



Guards Union sign an Mou with HK Kapital To Establish Sector Sacco and Private Security Academy

Private security workers have signed a partnership agreement with HK Kapital, a UK-based firm to form a Sacco and a training academy for the private security sector in Kenya. Page 18

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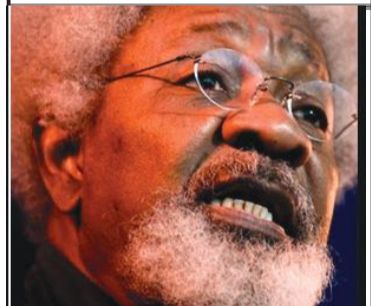
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Budget Losers: Kenyans Face Costly Fuel As Treasury Hikes VAT To 16%



News>>Health CS Calls Kenyans To Voluntarily Donate Blood

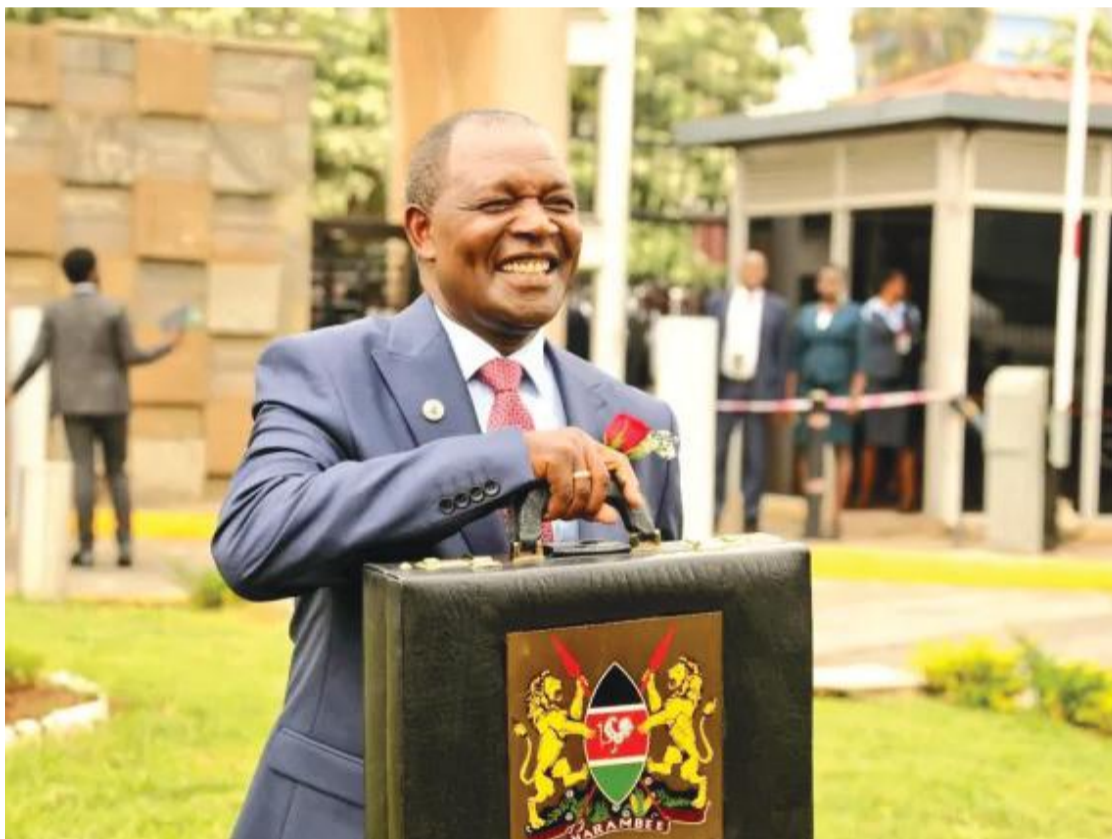
P. 8. Health Cabinet Secretary, Susan Nakhumicha has called upon Kenyans to voluntarily donate blood to support provision of quality healthcare.



Motivation>>You Think Of Others Even When You Stay Alone

P. 12. The Each time I think I have created time for myself, along comes a throwback to disrupt my private space..... Wole Soyinka.

⚡ The continued practice by government to subsidize cost of fuel by levying a preferential rate of 8pc distorts market yet the economy should be operating on the principles of demand and supply. Mr Speaker in this respect, I propose to the National Assembly to amend the VAT Act to remove the preferential rate on petroleum products so that the products will be subject to the standard VAT at 16pc," said Prof. Ndung'u.



National Treasury CS Njuguna Ndung'u

STORY ON PAGE 9

Clergy Join Forces In Planting Trees, Reversing Climate Change

By: Anne Sabuni and Samwel Karanja [@themtkenytimes](#)

Principal Secretary for Environment and Forests Mr. Gitonga Mugambi has cautioned against

logging in public forests even as he joined hands with the clergy to grow the country's tree cover.

The PS, who announced the deployment of about 2,700 forest rangers soon, expressed regret that

the loggers had taken advantage of the shortage of rangers to carryout illegal activities in the forests, and called on the members of the public to be on high alert and report any il-

STORY ON PAGE 13

PS Gitonga Mugambi planting a commemorative tree



Business>>CS Proposes A 40 Per cent Cut For Local Engineers In All Public-Private-Partnerships Projects

P. 16 Ministry of Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has proposed a review of the existing procurement laws

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TVET PS Hails Technical Students Innovators

By: Albright Medaline and Yvette Obunga @themtkenyatimes



State department for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Principal Secretary Esther Muoria.

Worth Noting:

- “Talent and skills exhibition provides a good opportunity for our students to showcase their skills to the world. The skills competition also aligns with industry requirements and standards and it also increases the participants’ employability prospects,” assured the PS.
- Gasifier jiko was one of the items showcased during the exhibition event held on Wednesday. It has a combustion chamber that has several holes at the bottom and above which allows the entry of oxygen during combustion.

State department for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Principal Secretary Esther Muoria has recognised creativity and innovations exhibited by trainees during the 3rd National Skills Competition held at the Kisumu National Polytechnic.

Dr Muoria encouraged the polytechnic trainees to be industrious within their institutions noting that the technical colleges have promoted the advancement of talent and innovations for the young people.

“Talent and skills exhibition provides a good opportunity for our students to showcase their skills to the world. The skills competition also

aligns with industry requirements and standards and it also increases the participants’ employability prospects,” assured the PS.

Gasifier jiko was one of the items showcased during the exhibition event held on Wednesday. It has a combustion chamber that has several holes at the bottom and above which allows the entry of oxygen during combustion.

The invention also has a fan at the bottom which provides oxygen to the combustion chamber that burns the gas which produces carbon monoxide to produce carbon dioxide and a regulator which regulates heat during use.

The jiko uses bagasse – pellets produced from dried and crushed sugarcane waste. The pellets are eco-friendly with a neutral smell that does not affect the surrounding. The pellets are placed in the combustion chamber and it lightens up and burns going down, which makes it efficient to pour out used pellets and save the unused.

The innovation was brought up on the basis of mitigating climate change due to the emission of poisonous gases from other homemade sources of fire and also to reduce the chances of deforestation for firewood use within the community.

According to Mr. Nicholas Agoro,

one of the innovators, the Gasifier Jiko has been on tests in Nairobi with the Kenya Research and Development Institute and they are confident that the innovation works to save the environment from environmental pollution.

“The innovation I have been working on will ease the community from the cost of fuel and save a shilling considering families that are not well off also not forgetting to safeguard our environment,” said Mr. Agoro.

The Gasifier Jiko is estimated to cost Sh4500 if it gets a nod to go into the market while the pellets cost Sh40 per kg retail price.

The Mt. Kenya Times



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CS Miano Assures Sustainability Of Relief Until Drought Ends

By: John Kariuki

@themkenyatimes

The National Government will continue supporting Kenyans affected by the long drought until there will be a significant improvement. Answering questions in Senate this Wednesday, the Cabinet Secretary for East African Community (EAC), the ASALs and Regional Development Mrs. Rebecca Miano told Senators that despite rain being experienced in a section of the areas affected, the effects of the long drought are still being felt necessitating support from Government.

CS MIANO eloquently and boldly put it that, "According to the guidelines and procedures of the management of relief food distribution in Kenya, the following committees are responsible at various levels, the state Department for Relief Food Committee, County Steering Group Relief Food Committee, Sub-County Relief Food Committee, Ward Relief Food Committee, Location Re-

lief Food Committee, Sub-Location Relief Food Committee and Village Relief Food Committee. The following are the food items procured, rice (50kg) bag, beans (50kg) bag, maize (50kg) bag, vegetable Oil (carton (12) 1 litre) and fortified food bale (25kg).

On the humanitarian emergency response. These are non-food commodities given to households affected by various disasters. They consist of iron sheets, timber, ridges, nails (assorted), mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, jikos, gas lamps, tents/tarpaulins, soap and sanitary towels.

And answering a question from Senator Cheptumo on the measures put in place to ensure that the food supplies actually reach the targeted people, Miano responded:

"We use the County Steering Groups to target the affected and vulnerable population following reports by the National Drought Management Authority. When we allocate relief food, we copy to the County Commissioner, all leaders, elected and administrative to ensure higher accountability."



Cabinet Secretary for East African Community Rebecca Miano..

Mozambican Team From Attorney General And Criminal Investigations Departments Benchmarking In Kenya

By: The DCI

The Director of Criminal Investigations, Mohamed Amin yesterday hosted a high profile delegation from Mozambique's Attorney General's office at the DCI headquarters' Mazingira complex.

The delegation led by Mozambique's Attorney General Dr Beatriz Buchili, visited the Directorate on a benchmarking mission for insights on how the multi agency framework in dealing with crime had succeeded in Kenya, and how their country could borrow the example especially in dealing with the threat of terror.

Dr Buchili appreciated the role played by the Directorate in the fight against terrorism in the region and the significant efforts put in place



Kenya and Mozambique teams during their meeting at the DCI yesterday.

by the Anti Terrorism Police Unit in the investigation of terror related crimes.

The Attorney General also thanked

the DCI for the existing collaboration mechanism that had seen the ATPU assist Mozambique in the investigation of terror related cases

that have confronted the Southern Africa country since 2017.

While welcoming his guest to the Directorate, Mr Amin noted that the success in the fight against terrorism and other transnational organized crimes was as a result of embracing cooperation and collaboration between actors in the criminal justice sector, within the multi agency framework.

"Initially, our agencies operated in silos and this would give undue advantage to criminal networks, that would exploit the existing gaps to evade justice," added Mr Amin.

The DCI chief noted that it was as a result of the close working relationship between the country's security agencies and improved partnership with the public that Kenya had succeeded in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

While making his contribution during the meeting, the Director

ATPU Mr Johnstone Kola, said that proper training, tooling and equipping of the anti-terror unit had given our officers the upper hand against the enemy, adding that processing and preservation of evidence before production in court was also key in ensuring that terror suspects suffered the consequences of their actions.

The Mozambican delegation that also included the country's envoy to Kenya Amb Jeronimo Chivavi among other dignitaries also visited the DCI National Forensic Laboratory and the ATPU headquarters, for a more informed experience on Kenya's operations.



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FUTURE IMPRESSION

Embu County To Take Over Management Of Mwea National Reserve

By: Samuel Waititu

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking when launching the planning committee that will oversee the takeover procedure as well as manage the reserve for the next ten years, the DG said once fully operational, the reserve will be a good source of revenue for the devolved unit as well as provide employment and income for locals and investors.
- He said they will also look into ways of establishing hotels, lodges and camps that will contribute to local community development and also induce positive community attitudes towards wildlife conservation and tourism development.



.Mwea National Reserve.

The County Government of Embu has commenced the process of taking over the management, conservation and sustainable utilization of Mwea National Game Reserve from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

The little-known game reserve located in Mbeere South Constituency measures 42 square kilometers and is home to a significant number of animals including Elephants, Zebras, Buffaloes, Gazelles and the rare Rothschild giraffe.

The reserve that has been in existence for over four decades but has remained unutilized in terms of being a tourist attraction or destination

site.

“This is a sleeping giant that has the potential to transform the financial fortunes of the county and put it on the world map as a preferred tourist destination,” Deputy Governor (DG) Kinyua Mugo said.

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ways of establishing hotels, lodges and camps that will contribute to local community development and also induce positive community attitudes towards wildlife conservation and tourism development.

Kinyua said they will also form a marketing board to market the reserve in a bid to transform it into an ultimate tourist destination.

KWS Senior Assistant Director in charge of Mountain Conservation area Bakari Mungumi said through the newly constituted management team, they expect management of the resource will be much easier than has been before.

He said they will also be doing capacity building to the county in readiness to handing over management of the reserve where their role will henceforth be to maintain security.

“It is our aspiration that coming together and putting in place a good plan will see this reserve generate more value to the people of this area of Mbeere as well as the county,” he said.

Area MP Engineer Nebat Muriuki hailed the initiative, saying the revival of the game reserve will be of much economic value to the local community and the country as a whole.

He said once the reserve is developed fully and starts attracting tourists, the local community will start appreciating and valuing wild animals and stop seeing them as a threat to their lives, animals and crops.

“We welcome this venture because we know even our people will get a big market for their farm produce while others will get direct employment,” the MP said.

Miss Tourism Africa Muthoni Kariuki who hails from the area, said the revival of the reserve was a big win for the locals in improving their livelihoods.

The model and environmental activist called all stakeholders to take part in conservation efforts of the reserve through adoption of eco-friendly practices such as planting of trees and proper waste management.

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Health CS Calls Kenyans To Voluntarily Donate Blood

By: Bernard Munyao and Purity Mugo

[@themkenyaintimes](#)



A Kenyan Donating Blood.

Worth Noting:

- “The ministry of health has made remarkable progress in reorganisation of blood collection services through an inter-governmental framework on coordination of blood transfusion services,” noted the CS, saying this has revolutionised the way blood is collected and distributed across the nation.
- Nakhumicha underscored the reorganisation of blood collection services saying it has seen a significant increase of blood donation rising from about 130, 000 to more than 348, 000 units.
- “This positive growth is a testament to the successful capacity building initiatives undertaken in collaboration with counties,” she added.
- The CS further said that in the next financial year the government is committed to achieve the World Health Organisation’s target of one percent of the population voluntarily donating blood.

Health Cabinet Secretary, Susan Nakhumicha has called upon Kenyans to voluntarily donate blood to support provision of quality healthcare.

She observed that regular blood donations will ensure individuals and communities have access to affordable and timely supply of safe and quality blood.

Speaking during celebrations to mark World Blood Donor Day in Murang’a on Wednesday, the CS stated that availability and accessibility of safe blood and blood products is crucial in saving lives and attaining universal health coverage.

She explained that the government has successfully implemented blood collection satellites in all the 47 counties thus bringing the collection process closer to the communities.

“The ministry of health has made remarkable progress in reorganisation of blood collection services through an inter-governmental framework on coordination of blood transfusion services,” noted the CS, saying this has revolutionised the way blood is collected and distributed across the nation.

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“This positive growth is a testament to the successful capacity building initiatives undertaken in collaboration with counties,” she added.

The CS further said that in the next financial year the government is committed to achieve the World Health Organisation’s target of one percent of the population voluntarily donating blood.

“We have strengthened our collective ability to meet the increasing demand for safe blood and improve healthcare outcomes for our people,” she remarked.

During her visit, the CS launched a blood collection satellite at Murang’a Level-5 hospital which will make the county blood independent.

The satellite blood collection centre will help in blood donation, screening and storage. The facility has capacity to store blood for a maximum period of two years.

Nakhumicha further stated that the government is prioritising its overall digital transformation agenda by implementing various digital programmes to enhance efficiency and ensure effective management of resources.

“One of these initiatives is digitizing key healthcare systems such as

the hospital management system, chanjo portal, and the Damu-ke, which is a blood bank management information system,” she averred.

She continued “By digitizing these systems we aim to establish a comprehensive track and trace mechanism for all blood collected and transfused in the country.”

Nakhumicha asked the county governments to prioritise and allocate budgets for the county blood banks.

“It’s essential to understand that the blood collected through voluntary donations is primarily consumed within the respective referral and transfusing hospitals of each county,” she added.

In his remarks, Kenya Tissue and Transplant Authority (KTTA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Maurice Wakwabubi stated that Kenya last year collected 348, 715 units of blood, which translates to 70 percent of the targeted total of 500, 000 units of blood.

He said the amount of units of blood collected last year was the highest collected since independence.

“This was commendable and laudable in that it was a 200 percent increase from the year 2020,” he said.

The CEO added that KTTA and partners organizations’ aim is to collect one million units which the uni-

versal health coverage target is.

Governor Irungu Kang’ata on his part said his administration is working on various programmes to boost provision of healthcare to Murang’a residents.

He noted the blood collection satellite which was set up by the national government in partnership with his administration, will help the county to stop relying on other counties in supply of blood.

“The blood collection satellite will ensure patients get treatment here in our local facilities without being transferred to hospitals outside Murang’a,” he added.

Budget Losers: Kenyans Face Costly Fuel As Treasury Hikes VAT To 16%

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyatimes



Fueling a car

Worth Noting:

- In the past, the government had been forced to spend more than Ksh 60 billion on fuel subsidy programme, a move President Ruto said was unattainable.
- “if the anomaly is not corrected at the earliest, the build-up of credits will continue to increase and should the Government seek to charge VAT at the standard rate in the future, it would take years for the Government to collect the much-needed revenues from this sector since the credits have to be exhausted before the businesses start paying VAT,” he added.
- In the last fuel review published Wednesday by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), a litre of super petrol was reduced by KSH 0.66, diesel by Ksh 1.12 as a litre of kerosene shot up Ksh 0.35.

The National Treasury and Economic Planning has proposed to increase Value Added Tax on petroleum products from the current 8pc to 16pc.

The proposal which seeks to remove the preferential rate now sets up consumers who have been forced to dig deeper into their pockets to even more elevated prices beginning July 1, 2023.

According to the National Treasury and Economic Planning Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, the move has been necessitated by the buildup of untaxed credit among fuel importers which in the end deny government the much needed revenue.

“The continued practice by government to subsidize cost of fuel by levying a preferential rate of 8pc distorts market yet the economy should be operating on the principles of demand and supply. Mr Speaker in this respect, I propose to the National Assembly to amend the VAT Act to remove the preferential rate on petroleum products so that the products will be subject to the standard VAT at 16pc,” said Prof. Ndung'u.

The proposals to hike VAT on petroleum products comes despite rising opposing views from members of the public and other stakeholders.

In the past, the government had been forced to spend more than Ksh 60 billion on fuel subsidy programme, a move President Ruto said was unattainable.

“if the anomaly is not corrected at the earliest, the build-up of credits will continue to increase and should the Government seek to charge VAT at the standard rate in the future, it would take years for the Govern-

ment to collect the much-needed revenues from this sector since the credits have to be exhausted before the businesses start paying VAT,” he added.

In the last fuel review published Wednesday by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), a litre of super petrol was reduced by KSH 0.66, diesel by Ksh 1.12 as a litre of kerosene shot up Ksh 0.35.

Those who also stand to lose in FY2023/24 budget are winners in betting, gaming, prize competition and lotteries who will have to pay excise duty at the rate of 12.5pc from 7.5pc on their winnings, a move treasury expects to discourage gambling activities.

Treasury in a move to protect and spur local fish production has slapped fish importers with an excise duty tax on imported fish. Importers will now pay excise duty at Ksh 100,000 per metric tonne or 10pc of the excisable value, whichever is higher.

Manufacturers of powdered juices who have not been subjected to excise duty tax will now be charged excise duty at rate of Ksh 25 per kilogram.

Treasury has also proposed the introduction of excise duty on imported sugar at the rate of Ksh 5 per kilogram excluding the sugar imported or purchased locally by registered pharmaceutical manufacturers for use in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

In a move to discourage alcoholism, betting, gaming, lottery and prize competition, Treasury is also proposing to introduce excise duty at the rate of 15pc of the excisable

value on fees charged on the advertisements by all televisions, print media, billboards, and radio stations in promoting the activities.

Cement manufacturers can now breathe a sigh of relief after the government moved in to shield local industry from stiff competition by cement importers who will now pay higher tax on the product.

“To protect them from unfair competition and promote this industry, I propose to the National Assembly to introduce excise duty on imported cement at a rate of 10pc of the excisable value or Ksh 1.50 per kilogram whichever is higher,” said the CS.

Other losers include furniture importers who excise duty at the rate of 30pc of the customs value excluding the furniture originating from EAC countries.

Importers of paints, varnishes, and lacquers will also be charged excise duty at the rate of 15pc of the excisable value on the imports.

Affordable housing budgetary allocation almost double last year's share

President William Ruto administration's first budget since taking charge of the country's affairs has underscored his commitment to the realization of the affordable housing agenda.

In the 2023/2024 budget statement, the overall allocation toward housing programmes buttressed the sector as one of his priority areas amid efforts to enable Kenyans to be homeowners.

In the Budget, the Treasury announced that the Government had allocated the sector Ksh 35.2 billion

up from the Kshs. 27.7 billion that was set aside for the Housing Programme last year.

The allocation, according to Treasury CS Njuguna Ndugu is aimed at facilitating the delivery of 250,000 houses per annum and enabling affordable housing mortgages.

Out of the Ksh35.2 Billion, Ksh 3.2 billion is meant for the Construction of Affordable Housing Units. This is an increase of Ksh.1.5 billion from last year's allocation to the sub-sector which had received Ksh.1.7 billion.

And that's not all as the Construction of Social Housing Units received a boost of Ksh 3.3 billion budgetary allocation up from the Ksh.1.2 billion allocated last year by then Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yattani.

“The cost of housing is a heavy burden to the majority of Kenyans and is the main factor driving the 66 proliferations of slums in the country. The Government's commitment is to turn the housing challenge into an economic opportunity to create quality jobs for over 100,000 young people graduating from TVETs every year directly in the construction sector and indirectly through the production of building products,” Ndungu said when he read the budget in parliament

Other allocations in the sector include Ksh 7.3 billion under the Kenya Urban Programme (KenUP); Ksh 5.0 billion to Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company for enhancement of the company's capital as well as for lending to primary mortgage lenders; Ksh 3.2 billion for the Construction of Affordable Housing Units as well as Ksh 3.3 billion for Construction of Social Housing Units.

Ksh 5.5 billion will go toward the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project-Phase II; Ksh 5.2 billion for the construction of markets; Ksh 932 million for the maintenance of Government Pool Houses.

At the same time, President Ruto's government announced Ksh 1.1 billion for the construction of Housing Units for the National Police and Kenya Prison.

Another Ksh 637 million will be channelled towards the Kenya Municipal Programme; Ksh 150 million for the construction of footbridges and Ksh 300 million for the Development of Appropriate Building Technology.

State Launches The National Cooling Action Plan

By: Lucy Gitei

@themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry yesterday launched the 2023 to 2027 National Cooling Action Plan for Kenya (NCAP).

NCAP is designed to accelerate Kenya's shift to sustainable cooling systems through transition to high energy efficiency appliances, use of natural refrigerants, and enhanced access to agricultural cold chain solutions.

Speaking during the launch, State Department for Environment and Climate Change Principal Secretary (PS) Eng Festus K Ng'eno said the National Cooling Action Plan 2022 aims to increase the performance and efficiency of energy consuming cooling alliances and transition the cooling sector to refrigerants with low environmental impacts among others.

Ng'eno said normal cooling equip-



State Launches The National Cooling Action Plan

ment directly contributes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFCs) potent greenhouse gasses and ozone deplet-

ing substances used in refrigeration and air conditioning.

"In order to avoid these emissions, the government has embarked on a transition to sustainable cooling practices through the development

of the National Cooling Action Plan (NCAP) that aims to increase access to energy efficient cooling solutions with low environmental impacts", he said.

Emerging data shows that Ken-

ya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) has committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 32% or 143MT of CO2 equivalent by 2030, and therefore, providing conventional cooling services poses a challenge to attainment of this ambitious target.

The PS also said that Green Cooling solutions with natural refrigerants is the way forward, because they are eco-friendly, ozone-friendly and have minimal impact on global warming.

"The National Cooling Action Plan is all about creating the right conditions for the growth of the sustainable cold chain market and by providing financial incentives for cold storage systems and making sure everyone understands the incredible benefits of zero emission cold chains", said PS.

He at the same time urged all stakeholders to actively engage and collaborate in implementing the National Cooling Action Plan (NCAP).

Egyptians Declares Interest In Building Mega Dams In Kenya

By: Our Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

The Kenyan government has attracted major investment bids from Egyptian construction firms for the construction of 100 mega multi-purpose dams. The firms have submitted bids through the on-going Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects initiative, demonstrating their appetite for large investment in Kenya.

At least 10 projects have interested their immediate participation.

The Cabinet Secretary for Water, Irrigation and Sanitation Alice Wahome, assured the investors of a robust enabling environment in the country and sound provisions under the PPP Act.

She disclosed that the firms are also keen on participating in larger

irrigation and sanitation projects in the country. "This is a major vote of confidence in Kenya's economy and its commitment to public-private partnerships," said the Cabinet Secretary.

These engagements are significant for Kenya's water, irrigation and sanitation sector, and it has a potential to create jobs, boost economic growth, and improve the lives of millions of Kenyans.

"We are excited to be a part of Kenya's development story," said the executives of the construction firms.

"We believe that our expertise and experience can make a real difference in the lives of Kenyans."

The Kenya Kwanza administration has plans of constructing dozens of dams across the country as a way of addressing water shortage for domestic and irrigation.



Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome during a water forum yesterday.

IGAD Launches The 2023 Global Report On Food Crisis

By: Enrica Amisi and Phinta Amondi

[@themkenyatimes](#)



Guleid Artan.

Worth Noting:

- Dr. Artan said it's unfortunate that the region continues to face hunger and malnutrition, noting that it is essential to acknowledge the gravity of the situation faced.
- He noted that according to the report released in 2022 had a staggering number of about 258 billion people who faced high levels of food security in respective levels.
- Artan said "The most alarming was that a total of 55.45 million people who within seven countries out of the eight in the IGAD member states needed urgent food assistance".
- The Director stated that the report shows countries like Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda have the highest number of acutely food insecure people in the region over the past five years.

There is need to prioritise actions which enhances resilience in sustainable food systems in order to reduce dependence on harvest losses.

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Predictions and Applications Centre Director Guleid Artan said the prioritisation will promote a multipracticise and a conducive environment thereby unlocking food security.

Dr Artan said that food security is not just a matter of substance, but a fundamental human right in the compass to save nutritious and sufficient food that neighbours and communities used to thrive in.

The Director was speaking during the launch of the 2023 Global report on Food Crisis aimed at highlighting comprehensive assessment of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in its member states held at a Nairobi Hotel.

The report that was launched by IGAD, in collaboration with the European Union, Food Authority Organisation, World Food Programme

and National Drought and Management Authority (NDMA) provides insightful data and policies that seek to promote food security in the member states.

The release of the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises is a constructive step for the member states to understand the root cause of food security and to develop effective strategies to address them.

Dr. Artan said it's unfortunate that the region continues to face hunger and malnutrition, noting that it is essential to acknowledge the gravity of the situation faced.

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opia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda have the highest number of acutely food insecure people in the region over the past five years.

He mentioned that the report provides a comprehensive understanding of food availability and accessibility across IGAD's member states through the extensive research, analysis and collaborations of governments, regional agencies as well as international organisations.

Echoing his sentiments, NDMA Acting Director Amos Nyakeo said that there's a need for investors to address the frequency of climate shocks and the gap in the sector by harnessing water and utilisation purposes consequently offering a stable food production.

Nyakeo reiterated that strengthening of Kenya Drought Early Warning Systems for Arid and Semi-Arid areas would help realise and curb the upsurge loss of livestock experienced during the drought seasons.

"Drought is not a normal face un-

less it's an emergency situation in the country,' said Nyakeo.

He at the same time called upon stakeholders, investors and the governments to put proper interventions and measures in place during the alert, alarm and emergency situation stages to enable them handle all responses since drought shifts progressively.

Further, Nyakeo voiced that there was need for private investors to collaborate with the governments and international organisations to entice more players to take active roles by presenting hazards faced in the economic sector.

You Think Of Others Even When You Stay Alone

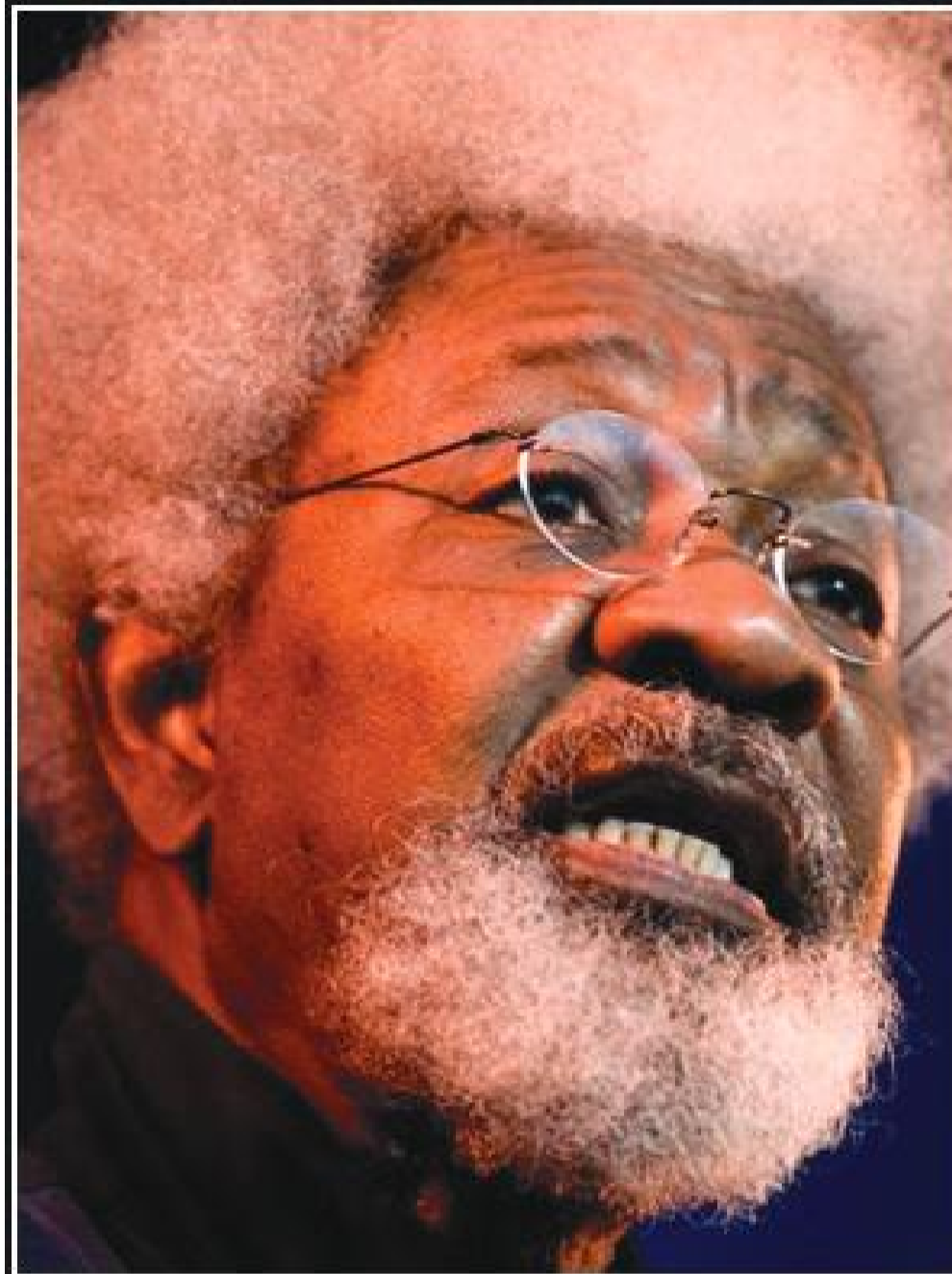
By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Whenever you see your colleagues in that faraway place who are living with their families you wish if you had such an opportunity.
- Any controversy that may arise out of your conversation keeps haunting you as you are unable to easily find a quick fix compared to those who are in the same physical location.
- In quiet spaces alone your thoughts remain undisrupted so anyone you think about you can thoroughly review your interactions with him from the first day you met up to now. This will see you love that person a lot or hate him as you could retrace all your interactions and clearly see what kind of a person he is.



Each time I think I've created time for myself, along comes a throwback to disrupt my private space.

— Wole Soyinka —

AZQUOTES

The Each time I think I have created time for myself, along comes a throwback to disrupt my private space..... Wole Soyinka.

Of late due to changing economic situations people have been forced to travel long distances in search for livelihood at times to locations where they are unable to stay with their families due to high costs of living or the husband and wife working in different organisations that are far apart. External observers have their say about such situations with some alleging that either of the couple who is working a distance is neglecting the rest of the family. The well paid party is the one who is likely to be working in the distant location and the other party is fond of accusing the partner of not search for a suitable job position in that new location.

What the complaining party for-

gets is that being alone in a faraway place does not mean that the rest of the family is not in your thoughts in fact it concerns you more than when you are around them as anything you here about you have to verbally verify as you cannot go to inspect physically.

Whenever you see your colleagues in that faraway place who are living with their families you wish if you had such an opportunity.

Any controversy that may arise out of your conversation keeps haunting you as you are unable to easily find a quick fix compared to those who are in the same physical location.

In quiet spaces alone your thoughts remain undisrupted so anyone you think about you can thoroughly review your interactions with him from the first day you met up to now. This will see you love that person a lot or hate him as you could retrace

all your interactions and clearly see what kind of a person he is.

When the boss stays out of office alone for a prolonged period he constantly thinks about his office and wonders whether it is functioning properly failure to receive strange communication whether phone call or email assures him that all could be well and at the same times scares him as there could be easy replacement if someone else is able to run the office as efficient as he used to do. This happens mostly to those bosses who have no plans to move to other institutions.

In places outside home alone perhaps relaxing then you see someone who resembles a person you know especially a family member or a close relative makes you to think deeply about that person you know. If the one you are seeing is doing a good thing you just hope that his

lookalike too is doing a good thing but if misbehaving you are worried that the other person could be behaving exactly the same.

Regular thinking of someone who you know but does not have his contacts or you rarely talk keeps troubling you as you cannot pinpoint what is bringing such memories in your mind and you cannot directly talk to that person to ask what is happening to ask as he will seek to know the reasons that are driving you to enquire about him.

In general we can say that having a person or people in your mind does not necessary require them to be next to you physically.

Clergy Join Forces In Planting Trees, Reversing Climate Change

By: Anne Sabuni and Samwel Karanja @themtkenyatimes

legal activities in the forests.

“We have a duty to manage our forests efficiently and effectively and this we will do, to back up the fencing that has been done in most of the forests across the country. To loggers, it is not going to be business as usual. We are coming for you and we will catch up with you,” cautioned Mugambi, citing the recent arrest of loggers in Mau Forest.

While rallying the clergy and congregants across the country to join in and plant trees in places of worship and homes, the PS noted that the protection of biodiversity was “the only way we can ensure we have a present and a future for everyone.”

The Interreligious Council of Kenya (IRCK) Chair Rev. Fr. Joseph Mutie, called on congregants to plant trees in spaces near their places of worship, calling on the clergy to use their calling to rally members for the environment.



PS Gitonga Mugambi planting a commemorative tree.

The leaders spoke in Nakuru when IRCK signed an MoU with the State Department of Forestry aimed at boosting the national target to plant 15 billion trees, as a way of reversing the deteriorating mother nature.

“The clergy have a role to play in influencing their congregations to back up this effort, alongside their prophetic calling to lead them in faith. It is on this backdrop that we call upon all members to rally their

members to save the God-given gift of nature,” said the Secretary General of IRCK Abdi Raman Ismael.

They advocated for growing of trees and monitoring for safe growth of the trees to ensure that the young

generation enjoyed a safe and fresh environment.

The momentous signing ceremony took place at Nakuru’s revered 58 Temple, where the Principal Secretary of the State Department of Forestry, joined forces with influential religious leaders representing the Muslim, Christian, and Hindu communities.

Together, they urged their congregants to recognize the paramount importance of tree planting and cultivation.

This groundbreaking collaboration between the State Department of Forestry and the interfaith community is expected to make substantial progress towards achieving the ambitious target of planting a minimum of 15 billion trees across the country within the next decade.

By harnessing the collective power of religious institutions and government agencies, Kenya is taking a momentous step towards ensuring a greener and more sustainable future for all its citizens.

“Uncle” Wa Watoto Arrested In Witeithie For Molesting Children In Exchange For Movies

By: James Wakahiu @themtkenyatimes

19yrs male college student suspected to have been molesting young children in Witeithie was arrested by police last night. Following quick intervention by Witeithie Police OCS Julius Sankare who responded to distress call, the suspect was saved from the hands of angry residents who wanted to lynch him.

According to one parent, she found her boy aged 4yrs being locked into a room together with the suspect & upon explanations, the shaken minor narrated to her mother about what they were doing & the mother raised the alarm attracting attention from the public.

Upon interrogation by residents who came to his aid, the child confessed that ‘Uncle’ had been molesting & also mentioned two other small boys whom were also being sodomised in various occasions by the same victim who invites them to his house in order to watch movies & play games from his smartphone.

The suspect who claimed to be a student at a nearby college, also confessed to have been enticing small boys aged between 4 to 7yrs by sharing out his phone for them to play games, where he later take advantage & molest them on his bed. He was whisked to Witeithie Police station for processing awaiting to be arraigned in court in order to answer charges related to sodomy against minors.



Kindness Has No Price



Youth is a period that leaves an indelible mark on the memory of people who will not return. Everyone's youth is different. Some people remember their youth with tears of joy in their eyes, while others remember their past youth with painful memories.

I was young. Grandmother, father, mother and I lived in a small yard. What I remember is that my grandmother found fault in everything my mother did, and she did everything to make my father look bad, but I didn't understand why she hated my mother.

My father was very kind to my grandparents, and those who did not second guess their words were good children. My father's mothers achieved their goals and turned my father against us. The situation got so bad that my father kicked me out of the door without hearing a word from my mother. My mother cried a lot.

A single woman returning to her father's house is equal to being a disgrace to this country. I was a 4-year-old boy at that time. I didn't know much about the events that I have come to understand as I grow older.

We lived in my mother's house for 2 years, and the saying is not in vain, they did not keep my mother for long, they gave her to an ordinary farmer who lost his wife with three children. The changes that are happening in my life have made me very complete.

New month, new environment, even I have two brothers and a sister there. My father did not come to us even once; my grandmother told me that they married

someone else at the same time. My new thought was much better, I liked fighting and quarreling, except for what I heard when I was having fun, my new father did not treat me badly. At that time, the Soviet government ruled our country, both adults and children worked day and night in the fields, I entered school, but I did not understand anything, I was lagging behind my peers.

At that time, everyone belittled him as mentally retarded. I became a brother again, a piece of the love that was being given to me was divided into pieces again. I didn't know if it was because I was a young child, I was angry with my mother, it's good that there were grandmothers in my life, they were my mother's mothers, they were much older, but the rich ones came from a poor family.

He was a polite person; I spent almost all my youth in front of them. Those who patted me on the head as an orphan, we went out to the fields early in the morning and I helped them one by one. I remember, "Muhammadjan, my child, never be sad, you will be happy in your life, you will forget these days." I was happy because of this person's encouragement.

Even though he was a stepfather, I loved my father, who was a strict man who loved the truth, and was shocked when my mother spoke one word. I once agreed to do everything for this person to think of me. My brothers separated me a lot, and I was convinced that my step-father still treated me like a step-father.

I was the eldest of them, but they did not show me any love as a brother, the years flew by so quickly. My own father never heard from me. Now I have achieved everything thanks to the trust my stepfather gave me. It was known that they loved me no matter how unkindly they showed themselves. My father called me before his death, Muhammadjan, I loved you no less than my little children. They said that you are my little child.

Be consistent with your siblings. He emphasized that we should be kind to each other. I realized that my real father may not be there, but they gave me the love that my father did not show me. Now I will show my grandchildren that person, not my real father, as an example.

Muhammadova Gulshoda is a student of Bukhara State University

We Are Born, We Live



We are born, we live
We couldn't feel alive,
The world runs, passes,
We couldn't even catch our breath

I'm just an ordinary person,
I'm not going to die forever,
Our hearts belong only to God
He alone is eternal.

Where did the idea of the sea come
from?
To a girl who hasn't seen the worlds...

Kuvondikova Mokhinur Sadiq's daughter was born on September 20, 2004 in Khatirchi District, Navoi Region. Currently 18 years old. He studies at "TIQXMMI" MTU.

His creative works have been published in the collection "Ilhom Bulag'yi" and many newspapers and magazines.

Where did the idea of the sea come
from?

To a girl who has not seen the worlds
My heart is words, my eyes too,
I have something to say, listen to you

Isn't it the mother who made the worlds?

Isn't it the mother who made the
worlds?

Isn't it the mother who made poets
poets?

Even if you travel long distances, even if
you suffer,

Isn't it the mother who said, "I didn't have
any trouble, my child?"

My soul is alive in the ocean of your love,
My bright world is shining with you
Don't let your eyes fade from sadness
Be careful in the tests yourself

Mother, your love is an ocean for me,
Hearts are happy with your kindness
Your every word brings light to my life
May God give you a long life

Kholmatjonov Bunyodbek was born in Tashkent region in 2011. He is currently 12 years old and is studying at an educational institution in Nurafshon. He is the winner of more than 10 republican

Olympia's
Mother...



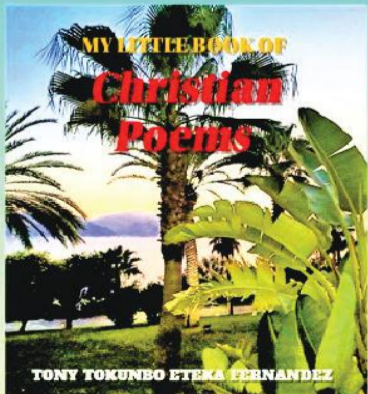
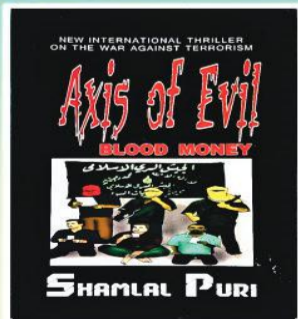
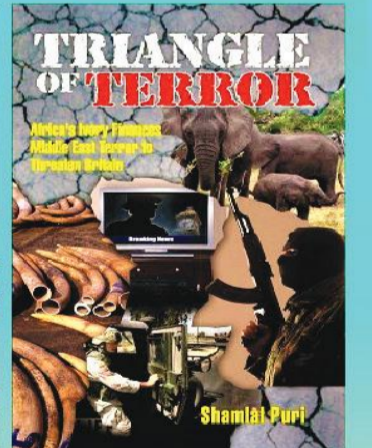
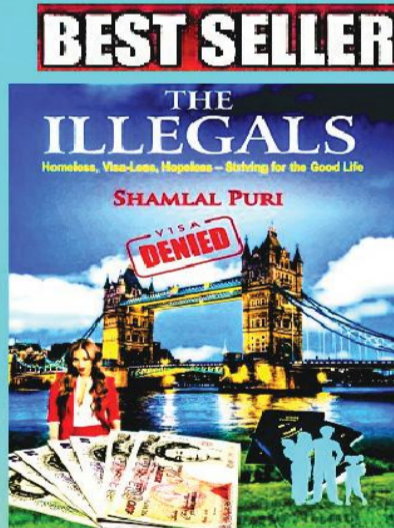
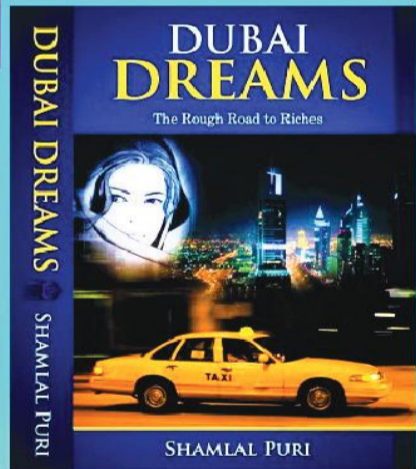
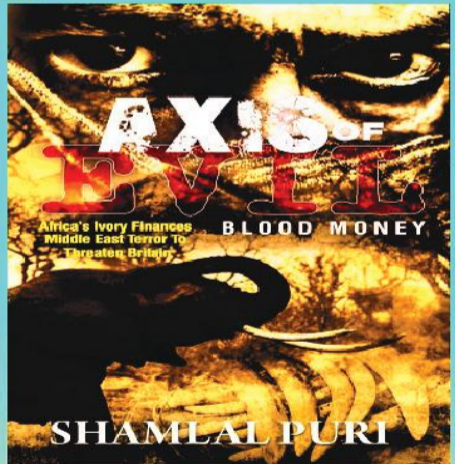
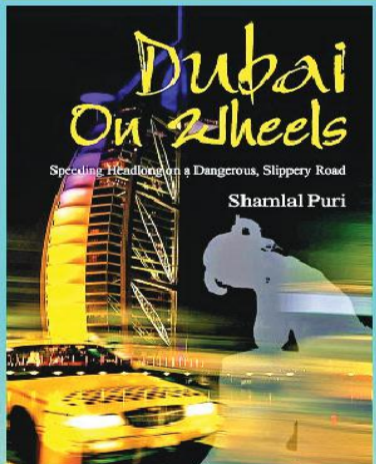
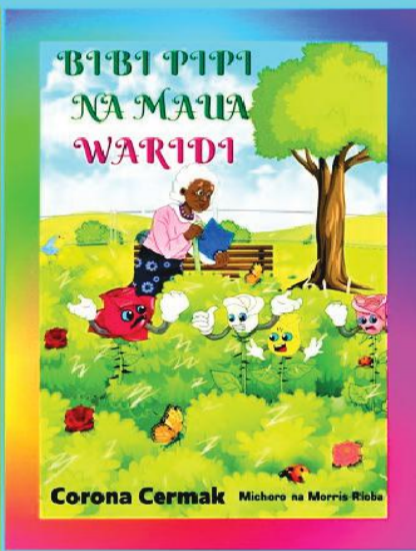
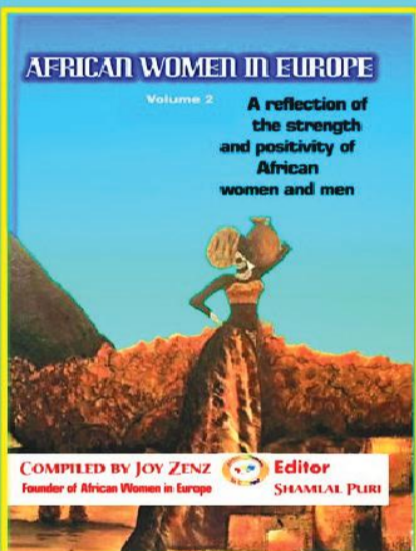
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BUSINESS

CS Proposes A 40 Per cent Cut For Local Engineers In All Public-Private-Partnerships Projects

By: Erastus Gichohi
@themkenyatimes



CS Kipchumba Murkomen.

Worth Noting:

- The CS said his ministry has moved with speed to align its policies and programmes with sector targets including Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063, Vision 2030, the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV), and most crucially the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).
- He said the Ministry is actively seeking to scale up the use of Public-Private Partnerships financing for commercially viable projects including new highways, seaports, and airports and others among which the local engineers should be part and parcel.
- The CS disclosed that in the road's subsection alone, the government is undertaking projects portfolio valued at Sh700 billion which are geared towards reducing the cost and duration of travel across the country and the region.

Ministry of Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen has proposed a review of the existing procurement laws to cap a provision of 40 percent for local professional engineers in all public-private partnership projects.

Mr Murkomen said the move is to ensure that local engineers take part in the growth and development of the country's economy by tapping their knowledge, skills, and new technologies to actualise the government agenda.

He said the local engineering profession holds the keys to unlocking and unleashing the potential of emerging technologies in the industry for the benefit of Kenyans.

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airports and others among which the local engineers should be part and parcel.

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Other projects being undertaken by the ministry are the modernization of the National Air Traffic Management System and disaster recovery center for a total cost of Sh1.1 billion to be completed by 2026.

The government he said, is also undertaking the Ukunda Airstrip runway extension valued at Sh200million, which will significantly boost the South Coast tourism value proposition as well as the construction of Angama Airstrip in Masai Mara and the rehabilitation of the Lanet Airstrip and Wajir terminal building.

Murkomen said the government is also seeking funding for the extension of the Standard Gauge Railway to Malaba, the planned construction of the Mombasa Malaba highway, and the ongoing rehabilitation of the Metre Gauge Railway lines across the country.

However, the CS said that despite these multi-billion shillings investments, local engineers continue to miss opportunities to engage meaningfully in the projects due to their low professional and financial reach. "The ministry will introduce a change in policy and laws to recommend local engineers to undertake 40 percent of capital projects under public-private partnerships", said Murkomen.

Murkomen said currently, Kenya has a shortage of over 7,000 professional engineers across the various engineering disciplines with only 2,500 engineers professionally registered so far.

To that end, the Engineering Board of Kenya has announced revamped plans to hit a target of 10,000 professional engineers by 2027 to address the human capacity gaps in the industry.

"A nation's competitiveness depends on the capacity of its industry to innovate and upgrade manufacturing and infrastructure", said Murkomen.

The CS said that despite large investments in national infrastructure projects, the participation of local engineers in these projects and pro-

grams has unfortunately been constrained by limited training and exposure to specific skills, a gap that has been taken by foreign engineers.

The CS announced that the government is already implementing the Graduate Engineers Internship Programme (GEIP) which is structured to impart professional engineering competencies to recent entering graduates.

Murkomen who was addressing participants during the 4th Engineering Partnerships Conference in Naivasha said the program has a current cohort of 220 trainees and is set to train 1,000 others in the next two years.

To address and bridge these gaps, the CS said his ministry through the Engineer's Board of Kenya will establish the Kenya School of Engineering which will be the anchor regional center for excellence in engineering.

To enhance regulation of engineering services, the government has rolled out an online registration portal and project registration portal, a move he said will root out quacks in the industry who have been blamed for the collapse of houses.

Murkomen at the same time said Kenya is pursuing signatory status to the Washington Accord which will ensure engineering programs and graduates are recognized globally and enjoy global mobility.

He said the Ministry of Roads will soon gazette a task force to harmonize engineering regulatory frameworks including education, skills recognition, career pathways, and review of engineering Schemes of Service.

On their part, members of the Engineering Board of Kenya welcomed the CS remarks noting that they seek to be engaged in the actualization of the government's bottom-up agenda in the next five years.

The government has far lined up billion of shilling towards key sectors including affordable housing, healthcare plan, digital superhighway, and creative economy and environment and climate change programmes.

Partners

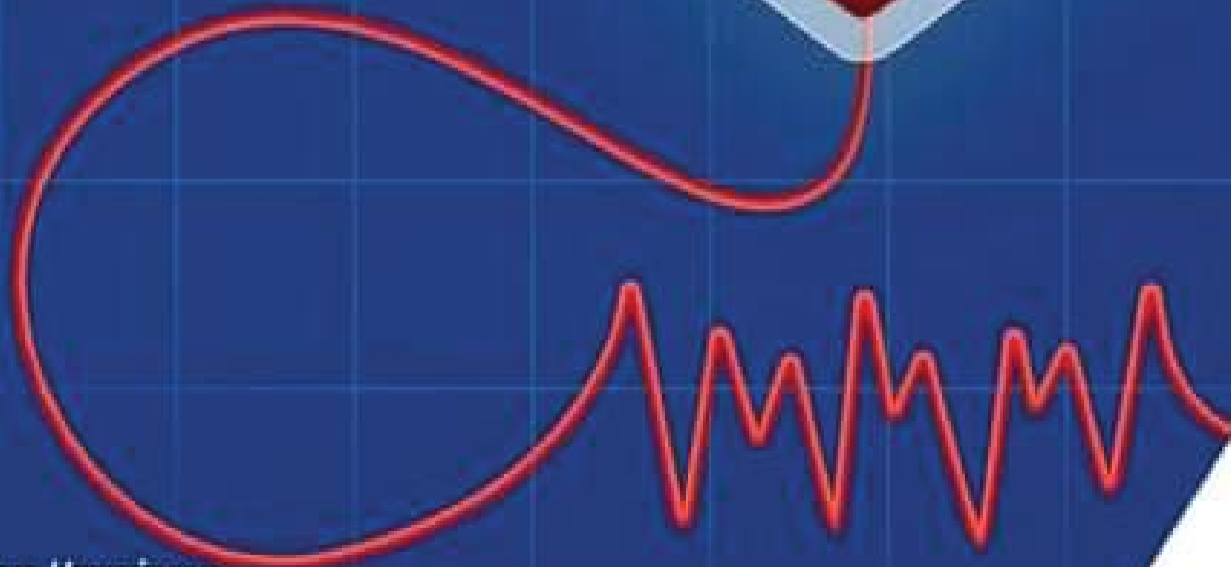


THE APOLLO GROUP



GIVE A PINT, SAVE A LIFE

Date: 14th June
Time: 9am - 5pm
Venue: Apollo Centre,
Westlands



APA, Insuring Happiness



Guards Union sign an Mou with HK Kapital To Establish Sector Sacco and Private Security Academy

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyatimes



MOU agreement signing at Serena Hotel Nairobi

L-R: Standing in White T-Shirt: Mr. Joseph Kang'ethe National Treasurer Walinzi Sacco

Seated: Rev. Paul Cheboi HP Kapital Country Representative, Hp Kapital Chairman Nandishwar Kaushal and KNPSWU General Secretary Bro. Isaac GM Andabwa (OGW).

Private security workers have signed a partnership agreement with HK Kapital, a UK-based firm to form a Sacco and a training academy for the private security sector in Kenya.

Kenya National Private Security Workers Union General Secretary Bro. Isaac GM Andabwa (OGW) who signed the deal on the behalf of the security workers said the aim is to mobilise resources for the benefit of members. Also in the partnership are Kenya Security Industry Association (KSIA) - Employers association and National Service and Walinzi Sacco.

In the signed MoU, HK Kapital will mobilize resources to establish

a Sacco in Kenya which will target KNPSWU members as part of their clientele and will develop financial products to meet the financial needs of KNPSWU members including but not limited to: Savings products, Credit products (asset Finance, Working capital, education loans, leasing, mortgages), Investment Products and Insurance.

HK Kapital will further mobilize resources to establish a Private Security Guards Academy which will be a Centre of excellence in providing vocational/academic training for private security Guards with the aim of professionalizing the service for deployment in both domestic and in-



HK Kapital, KNPSWU, KSIA and Walinzi Sacco Officials and representatives during the MoU signing at Serena Hotel, Nairobi.



KNPSWU, KSIA, Walinzi Sacco and HP Kapital officials.

L-R seated: Hp Kapital Chairman Nandishwar Kaushal, KNPSWU General Secretary Bro. Isaac GM Andabwa (OGW).

ternational markets.

HP KAPITAL will assist in placement of academy graduates with international security guards recruitment agencies. The academy will offer courses at Certificate, Diploma and all Degree levels (Bachelors, Masters and upto PhD). The Courses will be accredited and offered in partnership with a local University.

On its part, Kenya National Private Security Workers Union will support HP KAPITAL to process and obtain relevant approvals authorizations and licences for the establishment of the Sacco and Academy and work permits for investors where necessary; Support HP KAPITAL in profiling and promoting its investments through their membership platforms (including COTU) and relevant Government and Private networks; Guide and participate in the organization of future Investments by HP KAPITAL when necessary; Mobilise its membership and affiliates to open accounts in the Bank and Mobilise local deposits for the Sacco from its members/kins and affiliated bodies in line with the Governments' "bottom-up" economic transformational agenda (BETA) policies; Source for land for the construction of the Academy; Enter into partnership with a local university for accreditation of courses offered by the Academy; Liaise with the relevant Government agencies and employers to establish a career development path for security guards.

Both parties jointly agreed that -Kenya National Private Security Workers Union (KNPSWU) shall provide security of the investors party in terms of All Employers

Guarantee, insurance and members contribution; Partner and to work together in good faith to ensure successful implementation of this MOU; participate in various meetings and fora towards the implementation of the objectives of this MOU.

Bro. Isaac GM Andabwa (OGW) said the MOU is bound to radically transform the private security industry which is highly fragmented and remains marginalized, by those in authority. Andabwa took a swipe with the members of national assembly who squashed away the general regulations and guidelines to the private security regulation Act, 2016 which was meant to enforce the governing laws for the sector. The MP's are to squarely blame for the myriad of problems currently affecting the over 800,000 private security officers, added Bro. Andabwa.

Bro. Joash Soita, the Union National Organizing Secretary, challenged the Government to address the plight of guards citing that the majority of the guards earn below the minimum wage pay despite the high cost of living and inflation.

HK Kapital Chairman Nandishwar Kaushal, said the training Academy will foster motivation and nurture a progressive career path for the private security officers in Kenya. The courses will be offered physically and online.

The memorandum of understanding was signed at the Serena Hotel in Nairobi. The Employer Association (KSIA) Chairman Jeremy Van Tongeren and Walinzi Sacco National Treasurer Joseph Kang'ethe witnessed the signing.

Worth Noting:

- HP KAPITAL will assist in placement of academy graduates with international security guards recruitment agencies. The academy will offer courses at Certificate, Diploma and all Degree levels (Bachelors, Masters and upto PhD). The Courses will be accredited and offered in partnership with a local University.
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Meru County Commissioner Raises Concern Over Increased Cases Of Gender Based Violence

By: Dickson Mwiti
@themkenyatimes

Meru County Commissioner Fred Ndunga has raised concern over the increased cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the County in the recent past.

Ndunga said the county was leading in cases of husbands beating their wives and vice versa, rape, defilement, and incest.

He said the most significant challenge in fighting the vices is that society seems to be comfortable with the situation and in some instances protecting those engaging in the same.

"It is unfortunate that the County is ranked the highest in gender-based violence and this is not a sweet song to our ears. It even astonishes me that when someone is arrested for engaging in these vices, family members seek to settle the matter 'amicably' instead of letting the law

take its course," said Ndunga.

He said the responsibility for the ills does not only lie in the hands of the government officers only but also the members of society who should not appear to sympathise with the offenders.

"You have a role to play in ending these cases even as those in authority take action against them in terms of the law," said Ndunga.

He, however, asked chiefs and their assistants to be vigilant in their areas of jurisdiction and make follow-ups to ensure such offenders do not go scot-free.



Meru County Commissioner Fred Ndunga addressing the media.

Budget 2023: Treasury Decreases Health Care Budget To Ksh 141B

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Treasury has allocated Ksh 141.2 billion to cater for health care services in the 2023/2024 budget a decrease from Ksh 146.8 billion in the previous financial year.

While delivering the budget for the 2023/2024 Financial Year in Parliament on Thursday, Cabinet Secretary Njuguna Ndung'u said the allocation will promote access to quality and affordable healthcare through the universal healthcare coverage program.

He noted that the Kenya Kwanza administration is committed to realizing the constitutional right to health by delivering a universal healthcare coverage system.

"I propose to the National Assembly to effect the budget allocation of Ksh 141.2 billion to the health sector to support various programs aimed at supporting the Universal Health Care coverage," said the Treasury

CS.

Of the amount, Ksh 18.4 billion will go towards Universal Health Coverage in the 2023-24 Financial Year and Ksh 3.7 billion for the Kenya Covid-19 Emergency Response Project.

The other budget proposals include; Ksh 4.1 billion for free maternity health care, and Ksh 5.9 billion for Managed Equipment Services.

CS Ndung'u also proposed to the National Assembly to set aside Ksh 1.7 billion to provide medical cover to the elderly and severely disabled persons in society.

In the new financial year, the government has also set aside Ksh 24.8 billion to lower the cases of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis under the Global Fund and set a further Ksh 4.6 billion to enhance vaccines and immunization programs.

Additionally, the State has also proposed a total of Ksh 1.9 billion for the Construction of a Cancer Centre at Kisii Level 5 Hospital

The Treasury boss said it will help promote early diagnosis and man-



agement of cancer and reduce the burden of treatment among Kenyans. He also proposed Ksh 500 million

for strengthening Cancer Centre Management at Kenyatta National Hospital; and an additional Ksh 155

million for the establishment of Regional Cancer Centres.

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Ksh. 338B Set Aside For Security Sector In 2023/2024 Budget Statement

By: Our Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes



National Treasury CS Njuguna Ndung'u (Centre).

FY 2019/20 revenue which the National CS says is the most recent audited and approved revenue by the National Assembly.

“In addition to this, we have allocated Ksh. 3 billion to cater for part arrears from the previous years bringing the total allocations under Equalization Fund to Ksh. 10.9 billion,” Prof. Ndung’u said.

Nairobi County will receive the largest amount of equitable share after being allocated Ksh. 20 billion followed by Nakuru County at Ksh. 13.6 billion, Turkana County Ksh. 13.1 billion, Kakamega Ksh. 12.9, Kilifi Ksh. 12.1 billion, Mandera Ksh. 11.6 billion and Bungoma County Ksh. 11.1 billion.

Lamu County has been allocated the least amount of equitable share which stands at Ksh. 3.2 billion followed by Elgeyo Marakwet County at Ksh. 4.8 billion, Taita Taveta Ksh. 5 billion while Embu, Nyamira and Vihiga Counties will each receive Ksh. 5.3 billion in equitable share.

Treasury allocates education docket Ksh 628.6B to address inequities

To improve educational outcomes in the country, Ksh 628.6 billion has been allocated in FY 2023/24.

This is according to the National Treasury CS Prof. Njuguna Ndung’u who says the Kenya Kwanza Government aims to address inequities in the Kenyan education system.

Ndung’u in addition noted that with the allocation, the playing field for all children irrespective of their background would be leveled.

“The ultimate means of ensuring an equitable society is through investment in education, as part of human capital development. For this reason, we have allocated it a Ksh 628.6 billion,” he said.

Worth Noting:

- “I would later be requesting this August House for enhanced funding approval once the ongoing discussions on a Comprehensive Modernization Programme is concluded,” Prof. Ndung’u said during the presentation of the Budget Statement.

- He said the budget had also taken into consideration the welfare of the disciplined forces which he said is at the centre of the Kenya Kwanza administration with delivery of staff houses set to be expedited through public-private partnership framework.

- The 47 counties will receive Ksh. 385.4 billion from the equitable share of revenue raised nationally.

- Counties will also receive Ksh. 11 billion as additional conditional allocations and another Ksh. 33.2 billion as conditional allocation from development partners.

The country’s security sector has been allocated Ksh. 338 billion in the 2023/2024 Budget Statement presented by National Treasury CS Prof. Njuguna Ndung’u in Parliament Thursday afternoon.

Prof. Ndung’u says the allocation was informed by the critical role the sector plays in creating a safe environment for the country.

Of the amount, Ksh. 144.9 billion has been earmarked for the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), Ksh. 98.6 billion for the National Police Service (NPS), Ksh. 44.3 billion for the National Intelligence Service (NIS), and Ksh. 31.3 billion for prisons services.

Ksh. 8.8 billion has been earmarked for the leasing of police motor vehicles while Ksh. 500 million will be used for the police modernization programme even as the government seeks to better equip NPS.

“I would later be requesting this August House for enhanced funding approval once the ongoing discussions on a Comprehensive Modernization Programme is concluded,” Prof. Ndung’u said during the presentation of the Budget Statement.

And in order to step up the war on crime and enhance support to administration of justice the CS said Ksh. 856 million have been set aside to equip the national forensic laboratory.

He said the budget had also taken into consideration the welfare of the disciplined forces which he said is at the centre of the Kenya Kwanza administration with delivery of staff houses set to be expedited through public-private partnership framework.

National Gov’t allocates cash strapped counties Ksh. 442.1B

The 47 counties will receive Ksh. 385.4 billion from the equitable share of revenue raised nationally.

Counties will also receive Ksh. 11 billion as additional conditional allocations and another Ksh. 33.2 billion as conditional allocation from development partners.

Ksh. 12.5 billion has been set aside

as unconditional allocation for the devolved units.

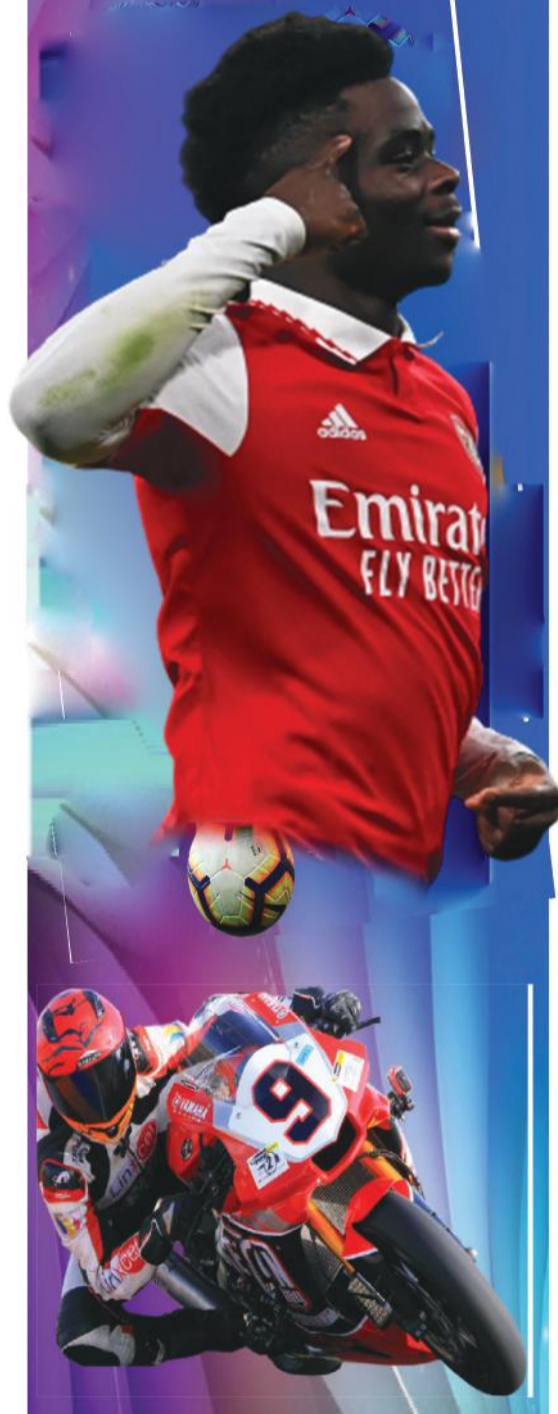
This brings to Ksh. 442.1 billion the total amount allocated to counties in the 2023/2024 Budget Statement presented to Parliament by the National Treasury CS Prof. Njuguna Ndung’u Thursday.

Part of this include Ksh. 425 million for the Transfer of Library Services being a devolved function and Ksh 2.9 billion as outstanding mineral royalties share to 32 County Governments as stipulated in the Mining Act, 2016.

As stipulated by Article (204) of the Constitution, Ksh 7.9 billion has been allocated under the Equalization Fund in the Financial Year 2023/24.

This represents 0.5 percent of the

Ksh 77.8 billion	Free primary and Day Secondary Education (Including NHIF)
Ksh 25.5 billion	Junior Secondary School Capitation
Ksh 4.9 billion	School Feeding Programme
Ksh 4.8 billion	Recruitment of 20,000 Intern Teachers
Ksh 5.0 billion	Examinations Fee Waiver
Ksh 316.7 billion	Teachers Service Commission
Ksh 1.3 billion	Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) Training of Teachers
Ksh 6.0 billion	Primary and Secondary Infrastructure including classrooms for Junior Secondary Schools
Ksh 400 million	Digital Literacy Programme and ICT Integration in Secondary Schools
Ksh 30.3 billion	Higher Education Loans Board (HELB)
Ksh 97.5 billion	University Education
Ksh 749 million	Research, Science, Technology and Innovation

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Sports >> *Final preparations are underway in Nairobi as Kenya gets ready to welcome the world for the World Rugby Under-20 Trophy, four years since the previous competition took place in Brazil.

Kenya readies to welcome the world in World Rugby U20 Trophy



Chipu captain John Baraka appreciating the fans with teammates after winning last year's Barthes Cup third place play-off match at the Nyayo National Stadium. PHOTO/Raymond Makhaya.

Final preparations are underway in Nairobi as Kenya gets ready to welcome the world for the World Rugby Under-20 Trophy, four years since the previous competition took place in Brazil.

The global showpiece kicks-off a month from today with an exciting opening encounter between Zimbabwe and Scotland.

The tournament runs from July 15-30 with all matches taking place at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi.

It is the second time Kenya are hosting the Under-20 Trophy, having done so in 2009 when the tournament was known as the Junior World Rugby Trophy.

Kenya finished that tournament in fourth place after a 19-17 third-place play-off defeat to Chile, which remains their best Under-20 Trophy finish to date.

Besides the silverware, the eight competing teams will also be playing for a spot in the World Rugby Under-20 Championship next year in South Af-

rica.

The winners will be promoted to the Under-20 Championship replacing the team that finishes bottom in that competition (24 June – 14 July, South Africa) who will drop down to the U20 Trophy in 2024.

Confirmed pools

The USA secured the final spot on Saturday after winning their two-legged North American play-off against Canada 82-35 on aggregate.

The USA won the first leg 43-21 in South Carolina June 6 before running out 39-14 winners in the second four days later.

It is the first time that the Junior All-Americans will return to the tournament since 2016 when they finished fifth.

They will hope to replicate their 2012 success when they lifted the trophy on home soil in Utah.

Scotland are the only debutants, having been relegated from the Under-20 Champion-

ship in 2019.

The others have all played at least one tournament with Uruguay, USA and Spain former winners.

Eight teams, split into two pools, will contest the Trophy. Each team will play three pool matches before a ranking match on the final day.

The teams finishing top of their pools will meet in the final with the other six teams facing their corresponding team in the other pool to determine the rankings from third to eighth.

World Rugby Chairman Sir Bill Beaumont said: "Africa hosting two World Rugby Under-20 tournaments consecutively will be exciting to witness and serves as the perfect build-up to Rugby World Cup 2023 which is just under three months away. "Both South Africa and Kenya have proven their ability to host global age-grade competitions in the past and I have no doubt that these editions will be successful with great interest from

local crowds.

"Exciting, hard-fought rugby played in great spirit is always the order of the day, and I am confident that the forthcoming tournaments will be no different."

Eight match officials from seven nations have been appointed for the tournament, including Kat Roche (USA) and Precious Pazani (Zimbabwe) who will make history as the first females to officiate at the World Rugby U20 Trophy.

Kenya Rugby Union Chairman, Alexander Mutai said: "Kenya is extremely honoured to again host this tournament, having first hosted it in 2009."

"We extend a warm welcome to the next generation of global rugby talent, and we hope that all teams put up a great show and get to experience and enjoy the warm hospitality that our country is renowned for. Kari-buni Kenya (Welcome to Kenya!)"

POOLS

Pool A: Scotland, Uruguay, USA and Zimbabwe

Pool B: Kenya, Spain, Samoa and Hong Kong China

World Rugby U20 Trophy match officials:

Sylvain Mane (Senegal), Cauã Ricardo Santos Maria (Brazil), Robin Kaluzniak (Canada), Tevita Rokovereni (Fiji), Kat Roche (USA), Precious Pazani (Zimbabwe), Saba Abulashvili (Georgia), Craig Chan (Hong Kong China).

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Athletics Kenya (AK) president Jack Tuwei has been nominated for one of four positions of vice president of the World Athletics

Athletics Kenya boss Tuwei to contest for World Athletics vice presidency



Athletics Kenya boss Jackson Tuwei with World Athletics boss Seb Coe. PHOTO/Raymond Makhaya

Athletics Kenya (AK) president Jack Tuwei has been nominated for one of four positions of vice president of the World Athletics.

Tuwei will face seven other candidates including Nawaf Bin Mohammed Al Saud (Saudi Arabia), Raul Chapado (Spain), Abby Hoffman (Canada), Antti Pihlakoski (Finland), Ximena Restrepo (Chile), Geoff Gardener (New Zealand) and Adille Sumariwalla (India).

In his plan for the sport as a vice president of the world governing body, Tuwei states that he will enhance the number and active participation of women and minorities in technical positions as well as leadership positions.

"I will bring along my passion, unique experience and commitment for success. I have much to share having learned valuable lessons from our successes and

challenges. I would support an increase in the number of women and minorities in leadership and technical positions in athletics and promotion of integrity by combating doping in Kenya," Tuwei says.

The retired military general has been at the helm of AK for the past eight years and has overseen Team Kenya's participation at major international competitions including two Olympics Games, three World Championships and two Commonwealth Games, among others.

During his reign, Kenya has also hosted a number of international competitions including the 2017 World Under 18 Championships, 2021 World Under 20 Championships, the Kipchoge Keino World Athletics Continental Tour and the World Cross Country Tour.

The country was also on the verge of becoming the first African country in history to host a World Championships before losing the bid to stage it in 2025 to Tokyo.

Tuwei also points to the installation of 12 air quality monitors around the continent as one of the hallmarks of his time in athletics administration.

"Organised African Championships and trained Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) members on Sports for Climate and Air Quality Actions. Installed 12 air quality monitors in five countries around the continent," Tuwei, also the vice president of CAA, says.

AK was among one of the first federations to adopt the Sports for Climate and Air Quality program, which seeks to empower athletics stakeholders to play a

proactive role in combating climate change.

However, Tuwei's reign has also coincided with a period in which the country's reputation as an athletics powerhouse is being stained by doping.

Kenya was classified as a Category A federation as one of the countries that are highly susceptible to rampant doping cases.

AK have made considerable efforts to curb the vice, such as sensitisation of athletes, sanctions against culprits and collaboration with local and international anti-doping agencies.

Tuwei will also be contesting for one of 13 positions on the WA individual council.

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S. Yamini Priya Author And Professional Career Teacher

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By
Princidin Joan Y



yamini priya's STREAM of THOUGHTS



About The Author

S.Yamini Priya lives in Coimbatore. She started her professional career as an English teacher in 2001.

She is pious, dedicated and motivated and works with high spirits.

She loves her teaching profession. She puts her heart and soul into the overall development of the children. She is a great inspiration for her children and makes her children feel English as an easy cake. She has contributed to creative writers Anthology. She published her first anthology of poems named FIRST DRIZZLE. The drizzle had flowed into a stream of thoughts.

About the books

FIRST DRIZZLE

First drizzle is a collection of well-knitted poems with high aspiring virtues. It dribbles with thought provoking verses which rejuvenate the

inner soul. The drizzles will drench you in my perception which will fascinate you into the world of poetry.

STREAM OF THOUGHTS

The book stream of thoughts is an anthology of hundred poems. The poems explicit the intense thoughts of the poet. The reader can be engrossed in the spontaneous overflow of thoughts and emotions. The book has high spirit of thoughts. The content of the poem enlightens the title. The readers can chillax and also stay effervescent with the book. The book has captivating illustrations which certainly describes the title and gives a varied experience to the readers.



S.Yamini Priya .