



National Assembly Agriculture Committee Probes Maize Flour Subsidy Programme Discrepancies
 The National Assembly Committee on Agriculture and Livestock has initiated an investigation into the Maize Flour Subsidy Programme for the fiscal year 2022/23. Page 9

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CS Moses Kuria Appeared Before Senate To Answer Questions



News>> Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru Appeared Before The Senate

P. 8. CS Zacharia Njeru: The Country Government had offered some office space in the basement of the Governor's building; however, it posed a challenge to access by the clients and the public.



Motivation>> When Challenged We Tend To Imagine The Solution Before Auditing Our Steps

P. 12. The inertia of the mind urges it to slide down the easy slope of imagination, rather than to climb the steep slope of introspection. Marcel Proust



Business>> Kenya Plays Host To The Africa Energy Forum 2023

P. 16 Kenya is hosting the Africa Energy Forum 2023 which is Africa's premier annual power and gas investment and business forum.

Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria yesterday appeared before the Senate where he fielded various questions.

Kuria disclosed that to address the rise in the cost of living, Kenya Kwanza Cabinet approved a framework to position the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) as the anchor of State initiatives to create a price stabilizer for essential household food items.



Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria when he appeared in the Senate yesterday

STORY ON PAGE 18&19

Nakuru County Government To Support Implementation Of Data Protection Act

By: Ngugi Bernard
 @themtkenytimes

Nakuru County Government intends to have all its contracted and aspiring suppliers registered with

the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) as part of enforcement of the Data Protection Act among the contractors.

The Act, which was enacted in 2019 requires any organization that

handles Personal Data to be registered with ODPC as a commitment to protect information in their possession regarding individuals they interact with as clients or partners in

STORY ON PAGE 13

Nakuru County Government To Support Implementation Of Data Protection Act



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The Justice And Legal Affairs Committee Vets PS Department For Correctional Services

By: PSCU



Some of the committee members during yesterday's meeting



Ms Salome Wairimu Muhia when she appeared in Parliament yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- Ms. Muhia is a Master of Laws (LLM) Graduate in Leadership and Governance from the University of Nairobi and a professional in the field of legal practice with over 25 years of experience.
- The committee members wanted to know what interventions she will institute to the Correctional Institutions and how she will improve the living conditions of prisoners, if approved.

The Justice and Legal Affairs Committee yesterday conducted an approval hearing for Ms. Salome Wairimu Muhia, the nominee appointed as the Principal Secretary, State Department for Correctional Services.

Ms. Muhia is a Master of Laws (LLM) Graduate in Leadership and Governance from the University of Nairobi and a professional in the field of legal practice with over 25 years of experience.

The committee members wanted to know what interventions she will institute to the Correctional Institutions and how she will improve the living conditions of prisoners, if ap-

proved.

“All people must be accorded a dignified life, reasonable housing and proper healthcare. I will implement this through instituting legal reforms by establishing a proper legal department. I am aware of the budgetary constraints, but we must use all the resources that we have at hand prudently, effectively, efficiently and transparently; through tightening IF-MIS controls, having proper workplans that align themselves with the budget, and being a hands-on PS is approved, to oversee the implementation of these workplans.” She said.

On recovery of prison land, the nominee said she is aware that a lot

of land has been lost but expressed optimism on this, based on the recent court ruling declaring that public land is public land regardless of the change of hand. In addition, the Kenya Prison Service has a very robust legal department and it will work closely with the National Land Commission to help recover any land that has been grabbed.

The nominee also promised to help equip prisoners with modern skill-sets in Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) to enable them to utilize the skills in content creation when they go out there.

In her closing remarks, the nominee promised to work hand in hand with

the Judiciary and the Justice and Legal Affairs committee, and called on the committee members for their support.

“I have visited the prison quarters and the uniformed staff are a forgotten lot and if I am approved, I request the committee to support us with additional budgetary allocation to improve their housing, healthcare and to provide more recreational facilities that are better equipped and staffed.”

Her nomination has been tabled at the House this afternoon, awaiting debate.

Editor's Desk

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Three University Students Among Those Who Perished In Ill-Fated Murang'a Building

By: Bernard Munyao

[@themtkenyatimes](#)



Ill-Fated Murang'a Building.

Worth Noting:

- Vice Chancellor of Murang'a University of Technology Professor Dickson Nyariki termed the incident as unfortunate saying it has claimed lives of young people who were hardworking and who had bright futures.
- "The information about the students was disturbing and has left the university fraternity in grief. I convey my condolences to the affected families and promise the university will play a role in burial preparations of the two," he added.
- The president of Murang'a University Students Organization (MUSO) Davis Kemboi said they will organize an occasion to mourn the two students.

Three university students were among the five people who perished in a building that collapsed on Monday evening in Murang'a town.

Two of the students were pursuing various courses at Murang'a University while the third was in third year at Moi University.

One of the students, Emmanuel Asande died a few minutes after he was taken to Murang'a Level-5 hospital.

Asande, who was undertaking his industrial attachment at the construction site, had worked in the building for the last two weeks.

A preliminary medical report indicated the second-year student at Murang'a University of Technology who was pursuing civil engineering, died due to injuries he sustained in his spinal cord.

His colleague, Daniel Nkulet, a third year procurement student, was working at the construction site as a casual worker.

Nkulet who had deferred his studies for a semester, had worked in the building which had reached third storey before collapsing, for about four weeks.

Vice Chancellor of Murang'a University of Technology Professor Dickson Nyariki termed the incident as unfortunate saying it has claimed

lives of young people who were hardworking and who had bright futures.

"The information about the students was disturbing and has left the university fraternity in grief. I convey my condolences to the affected families and promise the university will play a role in burial preparations of the two," he added.

The president of Murang'a University Students Organization (MUSO) Davis Kemboi said they will organize an occasion to mourn the two students.

"We were shocked and emotionally affected by the death of our colleagues who were just trying to earn something to support their education. We send our condolences to the families of our two comrades," said Kemboi.

The third student, Geoffrey Wachira who was pursuing Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology at Moi University also met his death at the construction site where he was working as a casual labourer.

His father, Lawrence Kingori told journalists that his son opted to work at the construction site after he completed his attachment at Murang'a Level 5 hospital.

"My son was to go back to university for his fourth year in September

this year and so I allowed him to do some construction to earn some money. He had worked at the building for barely two weeks before he met his death," said King'ori.

A close friend to the family Patrick Muturi termed Wachira as a hardworking young man saying the tragedy had robbed the family and the community of a person who could be of great help in future.

The building which was being constructed at Jua kali area in Murang'a town, tilted on one side on Monday evening leading to the collapse of some of the walls.

Those affected were at ground floor of the building which left five dead and four recuperating at Murang'a Level-5 hospital.

Rescue teams drawn from Kenya Defense Forces, County disaster, National Disaster Management Unit, the Red Cross helped in the rescue mission, an exercise which ended on Tuesday evening.

On Tuesday, speaking when he visited the scene, Principal Secretary for Public Works Joel Arumonyang said the government is working to put in place regulations which will address gaps in the construction sector.

He decried loss of lives which have been witnessed through collapsing

of buildings saying such tragedies can be avoided.

He added that they will engage the national assembly to pass the building control bill which will address gaps in the building sector.

"Inspection of buildings is going on and already we have covered 26 counties, and this exercise will continue to ensure people live in safe buildings," he added.

The PS said that through the National Construction Authority (NCA) they will ensure vigilance and called on professionals to give their best in terms of supervision.

The CEO of the NCA, Maurice Aketch, stated that the relevant authorities had commenced investigations into the actual cause of the collapse of the building.


"NCA is working to ensure all constructions happening in the country comply with all the regulatory requirements and especially standards to maintain quality, safety and the wellbeing of Kenyans and the environment," he remarked.



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I Will Prioritize Compliance On Performance Management Contracting, Nominee For PS, Performance Management Tells Committee

By: PSCU



Worth Noting:

In response, she informed the committee that she had applied for the position of Principal Secretary when the positions were advertised last year and that she had been interviewed although she had not been picked then.

She further told the Committee that her previous work experience from her stint as a teacher at Kerugoya Boys High School, through the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) where she served as head of Human Resources, to the Kenya Revenue Authority where she headed the Pension scheme, had prepared her adequately for this position.



Some of the committee members during yesterday's session.

The Nominee for Principal Secretary for Performance Management and Delivery Services, Ms. Anne Njoki Wang'ombe told the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security that she will prioritize the compliance of performance contracting across government to enhance service delivery. Speaking when she appeared before the committee for vetting and approval hearings, Ms. Wang'ombe pointed out that several state agencies including government ministries had not complied with the signing of performance contracts and thus were not bound by any performance measurement framework towards results.

"Mr. Chairman, there are a number of state agencies that have not complied with the government directive for performance management con-

tracting. If approved by the House, I will prioritize compliance to promote service delivery across government. In fact, I would consider spearheading the anchorage of this directive in law as a means to for improving public sector performance.

She was responding to questions from members who had sought to know her understanding of the role she has been nominated for.

After formal introductions, the members probed her on her suitability for the position and on why she thought she had been nominated by the President to the position.

In response, she informed the committee that she had applied for the position of Principal Secretary when the positions were advertised last year and that she had been interviewed although she had not been picked then.



Ms Anne Njoki Wang'ombe when she appeared in Parliament yesterday

She further told the Committee that her previous work experience from her stint as a teacher at Kerugoya Boys High School, through the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) where she served as head of Human Resources, to the Kenya Revenue Authority where she headed the Pension scheme, had prepared her adequately for this position.

Asked about her views on reforms for state corporations which would help accelerate meaningful output geared towards achieving the country's long term development goals, Ms. Wang'ombe told the legislators that it's untenable to continue operating state corporations that have outlived their usefulness. She further suggested that the government should merge state corporations that have similar roles to enhance efficiency.

Ms. Wang'ombe also undertook to spearhead reforms at the public service to accelerate automation of government services as well as ensure that inspectorate institutions carry out regular management audits.

Citing some of the challenges experienced by Kenyans at the height of luckluster performance from certain quarters across the public service, members underscored the need for the government to entrench the Mwongozo Guidelines for state agencies. They further called on Ms. Wang'ombe that if approved, to classify how state departments deal with pending bills as a key performance indicator for performance.

The committee is scheduled to retreat to prepare its report for consideration by the House next week.

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Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru Appeared Before The Senate

By: PSCU



CS Zachariah Njeru being escorted to the Parliament buildings.

ruary?

CS Zacharia Njeru: We have Eight (8) Land Registries that are not operational including that one in Ol-Kalou Nyandarua Country, but we are in the process, the registry is not yet complete, there some works that needs to be done knowing that land records are very sensitive. Therefore, there some few operational and administrative things that the ministry needs to do apart from the building and once done we are going to open the registry.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: How long will it take you to gazette the Land that was Grabbed by Lake Turkana wind-power as ruled by the Court?

CS Zacharia Njeru: I need more time to research on the above concern, and I kindly welcome Senator Chute in my office for more clarity and response on the issue once I have done enough research on the same.

Sen. Recha Murgor: How will you protect Community Land from Land

Grabbers, and this applies across good number of Counties including West-pokot, Samburu, Marsabit and others, where some individuals grab Community land in the name of private land/Ranches?

CS Zacharia Njeru: We are working Closely with the County Governments to solve the problem. The County Governments are coming up with inventories and so far as Ministry we have already registered Nine (9) inventories going on.

Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi: Is the Ministry ready to hire property as a registry to provide services for the residents of Samburu County?

CS Zacharia Njeru: It might not be economically viable to go again hire another property and at the same time we need more capital to complete the registry, now that have already allocated Kshs 17,000,000 this Financial year we can make sure that we are done with the first floor so that we can accommodate part of the Staff working at the registry to provide services to the residents.



CS Zachariah Njeru while answering questions in the Senate yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- **CS Zacharia Njeru:** The Ministry, In the early 2022, posted a Land Registrar to Samburu County, however, the office space that was provided for the registry was not adequate and was inaccessible to the Community. The County Government had offered an office in the basement of Governor's building.
- The Land Registrar is, therefore, currently working from Nyahururu where the records are kept and maintained, however, the Government is committed to posting back the Registrar of Maralal once the Samburu Land Registry offices block (Samburu Ardhi House) at Maralal is compete.
- **Sen. John Methu:** When will the Land Registry in Ol-kalou Nyandarua County will be in operational, now that the buildings is complete and we had an indication that the Registry will be operational by February?

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development Zachariah M. Njeru yesterday appeared in Senate to respond to the following lawmakers' questions:

Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi: What measures is the Government taking to ensure full operationalization of the Samburu Land Registry that was opened in 2021 to enable residents of Samburu County have access to land registration services and issuance of title deeds?

CS Zacharia Njeru: The Country Government had offered some office space in the basement of the Governor's building; however, it posed a challenge to access by the clients and the public. The National Government is, however, constructing a Land Registry at Maralal which is half complete (50% complete).

There are major works that the contractor on site is expected to do. Due to auxiliary measures the allocated budget was reduced to zero (0) in the last Financial Year thereby leading to stalled process. However, the Government has allocated Kshs. 17,000,000 in the FY 2023/2024 towards the completion of the project. The estimated budget to complete is Kshs. 42, 389,713 hoping that the National Treasury will allocate adequate funds to have the project completed soonest possible.

In addition, most land in Samburu County is owned Communally under the Community Land Act 2016. However, there are leasehold properties in townships. The Government has, therefore, been fast-tracking the processing of titles/leases in the country. Earlier this Month (June),

Samburu County Government in conjunction with the National Lands Commission issued 2607 letters of allotment for plots in Maralal Township and 2000 letters of allotments are being processed therefore the Ministry is waiting to receive the Allotment letters for processing of lease Documents.

Further, Community Land Management Boards for the various Community groups in the Country have been gazetted and our Adjudication officers and surveyors are in Samburu recording interests in land, and resolving disputes where demarcation is currently ongoing.

Sen. (Dr.) Lelegwe Ltumbesi: When will the Government deploy a Land Registrar to Samburu County?

CS Zacharia Njeru: The Ministry, In the early 2022, posted a Land Registrar to Samburu County, however, the office space that was provided for the registry was not adequate and was inaccessible to the Community. The County Government had offered an office in the basement of Governor's building.

The Land Registrar is, therefore, currently working from Nyahururu where the records are kept and maintained, however, the Government is committed to posting back the Registrar of Maralal once the Samburu Land Registry offices block (Samburu Ardhi House) at Maralal is compete.

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National Assembly Agriculture Committee Probes Maize Flour Subsidy Programme Discrepancies

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyatimes



Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi when he appeared before the Agriculture Committee yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- Documents scrutinized by the committee revealed that the Ministry paid Sh100 million for monitoring expenses, which was allocated to various entities including the Ministry of Interior, National Administration Command Centre, regional oversight teams, and the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB).
- “Can you clarify your role in the Maize Subsidy Programme? Did you ensure that the maize got to the consumer?” asked Gabriel Kagombe.
- On his part, Joseph Kimote, Managing Director National Cereals and Produce Board was at pains to explain NCPB’s role in the Maize Subsidy Programme.

The National Assembly Committee on Agriculture and Livestock has initiated an investigation into the Maize Flour Subsidy Programme for the fiscal year 2022/23.

This follows concerns earlier raised by committee members regarding the implementation and financial aspects of the program.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. John Mutunga who is the MP Tigani West, committee members met with Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi.

While making his submissions, the CS disclosed that a total of 118 millers were listed as participants in the subsidized maize flour distribution across the country.

“We did not see the subsidized maize flour in our village retail shops? How was all this money spent and no one can confirm if the aim of the programme was achieved?” asked David Kiplagat, MP

Documents scrutinized by the committee revealed that the Ministry paid Sh100 million for monitoring expenses, which was allocated to various entities including the Ministry of Interior, National Adminis-

tration Command Centre, regional oversight teams, and the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). “Can you clarify your role in the Maize Subsidy Programme? Did you ensure that the maize got to the consumer?” asked Gabriel Kagombe.

On his part, Joseph Kimote, Managing Director National Cereals and Produce Board was at pains to explain NCPB’s role in the Maize Subsidy Programme.

During the meeting, legislators found that the MD was unable to clarify its role in the maize subsidy program.

Specifically, the MD could not confirm whether the subsidized maize reached the intended end users. He was unable to provide evidence for the payment received by the Board, adding further confusion to the situation.

The committee also met with representatives from the Cereal Millers’ Association (CMA) to gain insights into the matter. During the meeting, it was discovered that the number of millers involved in the program differed between the Ministry and CMA.

The stark disparity of figures be-

tween the two parties adds confusion to an already convoluted situation and necessitates a thorough investigation.

The CMA stated that a total of 129 millers had signed contracts with the government for the Maize Subsidy Programme. According to the CMA, the Ministry owes its members a balance of Sh2.570 Billion based on subsidy costs and payments made for the fiscal year 2022/23.

Committee members expressed dissatisfaction with the responses provided by both the Ministry and the CMA.

“How is it possible that the number of millers involved remains in dispute and what explanation can be given for the conflicting figures regarding payments made to the millers?,” added Jared Okello, MP Nyando

Lawmakers raised several key issues that require further clarification. Firstly, there is a discrepancy in the number of millers participating in the subsidy program, with the Ministry reporting 118 millers and the CMA stating 129 millers. The Committee aims to determine the accurate figure to take appropriate action.

Additionally, concerns have been raised about accountability and transparency in the payment transactions. Some millers were paid without proper invoices, and the Committee seeks clarification on the absence of IFMIS numbers in these payments, as the use of IFMIS enhances accountability.

Moreover, inconsistencies have been found in the quantities of sifted maize flour supplied under the program.

The Ministry reported 121,714,844 kgs, while the CMA submitted 126,337,752 kgs. Furthermore, there is a discrepancy in the total amount paid to millers, with the Ministry stating Sh3.366B and the millers (CMA and GMOA) claiming Sh2.747B.

As the investigation into the Maize Flour Subsidy Programme continues, the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock seeks to address the discrepancies and unanswered questions raised by the responses from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the Cereal Millers’ Association

Key Factors Of Prayers Pt 2

I also try to give my best time to prayer — which for me is never the



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

time just before going to bed. One’s last waking moments should never be given to powerful intercessory prayer (except, perhaps, for students who have a final exam in the morning). Here Jesus’ habit is instructive: “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (Mark 1:35). The early bird gets the prime time. The real question for you is, when is your best time? For some it may be at lunch or before dinner. A certain man could not find the right posture for prayer. He tried praying on his knees, but that was

not comfortable; besides, it wrinkled his slacks. He tried praying standing, but soon his legs got tired. He tried praying seated, but that did not seem reverent. Seriously, one’s prayer posture can make a difference. While the Scriptures mention numerous postures for prayer, none is prescribed. What is important is that your posture enhance reverent attention. Sometimes I kneel, sometimes I walk about the room, often I sit at my desk with list in hand. There are times when I lift my hands, and other times I have been on my face. Heart attitude is the key factor. As to preparation for prayer, honest practicality is of greatest importance. Sometimes a man needs a shower and a shave. If you are into coffee like I am, a good cup of coffee is a divine cordial. Again, it is not the physical details that are of prime importance but the condition and stance of the heart. Whatever helps you focus on the Lord, use it. Often the best prayers are short and passionate. Luther himself said: “Look to it that you do not try to do all of it, do not try to do too much, lest your spirit grow weary. Besides, a good prayer mustn’t be too long.



Do not draw it out. Prayer ought to be frequent and fervent.” A legalistic commitment to duration can kill one’s prayer life. HALELUJAH, HALELUJAH. 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

Forging For A Stronger And More Integrated Northern Corridor

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) is an intergovernmental body, encompassing six countries in Eastern Africa, tasked with the job of coordinating transport infrastructure improvements. Addressing the media at Panari Hotel the executive Secretary of Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority Omae Nyarandi noted, “As you are aware the single customs territory was implemented in 2014. There are alot of gains that have resulted from that implementation. However there are several pending challenges along the corridor so we have been meeting here to look at the single customs territory

and the impact and the challenges we met yesterday with stakeholders from member states, to look at the non-tariff barriers along our corridors today we have a meeting with commissioners of customs or their representatives of the EAC partner states looking at those challenges and how we can solve them for the smooth flow of cargo along the corridors and trade” “Starting with challenges, we still see a lot of delays in border crossings, delays at the points of entry, it is hoped that with the implementation of the single customs territory and data exchange between the revenue authorities should be smoother so that by the time you reach the border crossing points, the crossing should be shorter.



Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) Executive Secretary Omae Nyarandi .

Finance Bill 2023: Ruto Proves Wrong His Critics



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- These interventions would have helped him to tame the threats posed by the Somali based Al Shabaab terrorists.
- Hardly a week passed without a terror attack being reported. Many people lost their lives and properties worth billions of shillings were destroyed. The Westgate terror attack shocked the whole world.
- Back to Finance Bill 2023, the Azimio La Umoja OKA party wanted Kenyans to believe that President William Ruto had brain-washed and totally compromised members of ruling Kenya Kwanza to vote in support of the Bill in its original form. No amendments. No alterations.
- To succeed in this, Azimio allege that Ruto had employed strong arm tactics including warning the members who will vote 'NO' of dire consequences.

The Finance Bill 2023 is currently going through the Third reading. This is the final stage and so the Whole Committee of the House is involved in the debate.

This process will culminate with voting. Each member will have a chance to vote either in favor of all the proposals or reject some of them. It will be an open vote. Here, Kenya Kwanza and Azimio read the same script.

Watching and looking at the MPs' body language, one thing was clear. The members in both sides took this matter very seriously.

They knew this is a key constitutional duty bestowed on each one of them by the electorate.

As a result, each would make his or her contribution freely and openly without looking over their shoulders whether the 'big man' was watching them.

Prior to the tabling of the Bill, the relevant committees of parliament had convened public hearings during which the public got an opportunity to present their views.

Majority of Kenyans rooted for reduction of the proposed taxes and scrapping of some.

Based on concerns they had raised, some of the amendments introduced by some members sailed through.

This time there were no ugly scenes witnessed on the floor of the house.

This is contrary to dramas that were witnessed before.

In 2018, for instance, the debate on Finance Bill turned chaotic and at one point members engaged each other in physical confrontations.

The same scenario played out during the debate to amend the security laws.

President Uhuru Kenyatta's cabinet had initiated this process. Uhuru wanted the security laws amended so that he can have the power to hire and fire senior police officers.

These interventions would have helped him to tame the threats posed by the Somali based Al Shabaab terrorists.

Hardly a week passed without a terror attack being reported. Many people lost their lives and properties worth billions of shillings were destroyed. The Westgate terror attack shocked the whole world.

Back to Finance Bill 2023, the Azimio La Umoja OKA party wanted Kenyans to believe that President William Ruto had brain-washed and totally compromised members of ruling Kenya Kwanza to vote in support of the Bill in its original form.



President William Ruto .

No amendments. No alterations.

To succeed in this, Azimio allege that Ruto had employed strong arm tactics including warning the members who will vote 'NO' of dire consequences.

Initially, the coalition leader Raila Odinga had vowed. We are ready to counter President Ruto's bid to impose this Bill which he termed as punitive and scandalous. I have therefore directed our members to reject this Bill in entirety.

But the story would be different when it was finally tabled in parliament.

The Azimio members would not be bound by Raila's hardline stance. They would critique, look at the merit and demerit of this Bill with soberness.

In Mount Kenya region, Githunguri MP Githoni Wa Muchomba openly opposed this Bill.

If Ruto was running the country with an iron fist, she could have be-

come the first casualty.

When Ruto visited her constituency a few days later, she was given a chance to welcome the leaders accompanying him and took the opportunity to enumerate the challenges facing area residents.

At this event, the President pitched tent for the Bill. Some leaders in Azimio interpreted this to mean he had gone there to lecture and embarrass the MP.

The President's diary is prepared much earlier. It contains the functions he would attend to in the next one or two months.

So, the visit to Githunguri had been organized before Wamuchomba started to campaign against the Bill.

We know the President had all along pitched tent for this Bill. He always requested and called on members of parliament not to let him down.

This bill is very important. It will help my administration to kick start the process of rebuilding our econ-

omy.

In light of this, what did you expect the President to say during this visit? You would not have expected him to praise Gathoni for rejecting the Bill.

The president had earlier said he will watch to see the MPs who will reject the proposed taxes and housing levy. This is because it seeks to create jobs for millions of jobless 'hustlers'.

Every day, you are confronted by these hustlers. They would ask you to get them jobs. So, why deny them this chance?

Remember you will go back to them after five years. I doubt these 'hustlers' will renew your contract.

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

When Challenged We Tend To Imagine The Solution Before Auditing Our Steps

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- A successful parent whose kids have not reached the limits the parent attained usually blames them or the counterpart in marriage thinking that perhaps they have followed the path of the less successful partner but if he or she is wise he or she should have thought about self and what he or she should do to help them perform better than he or she has done.
- Teachers are fond of passing the blame to students whenever their performance falls below expectations instead of them self-evaluating to try and establish what they could have not done to help the students do better than they have done or what they should do to make the situation to improve.



The inertia of the mind urges it to slide down the easy slope of imagination, rather than to climb the steep slope of introspection. Marcel Proust.

Everyone has his projections in whatever he is doing whether the person is longsighted or shortsighted he has something that he estimates to be the outcome.

Age, experience, context, social and religious inclination determines what one expects in his processes. Rarely would someone think beyond what he has ever heard or seen.

Planning is a crucial ingredient in any project once done well and followed strictly during implementation we are hopeful that the predetermined results would be achieved.

During the exam time it is likely that you will see many students who have failed to understand a question

or understood but failed to know what the answers are then looking at the roof of the building as they try to imagine what to write thereafter writing down whatever has clicked in their mind others opt to leave the question unanswered.

On contrary those who read, understand the question and know the answers write them down thereafter rereads the answers to check their correctness.

There are others somehow wise who whenever unable to understand the question try to reread it until they fully internalize it and apply any idea they have concerning such a topic.

A successful parent whose kids have not reached the limits the parent attained usually blames them or the counterpart in marriage thinking that perhaps they have followed the path of the less successful partner but if

he or she is wise he or she should have thought about self and what he or she should do to help them perform better than he or she has done.

Teachers are fond of passing the blame to students whenever their performance falls below expectations instead of them self-evaluating to try and establish what they could have not done to help the students do better than they have done or what they should do to make the situation to improve.

Having taught most of the knowledge they have then the students read for themselves the teachers need to expect the students to be way above what they have taught in normal classes.

There are times what you have done is to the best of your capacity but you feel unsatisfied with the results unknown to you is that it is not a must

for you to do anything extra perhaps under the prevailing circumstances your results are excellent that is why in an interview you may find that despite not answering all questions the panel settles on you as the best candidate probably due to the performance of others who participated or the target they had set which you never knew till the results of the rest were announced.

The same case applies to students who score low grades and feel disheartened only for the exam council to announce him as one of the best student in the exams.

Provided you have done what you think is generally good, do not keep blaming yourself or others. Feel contented but for the purpose of another similar process in future with an aim of improving the outcome.

Nakuru County Government To Support Implementation Of Data Protection Act

By: Ngugi Bernard
 @themtkenyatimes

business.

According to the Act, one can be fined up to Sh5 million for causing a breach of Personal Data in one's possession. Protection of Personal Data in Kenya is a constitutional right which is guaranteed under the right to privacy.

Personal Data is any information about an individual that can be used to identify the person and it includes one's national identity card, health status, telephone number, biometric data, ethnicity, birth certificate, location and marital status.

ODPC categorizes personal data handlers into two: Data Controllers and Data Processors, with the former defined as individuals or lawful organizations that collect information on an individual for service delivery purposes and therefore, they determine the use of the records, while the latter gather the information on behalf of the users.

Data Controllers include health

facilities, financial and learning institutions, as well as hotels while Data Processors comprise bank and mobile service provider agents and security personnel at entrance to buildings.

To ensure Data Controllers and Data Processors secure the Personal Data they collect, the Act requires they be registered with ODPC, which is charged with regulation of the use of the data and protecting the data subjects against breach of their records.

Speaking when opening a public awareness workshop organized by ODPC at a Nakuru hotel, area Deputy Governor David Kones said the County Government was committed to protection of Personal Data as spelt out in the Act and was ready to comply with the same.

"As a County Government, we must commit ourselves to respect the Data Protection Act, 2019," said Kones, adding the administration had a lawful basis to collect Personal Data for service delivery and as a result, various departments held a lot of information on individuals.

He said consequently, the County Government was bound to put in

place safeguards to protect the data in compliance with the Act.

Yusuf Momanyi, an officer with ODPC and who represented the Data Protection Commissioner, Immaculate Kassait during the one-day workshop, commended Nakuru County Government for their readiness to collaborate with the Office in Personal Data protection and commitment to cascade the same to their contracted and aspiring suppliers.

Urging participants to guard any second party Personal Data in their possession against breach, Momanyi reminded them abuse of such information could attract heavy fine if victims launched complaint with ODPC and it was confirmed to be true.

Breach refers to accidental or unlawful destruction, loss or alteration of Personal Data due to insecurity. It also includes disclosure, access, transmission, storage or processing of an individual's records without the subject's authority.

The Nakuru workshop is part of a series of public sensitization campaign ODPC is holding in all counties under an arrangement the or-



Nakuru County Government To Support Implementation Of Data Protection Act.

ganization calls County Awareness Outreach Program, to educate the public on the need to protect personal data as well as the mandated role of the organization.

Artists Plea To The Government

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes

Artists and musicians have urged the government to remove brokers between them and the Safaricom Company in order to benefit with their sweat directly.

Speaking after meeting artists and musicians from all over Kenya where they chose Ngaruya Junior to be their chairman and link to Ruto government.

They said among the 10 shillings that Skiza tune gets they normally get one shilling fifty cent while brokers and Safaricom takes the rest but they said they signed this agreements with the PRDP'S without knowledge and instead they are supposed to benefit most with this 10 shillings and get 7 shillings instead. They supported the government

plan to affordable housing as they will be the first beneficiaries to get the houses.

They have languished in poverty for long in the industry without benefit while Middle men are minting millions that's why they need Ruto government to remove middle men in the game.

They decided to support affordable housing due to they are most affected as most of the artists live on poverty and when they die they are force to fundraise double for burial and also for building as house in the family which makes it More expensive for them.



Artists and musicians .

My Institution Is My Pride



My institute is my pride. Human life is spent by setting goals and striving for them. A few years ago, my goal was Pedagogical Institute named after Ajniyoz. Thank God, I was lucky enough to be a student, to enter through your magnificent gate. , walking in your wide gardens, climbing up your marble stairs, learning from your kind teachers, chatting with your smart, hungry students is now my goal.

That's why I worked tirelessly. I studied. And finally I became your student. At that time, there was no happier person than me. I saw the pride in the eyes of my parents; I felt the envy in the hearts of my parents, friends, and relatives.

All because of you I began to look forward to my days with you. After a few days, the studies began. On the very first day, all the teachers greeted us students with a good mood. There is no greater happiness than being a university student.

But don't look at it as my goal, look at it as a stepping stone on the way to my goal. Your biggest goal is to be a person who can contribute to the development of the country, better than yourself. Let it be to leave a name.

The reason for my institute is that I have learned to set bigger and correct goals. Thanks to my passionate teachers, I feel that every day is not spent in vain.

To tell you the truth, sometimes you seem to be harsh.

There were times when I complained to you when I was struggling with your complicated tasks. Even then, you were able to explain that you need to raise me as a mature person. My Jonajon Institute, you are like my parents. You care about me.

Thank you for the sports activities you organized for me to be healthy. Thank you for the dozens of work clubs you opened for me to be professional. There is no end to what you have done for me.

My institute is still here.

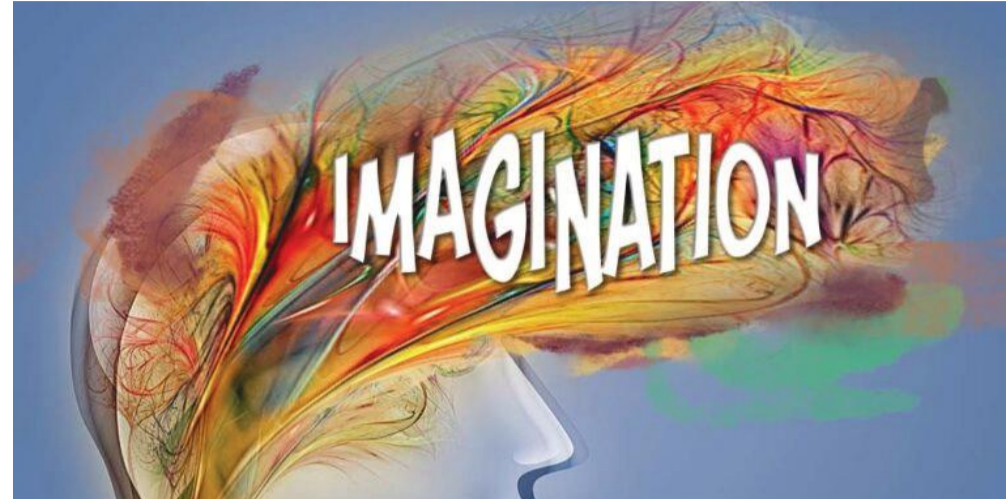
I really appreciate your hard work. I will try my best to make you proud of me, I promise. How many people have you helped so far?

The achievements of thousands of students who have studied under you are countless. I am one of them. I joined as a follower. I was awarded with a badge, certificate and gifts at the "Innovative Promoter" competition in Samarkand.

All through my institute and teachers who are teaching me. I am proud of you my institution!

Sayyora Najepova is a 2nd year student of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of the Pedagogical Institute named after Ajniyoz

Imaginations Run Wild



Imaginations run wild
From the poets
Tears flow from the eyes
From the trembling of the drowsy heart.

Suddenly sleepy souls
Immediately open your eyes
Alisher passed Babur
From the exclamation of figures.

This is the sun in the sky
Always is shining
Autumn has come
The wind is howling

The moment you know autumn has
arrived
Rushes to school everyone.
The first ball rings

But we avoid the lesson

Odinakxon Tolqinbayeva was born in 2006 in Kuva district of Fergana Region. She is currently a 10th grade student at the 19th General Secondary School.

The winner of the smart reader competition held by the regional leader under 5 initiatives.

The winner of the "Young Reader" competition organized by the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan and the Federation of the Trade Unions of Uzbekistan. 2nd place together with her team at the Zakovat tournament held as part of the reading week. Winner of various school and district competition Olympiads, member of the "Together we rise" project. A member of the "Support of the Motherland" team and the author of more than 22 poems

Mother

Let's always pay attention to the
mother

Let's not miss a little love
In a family with a mother
There is grace, there is blessing
Mother is the lamp of the house
It is the light of the house
He prays for you
He asks God for life
Whenever you go to see them
His eyes shine with joy

Kakhorova Oghiloy was born on July 22, 2006. She is a young amateur poet. She is currently a 10th grader. Her work has been published in many magazines and anthologies.



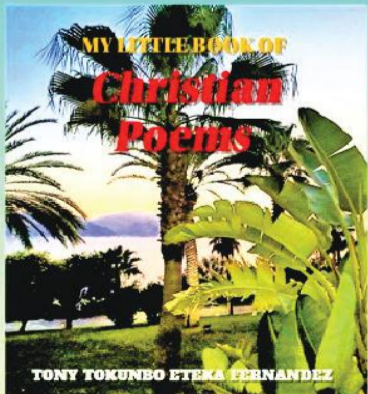
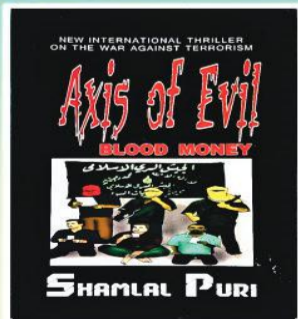
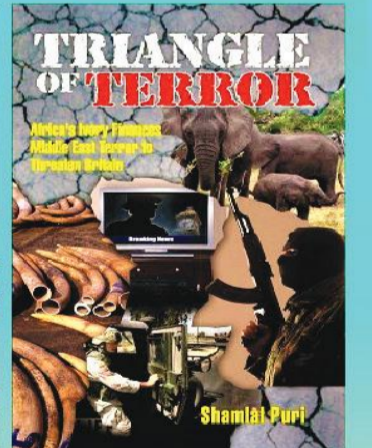
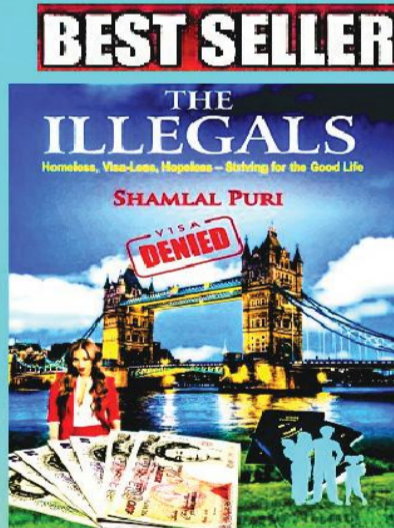
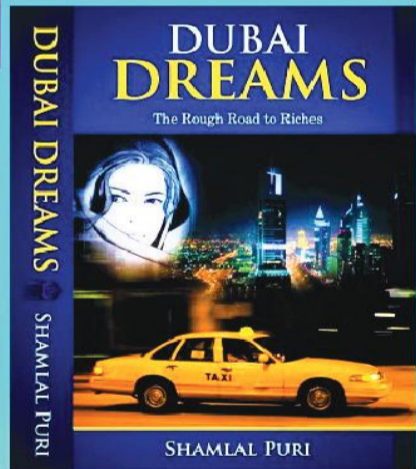
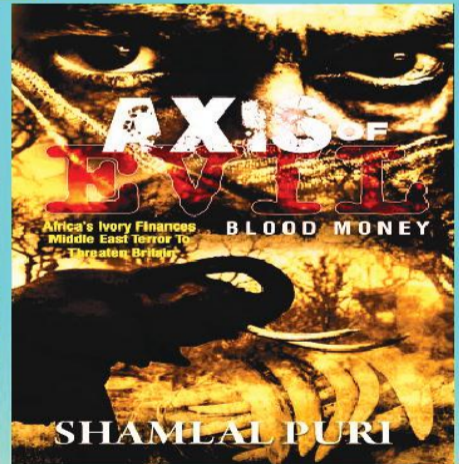
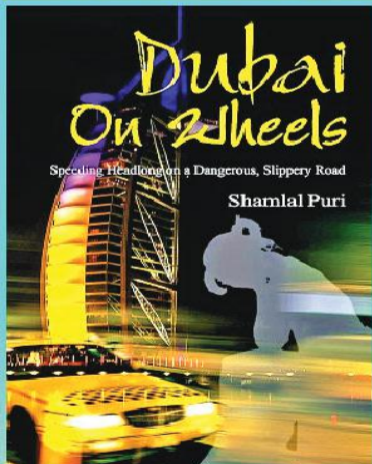
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BUSINESS

Kenya Plays Host To The Africa Energy Forum 2023

By: Enrica Amisi and Emma Jolly Wambui

@themtkenyatimes



Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir.

Worth Noting:

- He highlighted that the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project, located in the northern part of Kenya, is one of the largest wind power projects in Africa and the world with a capacity of 310 megawatts.
- “Africa has vast hydro generation potential from the Congo River Basin, the third largest river in the world to the Nile Basin in Ethiopia. In Kenya, we have developed our hydro power plants in the renowned Seven Forks hydropower complex including Masinga, Kamburu, Gitaru, and Kindaruma in Tana River, which contributes 700 MW to our energy supply,” explained the CS.
- He added that smaller hydroelectric plants, such as the 2 MW Gogo Power Station, in Migori County plays a vital role in electrifying rural and remote areas, where grid connectivity may be challenging.

Kenya is hosting the Africa Energy Forum 2023 which is Africa’s premier annual power and gas investment and business forum.

The forum brings together governments and state utilities to address the international energy community on opportunities available in Africa’s power and gas sectors.

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir said that this forum is one of the most meaningful gathering of decision makers in the African energy sector and brings together governments, utilities, regulators, development finance institutions, commercial banks, power developers, technology providers and professional services.

Speaking at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) during the forum’s official opening, Chirchir said that over the next three days they will seriously engage and look at several topics including: Insights from ministers and heads of utilities on energy and mining from the continent, increasing pace and scale of Africa’s renewable energy projects, the growing role of Africa’s gas within today’s GeoPolitical context, breaking down barriers to energy transition in mining among others.

“We need to improve power generation and connectivity to our people. With 600 million people in our

continent not having access to electricity and an average per capita of 180 kWh electricity against an average of 8,000 kWh in the developed world, we have a lot of work to do,” explained the CS.

He added that on the energy mix, Africa has great potential in geothermal, solar, wind, and hydro generation. “In the field of geothermal exploration, Kenya stands as a global leader. We have tapped into the vast geothermal potential of the Great Rift Valley,” said Chirchir.

He highlighted that the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project, located in the northern part of Kenya, is one of the largest wind power projects in Africa and the world with a capacity of 310 megawatts.

“Africa has vast hydro generation potential from the Congo River Basin, the third largest river in the world to the Nile Basin in Ethiopia. In Kenya, we have developed our hydro power plants in the renowned Seven Forks hydropower complex including Masinga, Kamburu, Gitaru, and Kindaruma in Tana River, which contributes 700 MW to our energy supply,” explained the CS.

He added that smaller hydroelectric plants, such as the 2 MW Gogo Power Station, in Migori County plays a vital role in electrifying rural and remote areas, where grid connectivity may be challenging.

“We have vast potential of solar energy in Africa. Solar power will also witness tremendous growth with photovoltaics (PV) improved technology today and the cost of Solar PVs coming down coupled with battery-swapping station (BSS) which will address the challenge of intermittence,” said Chirchir.

The CS said that through innovative approaches such as solar mini-grids and off-grid solutions, Africa can extend electricity access to remote areas and marginalized communities.

“The Garissa Solar Plant, located in the north-eastern region of Kenya, is one of our largest solar power plants today with a total capacity of 54 megawatts, it has the capability to power approximately 625,000 households, bringing clean and affordable electricity,” he said.

Chirchir said that to enhance connectivity and efficiency in Africa’s energy sector, Kenya has to expand transmission and distribution infrastructure, build cross-border infrastructure, regional power grids and interconnections to facilitate energy trade and foster regional integration and economic growth.

“By embracing hydroelectric power, geothermal energy, wind power, solar energy, and gradually reducing our reliance on thermal power, we will create a diverse and resilient energy sector,” said the CS.

Chirchir said that through Africa’s diverse energy mix, the continent will achieve remarkable progress in meeting its energy needs while reducing its carbon footprint and contribute to the global efforts in combating climate change and creating a greener planet.

“We invite international partners to join us in this journey as we continue to shape a brighter and more sustainable energy future,” said the CS. “As we gather here at the African Energy Forum 2023, we will learn from one another, share our experiences, and collaborate to create a brighter and more sustainable energy future for Africa,” he added.

He explained that as a continent, Africa must work hand in hand to develop innovative financing mechanisms, create favourable policy frameworks and promote technology transfer and capacity building.

“In the just concluded International Energy Agency Conference in Paris, Kenya was nominated to host next years’ conference on energy conservation. The summit of African Heads of State and Government on Climate will be co-hosted by Kenya and the Africa Union in Nairobi from 4 – 6th September 2023 alongside this years’ Africa Climate Week,” said the CS.

Partners

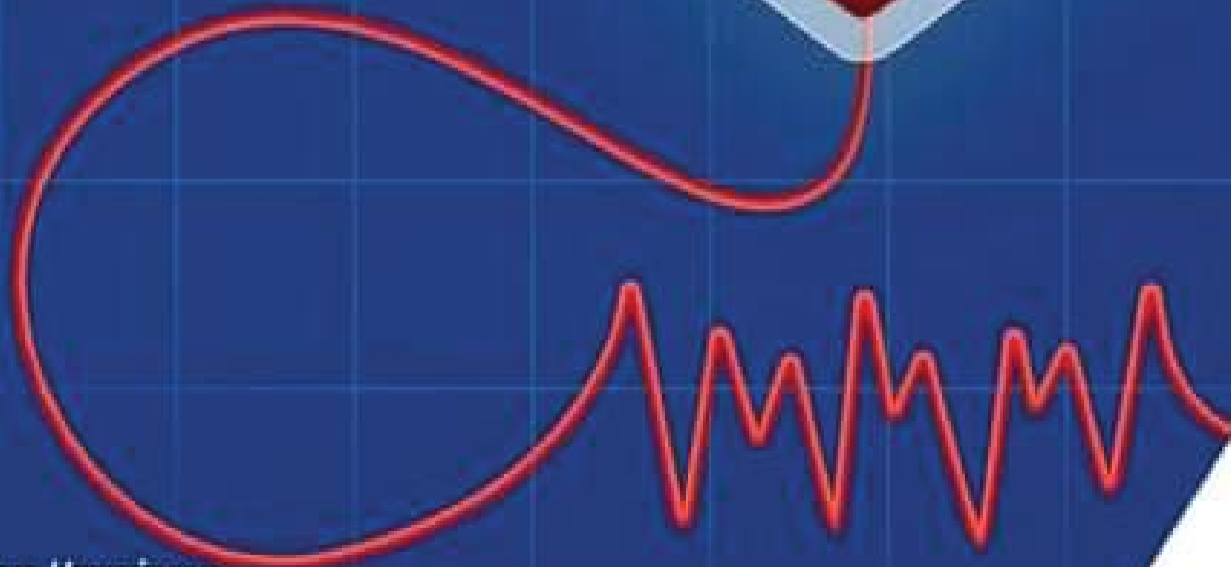


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GIVE A PINT, SAVE A LIFE

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



APA, Insuring Happiness



CS Moses Kuria Appeared Before Senate To Answer Questions

By: William Muchiri
@themkenyatimes



Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria when he appeared in the Senate yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- **Sen. Mohamed Chute:** Could the Cabinet Secretary state how many Companies were awarded business, those currently importing goods, the type and packaging of the commodities being imported during the FY 2021/2022 and FY 2022/2023
- **CS Moses Kuria:** KNTC engaged 11 suppliers for the various commodities in FY 2022/2023. Note: KNTC was not dealing with importation of commodities in FY 2021/2022
- **Sen. Mohamed Chute:** Could the Cabinet Secretary disclose the financial state of KNTC, and also indicate how much has been paid to the respective suppliers and how much is outstanding?
- **CS Moses Kuria:** The Corporation relies on internally generated revenue to finance its operations.

Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria yesterday appeared before the Senate where he fielded various questions.

Kuria disclosed that to address the rise in the cost of living, Kenya Kwanza Cabinet approved a framework to position the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) as the anchor of State initiatives to create a price stabilizer for essential household food items.

Responding to the questions, Kuria who is in charge Investments, Trade and Industries used the opportunity to appraise the Senate in respect to KNTC procurement of imported commodities.

Below is the excerpt of the session.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: Could the Cabinet Secretary state the type and quantity of goods being imported by corporation and individuals prequalified by the Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC)?

CS Moses Kuria: KNTC is currently dealing with importation of 4 types of products namely; Fertilizers, Rice, Beans and Cooking oil.

The corporation has pre-qualified the following suppliers for the supply of various commodities as stipulated below; KNTC has prequalified 22 suppliers for the various commodities ie; Lamar

Commodities Trading DDMC supplying NPK 23:23:0, NPK 17:17:17; Standard Petroleum supplying Rice, Beans, Cooking Fat and Urea; Makram Imports and Export Ltd supplying Rice; Purma Holdings supplying Rice, Edible Oil and Beans; Multi Commerce FZC supplying Edible oil and Rice; Shehena Commodity supplying Edible Oil; Charma Holdings Ltd supplying Edible Oils and Beans; Evertec general Trading supplying Edible Oil; Enterprise Supplies Ltd supplying Edible Oil; Lone Trading F2E supplying Edible oil and Rice and First Quality supplies Ltd supplying CAN fertilizer.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: What is the procedure used by KNTC to identify and prequalify companies which import the goods?

CS Moses Kuria: In accordance with the timelines indicated by the clients. The Manager, sales division shall raise and sign Purchase Requisitions to initiate the procurement process, The Manger, sales division with the support of SCNM Division shall at the same time prepare specifications for the items to be procured, The Purchase Requisition and the specifications shall be forwarded to the Head of Finance for commitment of funds; Upon commitment of funds by Finance, the PR and specifications shall be submitted to the MD for approval; The PR shall be submitted to the SCLM Division to commence the procurement process; Quotations/bids will received, opened, evaluated and an opinion prepared in line with profit margin analysis recommendation for the accounting officer's approval; A purchase Order or a Contract Agreement shall be executed and issued expeditiously; The Manager, SCLM shall liaise with suppliers and on the delivery schedule(s) for purposes of ensuring smooth working of the ad hoc Inspection and Acceptance Team;

Only trading items that meets the Corporation's requirements will be accepted and taken on charge and; All invoices for Procurements Inspection and Acceptance Certificates and Certificates of Payments must be officially received at the SCLM Division.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: Could the Cabinet Secretary state how many Companies were awarded business, those currently importing goods, the type and packaging of the commodities being imported during the FY 2021/2022 and FY 2022/2023

CS Moses Kuria: KNTC engaged 11 suppliers for the various commodities in FY 2022/2023. Note: KNTC was not dealing with importation of commodities in FY 2021/2022

Sen. Mohamed Chute: Could the Cabinet Secretary disclose the financial state of KNTC, and also indicate how much has been paid to the respective suppliers and how much is outstanding?

CS Moses Kuria: The Corporation relies on internally generated revenue to finance its operations. As a coloration that relies on generated funds from selling goods at a minimal profit, we are constantly trying to balance between maintaining low prices for our customers while generating enough income to cover our administrative costs. The financial status of KNTC reflects this delicate balance, as we strive to keep our prices affordable without compromising the quality of our products or the financial sustainability of the Corporation. KNTC has procured imported commodities valued at Ksh 22.2 billion. As at 30th April 2023, commodities worth 4.8 billion had been delivered. No payments have been made to the suppliers since the Letters of credit are yet to mature.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: There is a list of prequalified suppliers for the supply of goods, if you look at 22 prequalified entities, there is a supplier by the name First Quality Supplies Ltd who supplied 25, 000MT of fertilizers not listed in the 22 prequalified suppliers, how did he end up giving contracts of 25,000 MT to this supplier without prequalifi-

CS Moses Kuria Appeared Before Senate To Answer Questions

By: William Muchiri

@themtkenyatimes

Contd from Page 18.

ation.

CS Moses Kuria: I beg to defer that question until he next round of questions so that I can be able to make some consultations.

Sen. John Kinyua: Can Kindly the Minister elaborate to this house the interest of the impoters on this issue, and the connection to the same to the media of this country

CS Moses Kuria: Over the last six months or so, this country has allowed through a gazette notice importation of 1,400,000 MT of maize to address the issue of maize shortage and the skyrocketing price of unga which was as high as 250 by September last year. This country has also allowed importation of 1,200,000 tonnes of rice despite the fact that we have got rice in Mwea, Kirinyaga County, Ahero in Kisumu County but it was necessary because of the drought situation, the famine, the food shortage that was there to make that move to and also to manage the cost of living. At the same time, we got approval from the cabinet to import 1,25, 00 MT of edible oil, you notice that of all the three products the one with the least amount that was allowed to be imported was edible oil. 1,400,000 maize, 1,200,000 rice, only 100,000 MT of edible oil yet the attention out there is not about rice, and farmers from Mwea and Ahero don't have a voice, they don't have deep pockets, they don't have the money, they don't have the kind of cheque books as would be required to create the kind of noise that is been heard in the media. Only this item, 125, 000 out of which the amount of edible oil that has landed in this country is only 3000 MT, that is close 170, 000 jerrycans of 20 liters that are used in our homes. So only 170,000 families have benefitted from what has been imported by KNTC. When we started this importation, there were even cartoons in the media; there were a lot of jokes and memes going around in social media about the price of edible oil. It was said to be among the most expensive things to buy, by that time one liter of edible oil around first week of December when I addressed the Kenya Union of Manufacturers about this issue, it was 400 shillings per kilo. And that time, on my first day of work, I told the edible oil industry that this is not acceptable and this is not sustainable, I asked them to do whatever it



CS Moses Kuria explaining a point to Senators before he was ushered in the Chambers.

Worth Noting:

- **Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot:** What was the consideration for closing this market to only five or is it 4? Are there any practices or any government policy interventions that will allow a more even playing field for other players?
- **CS Moses Kuria:** On the number of companies, there are actually 5. Why they enjoy the preferential treatment is because previously, the definition of value addition which they purport to do were supposed to be importing crude oil from mostly Malaysia from one company called Wilmar in Malaysia. A big element of what they do is actually importing refined products though some very little value addition, create very few jobs then that becomes a ticket to lock out all the SMES out there.

takes to ensure that we have a level playing field and also to ensure that the price of edible oil comes down. I instructed KNTC to import edible oil with a target that 1 kilo of edible oil retail at 250 shillings. Because of only 170,000 jerrycans, the price of edible oil today has dropped to 218 shillings per liter. That is despite the dollar which by the time I gave that instruction, the dollar was going for 125 shillings, today, the dollar is hovering in the region of 140, yet the price of edible oil has dropped to 218 shillings to the relief of so many Kenyans.

The problem with the edible oil industry is that 55 million Kenyans depend on 5 companies. These 5 companies are BIDCO, KAPA, Pwani Oil, Menengai and Golden Africa. These companies engage in what they call their own version of value addition.

Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot: What was the consideration for closing this market to only five or is it 4? Are there any practices or any government policy interventions that will allow a more even playing field for other players?

CS Moses Kuria: On the number of companies, there are actually 5. Why they enjoy the preferential treatment is because previously, the definition of value addition which they purport to do were supposed to

be importing crude oil from mostly Malaysia from one company called Wilmar in Malaysia. A big element of what they do is actually importing refined products though some very little value addition, create very few jobs then that becomes a ticket to lock out all the SMES out there. This government believes that effective value addition must be based on Value Chain Approach within our bottom up economy transformational agenda.

Sen. David Wakoli: Have you, as a CS ever sat with manufacturers and players in the sugar, maize and edible oils industry to discuss how to address the high prices of commodities? When and how many minutes?

CS Moses Kuria: As a matter of fact, I have sat with all the 13 sectors under the Kenya Association of Manufacturers.

Sen. Esther Okenyuri: Give a status of all Kenya National Trading Corporation branches on their functionalities if they are functional and existing as it used to be

CS Moses Kuria: We have head office in Nairobi and six other depots in Nakuru, Eldoret, Kitale, Kisumu, Machakos and Meru, all of them are functional and we are in the process of refurbishing them which we opt to do in the coming financial year.

Sen. Veronica Maina: Whether the procurement that was done on the edible oils was done competitively or it was single sourced and have you moved your offices to Two Rivers?

CS Moses Kuria: There is no distinction or exemption on how we treat edible oil in terms of procurement framework from other commodities.

Sen. Samson Cherarkey: How many Metric Tonnes of maize have been imported into the country, and what is the projection of consumption and whether the moratorium of maize is still extended upto harvesting period?

CS Moses Kuria: We did not, as KNTC import any maize.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: Why only allocate many and huge supplies to this particular person and companies?

CS Moses Kuria: We advertise publicly for suppliers, it is a public process. We have no control absolutely over who applies; we do not ask them to give details of the owners. We look for the best deal and the price that enable us carry out our statutory mandate of managing the cost of living. So, I am not aware of the names or the shareholders but I take notice of what Senator Chute has said.

CS Mithika Linturi Responds To Questions On Duty Free Importation Of Food Commodities

By: PSCU

The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi appeared before the Senate yesterday to answer to questions concerning duty free importation of food commodities.

Below is an excerpt of the proceedings.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: Could the Cabinet Secretary disclose the food commodities being imported duty-free, stating the approved packaging and container sizes?

CS Mithika Linturi: The Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Economic Planning authorized importation of white shelled maize 1,400,000 metric tonnes in packaging of 90 kg bag, white milled rice 1,100,000 MT in packaging of 90 kg bag, and sugar 280,000 MT in packages of 50 kg bag.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: Which companies have applied for prequalification to import food commodities duty-free from September, 2022 to date, and how many of these have been issued with permits to import?

CS Mithika Linturi: A total of 461 applications were received out of which 186 did not meet the prequalification criteria while 275 applicants were responsive and hence given the opportunity to participate in the importation of food commodities. The Ministry issued allocation letters to 129 companies to import rice, 127 companies to import maize and 44 companies to import sugar. Out of these, 72 companies have processed permits to import rice while 18 companies have processed permit for maize importation and similarly 44 companies have processed permits to import sugar.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: How many companies have so far imported goods and what actions will the Ministry take against the prequalified companies which have not complied with the terms of engagement?

CS Mithika Linturi: As at 16th June 2023, 68 companies had imported 520,426 MT of white milled rice while 13 companies had imported 234,981 MT of white maize.



Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi appeared before the Senate yesterday..

The Ministry held a meeting with pre-qualified importers of maize and rice on 25th April 2023 to review and get update on the status of importation of food commodities.

During the meeting, the importers raised the challenges they were facing in the importation which included appreciation of the dollar against Kenya Shilling, high international prices and off-taker guarantees required by banks to issues letters of credit.

It was resolved that importers who were unable to provide evidence of importation process such as bills of lading, surrender their import allocation and their permits were to be terminated.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: The CS has stated that a 50 kg of rice is costing Kshs. 1800 while two weeks ago the CS for East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Regional Development told this house that while buying relief supplies, a 50 kg bag of rice costs Kshs. 7500. Why can't the two Cabinet Secretaries talk and come up with one price?

CS Mithika Linturi: Allow me to deal with the issues that I am properly aware of, that are under my docket. My Ministry was responsible for ensuring enough supply of the food commodities in the market to cause general reduction of food prices through the application of the

normal forces of demand and supply. The Ministry did not spend any money from the public coffers to have the food imported. I am not able to control the retail prices in the market. It is a choice of a willing seller willing buyer.

Sen. Jackson Mandago: I rise to seek clarification from the CS. When he says it is a choice, is the Cabinet Secretary saying that there is a special population that the CS for East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Regional Development she is buying for rice at Kshs.7500 and that he has a special population that he buys rice for at Kshs. 1800?

CS Mithika Linturi: I was just giving an analogy that there is rice that is cheaper out there in the market.

Sen. William Cheptumo: Some of the suppliers that have been licensed to import maize, rice or sugar do not have the capacity to import the commodities hence frustrating the Ministry's intentions to reduce the food prices. Isn't it good to have a prequalification condition in order to select the companies that are able to deliver before you clear them to import?

CS Mithika Linturi: Moving forward it's my desire to ensure that we are able to feed ourselves hence

avoid relying on imports. The decision to import happened at a time when we didn't have food and since it was not a procurement process where the Ministry was spending any money we were not able to bid the importers by way of having serious guarantees to sign. The dollar fluctuation also was a challenge to the importers. However, they breached the general understanding and in future we will be careful not to issue them with import licenses.

Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot: We passed the Tea Amendment Bill in 2020, subsequently the people that we had disputes with moved to Court. East African Tea Trade, KTDA and the likes. With a new Administration in Office and more specifically the Directors of KTDA who are in office courtesy of that Bill have refused to withdraw the cases that would allow the KTDA managed Tea Factories to pay only 1.5% of their gross as management fee because they want to continue to benefit as it is. I want an assurance that from the CS. When do you intend to crack the whip as the CS in charge of that Ministry so that benefits can be given to the farmers?

CS Mithika Linturi: I cannot agree more with the Majority Leader. I will invite the him we come up with a proper way of implementing the Tea Amendment Bill, 2020. I take up that challenge to do whatever is required

to be done.

Sen. Jackson Mandago: how many metric tonnes have been imported to the country duty free and will the duty free importation end before the next harvesting season? Are you aware of the tea harvesting machines crisis in North and South Rift and what is your reaction?

CS Mithika Linturi: I appreciate the work done by the people given jobs in the tea plantations and the concerns of leaders on the unemployment that is likely to be occasioned by the introduction of the use of plucking machines. We must appreciate science and technology as innovation is important in the development of this country. We cannot run away from it since we want to increase efficiency and save time and keep the required standards. We can offer the workers alternative sources of employment.

The interests of the farmers are very close to my heart and I will not allow importations that are likely to mess farmers in the Country. Up to now we have imported 277,444 MT of Maize.

Sen. Jackson Mandago: Has the sugar price at the consumer level dropped since the importation of duty free sugar?

CS Mithika Linturi: I sought cabinet approval on 25th May 2023 to import sugar outside the COMESA countries since the sugar imported earlier was not enough. I expect in-flows of sugar by the 2nd week of July. The prices have been high due to shortage of the sugar imported in the country and the current high dollar rate.

Sen. Mohamed Chute: what are you going to do to incorporate the importation of goods between your Ministry and that of Investments Trade and Industry to cushion KNTC from suffering losses? Will I be wrong to ask this Honourable house to initiate an inquire to investigate your Ministry and the Ministry of Investments Trade and Industry?

CS Mithika Linturi: The issue of giving permits illegally is a rumour. All importation licenses are applied for online. I have not given permit to KNTC to bring in sugar.

Enroll Children In School Or Face The Law, Samburu Parents Cautioned

By: Robert Githu

@themkenyatimes

Parents in Samburu County have been asked to enroll all their children to school and stop retrogressive cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriages and child labour that keeps children out of school.

Speaking in Wamba North in Samburu East Sub County during a sensitisation exercise on children's rights, Peter Mwangi from the Directorate of Children Services cautioned parents from breaching the Children's Act 2022 which guarantees the right to education for all children in the country.

Mr Mwangi cautioned parents against enrolling a few of their children to school while others are left at home looking after livestock or burning charcoal to sell in trading centers and after they reach puberty they are married off.

"There is a law that guarantees the right to education and protection of

all children and failure to enroll all your children to school is punishable by law," he told the parents.

Further, Mwangi lauded the intervention of non-state actors in Samburu County in complementing the government's efforts in addressing children's issues and implementing the children act 2022.

"The Samburu community is transforming gradually as far as child protection is concerned, this is through the government's efforts and the non-state actors interventions to implement the children's act 2022 to the letter," he said.

The children Officer added that his department has already started the process of formulating a Child Protection Policy that is aligned to the unique challenges facing children in Samburu County.

Julius Lekaaso 61, from Swari village welcomed the sensitisation drive saying that many elderly people especially in the remote parts of the county view children as property. "We are now aware that children have rights and we should educate them to have a better future," he said.



Samburu Parents.

What Makes Amb. Karigithu Fit For IMO SG Position?

By: John Kariuki

@themkenyatimes

Kenya and indeed Africa at large is proud to present its daughter to the Global scene in the highly competitive position of International Maritime Organisation Secretary General.

The Daughter being presented stands for enthusiasm, passion, hard-work, charisma, and nothing stands in her way in her quest for this prestigious position.

She is Ambassador Nancy Karigithu, who is currently Kenya-AU Backed candidate for the IMO Secretary General position.

Ambassador Karigithu took a moment to share with us her agenda which is anchored on five key points which we are enumerating here:

"My candidature is anchored on two main points:

- Restoration of multilateralism and rule based system within the IMO meetings which will be achieved by making sure that the

decisions made by the organisation are based on the principles of international law and norms and take into account the interests and perspectives of all member states in line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the new BBNJ treaty

- Streamline the organisation's program of activities with the United Nations Secretariat in New York in order to create synergy and deeper collaboration especially on areas of ocean governance, maritime security, and the attainment of United Nations Sustainable development Goals as well as to strengthen collaboration with other UN agencies, industry associations, NGO's and other stakeholders in order to achieve common objectives in the maritime sector.

Her other key agenda includes "Restoration of multilateralism within the IMO meetings.

Gender mainstreaming in the maritime industry in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal Number 5.

Continued modernization of the IMO Secretariat and streamlining



Ambassador Nancy Karigithu is Kenya-AU Backed candidate for IMO Secretary General position.

the Organization's activities with the UN Secretariat in New York on areas of ocean governance and security.

Ensuring increased participation and involvement of the Global South, particularly developing

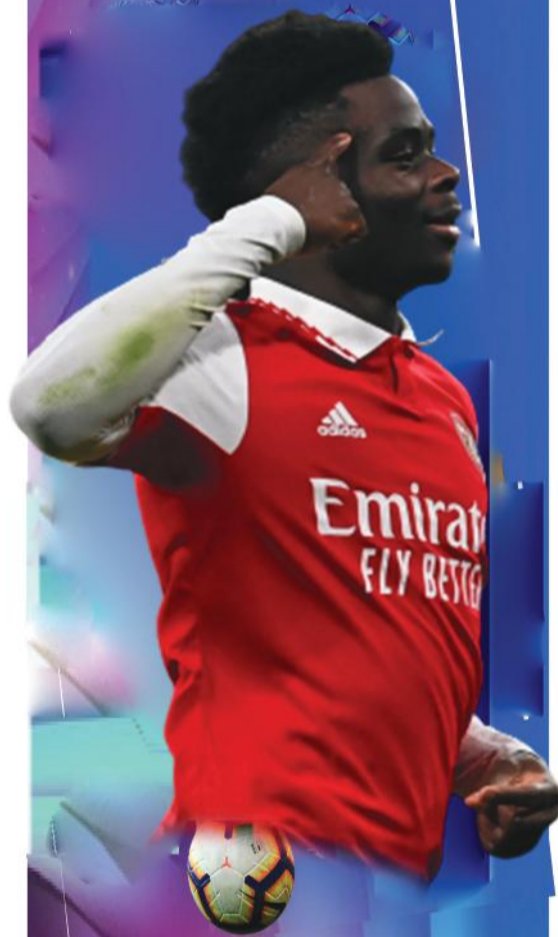
countries and especially the SIDs and LDCs in IMO decision making meetings and activities.

Spearhead the just and equitable transition of the decarbonization of the maritime industry through IMO

Green House Gas reduction initiatives to realize global equity, social justice, technological inclusivity and sustainability."

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Sports >> *Former Liverpool forward Sadio Mane scored twice as Senegal beat Brazil 4-2 in a friendly in Lisbon, Portugal

Mane Double Helps Senegal Beat Brazil In Friendly



Former Liverpool forward Sadio Mane scored twice as Senegal beat Brazil 4-2 in a friendly in Lisbon, Portugal.

West Ham midfielder Lucas Paqueta put Brazil ahead in the 11th minute, before Habib Diallo equalised for Senegal.

An own goal from Marquinhos early in the second half gave Senegal the lead with Mane extending their advantage after 57 minutes.

Marquinhos scored at the right end to pull one back for Brazil but Mane got his second goal with a late penalty.

The match was held at Estadio Jose Alvalade, home of Sporting

Lisbon, with nine England-based players in the starting XIs.

As well as Paqueta, Brazil's team at the beginning of the match included Manchester City goalkeeper Ederson, Newcastle midfielders Joelinton and Bruno Guimaraes and Tottenham forward Richarlison.

Meanwhile, Senegal's side included Nottingham Forest defender Moussa Niakhate, Chelsea centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly, Leicester midfielder Nampalys Mendy and Watford forward Ismaila Sarr.

"We're very proud of our performance. Very proud of the boys. When the lads play like

that, we're hard to beat. We're on the right track," said Senegal coach Aliou Cissé:

Five-time World Cup winners Brazil are still without a coach after the departure of Tite last year, while Neymar remains sidelined by an ankle injury suffered in February.

The Brazilian FA (CBF) are still pursuing Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti to be their new coach. The role has been vacant since the resignation of Tite following their World Cup quarter-final exit in December.

It was the first time Brazil had lost by two goals since they were beaten 2-0 by Chile in

2015, while they had not conceded four or more in a match since they were humiliated 7-1 by Germany in the 2014 World Cup semi-finals.

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Sports >> *The team will kick off their World Cup campaign in group H against Germany on July 24, followed by a match against South Korea on July 30, before winding up their group fixture against Colombia on August 3

Morocco Name 28 Players For FIFA World Cup Debut



The team will kick off their World Cup campaign in group H against Germany on July 24, followed by a match against South Korea on July 30, before winding up their group fixture against Colombia on August 3.

Morocco has announced a squad of 28 players for their FIFA World Cup debut next month in New Zealand and Australia.

Among the players called into the squad are Ghizlane Chebbak, Fatima Tagnaout, and Saudi Arabia based forward Ibtissam Jraidi.

Head coach Reynald Pedros has named eight players from CAF Champions League winners AS FAR.

The Frenchman unveiled a blended team of both domestic and international players who play

their trade in France, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

The team that was named on Monday is already in camp in preparation for the global competition.

The Atlas Lionesses will play two friendlies against Italy on July 1st, followed by another friendly match against Switzerland on July 5, after which the team will be trimmed to the final 23 players who will travel for the global show piece.

The team will kick off their World Cup campaign in group H against Germany on July 24, followed by a match against South Korea on July 30, before winding up their group fixture against Colombia on August 3.

Goalkeepers: Ines Arouaissa

(AS Cannes, France); Khadija Errmichi (AS FAR); Assia Zouhair (SCCM, Morocco).

Defenders: Hanane Ait El Haj (AS FAR), Nouhaila Benzina (AS FAR), Siham Boukhami (AS FAR), Ghizlane Chhiri (AS FAR), Nesryne El Chad (Lille, France), Rkia Mazrouai (Sporting de Charlerois, Belgium), Yasmin Mrabet (FC Levante Las Planas, Spain), Zineb Redouani (AS FAR), Sabah Seghir (Napoli, Italy)

Midfielders: Ghizlane Chebbak (AS FAR), Najat Badri (AS FAR), Anissa Lamari (Guingamp, France), Sarah Kassi (Fléury, France), Élodie Nakkach (Servette Geneva, Switzerland)

Forwards: Salma Amani (FC

Metz, France), Rosella Ayane (Tottenham, England), Anissa Belkasmı (US Orleans, France), Sofia Bouftini (RS Berkane, Morocco), Kenza Chapelle (FC Nantes, France), Fatima Gharbi (CE Europa, Spain), Samya Hassani (SC Telstar VVNH, Netherlands), Ibtissam Jraidi (Al-Ahli Saudi Football Club, Saudi Arabia), Sakina Ouzraoui Diki (Club Bruges, Belgium), Imane Saoud (Servette Geneva, Switzerland), Fatima Tagnaout (AS FAR)

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Govt Administrators Ordered To Return To Their Work Stations Or Face Sack



Government administrators (NGAOs) operating from outside their workstations risk losing their jobs for dereliction of duty and jeopardizing national security.

Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration

Dr. Raymond Omollo has directed all officers working remotely to return and take a firm grip on their designated posts as the government intensifies its counterterrorism offensive.

The PS noted that the officers must be at the forefront of the war against terrorists and other operatives with hostile intentions, after which he fired a stern warning that those who will defy the directive will be sent packing with immediate effect.

“If you are working as National Government Administrative Officer, make sure you are at your workstation. And if you can’t be at your workstation, then it’s time to pack up and go,” he said, a message directed to County Commissioners, their deputies and assistants as well as Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs.

Dr. Omollo put the officers on notice that disciplinary action will be taken against those who will drop their guard, whether for omission or commission.

He was speaking in Garissa, where he had accompanied Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale on a security meeting and a public baraza in Masalani Town with local leaders, elders and NGAO drawn from Ijara, Hulugho, Bodhai and Bura East sub counties.

Alongside other frontier counties in the North Eastern region, Garissa has had a series of persistent threats posed by the Al-Shabaab militants, who continue to maraud around the Kenya-Somalia border.

As the chairs of the security and intelligence committees in their jurisdictions, NGAOs are progressively designing and deploying community-based approaches to the existing and emerging challenges.

Inside this strategy, the government seeks to intensify the level of surveillance and alertness through information-sharing from civilians, a form of collaboration Dr. Omollo urged the residents to make a non-negotiable routine.

He said, “As for the residents, we cannot win this war without your support. If you have any information that can help us deal with these terrorists, don’t hesitate to share those tip-offs with our teams on the ground. We will act on it promptly.”

The delegation was received by the Regional Commissioner North Eastern John Otieno flanked by members of the County Security and Intelligence Committee.

Other dignitaries included the Garissa Deputy Governor Abdi Dagan, area MP and MP for Bura.

Expectant Mothers, Newborns To Access Emergency Transport Services

By: Beth Nyaga

Expectant mothers and their newborns will now access emergency transport services after the Ministry of Health on Wednesday rolled out the M-Mama initiative.

The initiative has been rolled out in partnership with the Government of Kenya, the US Government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Vodafone Foundation, Safaricom in Kenya, and M-PESA Foundation.

M-mama is an emergency referral system that swiftly transports pregnant women and newborns facing complications to quality healthcare facilities.

According to a statement, a clinically trained dispatcher manages the referrals and confirms facility availability to ensure women/newborns in emergency situations can be promptly managed.

The program also recruits and trains local car owners to provide additional emergency transport options when ambulances are unavailable, ensuring greater availability of transport for m-mama patients.

“The service will be easily accessible through a free phone landline and mobile number,” the statement reads in part.

The M-mama referral initiative for pregnant women and newborns has been shown to contribute to a 38 percent decrease in the number of maternal deaths in pilot locations in Africa.

The Government of Kenya is pioneering the m-mama approach to enhance maternal and newborn health. Kenya has made significant progress towards improving maternal and child health, with most pregnant women (90 percent) delivering in health facilities.

However, it’s estimated that over 6,000 women and 35,000 newborns still die annually from preventable complications.

Therefore, efforts need to be accelerated to reduce the current maternal mortality rate of 355 per 100,000 live births to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.



Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru, Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa and Health CS Susan Nakhumicha

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live births to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of

70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.