



Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology Establishes A Blue Economy Research Hub
 The first National Maritime Conference held in 2015 revealed the full potential of the blue economy sector in the country
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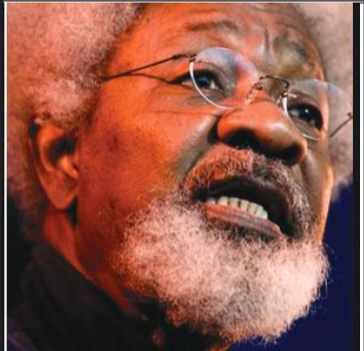
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News>>National Assembly Approves Noordin Haji As The Next Intelligence Boss

P. 8. Members of Parliament yesterday approved Mr. Noordin Haji's appointment as the next National Intelligence Service (NIS) boss.



Motivation>>We Live In A Materialist World

P. 12. We live in a materialist world, and materialism appeals so strongly to humanity, no matter where. Wole Soyinka



Business>>BUDGET: Ksh 268B Lined Up For Bottom-Up Value Chains

P. 16 The government plans to spend Ksh 268 billion in the FY2023/24 budget on value chains that will support delivery of Bottom-Up Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Ruto Opens Kerugoya Hospital Medical Complex

The healthcare function will and has been better managed by the county governments and if anyone needs a testimony and confirmation of the same, they should see the hospital that has been built by the County Government of Kirinyaga", said the president.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, President William Ruto and Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru yestersday opened the largest medical complex in Kirinyaga County.

STORY ON PAGE 9

First Urban Conference Kicks Off In Nakuru City

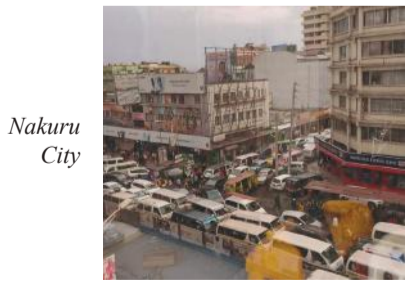
By: Esther Mwangi and Merceline Khaemba @themtkenyentimes

The Nakuru County Government will host the first-ever Kenya Urban Forum Conference as it seeks to market the region to potential investors.

The county administration has disclosed that it will use the conference, running under the theme "Strategic Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanization in Kenya," to position Nakuru County as an investor's paradise. Cabinet Secretary for Public Works,

Housing, and Urban Development Zachariah Mwangi Njeru said key thematic subjects that participants will deliberate on include urban infrastructure and services, urban planning and management, urban resilience, climate change and the

STORY ON PAGE 13



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Nationwide Fertilizer Uptake Hits 3Mn Bags

By: Capital Correspondent

Worth Noting:

- “The fertilizer is available in outlets allowed to stock it including those managed by the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC), the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), and stores owned by counties,” she said.
- The government initiative, aimed at spurring food production, is a multi-agency program spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry, Ministry of Interior, and National Administration, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), KNTC, NCPB, and other government agencies.

Farmers across the country have purchased more than 3 million bags of fertilizer under the Fertiliser Subsidy Programme (FSP) in a new milestone for the program.

The Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) Managing Director Pamela Mutuna noted that since the government’s intervention to reduce the price of fertilizer from Sh7,000 to Sh3,500 per bag the uptake has been tremendous.

“The fertilizer is available in outlets allowed to stock it including those managed by the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC), the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), and stores owned by counties,” she said.

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Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry, Ministry of Interior, and National

Administration, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), KNTC, NCPB, and other government agencies.

And with the planting season in most counties drawing to a close, Mutuna noted that the focus has now shifted to the top dressing fertilizer, whose distribution is currently ongoing. More than 1,253,440 bags of Top Dressing fertilizer had been distributed.

“The program has been flawlessly executed through the issuance of E-Vouchers, and the use of other



Kiambu farmers receiving the subsidized fertilizer that the government availed for growing crops during the short rains season/ COURTESY.

technologies to ensure that there is traceability and accountability,” she said.

In the ongoing phase of distribution of Top Dressing fertilizer, Uasin Gishu County is still leading the pack having already redeemed 281,990 bags. Trans Nzoia County (276,855), Bungoma County (116,945), Nandi County (73,082), Nakuru County (72,335), Kakamega County (63,166) have posted impressive numbers in the number of farmers redeeming their e-vouchers. In the Coffee sector, farmers have

also been lining up in our depots to redeem their vouchers after the arrival of Top Dressing fertilizer. Already a total of 52,526 bags of fertilizer have already been purchased by farmers.

Farmers are also redeeming potato, sugarcane, and vegetable fertilizers in our outlets across the country.

“We urge farmers to continue buying subsidized fertilizer in all the KNTC, NCPB, and selected County Government outlets across the country. We still have a total of 736,

141 bags in stock,” Mutuna said.

Farmers have received vouchers in Baringo, Bomet, Bungoma, Busia, Elgeyo Marakwet, Embu, Homa Bay, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kericho, Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Kisumu, Kitui, Laikipia, Machakos, Makeni, Meru, Migori, Murang’a, Nakuru, Nandi, Narok, Nyamira, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Tharaka Nithi, Siaya, Trans-Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Vihiga, West Pokot, Mombasa, Tana-River, Kilifi, Lamu, Kwale and Taita- Taveta.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Ruto: Connectivity Vital For Creative Economy

By: Beth Nyaga

President William Ruto has said the Government is committed to enhancing the digital superhighway to create opportunities for content creators to make a living.

The President said the government is looking to set up 25,000 free WiFi hotspots around the country to improve Internet access and give young people access to the digital superhighway.

The President revealed Google is supporting the setup of the hotspots. "I appreciate Google's support in enhancing the digital superhighway and creative economy pillar of our transformational agenda. In particular, for your support for our plan to provide free Wi-Fi hotspots across the country."

The President was speaking during the closing ceremony of YoutubeBlackVoices, a fund designed to grow

the presence and talents of black content creators across the world, including Kenya.

The Head of State also noted that the number of YouTube channels had grown exponentially.

"The number of YouTube channels in Kenya with over 1 million views has grown by 110 per cent in the last year proving our capacity for creative content generation is enough to generate livelihoods and become an economic sector."

Over 90 government institutions including TVETs, hospitals, and law courts will also be connected to the Internet imminently, he added.



TotalEnergies Sets Up The First Service Station In Embu Town

By: Our Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya has launched its first service station in Embu town in a bid to grow its market in the Central Kenya region.

The new station brings to to 237 the number of TotalEnergies Service Stations countrywide.

Speaking during the launch, TotalEnergies Kenya Finance Director Lawrencia Gichatha said the entry into the region was in response to increased customer demand for proximity of the company's products and services and projected that it will satisfy their need for ease of access to specialty products especially the company's trusted range of lubricants.

The company is eyeing the growing segment of private and public sector institutions and public transport, driven by devolution and the vibrant

economic activity in Embu county and adjacent counties.

"We have been travelling long distances to access TotalEnergies products for our clients, but now that has come to an end. This will help us improve our service to clients and while cutting costs," said Gitonga Muturi, an Embu-based garage owner and overall winner in last year's TotalEnergies Quartz Golden Spanner competition.

The new Service Station is installed with solar panels as part of the company's sustainability strategy that includes the distribution of solar power products through its network countrywide.

"We now have about 146 of our service stations fully solarized and will continue to implement the same across the country," noted Ms. Gichatha.

TotalEnergies is also focused on the Renewable Energies market with its solar energy products. Since last year, it has launched charging points



TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Finance Director Lawrencia Gichatha (centre) cuts a ribbon to officially launch the new Embu Service Station, assisted by Network Sales Manager Millicent Gitonga (right) and the Station dealer Alfred Musyoka. This is the company's first Service Station in Embu town.

for electric motorcycles in partnership with electric motorcycle manufacturer Ampersand and Roam, as

part of its strategic focus on electric-powered vehicles which is an important component of its sustain-

ability framework.



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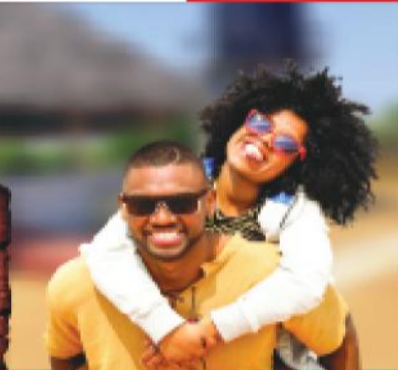
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Kisii Orange Democratic Party Youth Call for Truce to Foster Development

By: Elizabeth Angira
 @themkenyatimes



Kisii Orange Democratic Party Youths addressing the press have called truce for foster development photo/Elizabeth Angira.

Worth Noting:

- They condemned the alarming rise in violent incidents, deaths, and injuries caused by the MP in South Mugirango.
- The ODM youth leaders emphasized that the ongoing conflict between Arati and Osoro is already taking a toll on development in the county.
- They believe that the chaotic political environment hinders progress and urged the leaders to prioritize development instead of engaging in divisive politics.

In a recent development, Kisii Orange Democratic Party (ODM) youth have appealed for a truce between County Governor Simba Arati and South Mugirango MP Sylvanus Osoro.

The youth believe that resolving the ongoing conflict is crucial to allow for the progress of development initiatives in the county.

The call for a truce follows a distressing incident that occurred during a burial ceremony for Boikanga ward MCA Paul Ayiema's father in South Mugirango.

Alleged goons caused a stampede, resulting in numerous injuries as mourners fled the chaotic scene. MP Osoro reportedly felt sidelined in the

protocol procedures, leading to the eruption of chaos at the event.

Last week, Kisii leaders, including Deputy Governor Dr. Robert Monda and Kisii MCAs, expressed their disapproval of Hon. Osoro's recent behavior.

They condemned the alarming rise in violent incidents, deaths, and injuries caused by the MP in South Mugirango.

The ODM youth leaders emphasized that the ongoing conflict between Arati and Osoro is already taking a toll on development in the county.

They believe that the chaotic political environment hinders progress and urged the leaders to prioritize

development instead of engaging in divisive politics.

Rodgers Onger, the Youth Party Leader, stated that it is time to shift focus away from politicking and concentrate on serving the residents. "We want leaders who bring development, thuggery will not take us anywhere, he said.

Similarly, Dennis Mosoti called for an amicable resolution between the two leaders, urging Osoro to prioritize his responsibilities as an MP and wait for the 2027 gubernatorial race. "2027 is far, let him focus on how to develop South Mugirango," he said.

The youth leaders accused MP Osoro of orchestrating violence against the county's leadership and called

for an end to such acts.

While Osoro chose not to respond to these accusations, the youth leaders reiterated their unwavering support for County Governor Arati's plea for violence-free politics.

Furthermore, the youth leaders urged Osoro to refrain from misusing the youth and instead guide them on securing employment opportunities.

They expressed concerns that the escalating violence is tarnishing the county's reputation and may deter external investments.

In light of the situation, the leaders called for the immediate arrest and prosecution of Hon. Osoro for his involvement in violent acts and for shielding wanted criminals. They also appealed to the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) to protect police officers from intimidation by political leaders.

Kisii County Commander Charles Kases has taken up the matter and initiated an investigation into the series of attacks during the burial ceremony in South Mugirango.

Commander Kases condemned the violence and urged residents to remain calm while the incident is being investigated.

He emphasized that individuals should not take the law into their own hands.

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National Assembly Approves Noordin Haji As The Next Intelligence Boss

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyatimes

.....As A Nakuru Based Lawyer Says The Petition On His Suitability Will Continue

Members of Parliament yesterday approved Mr. Noordin Haji's appointment as the next National Intelligence Service (NIS) boss.

Through a near unanimous vote, the House adopted a Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations recommending Mr. Haji's appointment as the next NIS Director General.

In a Special Motion before the House, Committee chair Nelson Koech who is the MP for Belgut explained that the decision had been preceded by a thorough scrutiny of the nominee's professional and academic credentials, in addition to excellent performance during his long running career in public service.

"There is a general feeling even within the NIS that Mr. Haji is best fitted for the job, because for the very first time the service will be headed by someone originating from within," said Koech.

Mr. Haji had prior to his appoint-



Mr. Noordin Haji.

ment as Director of Public Service served as NIS Deputy Director Director for counter organized crime.

The motion was seconded by Committee Vicechair Major (Rtd) Bashir Abdullah who exuded confidence in Mr. Haji's suitability for the job following a thorough vetting by the Committee.

Other members who spoke challenged Mr. Haji to use knowledge of the service operations to fix teething security threats including cross-border economic crimes.

With his approval, Haji is expected to be sworn in anytime to replace Major General (rtd) Philip Wachira Kameru.

When President William Ruto nominated him for the position, a Nakuru based lawyer moved to court to challenge the move.

IKhatherine Cherotich filed a petition arguing that Haji was unfit to hold the position of NIS boss and that his nomination did not meet the requirements of chapter six of the

Constitution.

She cited the multiple high profile cases that Haji as a DPP had withdrawn recently, which she said depicted him as a man who can be coerced and intimidated into violating the Constitution.

According to the petitioner, Haji has in the past admitted to having been misled and pressured through the media, by former Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) George Kinoti, to charge Rigathi Gachagua, then the Mathira Member of Parliament as well as other individuals.

The petitioner said: "Haji is unfit to hold the position of NIS director-general because he has, on many occasions, violated the Constitution and his oath of office while serving as the DPP."

According to the petitioner, the above amounts to violating the Constitution.

The petitioner argued that President Ruto nominated Haji in total disregard of the requirements that must be met under chapter six of the Constitution.

"President William Ruto disregarded chapter six of the Constitution on leadership and integrity, therefore violating the law," the petition reads.

Kiambu County Embarks On Massive Upgrading Of Rural Roads

By: Hellen Lunalo

@themkenyatimes

The Kiambu County Government has embarked on a programme of grading access roads in all the villages in efforts to open up the rural parts of the county.

This comes as a reprieve to residents who have been suffering due to poor accessibility, especially in terms of vehicular transport.

In Thika Township Ward, grading has already been done in Athena, Makongeni, and Karibaribi areas, among several other rural access roads in the ward.

Area MCA Kennedy Mwangi said traders and those in the transport sector have suffered the most, adding that during times of fire out-



Kiambu County Embarks On Massive Upgrading Of Rural Roads

breaks or emergencies that required quick interventions, it has been difficult to access the area due to a poor road network.

"We have begun with grading, and

once funds are made available, we shall go ahead and tarmac some of the major access roads," he said.

Karibaribi residents led by Judy Wangari lauded the ongoing grad-

ing of roads, saying roads in the area have been impassable for the longest time, especially during rainy seasons.

They said they have been using long alternative routes to reach their destinations since vehicles pulled out of the area due to the poor roads.

"We have been suffering for a long time, especially during rainy seasons. To go out of home, one needs to carry an extra pair of shoes to change into once you get to the main road because they are embarrassingly muddy to get to your destination in them. This project is therefore long overdue, and we are grateful," said Wangari.

The access roads will complement the many road tarmacking projects that are being implemented in the area.

Among the roads are the Njomoko-Mangu-Flyover Road,

whose tarmacking is ongoing after stalling for some time.

The road is meant to connect the Thika Superhighway to the Naivasha-Nakuru Highway, easing accessibility and traffic in the area.

Another road is the 18-kilometer Gatunyaga-Munyu-Kangoki road, that will act as a link road to ease traffic on the Thika-Garissa Highway.

It has since stalled, but the government has assured that work will restart once funds are available.

The residents further urged the government to enhance security by installing street lights in the area, stating that the village is largely covered by coffee and maize plantations, which makes it unsafe at night.

This, they said, would help them operate their business effectively, especially at night, without worrying about security.

Ruto Opens Kerugoya Hospital Medical Complex, Reaffirms Devolution Of Health

By: Christine Muchira



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru and President William Ruto yesterday opened the largest medical complex in Kirinyaga County.

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto assured Kenyans that the national government has no interest in taking over the health function from counties. He said that it will instead support the county governments to deliver quality and affordable healthcare to the people. “We have a comprehensive plan on how better to address issues surrounding the welfare of medics and we want to have a seamless intergovernmental working relationship that will enable us implement various reforms in the health sector”. Ruto said.

- Some of the areas in which the president said the two levels of government will collaborate include equipping of hospitals, formulation of policy and financing framework involving the Facility Improvement Fund and capacity building and remuneration of Community Health Promoters.

President William Ruto yesterday opened the largest medical complex in Kirinyaga County elevating Kerugoya County Referral Hospital from a Level 4 to a Level 5 health facility.

The state-of-the-art Medical Complex that was opened on Tuesday takes the county’s medical care a notch higher by offering a full spectrum of specialized services for which residents would earlier be referred to facilities outside the county.

The President who was accompanied by his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua congratulated Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru for implementing a project that he termed as iconic and one that has demonstrated that healthcare is better delivered by county governments.

“The healthcare function will and has been better managed by the county governments and if anyone needs a testimony and confirmation of the same, they should see the hospital that has been built by the County Government of Kirinyaga”, said the president.

He said that even though the project had faced a lot of opposition at the initial stages, Waiguru’s determination and bravery made it possible to get it accomplished. “A good thing cannot be seen at once but you need a long term vision to accomplish it”. He noted.

At the same time, President Ruto assured Kenyans that the national

government has no interest in taking over the health function from counties. He said that it will instead support the county governments to deliver quality and affordable healthcare to the people. “We have a comprehensive plan on how better to address issues surrounding the welfare of medics and we want to have a seamless intergovernmental working relationship that will enable us implement various reforms in the health sector”. Ruto said.

Some of the areas in which the president said the two levels of government will collaborate include equipping of hospitals, formulation of policy and financing framework involving the Facility Improvement Fund and capacity building and remuneration of Community Health Promoters.

He also said that they will form an advisory council that will deal with matters of counties’ medical workers.

Governor Waiguru said that the hospital project that has been fully funded by the County Government was part of fulfilling the county’s development blueprint-The Mountain Cities 2032 which designates Kirinyaga Central constituency as the Wellness City.

She added that it was the culmination of her administration’s effort to improve accessibility and affordability to quality healthcare services to

residents of Kirinyaga County.

Some the services offered at the 341 bed capacity hospital include specialist consultancy in pediatrics, ENT, oncology, dermatology, orthopedics, medical outpatient clinic, surgical outpatient, neuro-pediatric clinic, obstetrics and gynecology. The hospital also has a 12 bed ICU and a 12 HDU and has all its beds fitted with oxygen.

After touring the hospital, the president promised to support governor Waiguru by deploying five critical care nurses to work at the new Intensive Care Unit and also help in additional equipment.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on his part said that governor Waiguru had not let down the people of Kirinyaga and has lived to her promise of transforming the county. “She does many things but the hospital will be a lasting legacy in her leadership in Kirinyaga County”. Said the DP.

Governor Waiguru said that the accomplishment of the project is a demonstration that devolution works and if adequately supported, counties will be able to provide affordable and accessible healthcare to the citizens.

“As the Chairperson of the Council of Governors, I can assure you that the devolution of healthcare services has had a significant impact. For the last ten years, County Governments

have invested heavily in healthcare service delivery, human resource development, equipment of health facilities as well as health infrastructure development. Consequently, over 90% of Kenyan population currently live within five kilometers or one-hour travel time to a health facility”, she said.

Waiguru thanked the national government for support in terms of technical advice noting that the intergovernmental approach had contributed to the overall delivery of high-quality healthcare facility. She also thanked the project implementation team that included the county departments of public works, health and finance.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Dr. Nakumicha Wafula, said that she was very proud of Governor Waiguru not just because she is a woman but because she has demonstrated that women can work. “My sister Anne, I salute you”, she said.

She added that the hospital had been assessed and had met all the requirements for elevation to a level five facility. A Level Five Certificate was issued to Governor Waiguru.

Dr. Nakumicha observed that many health projects are started but they stall after sometime but the Kirinyaga one had been completed and well equipped to serve the public.

Other leaders present at the function hailed the governor for successfully implementing a project of such a magnitude. “I have not seen a leader who works as hard as Waiguru. She is visionary, resilient, determined and focused” Said Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja, noting that even Nairobi County doesn’t have a public health facility with such high standards.

His sentiments were echoed by Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki who is also the Chair of the Health Committee at the Council of Governors (COG). “We came to Kirinyaga today to witness that devolution works”, he said pointing out that Waiguru’s leadership capability is what made governors elect her to lead the COG.

Ndia and Kirinyaga Central Members of Parliament George Kariuki and Gachoki Gitari respectively congratulated the governor for the hospital project saying that county residents will now stop being medical tourists to other counties.

The function was also attended by Members of the County Assembly and thousands of Kirinyaga residents.

Mysterious Efficacy To Persistent Prayer Pt 1



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

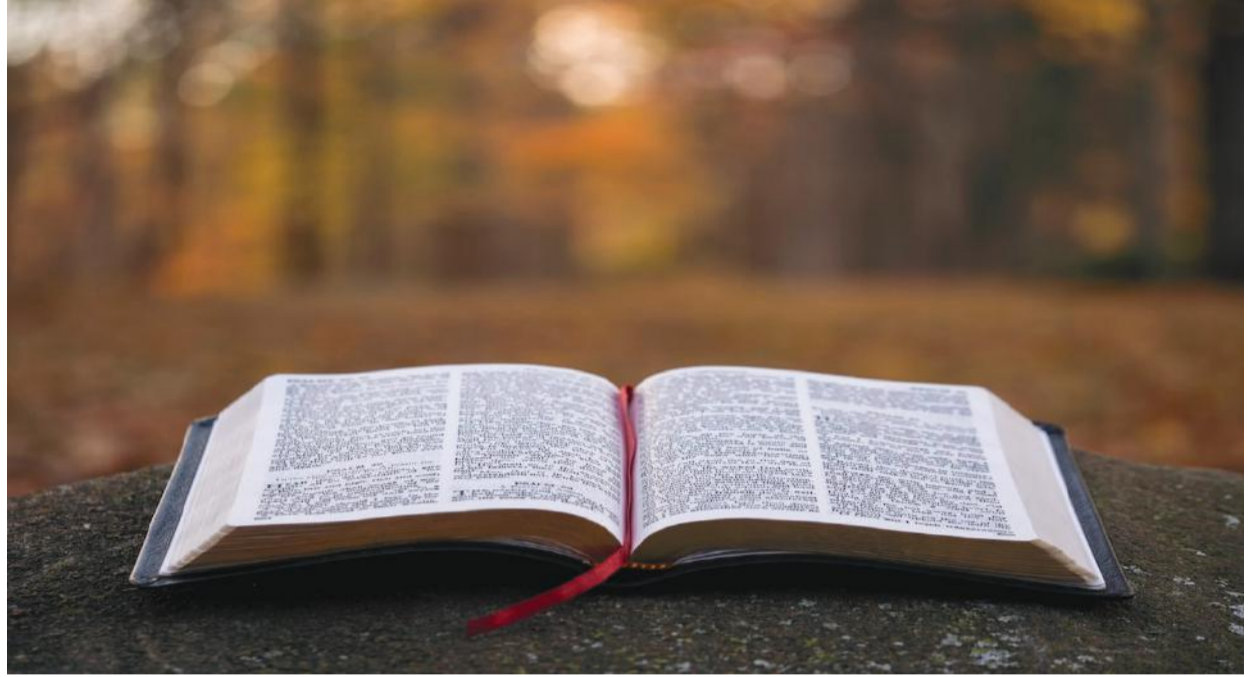
The fourth aspect of effective prayer is persistence — “With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying . . .” Exodus 17 describes aged Moses standing atop a hill, arms lifted up to Heaven, interceding for Israel, which was engaged in a pitched battle with the Amalekites below. As long as his arms were extended upward, Israel prevailed, but when in weariness they began to fall, the Amalekites dominated. Poor Moses was in agony as gravity drew his hands toward destruction.

But then came Aaron and Hur, who placed a stone under Moses and, standing on either side, held his hands up to God until sunset and victory came (vv. 10-13). That sto-

graphically emphasizes that there is a mysterious efficacy to persistent prayer. This is not to suggest that God regards prayer as a meritorious work — so that when there are enough prayers, He answers. Rather, He sovereignly chooses to encourage persistence in prayer and to answer it to His everlasting glory.

In one of His prayer parables, the Lord dramatized what He wants from all believers: Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’” (Luke 18:1-5).

HALELUJAH, GOD ENABLE US INDEED.



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

Evangelist Eric Musa:
(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2

Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

African States Asked Seek Affordable Housing Partnerships

By: Hamdi Mohamud
@themtkenyatimes

Pan-African Housing Development Financier, Shelter Afrique has urged African governments to prioritize partnerships in their quest to provide affordable housing to their citizens.

According to the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique, Thierno-Habib Hann, housing occupies a central position within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Hann firmly believes that the establishment of sustainable partnerships assumes paramount importance in affecting substantial and meaningful advancements in the sphere of affordable housing provision.

“Adequate housing is one of the key components of the Sustainable Development Goals, and achieving housing goals will require collaborative efforts and forging fruitful partnerships among key players in the housing sector,” he said.

Research by Shelter Afrique’s Cen-

tre of Excellence (CoE) has revealed that the overall shortage of housing in Africa is estimated at over 56 million housing units, out of which, more than 90 percent are in the affordable housing bracket.

“The solution to resolving this shortage lies in a well-coordinated and collaborative effort among all stakeholders, including governments, multilateral institutions, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. Collectively, we maintain our commitment to inventive strategies in tackling housing needs,” Hann said.

The MD spoke on the sidelines of the United Nations Habitat Assembly held last week in Nairobi, Kenya, where he also held talks with the Uganda delegation led by the Minister of State, Housing Namuganza Persis Princess, to establish a solid foundation for partnership.

He also held bilateral talks with the Niger delegation led by Maizoumbou Laoual Amadou, Niger’s Minister for Town Planning and Housing, regarding future cooperation on sustainable urban development.

Hann also joined forces with the Zimbabwe delegation, led by Daniel



Shelter Afrique MD Thierno Habib Hann with Uganda’s Housing Minister Namuganza Persis.

Garwe, Minister for National Housing and Social Amenities, to discuss collaborative opportunities with the delegates at the event.

As the governance body of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Habitat Assembly is the

highest global decision-making body on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, which convenes every four years.

“The thematic debates and discussions during the Assembly, which included universal access to affordable housing, urban climate action,

urban crisis recovery, localization of the SDGs, and prosperity and local finance, are aligned with our overall strategy as an organization,” Hann concluded.

Ruto's Critics Claims That He Is Pushing The Finance Bill 2023 Down The Throats Of MPs Did Not Hold Any Water



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- Regarding the national housing levy, reports indicated the deductions had been reduced from 3 per cent to 1.5 percent. The tax slapped on social media content creators had been slashed from 15 percent to 5 percent.
- Here, I'm sure many would agree with me. This could not have happened if the President was using strong arm tactics.
- The chairman of the committee Kimani Kuria, who is a Member of Parliament for Molo constituency, was speaking openly.
- Parliament is one of the three arms of the government. So the house is not appendage of the Executive. As people's representatives, we have a duty to listen to our citizens.

Opposition outfit Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition Party leader Raila Odinga and his brigade are currently capitalizing on the Finance Bill 2023 to advance their political agenda of casting President William Ruto as a 'dictator' hell-bent on forcing things to go his way.

The Finance Bill, they would allege, was being opposed by many Kenyans but the President was determined to push it down the throats of the members of parliament.

I disagree. Regarding the question of whether this Bill enjoyed the support of the majority of Kenyans, my question to Azimio is. How did you arrive at the verdict?

I have never heard referring to the outcomes of any scientific opinion polls conducted.

Yes, I agree that a number of groupings which had presented their views and memoranda to the relevant committees of parliament had made two key recommendations.

One, the Bill should not be passed in its current form. They gave a raft of proposals on areas that should be amended.

The Azimio functionaries, on the other hand, would take a radical position calling for a total rejection of the Bill.

After receiving the public views, the National Assembly's Finance and National Planning Committee retreated to Naivasha to review the Bill.

The leadership of committee later announced. We have taken into consideration the views of the people.

We have factored them. We now have a new version of the Bill which we shall table in Parliament.

Let me give example of the two key amendments introduced.

Regarding the national housing levy, reports indicated the deductions had been reduced from 3 per cent to 1.5 percent. The tax slapped on social media content creators had been slashed from 15 percent to 5 percent.

Here, I'm sure many would agree with me. This could not have happened if the President was using strong arm tactics.

The chairman of the committee Kimani Kuria, who is a Member of Parliament for Molo constituency, was speaking openly.

Parliament is one of the three arms of the government. So the house is not appendage of the Executive.

As people's representatives, we have a duty to listen to our citizens.

They have spoken with us. We have



President William Ruto.

considered their views.

As for the president, one thing remained clear. Of course, his wish was to see this Bill sail through.

But while noting he is not an MP and hence he is not eligible to vote for it, he knew he had only one option: to engage the MPs and lobby them to pass the Bill.

Contrary to the impression created by his critics, I want to say this.

At no time the President resorted to using blackmail and intimidation. He has instead been using persuasive language to reach out to MPs.

He is however on record saying this. I'm waiting to see the MPs who will not support and vote in favor of this Bill. This is because it is mainly designed to create jobs for millions of jobless 'hustlers'.

In the Affordable Housing Plan, one million jobs would be created every year.

The head of state posed. If you reject it, how do you think the hustlers of this Nation will feel? They will interpret this as a big betrayal.

So next time, do you expect them to elect you?

This is not pushing the Bill down the throat. It is part of the card used

in the lobbying strategy.

To me, I would have expected Raila Odinga to be the last person to fault Dr Ruto.

This is because former President Uhuru Kenyatta and himself were using a similar strategy during the reign of the 'handshake' government.

I remember the duo used to first invite and meet their troops at separate meetings.

This cleared the way for a joint parliamentary group meeting. The duo always took this opportunity to lobby them to support and vote in favor of the Bills or motions they had interest in.

With due respect to Raila, let me say this. Today, he curves a niche of being holier-than-thou.

This Finance Bill is punitive and oppressive; he would tell his troops and rally them to reject it in totality.

In last year's poll, we know that Raila contested the presidency for the fifth time. He however lost the election to Dr Ruto. He is yet to accept this bitter reality and move on.

Putting this aside, I want to ask him this question. If you could have won and become the President, how did

you expect to run the government?

Just like Dr Ruto, you had made a raft of promises. In the implementation plan, there was no short-cut or miracle you would have performed.

The answer lied in raising monies through taxation.

President Ruto is doing the same thing. So, I would not expect you to succeed in inciting Kenyans to go back to the streets.

The truth of the matter is that Ruto inherited a dilapidated economy.

He also assumed office at a time when the country was being confronted by four other main challenges: Drought/famine (rated as the worst in 40 years), Russia-Ukraine war, hefty foreign debts and at a time when the country was recovering from the devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

With this, I'm happy to note Kenyans are heeding the President's call to give him time to rebuild the economy.

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

We Live In A Materialist World

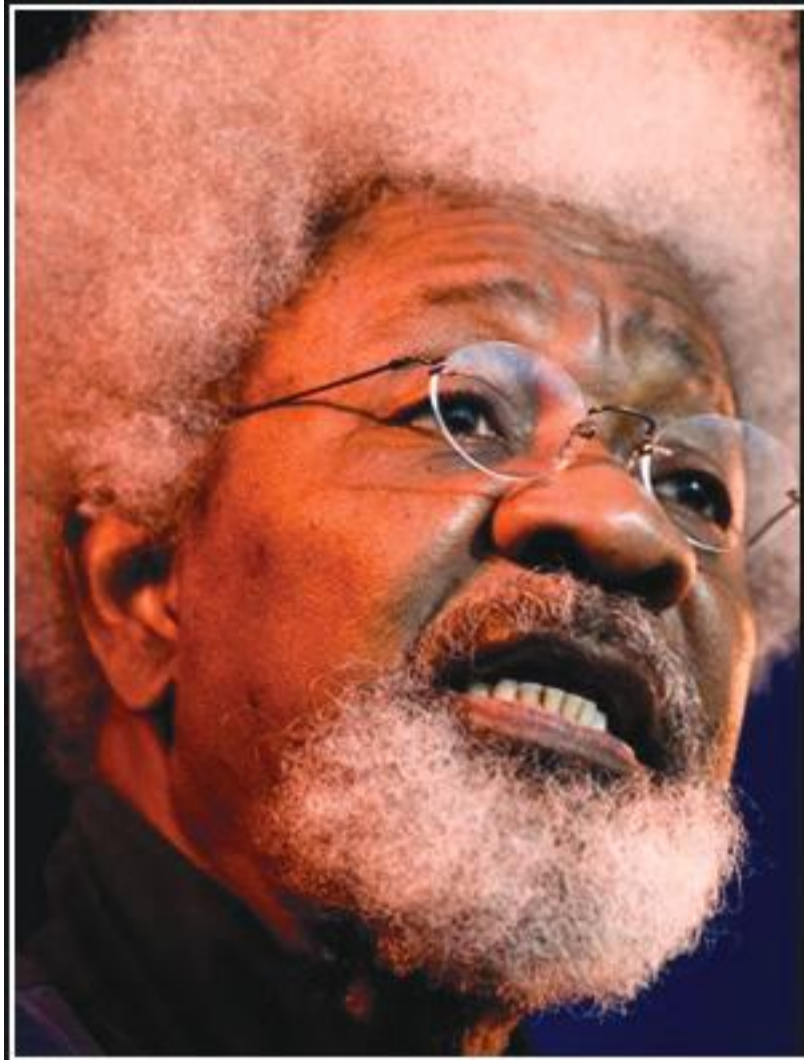
By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- If the visitor is driving a luxurious car they will think he is looking for people to work for him so they will tend to be friendly blind to the fact that if he target those living in low status estates his target salary is relatively low compared to higher end estate dwelling people.
- While attending an interview a candidate try to be in their best clothing for the occasion where possible most expensive so that any materialistic interviewee may see the upper hand in a certain candidate aware that he is a man of means as portrayed by the value of his dressing.



We live in a materialist world, and materialism appeals so strongly to humanity, no matter where.

— Wole Soyinka —

We live in a materialist world, and materialism appeals so strongly to humanity, no matter where.
..... Wole Soyinka

Those who live in highly organized societies will tend to judge their people with the impact of their actions more than the physical looks. They are aware that the filthy rich do not need to showcase their wealth to be respected or feared. They have confidence in themselves hence no need for justification from the external parties. They will try to offer solutions to issues in an amicable way rather than promote fear to get their way in a challenging issue at expense of the less privileged. To them every challenge is an opportunity to make changes that will better mankind.

In a dysfunctional society fear and intimidation are the order of the day. The physically strong will be used to scare the rest as their sponsored get a field day in any issue that encourages competition of resources. The means towards achieving your mighty will not be questioned rather the terror you are capable of causing will make you famous.

New entrants in the zone will be seen as vulnerable and the senior operatives will short change them no matter how better of the new comers may seem that is why a visitor in a slum is likely to have his possessions stolen by the locals even if he is physically stronger than them they will use crude weapons and threaten to harm him instead of being happy with him as a visitor and giving him a warm welcome.

However if the visitor is driving a luxurious car they will think he is looking for people to work for him so they will tend to be friendly blind to the fact that if he target those living in low status estates his target salary is relatively low compared to higher end estate dwelling people.

While attending an interview a candidate try to be in their best clothing for the occasion where possible most expensive so that any materialistic interviewee may see the upper hand in a certain candidate aware that he is a man of means as portrayed by the value of his dressing.

The dressing when seemingly worth a lot will make all those he

meets along the way as he heads towards the interview panel to respect him suspecting that he will be in the management team of the company hence they will be under him. The external observers will also think that where he lives he has posh life as he seems to be a man of means. Few will care of his school of thought as an idiot may prefer to be in neat suit to hoodwink those he interact with.

Unkempt hair will tend to show you in negative unless you are a well-known public figure no matter all the other positive attributes you may have. What is visible to people is judged to be a reflection of what is within you but this is not always the case.

A nicely dressed con will wreck a lot of havoc in the society as many will not be suspicious of him as they apply face value in judging people. He will be notified of highly sensitive issues as he will be thought to be at risk from the perceived enemies of the society.

An adage goes that as the forest continued to shrink the trees kept voting for the axe claiming that its

handle belongs to one of them. This means that despite the metal head of axe being used to cut down the trees the trees continued to associate with it just because its handle is wooden forgetting that whenever the axe is at work the lives of its members are at stake. To them metal being of higher value than wood is something to make the wish to be associate with the axe. That is how materialistic the trees can be.

A promiscuous wealth person will tend to attract many people who are aware of his or her wayward lifestyle simply because they will think that they can benefit from his or her possessions ignoring the dangers that are associated with such relationships as it will be difficult to deal with the boss when things go haywire as well as failure to question the cause of the heightened irresponsibility of that well moneyed individual.

First Urban Conference Kicks Off In Nakuru City

By: Esther Mwangi and Merceline Khaemba

@themkenyatimes

environment, urban governance and management, and the land question.

Speaking in Nakuru during a press briefing after inspecting the venue's conference at the Lake Naivasha resort, Njeru observed that both the United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) recognize that African towns and cities will host more people than the continent's rural areas in the next two decades, bringing into sharp focus the level of preparedness of the urban centres to provide for the large populations.

"These populations will need food, shelter, security, healthy environments to live in, an efficient transportation system, reliable, cost-effective, and clean energy, social amenities, and employment opportunities," observed the Cabinet Secretary.

Njeru, who was flanked by Nakuru County Executive Committee Member in Charge of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development John Kihagi, said the forthcoming summit is an important opportunity for county and national government leaders and policymakers to reflect on Kenya's prepared-

ness to meet the challenge of rapid urbanization.

The Kenya Urban Forum Conference will be held from today and Friday.

The development comes at a time when Nakuru is witnessing major infrastructural and economic transformations as Governor Susan Kihika continues with her county reform agenda.

Over 5,000 delegates have confirmed that they will attend, with organizers of the conference indicating that though the event will be in person, they will also consider a hybrid format for virtual attendees to discuss substantive matters that will arise.

Njeru indicated that the conference, organized with support from the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the World Bank, aims at promoting urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities and reducing inequality, discrimination, and poverty.

The Cabinet Secretary stated that the event will present a forum for policymakers, various professionals, and political leaders to measure Kenya's progress towards the UN 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda

2063, which call for urgent reflections on sustainable urbanization in Africa.

"The Kenya's Urban Forum Conference reflects the shift in Kenya to devolve services and developmental focus away from capital cities. We expect high-level leadership dialogues that speak to the strengthening of sustainable development in urban areas because, by getting it right, urbanization offers a chance to bring about socio-economic benefits that can spur development, eradicate poverty, and protect the environment," the CS said.

Also present were Chief Officer Urban Development and Housing Kamau Kuria, his Tourism counterpart Ms Rosemary Kimani, City Manager Mr Gitau Thabanja and Chief Officer Disaster Management Ms Joyce Ncece.

Speaking separately, Governor Kihika said the county was also keen to tap into investments by the national government to attract investors.

"We will use the conference to showcase Nakuru as an investment destination of choice," stated Ms Kihika.

She indicated that the focus should be on building water systems, waste management initiatives, transportation, power suppliers, and efficient service delivery

"As Kenya's population rises, we need to develop modern, sustainable cities to accommodate everyone. We need a modern, intelligent urban design that generates secure, affordable, and resilient communities with green and culturally inspiring living conditions for us to survive and prosper," added Ms Kihika.

Secretary of Urban and Metropolitan Development, State Department for Housing and Urban Development Engineer Benjamin Njenga, who is heading the Secretariat preparing for the conference, noted that Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) is all about making cities and human settlements more inclusive and self-sufficient.

It is projected that 68 per cent of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2050. Cities are now overwhelmed with people, pollution, and poverty, leading to a decrease in the quality of life.

Engineer Njenga observed that there has never been a time when Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) has been more necessary than today.

He stated "Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

He explained that the National Ur-

ban Development Policy envisions secure, well governed, competitive, and sustainable urban areas that contribute to the broader national development goals.

Engineer Njenga added that urban managers should advocate good governance structures, social inclusion, spatial development, urban prosperity, and environmentally sustainable cities. He added that they need to ensure cities and towns are safe, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient, and they should move from planning theory to policy implementation.

Kenya's Urban Forum Conference is modelled on the World Urban Forum (WUF), which is the world's largest urban development event, the first of which was launched under the UN Human Settlements Program in 2001 to discuss ways to address the challenges of accelerated urbanization and its impact on communities' cities, economies, climate change, and policies.

The WUF Forum is held every two years with the participation of representatives of states, the private sector, regional and international financial institutions, and civil society. Egypt has announced that it will host the 12th World Urban Forum in 2024.

Dedan Kimathi Family & Mau Mau War Veterans Supports Exhumation

By: John Kariuki

@themkenyatimes

The Family of the Late Freedom fighter Dedan Kimathi says it's ready to support efforts to exhume the remains of the freedom icon and eventually accord him a decent burial.

In a statement the family said, "We the family of the late Mau Mau Freedom Hero Field Marshall Dedan Kimathi Waciuri and the entire Mau Mau Veterans fraternity would like to express our gratitude to President H.E. Dr. William Ruto and Deputy President H.E Rigathi Gachagua for their continued commitment to ensuring that the remains of our liberation icon are looked for, exhumed and given a decent sendoff.

The assurance by DP Gachagua on Friday last week that they are willing

and ready to work with the family and all Mau Mau veterans to ensure the process is successful is not just very welcome but also very encouraging.

In tandem with DP Gachagua's commitment, we would like to register our unwavering dedication and support to the exercise and assure the DP and the entire country that, we are willing and ready to offer any necessary support as may be required to ensure Kimathi, the man who paid to the ultimate price for the freedom of our Republic, is given a decent a sendoff.

Just before her demise, Mama Mukami Kimathi said that Kimathi remains getting buried next to her was her dying wish and we are humbled by the concerted efforts across board to ensure this wish is fulfilled.

Let's walk this historic journey together."



Dedan Kimathi.

The truth



A mother is a mother. He does not need another quality. (O'tkir Hashimov "World affairs")

August 29, 2022...

The last days of summer. Hot days are over. One season was ready to give way to another season.

Having graduated from school, achieved my dream, and been admitted to a higher educational institution, I fly in the seventh heaven, hoping that I will be a special person in the coming season, that is, I will be a student. I grew up in a simple village, among simple people. This event that I remember now is what I witnessed with my own eyes.

The names in it have changed. Maybe people too. But it did not affect me. I know there are many stories, fairy tales, songs, poems about mothers. Among these, I would like to add the fate of a poor mother who I witnessed. I know that I am powerless to reprimand someone for something. However, through this story, I would like to remind you that we need to understand the truth more deeply.

It was August 29 ... I was returning home after celebrating with my friends because of

my admission. There are a lot of cars and people on the street. I could not understand what happened. A little while ago, when I was returning from a party, I fell into a different state after seeing this situation. I could hear the whispers of people passing by me on the street: "Yes, the poor man was ill for a long time, it was difficult for his son. Such words.

I felt like I understood. Aunt Farida ... Aunt Farida is dead. Aunt Farida is our neighbor, she has one son and one daughter. Her children divorced her husband when they were small. I am also the richest person in the world.

I don't say that I am satisfied with life and my fate, I am living a very good life. Therefore, this cannot be expected even from a poor and helpless person. But my aunt Farida was really struggling to make a living. As soon as her daughter graduated from school, she worked from morning to night in order to help her mother. It is not for nothing that they say that the role of the father in the upbringing of a boy is great. Farida's aunt's son may have lacked this upbringing. True, he also helped his family and his mother, but for some reason he did not act himself until he said that his mother was suffering and that he should act for the sake of the family.

One day my mother was baking bread in the oven. I was always busy with tasks. Aunt Farida came to our place. While they were talking with my mother for a while, my mother went to the oven again, to my aunt Farida's house. At that time, my mother said that she will stay with you today. It has been a year and a half since the wedding of my aunt Farida's daughter Sevinch.

He came out to say that his son is staying at our house because he is alone at home today for some reason. That day remained with us. He could not sleep well at night because it was a strange house. Whether my brother or mother noticed it, I felt it very well. Sahar got up in the morning to pray the morning prayer.

We all read. But he said that he will go home without having breakfast. The medicine he used to drink before breakfast was left at home. One day he went in without agreeing to do nothing. Aunt Farida's house is almost not finished, even so, it took a lot of work to get to its current state.

That is, my aunt Farida picked cotton and carrots in autumn. In the spring, he took out the cotton crop. So, in every season, seasonal jobs were found for him. My mother said that they restored these houses with the help of my aunt Farida's father, and then they did a lot of work themselves. Of course, his children were young at that time. In 2020, when the coronavirus spread all over the world, my aunt Farida became seriously ill.

His daughter is married. His son was in Russia. He spent a lot of time in the hospital. He left the hospital, but the effect of his patients did not go away. They were in the process of renovating their house beautifully to marry their son. It was summer. It was the end of summer.

Aunt Farida was affected by that illness, difficult times of fate, the end of many misfortunes, literally speaking. Maybe there are many things that happened in the fate of this mother that I did not know. But the difficulty of the past tense of these simply written words, which I have listed, is actually great.

What was the saddest thing... After the death of my aunt Farida, she sold her son's houses, the house where she was born and grew up, where she spent her childhood, where her mother and grandfather worked hard, and married a woman in the city. He moved to the country. He did not stay in that house because of his mother's respect.

Sorry... It really hurt me. Because it was not just a house, but also a memory. One day my married sister came to our house. When they come, there will be a holiday in our house. When my sister was talking to my mother, I overheard: "I saw my aunt Farida in my dream last night. They were looking at me and saying: Iftar is being served in heaven, I am going there." They were like happy people.

Mother's love is real, not everyone understands it.

Boqjonova Madinabonu. Born in 2004 in Koshtepa district of Fergana region. Currently, he is a 1st-year student of the Faculty of Philology of Fergana State University, majoring in Russian language and literature.

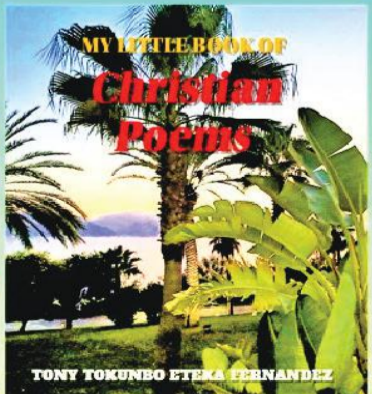
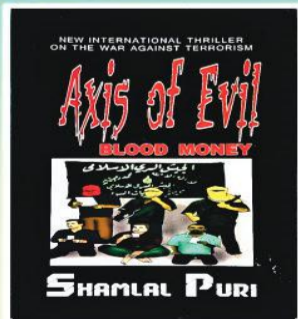
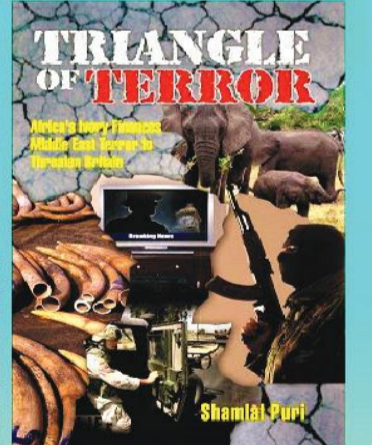
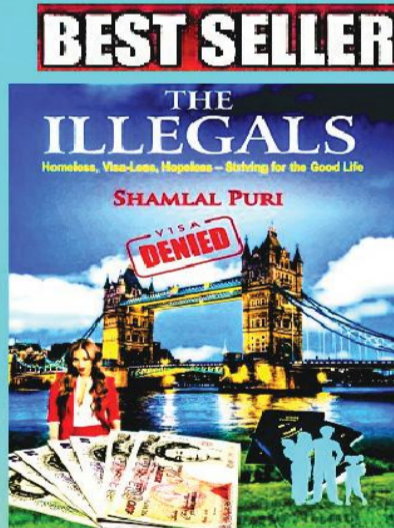
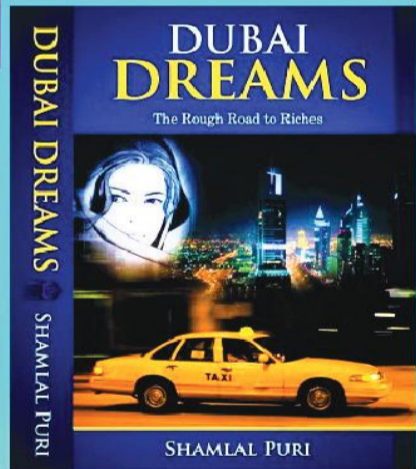
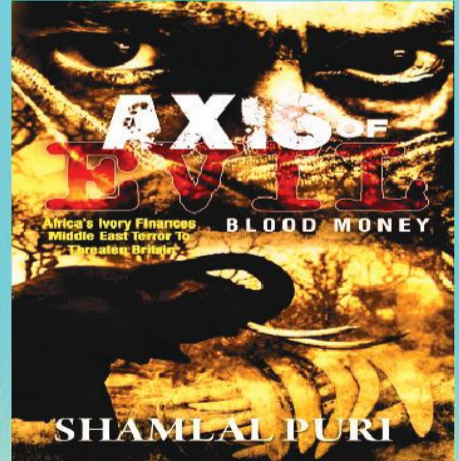
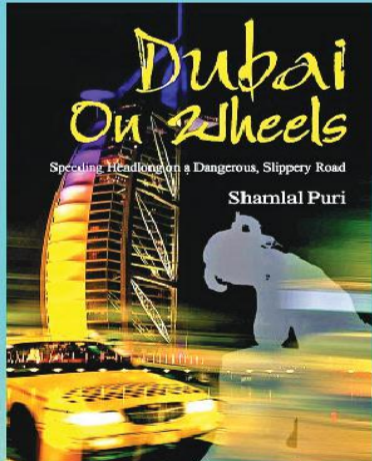
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BUDGET: Ksh 268B Lined Up For Bottom-Up Value Chains

By: KBC Digital

The government plans to spend Ksh 268 billion in the FY2023/24 budget on value chains that will support delivery of Bottom-Up Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The budgetary allocation will target five key pillars under, agricultural transformation, Micro and Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), housing, healthcare as well as the digital superhighway and creative industry.

In the FY2023/24 budget estimates, agriculture has been earmarked Ksh 64.6 billion out of which Ksh 3.2 billion will be used for the agricultural and rural inclusive growth project.

Ksh 8.3 billion will be used to develop and strengthen the value chain in the sector while Ksh 517 million will be used to mitigate climate change.

Northern Kenya will receive Ksh

765 million to cushion them against drought and an additional Ksh 344 million for commercialization of the livestock project.

To combat against pests, Ksh 2.3 billion has been set aside for the emergency locust response.

According to parliament Ksh 250 billion is needed to actualize the affordable housing project.

Ksh 200 billion of the amount is to be sourced from the pension funds and assets under management while Ksh 50 billion will be sourced from budgetary allocations.

The housing development and human settlement pillar has been earmarked Ksh 16.2 billion with urban and metropolitan development allocations amounting to Ksh 13.2 billion.

To increase medical access, the department for medical services has been earmarked 116.6 billion shillings with Ksh 63.5 billion of the amount channeled towards referral and specialized services.

Public health is expected to receive



President William Ruto greets the people of Embu/State House

Ksh 24.6 billion while Ksh 5.9 billion has been proposed for the leasing of medical equipment and Ksh 577.5 million for the primary health in devolved units.

To prop up startups, the state de-

partment for MSMEs has been earmarked Ksh 13.1 billion of which Ksh 10.8 billion will be used for digitization and financial inclusion for small businesses.

Ksh 20 billion has been earmarked

to support the creatives industry of which Ksh 15.9 billion will go towards ICT infrastructure development.

Tabitha Karanja Resigns As Keroche CEO, Potus Anaya Takes Over

By: Antony Gitonga

Tabitha Karanja has stepped down from the role of Keroche Breweries chief executive to concentrate as the Senate of Nakuru County and as the Deputy Majority leader.

Senator Karanja who been at the helm of the brewer for twenty five years overseeing the company's rise to the second largest brewery in the country handed over the reins to Potus Anaya who until his appointment was the Chief Finance Officer.

Karanja broke down as she narrated the wrong and painful journey the company had undergone from state agencies, unfair competition from their competitors to losing her daughter.

This came as she announced that Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) had agreed to withdraw the protracted Ksh 1.1 billion tax case with a view of settling it out of court.

Speaking in Naivasha after handing over the seat, Karanja attributed the company woes to political war insti-

gated by KRA and the competitors.

"All the tax wars were politically instigated and we are working on an alternative dispute resolution with KRA on this case that has dragged on in court for years," she said.

She lauded the Kenya Kwanza government for the support given and allowing manufacturers a free hand to operate unlike the previous regime.

"We lost three years to Covid-19 and the closure by KRA but despite all this, we are fully back in production and in the market ready to recapture our share," she said.

The Senator identified her arrest and incarceration two years ago as the lowest moment in her life adding that this had made her stronger.

"Becoming the second-largest brewery in Kenya and the largest owned by Kenyans is a testament to your skills and commitment," she said.

She said that despite all her tribulations, the company had managed to produce 17 brands in their state-of-the-art 21st-century technology brewery.

"The majority of the challenges that once hindered us have now been overcome and we must acknowledge



Keroche Breweries CEO Tabitha Karanja. PHOTO | Courtesy.

the harsh truth of time lost and opportunities missed," she said.

The company chairman Joseph Karanja thanked his wife, the workers, distributors and their customers for standing with them despite attacks from various quarters.

"Many deserted us but we are grateful for those who believed in Ker-

oche during the hard and thick times that saw us close down on several occasions," he said.

The incoming CEO said that he was keen to take the company to the next level as they had the expertise, capacity and machinery to do that.

"We have undergone a lot of challenges which have made us stronger

and we are keen on innovation and quality," said Anaya.

The Naivasha-based brewer Production Manager Nicholas Kipchirchir said that they were now fully in production as he thanked their customers for standing with them.

Partners

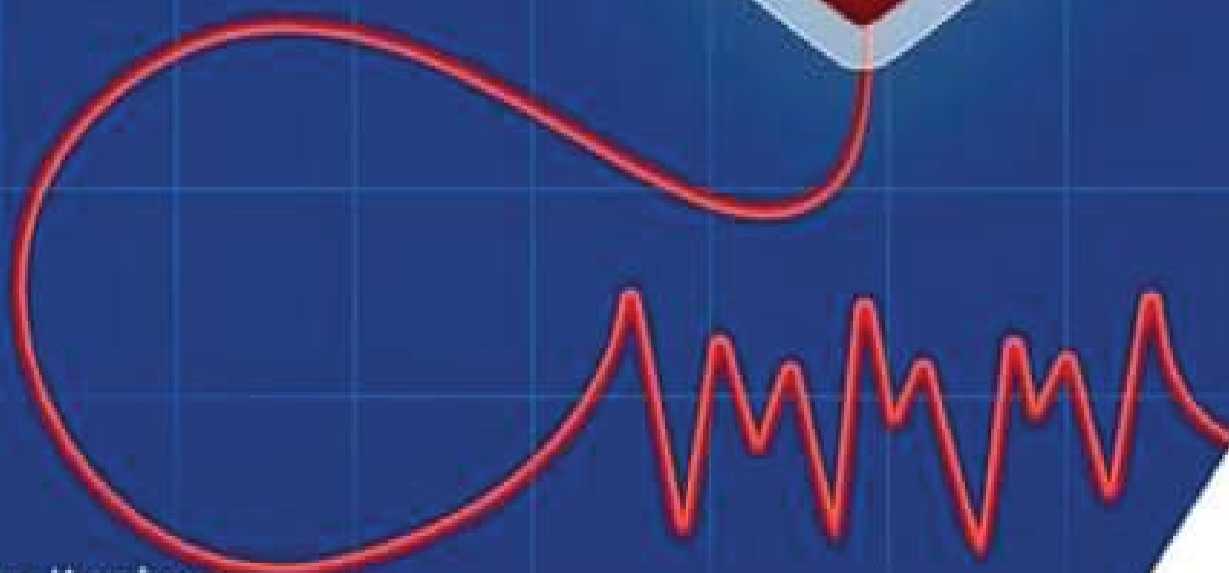


GIVE A PINT, SAVE A LIFE

Date: 14th June

Time: 9am - 5pm

Venue: Apollo Centre,
Westlands



APA, Insuring Happiness



GENERAL • LIFE • HEALTH

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology Establishes A Blue Economy Research Hub

By: Our Reporter
 @themkenyatimes



Some of the researchers behind the Hub.

Worth Noting:

- Sitting on a 70-acre Lake Victoria water front land about 20 kilometers from JOOUST's main campus in Bondo town, the ultra-modern blue economy research hub aims to attract both local and international researchers whose findings are expected to unlock potential in the blue economy not only in Kenya but also in the region.
- The Blue Economy Research Hub, which was officially commissioned by President William Ruto in January this year, has been entirely funded by the government to a tune of Sh580 million.
- The 45 bed capacity research hub is set to open doors for its first researchers in September this year, with the institution's vice chancellor, professor Stephen Agong, describing the facility as a 'serene environment for high-level thinking'.

The first National Maritime Conference held in 2015 revealed the full potential of the blue economy sector in the country, with the Kenya Maritime Authority estimating the annual output in the Kenyan part of the Indian Ocean alone at Sh440 billion. Following the maiden conference, the government, through its economic revival agenda, which had food security and employment creation among its priorities, took deliberate steps to awaken "the sleeping giant" with a view to unlocking untapped potentials in the fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, logistic services, culture, and tourism sectors, as well as the extraction of oil, gas, and energy.

Although touted by economists and industry players as the next economic growth frontier, the blue economy sector, in a country that has ocean resources spread over 245 square kilometers, has failed to live up to its billing.

Lack of trained personnel and sound policies by the government for the sector, have been blamed for the slow progress not only in Kenya but in the East African region, as established by the Inter-government Standing Committee on Shipping, a stakeholder forum held in October 2021 that called for reforms in the sector.

It is against this backdrop that the government has invested heavily, not only in establishing maritime

education and training to solve the skills gap but also in the establishment of cutting-edge research institutions like the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) Blue Economy Research Hub to help inform policy formulation in the blue economy sector.

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"Ninety-seven per cent of the project is already done, and the contractors are working to complete the installation of biodigesters, power, and water as the plan was to recycle all the water and waste from the facility," Agong explained.

He disclosed that they are awaiting additional funds from the government to furnish the research hub, adding that they also expect additional funding that would come with specific laboratory equipment for the various research studies that will be undertaken.

The use of the ultra-modern blue economy research hub is expected to cost researchers a minimum of 300 USD per month for the use of the research area and an additional 50 USD per day for accommodation in the lavish rooms equipped with internet connectivity and having access to other recreational amenities like the swimming pool.

"Let nobody cheat you that would be expensive; researchers who want to achieve a particular goal will pay the amount to use the facility. They are able to use the one-bedroom apartments or two-bedroom apartments if they wish to stay with their families for the duration of their research," stated the university don.

Prof. Agong' described the setting up of the blue economy research hub as the biggest milestone achieved by JOOUST since it was given a charter a decade ago.

Prof. Agong disclosed that the conceptualization of the facility was motivated by the fact that the university sits next to the second-largest freshwater lake that millions of people from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and

even Egypt depend on as a source of livelihood and social economic development.

"In anticipation on how best the university could impact the lives of millions who depend on the lake, we thought of the hub as a way to provide solutions to myriad problems that face people whose lives depend on the lake and also harness opportunities that come with the lake for purposes of economic development," revealed the professor.

Agong said that the institution's blue economy agenda does not target Lake Victoria alone but also other water bodies like rivers and even the Indian Ocean, whose potentials are yet to be fully exploited for the benefit of the country's economic growth.

"Our agenda on the blue economy does not end in Lake Victoria but it cuts across rivers and even the Indian Ocean, where researchers will conduct their studies and help the government come up with sound marine policies," he explained.

The vice chancellor pointed out that the outcome of various research projects conducted in the hub is expected to inform policies on climate change, food security, waterborne diseases, access to safe drinking water, and advising the government on geo-political issues related to the use of water bodies bordering neighboring countries.

"Because of frequent floods occasioned by climate change, we will explore research on the use of floating structures for housing people in flood-prone areas so that people's lives are not disrupted during floods," he said.

"To enhance food security, the ongoing research on the major utilization of lake flies as a source of protein by the university will be advanced to address the dwindling fish population in Kenyan waters," he added.

Besides policy-related benefits, the research hub will create an opportunity to explore the use of the lake for recreation purposes with a focus on the interests of the youth, as well as the use of the lake for transportation and as a haven for peace in the region.

"The blue economy research hub has already attracted partnerships globally," Prof. Agong revealed.

"We are already in partnership with the Virginia Tech University in the

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology Establishes A Blue Economy Research Hub

Contd from Page 18.

US and Nordic countries, who are keen on marine research, as well as a professor from the University of Oklahoma who has done a lot of work and has vast experience in the blue economy space,” he said.

Agong’, on the other hand, called on local researchers and philanthropists to come on board and work closely with the university through the research hub, to see how extinct fish species can be re-introduced in Lake Victoria and to come up with a framework on how the freshwater lake can be used sustainably.

“China and India, just like the Nordic countries like Norway, are well

advanced in the area of the blue economy because of research. Kenya has to follow suit and learn from the developed countries that have reaped big in the blue economy sector,” Agong said.

The ongoing research projects, like the World Bank-funded Insefoods and Fingerling Production Research being undertaken at the university main campus, are among those that are likely to be scaled up following the establishment of the Blue Economy Research Hub campus.

According to a professor of fisheries and aquatic sciences at JOOUST, Mr Julius Manyala, the university has a fish hatchery that specializes in the production of Tilapia fingerlings.

Prof. Manyala says that the hatchery has a capacity of producing 120,000 fingerlings per cycle, which

lasts two weeks.

“We also have brooders, which are males and females, which we use to produce eggs, which we put into the hatchery to produce fingerlings,” says the professor, adding that the hatchery is part of the blue economy hub in Miyandhe that seeks to promote all aspects of the blue economy.

He says that the fingerlings will be transferred to the lakeside research hub in Miyandhe to enable fishermen to access them easily.

The establishment of the hub in the sleepy Miyandhe village has already awakened life not only in the village but also in the adjacent Banga beach, with residents expressing optimism following President Ruto’s visit in January this year.

Power lines, which were previous-

ly a mirage for many in the village, dot the area, while the construction of the 29-kilometer Bondo-Nango-Uyawi-Banga road leading to the research hub is ongoing, a clear sign of better things to come.

Business on the neighboring Banga beach is coming to life, with traders from different counties trooping to the once low-key beach, according to the beach chairman, Lazarus Otieno Abong’o.

“The coming of the campus has increased our interactions with people from various places; previously, you would only get the Luo community here, but over the last few years, other communities have come, and that is to our advantage,” Abong’o said.

“The university campus has also improved business in the area and provided a ready market for our

products, which has empowered us economically,” he added.

Fredrick Nyamunge Otindo, the Miyandhe Community Development Group Coordinator, said the coming of the Blue Economy Research Hub Campus and the presidents’ visits have marketed their village to the world.

“President Ruto is the first president to have visited the area since independence, and that has inspired many from this village to take advantage of the campus to change their lives,” Nyamunge remarked.

He thanked the president for his personal donation of Sh1 million for the construction of a business complex at the beach and appealed to the university to expedite the construction of the facility for the Banga people to enjoy.

Kangema Youth Benefit From Digital Training Programme

By: Florence Kinyua

@themkenyatimes

The high levels of unemployment in the country have made the youth come up with more innovative ways to create employment for themselves and earn a living.

In this regard, the Kangema youth empowerment center, a brainchild of the area Member of Parliament Peter Kihungi, and the youth affairs office, in conjunction with DoT Kenya, have embarked on empowering the youth with ICT-related knowledge and skills, entrepreneurial knowledge, and essential life skills.

The two-month digital training program is aimed at equipping the over 40 youths from the constituency’s three wards with the skills and knowledge necessary to seize the numerous online opportunities available.

“Unemployment is a great challenge in our country today, which is why we want to equip these youths with the skills and know-how of accessing the digital world that is laden with employment opportunities,” observed Stanley Mwangi, the

Sub-county youth officer.

“By teaching them the skills, they will be able to access digital jobs, which are unlimited, and this is a sure way of curbing other menaces facing us like drugs and substance abuse, alcohol abuse, insecurity, and lawlessness,” he added.

The youth officer opined that if the youth can employ themselves and earn a livelihood, the region will reduce unemployment.

The out-of-school youth were also advised to use the digital platform with caution and desist from carrying out vices like cybercrime so as not to jeopardize their employability.

One of the youth trainees, Alvin Mwangi, 20, who could not hide his joy at the eminent opportunity for growth before him, expressed his gratitude for the program, noting that it will help him network and access digital jobs.

“This program will keep me occupied, and I plan to utilize this opportunity so that I can better my future. Considering that the government is also digitizing all its services, this program has come at a good time,” he quipped.



Youth undergoing training

Religious Extremism Should Be Criminalized, SUPKEM Tells Shakahola Committee

By: Our Correspondents

@themkenyatimes



Some of Muslim leaders who appeared before the Senate Committee.

Worth Noting:

- SUPKEM proposed that every religion should be allowed to be part of umbrella organisation whose role will be to conduct background check of every application for registration for effective regulation of the activities religious organisations.

- Each umbrella organisation should have a caucus which will act as doctrinal committee whose work will be to independently and expertly review teachings and preaching of respective religions and guide their own followers as well as advise the relevant government authorities on the appropriateness of such teachings of religious scholars whose main aim will be to determine whether the sermons delivered on places of worship are in line with the holy scriptures or a meant to mislead.

The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) has said there should be an entity in the Office of Registrar of Societies that will strictly deal with matters faith in term of registration and regulation of religious organisations.

The Council said the office as currently constituted by law is saddled with registration and regulation of many other entities, ranging from sports and welfare associations, making it impossible to monitor and mete out punishment where there is violation.

In a presentation to the Senate Ad-hoc Committee on the Proliferation of Religious Organisations, SUPKEM insisted that the state should not have space in matters that concern religion.

“Each faith should regulate itself because Kenya is a secular state and there is no state religion. It is wrong to surrender such a role to the state as it is not acquainted in matters of the other faith,” Hassan ole Naado, the SUPKEM chairman, told the committee.

The 11-member committee, which is chaired by Tana River County Senator Danson Mungatana is investigating circumstances that led to the deaths in Shakahola Forest where 265 bodies have been exhumed so far.

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of umbrella organisation whose role will be to conduct background check of every application for registration for effective regulation of the activities religious organisations.

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review teachings and preaching of respective religions and guide their own followers as well as advise the relevant government authorities on the appropriateness of such teachings of religious scholars whose main aim will be to determine whether the sermons delivered on places of worship are in line with the holy scriptures or

a meant to mislead.

“The caucus will register, conduct background checks and take note of something abnormal with the sermons,” said ole Naado, adding that there is need to have surveillance on all organisation to ensure that misleading messages do not emanate from the places of worship.

He said the caucus will also interpret the sermons and determine whether it is in line with declared doctrine.

SUPKEM declared that it had adopted a cautious approach against the Committee, expressing fear that it could be another scheme by the state to intervene in religious matters.

“There are many ways in which the state and religion are intertwined. As much as state recognizes and entertains the role of religion

SUPKEM further proposed that the state should enact a law creating religious crimes.

The crimes should target individuals who misinterpret religious doctrine for personal gain.

“We must create religious crimes in our laws to take account of those who commit crimes in the name of religion,” ole Naado argued



Senate Committee members during the session with Muslim leaders.

Kisii Orange Democratic Party Youth Call for Truce to Foster Development

By: Brinda D.
 @themtkenyatimes



Brinda. D

Worth Noting:

- Around 75 members have published their own books after joining this Creative Writers group with her guidance and support. Every year an award function is conducted to encourage budding poets and authors.
- Creative Writers publishes Bi-monthly e-magazines too. Till now 5 online poetry competitions are also conducted to encourage the participants. It runs with 5 voluntary supporting teams namely Tech team, Attendance team, Background and Topic team, Reviewer team, Certificate creating team, she is highly grateful to all the Creative Writers.
- So far, she has created more than 200 Google forms for evaluating students online. She takes classes with a lot of activities and language games making language learning lively and fun-filled. Students enjoy her classes and her way of teaching involved the play way method.

Brinda is a Graduate teacher (English) serving in GHS. Melpattampakkam, Cuddalore Dist., Tamil Nadu. She has around 28 years of teaching experience. She keeps herself engaged, always. She is very hardworking, punctual, sincere, and regular in her work.

She has written more than a thousand poems on various topics and got published in various journals, anthologies, newspapers, and magazines. She has published four books on her own entitled 'Leaves of Olive and Leaves of Nationalism', 'Leaves of life', 'Common errors', and 'Leaves of pulsating moments'. Her poems include a wide variety of topics that are quite interesting to read.

Also, she has edited a few anthologies. She has motivated and guided many of her students to write poems and publish their books. She conducts poetry seminars in various schools. She started writing verses when was in college.

She has initiated a WhatsApp group known as 'Creative Writers'. Every day members write on the given topic in the given background. Many poets are blooming on this platform. This group was created 4 years back. It is vibrant in the evening hours, from 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

She has created more than 500 poems. Regular contributors will be honoured with an e-certificate carrying dignitaries' signatures every month as a part of encouragement. She edited the anthologies 'Cascade of Poetry', 'Rainbow of Verses', 'Mesmerizing honey drops', 'Glitters of Creative Writers', and 'A Bouquet of colorful emotions'.

Around 75 members have published their own books after joining this Creative Writers group with her guidance and support. Every year an award function is conducted to encourage budding poets and authors.

Creative Writers publishes Bi-monthly e-magazines too. Till now 5 online poetry competitions are also conducted to encourage the participants. It runs with 5 voluntary supporting teams namely Tech team, Attendance team, Background and Topic team, Reviewer team, Certificate creating team, she is highly grateful to all the Creative Writers.

So far, she has created more than 200 Google forms for evaluating students online. She takes classes with a lot of activities and language games making language learning lively and fun-filled. Students enjoy her classes and her way of teaching involved the play way method.

She gives importance to Spoken English. She takes individual care of the students. She has her own YouTube channel with nearly 64k subscribers; with more than 3000 teaching videos for classes 3 to 10. She has given explanations for all the English lessons, book back ex-

ercises, spoken English, and Guided reading.

She teaches all memory poems in a song format for easy memorization. She is conferred a few awards for her commitments. She has participated in a few paper presentations. She has performed programmes on All India Radio, Kalvi Radio, and a TV programme, Doordarshan, she has handled classes on Kalvi TV. Kalvi Raio, Anbu FM.

She has received prizes in a few poetry contests too. She uses ICT in a classroom for an effective teaching-learning process. She has given audio for 9000 words for interactive teaching. She encourages, motivates, guides, and inspires her students. She uses many of the apps for children to learn and understand.

Her contribution to modern learning techniques keeps growing day-by-day. She is well-known for her interactive teaching methodology and is an active participant in the workplace @ Facebook in Tamil Nadu.

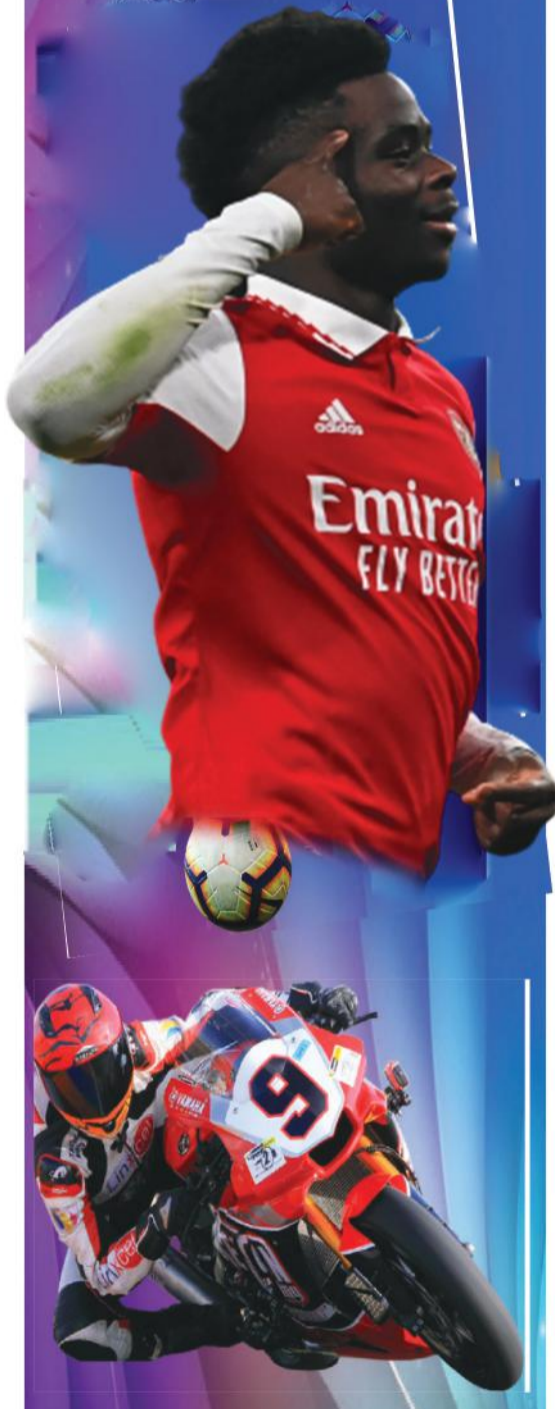
She has received a few awards for her outstanding performance in the student community. It is true that she is an inspiration to young minds in molding them with literary creativity.

All the poems are regularly uploaded in you tube... On creative writers channel



SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Former Wales international rugby union player Matt Robinson and former English rugby union player Danny Grewcock will grace this year's edition of the Ndume 7s Rugby Tournament set for the Pembroke House School in Gilgil on Saturday

English, Welsh Rugby Legends To Referee Ndume 7S On Saturday

Former Wales international rugby union player Matt Robinson and former English rugby union player Danny Grewcock will grace this year's edition of the Ndume 7s Rugby Tournament set for the Pembroke House School in Gilgil on Saturday.

The duo will join the team of referees at the tournament, which will be held for the 46th year since its inception in 1977.

The 50-year-old Robinson began his playing career at Newport High School before kick-starting his professional career at Swansea.

Robinson's debut for the national team was against Scotland at Murrayfield in 1999, going on to make four appearances for the Welsh – his last match against Argentina in Buenos Aires in June 1999.

On his part, Grewcock garnered 69 caps for the English national team as well as five at the club level for the British and Irish Lions.

The lifelong Coventry City FC fan played in the national team for a decade during which he scored 10 points.

The duo's presence in Gilgil will undoubtedly add gloss to one of the oldest rugby competitions in the country and inspire hundreds of young talents who will be battling for top honours.

This year's competition is anticipated to attract over 200 schoolchildren from 10 Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) from across the country.

The tournament also features a public schools fair, which includes 28 topflight senior schools from South Africa and the United Kingdom.

The matches, open to boys and girls aged under 11 and 13 years, will be played across six pitches on the school campus.

Last year's edition, held after a two-year hiatus occasioned



Former English rugby union player Danny Grewcock. PHOTO/BATH RUGBY.

by the Covid-19 pandemic, was won by Braeburn who defeated the hosts 14-5 to clinch the boys' Under-13 category.

Kenton were victors in the boys' Under-11 category after dismissing Peponi School as Banda School defeated Braeburn to win the girls' category.

The tournament has in the past birthed young players who have gone on to make the national team, including Simbas player Dominic Coulson, Mark Mutuku as well as Toby Francombe and Cameron Coulson among the players.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *President William Ruto has announced a paradigm shift in Kenyan sports, which includes a raft of initiatives to enhance the livelihoods of Kenyan sportspersons and grow their talents to world class standards

A Revamped Sports Fund, Diplomatic Passports And Reward Schemes: A New Dawn For Kenyan Sports?



President William Ruto shares a light moment with double world record holder Faith Kipyegon at State House. PHOTO/STATE HOUSE KENYA

President William Ruto has announced a paradigm shift in Kenyan sports, which includes a raft of initiatives to enhance the livelihoods of Kenyan sportspersons and grow their talents to world class standards.

Among these initiatives include diplomatic passports for sportspersons, a revamp of the Sports Fund, modern sports facilities and restructured reward schemes to honour those who perform exceptionally at international competitions.

President Ruto said that diplomatic passports are necessary to ensure that Kenyan athletes need not worry about traveling outside for competitions but instead focus on their art and craft.

"I also want to ask the ministry concerned with immigration (the Ministry of Interior) that our sportsmen and women who excel in international competitions should be given diplomatic passports and other national documents. We are going to ensure that our athletes are able to travel around the world with ease," the President said.

The announcement will come as a relief to thousands of Kenyan sportsmen and women who have struggled to make it to international competitions owing to bottlenecks associated with se-

curing travel documents in time. On the Sports Fund, the President underlined the need to make it exclusively for sports, arts and the creatives unlike the present day where it is used to fund other infrastructural projects.

"In recognition of what our athletes have done, we have had a policy shift. I have instructed the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Arts that we are moving away from crowding the Sports and Arts Fund and dedicate solely to matters sports, matters arts. We are going to look for alternative resources to fund the activities that have been using the Sports Funds," President Ruto explained.

The dilapidated sports infrastructure in the country was topmost in the President's mind, noting that the government has come up with a masterplan to improve Kenya's facilities.

"We have come up with a masterplan for sports infrastructure to help with the development of facilities, academies, training and mentorship programmes," he said.

President Ruto also instructed the ministry to review the cash reward scheme so the government can recognize and appropriate reward athletes who do the country proud on the international circuit.

"Going forward, we have decided that any Kenyan who participates in a world event and breaks the world record, the government of Kenya will reward them Ksh 5 million. And we are going to start today with Faith (Kipyegon)," he said.

Adding on to what the President had said, Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba said the cash reward scheme will for the first time cover team sports, such as football, hockey and volleyball et al. as well as the creatives.

President Ruto was speaking on Tuesday morning after a special breakfast with the world record holder for the women's 1500m and 5000m Faith Kipyegon as well as other elite athletes, including Commonwealth Games 100m champion Ferdinand Omanyala, Commonwealth Games 800m champion Mary Moraa, world record holder for the women's 3000m steeplechase Beatrice Chepkoech, former world half marathon record holder Geoffrey Kamworor, the 2012 Olympics 800m bronze medalist Timothy Kiptum and the 2017 World marathon champion Geoffrey Kirui.

Kipyegon is the athlete of the moment having broken two world records in eight days: timing 3:49.11 in the 1500m in Florence, Italy before clocking

14:05.20 a week later in Paris, France.

Ruto exalted the significance of Kenyan athletes in marketing the country in the different places they compete in.

"This is a great morning to receive Faith...she has made Kenya incredibly proud. Our sportsmen and women brand Kenya in a way that no one else does. We must therefore reward them appropriately," he said.

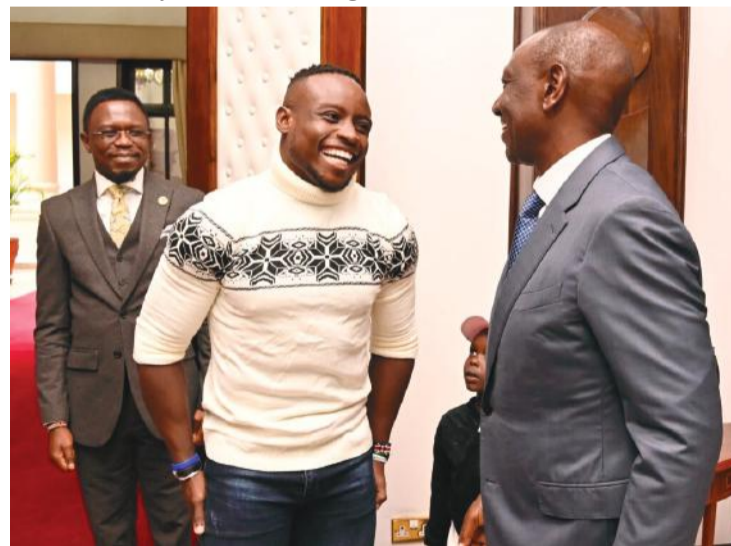
The President urged upcoming athletes to emulate the double Olympic and world champion, taking note of her spiritual faith and self-discipline.

"I heard someone say that this Kipyegon, it is her faith that has made her succeed. Congratulations to Faith for her discipline. Congratulations to Omanyala and all the world beaters. You have made the country proud," he said.

Kipyegon received Ksh 5 million for breaking the women's 1500m world record and a house worth Ksh 6 million for her feat in Paris, France.

On his part Omanyala, he was rewarded with Ksh 2 million as appreciation for thus far he has come in putting the Kenyan sprint on the map.

Capital Sport



President William Ruto converses with Commonwealth Games 100m champion Ferdinand Omanyala as Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba looks on. PHOTO/STATE HOUSE KENYA

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Backpage



Kiddie and Kate celebrates winning Air Sports and the Environment contest 2023

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

A national ceremony was held in Bangkok on 13th June 2023 to recognise the achievements of the two Thai young artist representatives in the 2023 Aviation Young Artists Contest in theme “Air Sports and the Environment”.

Suparada Paosattheanpan or Kiddie won the first place winner at the national level and earned a third winner in the Group 2 or Junior Category (ages 10-13) at the international level.

Supanida Paosattheanpan or Kate was a winner in the intermediate Category at the national level and was a part of young artist shown her painting in the anniversary of FAI in the USA in October.

The two young artists met Gp. Capt. Veerayuth Didyasarin for getting certificates and medals at Royal Aeronautic Sports Association of Thailand in Bangkok.

Thailand has a strong tradition of participating in the Young Artists Contest, and the competition is promoted through schools, art clubs and via social media.

Flyers were also sent to air sports organisations, for members to share with family. As for short biography of Kate, Kate is 11 years old. She won the 2nd prize from The 17th National Children’s Art Competition in 2022 won the merit prize in The Asia Pacific Regional Ozone2Climate Art Contest comprised of UNEP, UNESCO and NOUs in the Asia and Pacific and assisted by Mahidol University. Kate has her exhibition at Big C Shopping Department Store in Pakchong District located in Nakhon Ratchasima province, Thailand.

As for Kiddie, Kiddie is 10 years old student girl who has her exhibition art gallery at Central Nakhon Ratchasima in Nakhon Ratchasima province.



Supanida Paosattheanpan holding certificate.



Supanida Paosattheanpan.



Supanida Paosattheanpan and Suparada Paosattheanpan celebrating.



Bronze medal from the USA.

Worth Noting:

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Supanida Paosattheanpan Awarded.



Suparada Paosattheanpan getting awarded