard of honour before kick-off

and seemed to pay their visitors too much respect in the opening moments, with Guardiola's side recording almost 85 per cent possession in an opening 15 minutes which saw Haaland spurn a glorious chance from Foden's cross

Brighton had lost 10 of their previous 11 Premier League games against Man City – but this is a very different Brighton team now under De Zerbi. The connection between him, his players and the crowd was plain to see as they celebrated their best season at the final whistle.

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SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Backpage



A Poet Who Wants Goodness

By: Jakhongir NOMOZOV

@themkenyentimes

A writer's personality and character can be easily known by looking at his work. The more sincere and sincere the author is, the more exciting and impressive the book will be," writes People's Writer of Uzbekistan O'tkir Hashimov.

Every creative product is a divine product of the creator, a poet's work, gifted by God.

Not everyone has this talent.

The poem is also a drop of feelings poured out from the pure desire of the poet.

People are always attracted to beauty, especially natural beauty.

Ne'matjon Dostmatov is also such a simple and sincere person, an aspiring poet, and a tolerant person. It is no exaggeration to say that his poems are personal.

Ne'matjon Dostmatov always strives for goodness in life, is kind, considerate and generous to people.

In his poems, he glorifies high human qualities such as goodness, justice, and gratitude.

Our wise people who said "don't be a scientist, be a man" in vain. If you are a scientist, what is the use of this knowledge if you cannot use it for someone?!

N. Dostmatov is a very humble, sincere, and tolerant person... This is well known by many residents of Khanabad. Wherever he goes, he takes 1-2 boxes of pencils and distributes them to people.

Everyone likes a person with kindness in his heart and generosity in his hands.

Ne'matjon Dostmatov's poems are as pure, simple and simple as his personality, which the reader immediately understands.

I can say without hesitation that he sings and praises justice both in his poems and in his life.

The poems in the newly published book "The Garden of Virtue" are also much higher in content and quality than the previous books.

He writes what he feels, naturally, without embellishments or silent jokes:



Ne'matjon Dostmatov .

Humiliating the poor
He raised his neck.
A beautiful man
Can't you see a spot on the moon?

Verses that seem simple in one reading, but it is not difficult to feel that the truth and wisdom of life lie beneath these simple lines.

The artist always takes the topics from life, his experiences and brings them to life in his poems.

The main criterion of the poet's work is goodness, justice, and fulfillment of high human duties.

The world is transient, man is forgetful.

It is not the wealth we have accumulated, the glory we have gained, but only our good deeds and the good deeds that we have done.

The poet "Goodness does not remain on earth" emphasizes that goodness does not remain on earth at all, that every good deed should be done and its response should be expected from God:

"Many do not know the value of kindness."
He tells everyone not to do good.
Don't expect a good answer from anyone,
The answer of goodness is from Al-

lah.

We hope that the poems included in the book "Garden of Virtue" by the poet who sings of goodness and strives for goodness, will further awaken the feelings of love and take a place in the hearts of the readers!

Below you can read the poems of the talented poet Nematjon Dostmatov;

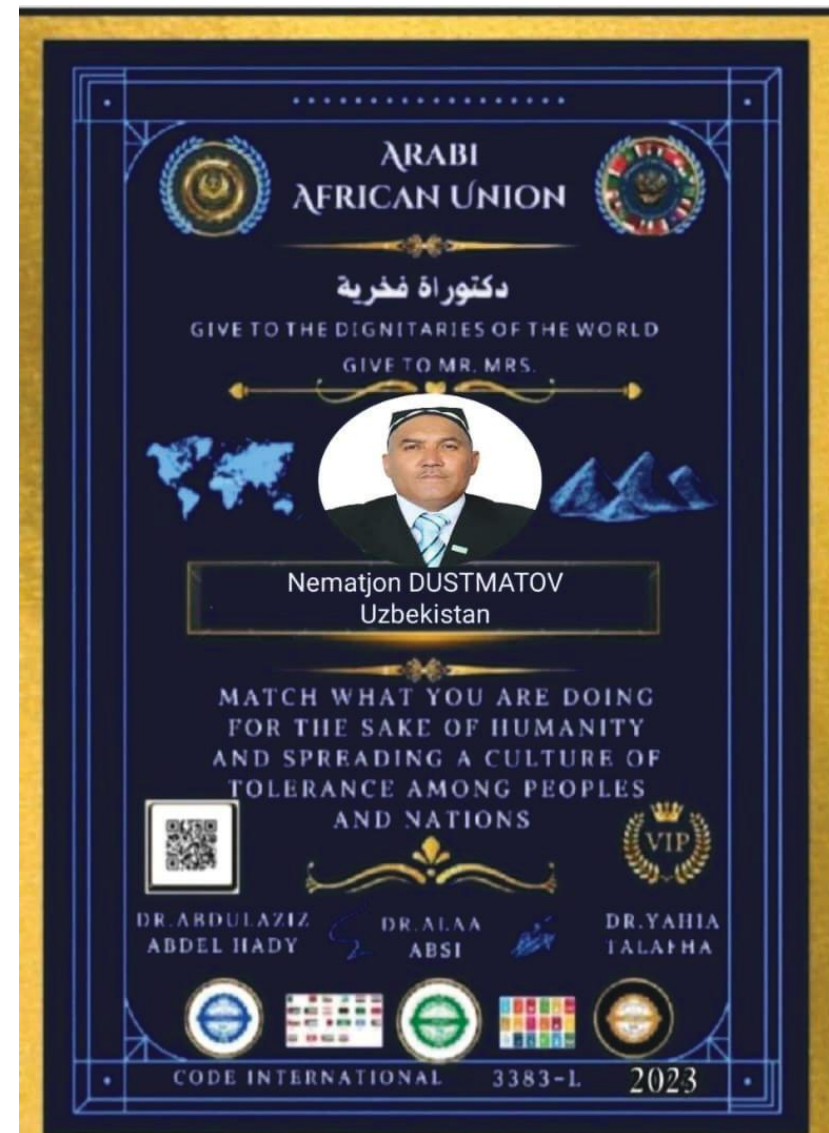
NATURE

Nature is the only Book, each page of which is full of deep content.

Johann Wolfgang Goethe

Nature is your place of magic,
All the beauties are embodied in you.
I get inspiration from you every word,
You are my inspiration...

The star in the sky is the shining sun,
The moon that lights up the sky at night.
Tears shed on morning dews,
Devotion to the whole is beautiful.



Yellow hills and green expanses,
Dry desert, blue, blue sea.
Your beauty is indescribable,
Artists, poets, all are weak.

LAST CALL

The years of my irrevocable youth,
Tears in my eyes, trembling in my heart.
I sent a letter to my teacher,
The last bell rings...

Goodbye, dear teachers,
Goodbye, dear school.
We wrote wings for you to fly,
I write poetry from my heart.

Will stay in my heart forever
The training given by my teachers.
When I first stepped,
Holding my hand as my child...

I'm perfect because of you
The sun shone on my heart.

I'm leaving you today
I have longing tears in my eyes...

Our way is now falling
Stay safe, dear dildo.
Our hearts cry from the hijrans,
Goodbye, "White Road" classmate.

We ride towards dreams,
Although the school is far from the bosom.
You are still in your heart,
Drummer last call...

Jakhongir NOMOZOV
The owner of the "Abay" medal of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the "Commemorative badge of the International Amir Temur Public Fund", "My garden will not forget" Usman Nasir, "Science Pride" international commemorative badges. Member of the "World Talents" international association