



Raila: Prepare For Protests From July 7
Azimio leader Raila Odinga has vowed to mobilise street demonstrations from July 7 to protest the Finance Bill assented to by President William Ruto.

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Cabinet Approves Establishment Of Special Committee On Pending Bills



News>>Murang'a County Assembly Roots For Proper Fish Farming

P. 8. Murang'a County Assembly has raised concern over the poor state and management of fish farming (aquaculture) in the area.



Motivation>>Nakuru Show Promotes Climate Change Mitigation

P. 12. Farmers visiting the Nakuru Show will learn how to combat climate change through conservation tillage and the adoption of climate-resilient crops.



Business>>Stakeholders Undergo Post-Harvest Losses Mitigation Training

P. 16 Fresh produce stakeholders from Thika area underwent a training programme aimed at controlling post-harvest losses which interfere with their profit margins.

The National Government pending bills since June 2005 to June 2022 stand at Sh481 billion while counties owe Sh159.9 billion. The Committee will consist the Attorney General, the State Department of Roads, the State Department of Public Works, the State Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.



President William Ruto

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MPs Push For Public Inquiry Into NHIF Scam

By: Kamche Menza

A public inquiry into the medical fraud involving the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) will be

launched soon. The Parliamentary Committee of Health made the announcement Tuesday after a meeting with the top management. This follows an expose' on how

some private hospitals were colluding with unscrupulous NHIF staff to swindle the fund millions of shillings through fictitious claims. The committee chair Endebess MP

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Kenya Hosts National Health Financing Dialogue

By: Emma Jolly Wambui
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- During the opening of the national high-level dialogue on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, on behalf of President Ruto, said that the 32nd African Union (AU) meeting held by the Heads of States in 2019 resolved to increase domestic sources for health through the Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM).
- Mudavadi said that the government is committed to increasing domestic funding for health by allocating a significant portion of the national budget to healthcare provision through strengthening the tax systems to broaden the tax base and ensure that the tax laws are fair and inequitable.

Kenya made history on Monday by hosting the National Health Financing Dialogue, becoming the first East African country and the third in Africa to organise this crucial event. The dialogue aimed to address pressing issues of sustainable financing in the healthcare sector and devise effective implementation strategies.

During the opening of the national high-level dialogue on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, on behalf of President Ruto, said that the 32nd African Union (AU) meeting held by the Heads of States in 2019 resolved to increase domestic sources for health through the Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM).

Mudavadi said that the government is committed to increasing domestic funding for health by allocating a significant portion of the national budget to healthcare provision through strengthening the tax systems to broaden the tax base and ensure that the tax laws are fair and inequitable.

He highlighted that the government is investing in the digitization of government systems that will promote job transparency, improve efficiency, and combat corruption.

“Through this, we can generate the necessary revenue to invest in healthcare infrastructure, procure essential medicines and equipment, and recruit skilled health care professionals,” the Prime Cabinet Secretary stressed.

Mudavadi said that focusing on primary healthcare strategies such as



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

vaccination, health education, and early disease infection and treatment can reduce the burden of illnesses and, in turn, free up resources that can be redirected towards strengthening the health systems.

“It has been shown that for every dollar invested in primary care, the return on investment is Sixteen dollars,” said Mudavadi.

Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha emphasized the gov-

ernment’s commitment to placing the Kenyan healthcare system on a sustainable financing pathway.

She highlighted the significant increase in budgetary allocation to health in recent years, reflecting the government’s strong dedication to prioritizing healthcare.

“County governments also demonstrated their commitment by steadily increasing health budgets from 13.5 per cent to 28.2 per cent between

2013 and 2022,” noted Nakhumicha.

In attendance were dignitaries, including officers from the Ministry of Health, Principal Secretaries Kintai Harry and Mary Muthoni, as well as the Chairperson of the Council of Governors (COG), Anne Waiguru, among others.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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New Boards To Spur Growth Of Polytechnics In Kirinyaga County

By: Mutai Kipngetich
@themtkenyatimes

Kirinyaga County government has appointed the new Board of Management (BOM) for all 16 Polytechnics in the area to enhance the management of the institutions.

The BOM will work with the Department of Education to revitalise the Vocational Training institutions as centers of excellence, develop and implement training programmes, mobilise resources and community support, and oversee and promote a high standard of quality education and training.

The appointment aims at giving youth access to skills and technical know-how that will enable them to fit into the contemporary labour market or self-employment.

Speaking while issuing members of the boards with appointment letters at Kamiigua Polytechnic, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Education and Public Service James Kinyua Mutugi said

increased demand for skilled labour in the market has necessitated a change in how polytechnics are managed.

“The revitalisation programme by our county government, which is being implemented across the youth polytechnics in the county, is aimed at enabling the institutions to adequately cater for the training needs of the youth,” Mutugi said.

The county has 16 polytechnics with a total population of 2000 students. The polytechnics offer various courses, including motor vehicle mechanics, electrical installation, masonry, garment making, hair-dressing and beauty, carpentry and joinery, metal work and fabrication, and computer and ICT short courses.

“These are highly sought-after skills that are highly marketable in the job market,” he added.

While congratulating the new board members for their appointments, Education Chief Officer Patrick Mugo asked them to help change the community’s perception towards polytechnics.

“For a long time, polytechnics



Kirinyaga County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Education and Public Service James Kinyua handing over appointment letters.

have been viewed as dumping sites for failures. We need to change the general public’s mentality as polytechnics are training institutions that impart various skills to our children, skills they can use to earn a living,”

he said.

Kamiigua Polytechnic Principal Terrence Njiru said that board members are vital in the management of an institution and help in the smooth running of learning institutions.

He urged parents to enroll their children in polytechnics, stating that having our youth in polytechnics keeps them from engaging in illegal activities like drug use and helps them acquire money-making skills.

5,000 Girls To Benefit With Sanitary Pads And Life Skills

By: PCS

5,000 girls are set to benefit from sanitary pads, puberty training, and life skills training following a partnership between The Office of The First Lady through Mama Doing Good, and Proctor & Gamble.

The official handover of the first batch of sanitary pads took place in State House Nairobi today between Dr. John Chumo, the Chief Executive Officer of Mama Doing Good, and Joyce Kariuki, Government Relations and Programs Manager for the East Africa region at Proctor & Gamble.

This Partnership is part of Proctor & Gamble’s “Always Keep girls In School Initiative,” which partners with organisations to reach girls in primary schools between grades 6

and 8 with a supply of sanitary pads, puberty training through registered nurses, and life skills mentorship.

To date, the initiative has seen over 10 million girls benefit in Kenya, and this partnership will see girls in marginalised areas and vulnerable families enjoy better engagement in class, improved transition rates, and high self-esteem.





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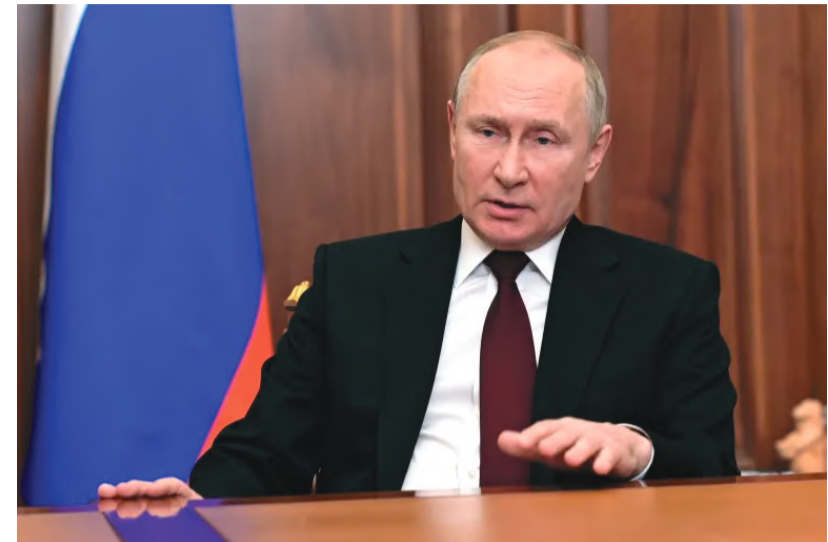
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Poll: African Sentiment Is Favouring Ukraine

By: Our Reporter
 @themkenyatimes



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.



Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- What You Need To Know**
- 76% of Kenyans agree that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is against the principles of international law...
 - 83% of Kenyans agree that African countries should stick together when it comes to foreign policy issues...
 - 76%* of Kenyans agree that both the Ukrainians and the Russians are victims in this war
 - 66%* of Kenyans agree that All African countries should not take sides in this war.

Ahead of the African Peace Initiative visit to Kyiv and Moscow, the upcoming Russia/Africa meetings in St. Petersburg and the BRICS Summit in South Africa in August, international research company Ipsos polled African citizens on their attitudes towards Russia, Ukraine and the controversial position on the war taken by some African governments. A majority felt that the Russian invasion of Ukraine was against the principles of international law, that Russian forces should withdraw from Ukraine and that Russia was guilty of committing war crimes in Ukraine. These were the most important findings in a random study among individuals 18-years-old and older, who expressed an interest in news and

politics in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia. In conducting the polling, several statements were read out to each respondent, and they then had to indicate whether they strongly disagreed, disagreed, neither disagreed not agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed with each of the statements. A minority agreed with the statements looking at the war from the Russian point of view – and in none of the six countries did a majority choose to agree with any of the three statements. However, South Africans were split down the middle in virtually equal proportions regarding all three opinions. Africans expressed strong feelings that their continent should stay non-aligned or neutral in this conflict and

Kenyans, especially, felt that Africa should not take sides in the war. A smaller proportion of Nigerians, however, thought quite strongly that Africa could not afford to remain neutral in the war and should support Ukraine. Large majorities agreed that the war was not in Africa's best interest, as it had detrimental effects on food supply and energy costs at home. Large majorities also agreed that "having lived through colonialism, conflict and forced occupations, we should not support any country in their attempts to illegally annex parts of another country without consequences". However, Africans are not immune to regretting the devastation of war and they feel that both Russians and

Ukrainians are war victims. Most Africans took a neutral stance when asked about whether their own government should support Russia or Ukraine. Majorities maintained that the ideal outcome would be somewhere in the middle of the two extremes. It is important to observe that larger proportions in all seven countries thought support for Ukraine rather than for Russia was in the best interest of their countries. Finally asked to make a personal choice there was definitely little ambiguity, and a majority in both Kenya and South Africa supported Ukraine. Substantial proportions in the other countries followed suit.

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Murang'a County Assembly Roots For Proper Fish Farming

By: Anita Omwenga
@themtkenyatimes



Fish Farming..

Worth Noting:

- “Fishing equipment is expensive and out of reach for most of our fish farmers, like seine nets, cover nets, and scoop nets,” Muigai said, adding that the total number of farmers practicing aquaculture in the county is only 2,392.
- Fisheries activities in the county are administratively carried out through eight subcounties: Murang'a East, Kangema, Murang'a South, Mathioya, Kahuro, Kandara, Gatanga, and Kigumo.
- Aquatic ecology diversity in the county is derived from a variety of fishery ecosystems that include dams, rivers, and streams.
- According to the report, the total number of ponds in the county is 2,511. Out of these, only 201 ponds are stocked with fingerlings. This contributes to a very low percentage of the total number.

Murang'a County Assembly has raised concern over the poor state and management of fish farming (aquaculture) in the area.

In a report tabled before the House by Ichagaki MCA Hilary Muigai Muchoki on the status of the fisheries sector in the county, it was revealed that the county is facing a lot of challenges due to the high investment capital required for procuring fish farming inputs like fish feeds and fingerlings and basic aquaculture equipment, hence discouraging public investment in the fishery sector.

Muigai noted that the high cost of fish feed hinders the growth and development of aquaculture in the county as it contributes about 60–80 per cent of the total cost of production.

“The cost of fish feed is extremely high. The feed conversion ratio is approximately 1.5 kg of fish feed to produce 1kg of fish, and currently quality fish feeds retail at Sh4,200 per 25 kg bag,” said Muigai, a member of the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries committee.

The report stated that most soils in the county are volcanic and permeable to water, hence the need for lining earthen ponds or the development of concrete ponds, which is expensive for the fish farmers.

“Fishing equipment is expensive and out of reach for most of our fish farmers, like seine nets, cover nets, and scoop nets,” Muigai said, adding that the total number of farmers practicing aquaculture in the county is only 2,392.

Fisheries activities in the county are administratively carried out through eight subcounties: Murang'a East, Kangema, Murang'a South, Mathioya, Kahuro, Kandara, Gatanga, and Kigumo.

Aquatic ecology diversity in the county is derived from a variety of fishery ecosystems that include dams, rivers, and streams.

According to the report, the total number of ponds in the county is 2,511. Out of these, only 201 ponds are stocked with fingerlings. This contributes to a very low percentage of the total number.

“Fish stocking statistics in the ponds are 220,750 fingerlings. Tilapia fingerlings are 207,050, while catfish are 13,700 fingerlings,” he observed, adding that the main cultivable fish species in the county are Nile perch, tilapia, African catfish, goldfish, and rainbow trout.

MCA for Muguru, Moses Muchiri, while supporting the motion, observed that in Kangema subcounty, where the majority of the fish ponds are located, totaling 442, only 40 fish

ponds are stocked with fingerlings.

“The county government should provide readily available fingerlings and affordable fish feeds to the farmers,” said Muchiri, adding that they should hire and deploy more extension officers to educate and support the farmers in the various fish farming systems.

Muchiri said fish species are a critical source of micronutrients and omega-3 fatty acids that are important in promoting normal nerve cell development and visual functions in infants and help reduce the risk of heart disease.

“Fish is increasingly being recognized as a source of safe, healthy ‘white’ protein that contributes to nearly one-fifth of global animal protein intake,” he said, adding that there is a need to promote sustainable fish production and utilization of fishery resources.

MCA for Gaturi, Gatheo Wa Njeri, supported the motion, observing that most fish farmers lack access to market information that would help them improve fish farming.

“One of the things that disturb farmers is a lack of market for their fish, and this is one area that will need to be improved, especially with the help of the county government”, said Wa Njeri, the vice chairperson of the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries

committee.

MCA for Gitugi Edwin Wairagu, while supporting the motion, said that the county government should carry out workshops and seminars with farmers for sensitization and information sharing on fish farming in order to realize the full potential and utilization of the fish ponds. “Fish farming in the county can be developed into a viable enterprise capable of generating wealth, improving the fish farmers livelihoods economically, and improving food and nutritional security in the county,” he said.

Other recommendations are that the fisheries department should liaise with research institutions and other departments to enhance access to critical information on new aquaculture technologies and markets.

The Majority of the MCAs passed the motion to adopt the report, calling for strategies that entail a sustainable increase in production and improved efficiency in the production systems.

With the adoption of the report, the MCAs recommended that the county assembly should enact legislation for the fisheries sector. In addition, the County executive department in charge of fisheries should prepare policy guidelines and regulations for the sector.

Cabinet Approves Establishment Of Special Committee On Pending Bills

By: Presidential Communication Service



President William Ruto chairs a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. /PSCU.

Worth Noting:

- The Committee will consist the Attorney General, the State Department of Roads, the State Department of Public Works, the State Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.
- The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), the Institute of Engineers of Kenya and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya will also be part of it.
- The Committee will examine and submit interim reports to the Treasury Cabinet Secretary upon verification. The Government will honour the obligation in question.
- The move is aimed at establishing the integrity of all bills and cushioning small enterprises against liquidity inadequacies.

The Cabinet has approved the establishment of a special committee on pending bills.

The Pending Bills Verification Committee will be tasked with the auditing of liabilities for the period between 2005 and 2022.

In a meeting chaired by President William Ruto at State House, the Cabinet noted that pending bills remains a sticky issue.

The National Government pending bills since June 2005 to June 2022 stand at Sh481 billion while counties owe Sh159.9 billion.

The Committee will consist the Attorney General, the State Department of Roads, the State Department of Public Works, the State Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), the Institute of Engineers of Kenya and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya will also be part of it.

The Committee will examine and submit interim reports to the Treasury Cabinet Secretary upon verification.

The Government will honour the obligation in question.

The move is aimed at establishing the integrity of all bills and cushioning small enterprises against liquidity inadequacies.

Crucially, the committee will propose a mechanism to stop future pending bills.

It was agreed that the Committee will present its final report within a year.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has approved the establishment of decentralised offices of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice.

This will ensure that services are accessible to the people at the grassroots at a minimal cost.

It also consented to the transmission and introduction of Tribunals Bill, 2023, to Parliament.

If enacted, the Bill will rationalise and regulate the administration and functions of Tribunals, establish the Tribunals Registry and ensure independence and impartiality in their operations.

The Cabinet also confirmed the hosting of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Kenya, further-



ing Government's commitment to affordable and quality healthcare.

The importance of working with the private sector in the areas of Universal Healthcare informed the decision to host the Gates Foundation.

The Cabinet was also apprised on the status of the Digital Superhighway and digitalization of Government services ahead of the launch of over 5000 fully digitized services on Friday June 30th.

Further, the meeting was briefed on the drought and food situation in the

country, with the forecast indicating an improved situation.

In line with getting women issues at the centre of his administration, President Ruto cleared the Advisor on Women Rights Harriette Chiggai to attend the meeting.

Advisors Monica Juma (National Security Advisor), David Ndii (chairperson of Council of Economic Advisors) and UDA Secretary General Cleophas Malala were also allowed to attend.

God-Centered Worship Pt 2



By: Eric Musa
 EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

As regards worship, the telltale sign of a human-centred thinking is the common post-worship question, What did you think of the service today? The real questions ought to be, What did God think of it and of those who worshiped? and What did I give to God? It is so easy to forget that in going to worship our main concern should be to “worship in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24) — not to receive a lift for ourselves. Therefore, it is important that we understand, in distinction to the popular view that worship is for us, that worship begins not with man as its focus, but God.

Worship must be orchestrated and conducted with the vision before us of an august, awesome, holy, tran-

scendent God who is to be pleased and, above all, glorified by our worship. Everything in our corporate worship should flow from this understanding. What about our needs then? When we worship and adore God in our singing and prayer and listening to the Word, His shalom will well in our souls so that we will leave with a glad sense of personal blessing — a great lift. But this is a byproduct, not a goal, a further evidence of the generous grace of God.

In considering the rationale for God-centered worship, we must begin with the realization that worship is the number one priority of the Church. Jesus’ famous statement in John 4:23 that the Father seeks worshipers is unparalleled, for nowhere in the entire corpus of Holy Scripture do we read of God’s seeking anything else from a child of God.³ God desires worship above all else. Thus, every man who calls himself a Christian must understand that worship is the ultimate priority of his life.

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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

Nakuru County, FES Foundation Collaborate For Sustainable City Planning

By: Veronica Bosibori
 @themkenyatimes

Nakuru County Government has partnered with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Foundation to make the newest city livable, prosperous, sustainable, inclusive, and resilient through proper planning in line with Vision 2050.

In an interview, the County Chief Officer for Urban Deployment, Kamau Kuria, said the team has been engaging in the discourse around Urban Sustainability, Resilience, Waste Management, and Urban Opportunities.

He said in their commitment to achieving sustainability, the county government has commissioned three municipalities, three more are on the roadmap, and six townships to reduce the pressure on limited resources in the city.

Kuria said they have proposed the construction of 120 markets to create more business opportunities for

residents across the county and decongest the overwhelmed city.

Nakuru City was chartered in December 2021 as the fourth City in the country after Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu.

The officer added that for a city to be sustainable, it requires decent work and economic growth in order to reduce insecurity, attract more tourists, and expand the hospitality industry.

He observed that for urban planning to be achieved, it includes constructing well-maintained roads, bridges, and public transportation systems and ensuring access to clean water, electricity, and waste management services.

Addressing the housing needs of the city’s growing population by promoting affordable housing initiatives through public-private partnerships to construct housing that meets the needs of different income groups.

Additionally, Kuria said that to achieve environmental sustainability, the county will prioritise environmental conservation, promote clean



Stakeholders pose for a photograph after a consultative meeting.

energy initiatives, encourage waste reduction and recycling, and protect natural resources by planting more trees.

Apart from that, he said more investment will be channeled towards social infrastructure, such as health-

care facilities, schools, community centres, and cultural institutions, to provide essential services and foster social cohesion.

Finally, he said the implementation and sustainability of the urbanisation of Nakuru City require a long-term

vision, collaboration with various stakeholders, such as FES, and continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure progress.

Raila Should Be The Last Person To Fault Ruto For Assenting To Finance Bill



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Party leader Raila Odinga .

Worth Noting:

- The decentralization of power to create 47 devolved units and new clauses meant to fast track the separation of power between the three arms of the government, namely Executive, Parliament and Judiciary. Raila would describe these clauses as a key milestone.
- The constitutional mandate of Parliament is three-pronged: Legislation, oversight and representation.
- In exercise of this power, parliament recently debated and passed the Finance Bill 2023. After this, the law requires the Speaker of the National Assembly to submit the Bill to the President for assent.
- So, contrary to the impression created by Raila and his brigade, the President had not broken any law.

The Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Party leader Raila Odinga was one of the key players during the clamor for the new constitutional dispensation.

During the referendum campaigns, he minced no word in rallying Kenyans to turn up in large numbers and vote in support the proposed draft constitution.

He repeatedly termed the draft as the best and most progressive in our time.

This is while likening it to the constitution of America and that of South Africa.

He was also upbeat that for the first time Kenyans got an opportunity to fully participate in this process.

The draft captures the views and memoranda you presented to the committee of experts (CoE).

The decentralization of power to create 47 devolved units and new clauses meant to fast track the separation of power between the three arms of the government, namely Executive, Parliament and Judiciary. Raila would describe these clauses as a key milestone.

The constitutional mandate of Parliament is three-pronged: Legisla-

tion, oversight and representation.

In exercise of this power, parliament recently debated and passed the Finance Bill 2023. After this, the law requires the Speaker of the National Assembly to submit the Bill to the President for assent.

So, contrary to the impression created by Raila and his brigade, the President had not broken any law.

I want to distance myself from Azimio's argument that the MPs voted out of fear.

Prior to this, the body language and sentiments attributed to the President were very clear.

He never resorted to blackmail, intimidation and issuance of any threats.

He instead used persuasive language in reaching out and seeking the support of the MPs in both sides of political divide.

I'm fully aware that you have the final word on this Bill. Please I call upon you not to let me down. As Kenya Kwanza government, we made a raft of lofty promises during the campaigns.

So, the passage of Bill is critical. It will give my administration a head-start. This is in terms of fulfilling the

pledges.

As it turned out, the President's wish did not entirely come to pass.

The MPs amended some of the tax proposals. A number of taxes were reduced. This included the housing levy and the tax on creative content.

I have another reason to demonstrate that Azimio's claims were ill-advised. Many Kenyans interpreted their narrative as belittling, demeaning and insulting to their intelligence. This is because it was designed to mean they did not use their brains when they elected these MPs.

As we all know, the government does have money of its own. It relies on the revenues it collects from the taxpayers to implement the development projects and programmes.

This brings me to the two questions which with due respect I want to ask Raila. If you could have won the elections and form the government, what miracle would you have performed? What would you have done differently?

I'm sure you could have resorted to taxing Kenyans. This is the same thing that Ruto is doing.

Well, one can understand where Raila is coming from. It is widely

believed he is not fighting Dr Ruto for the sake of 'Wanjiku'.

He is doing this because Ruto defeated him at ballot. He is yet to come to terms with this devastating loss. Besides, the President has totally refused to share the government with him.

Why it never occurred to Raila he can lose the elections? The outgoing President was fully supporting his candidature. The senior government officials took the cue and rallied behind their boss.

For Dr Ruto, he kept reiterating. We know Raila is enjoying the support of 'Deep state' and 'System'. I'm not scared. This is because God and the people of Kenya are on my side.

As Kenya Kwanza, we are ready to meet President Uhuru's project at the ballot.

To Tinga Raila, I want to tell him. I will beat him hands down, fairly and squarely. This will mark the end of his political career. This would mean him going for permanent retirement. We shall escort him to his rural home in Bondo.

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

Nakuru Show Promotes Climate Change Mitigation

By: Anne Sabuni and Dennis Aruwa

[@themkenyatimes](#)



Worth Noting:

- “Drought has been a major problem in our country. Our county too has suffered immensely, with the current food shortage being the reason for our emphasis on climate-resilient agriculture in an effort to combat climate change.
- “This year’s event has attracted new exhibitors, among them the Export Processing Zone Authority, the Central Rift Valley Water Works Agency, Gacheha Farm, among other government parastatals and private agencies, to showcase new technologies in farming.
- “Livestock Breeders will also have an opportunity to engage specialists in embryo transfers and other breeding technologies that will enable them to improve their breeds for productivity,” added Dr. Migwi, noting that more than 150 exhibitors were expected.



Exhibitors preparing for the Show

Farmers visiting the Nakuru Show will learn how to combat climate change through conservation tillage and the adoption of climate-resilient crops.

Exhibitors, who will be showcasing climate-resilient, farming practices, have their stands and demonstration farms ready for the event that opens its doors on July 12, 2023.

Among the crops on display are short-rainfall maize varieties, wheat, sorghum, and millet, among other drought-resistant crops. Sunflower and Canola plants, which are known for their pure, refined edible oils, are nearing harvesting, and the farmers will get an opportunity to learn about their cultivation.

Nakuru Agricultural Society of Kenya Show Chairman Dr. Perminus Migwi noted that more than 80 exhibitors had signed up and had their stands ready for the event.

“Drought has been a major problem

in our country. Our county too has suffered immensely, with the current food shortage being the reason for our emphasis on climate-resilient agriculture in an effort to combat climate change.

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“Livestock Breeders will also have an opportunity to engage specialists in embryo transfers and other breeding technologies that will enable them to improve their breeds for productivity,” added Dr. Migwi, noting that more than 150 exhibitors were expected.

Dr. Migwi added that entry at the gates had been made easier by the installation of the fibre optics, with

mobile money payment platforms open to allow easy processing of payment receipts and tickets.

“Judging for exhibitors will be made on July 11, and the best exhibitor will be awarded on the official opening day,” revealed Dr. Migwi while calling on exhibitors and members of the public to turn up in large numbers for this year’s show.

The Show’s Marketing Executive, David Mwangi, while calling on members of the public to book the dates, disclosed that Sh250 will be charged at the gate, with children being charged Sh200 as an entry fee.

“Special parties will be accorded subsidized rates. Stringent security measures are in place to prioritize safety for guests on that day. Public health services will guarantee clean water and healthy food in various exhibition stands for a better event experience,” he added.

The show will be officially opened

by the President on July 14, 2023, with various leaders expected to grace the events on various days of the week. Family fun days on Saturday and Sunday, July 15th and 16th, respectively, will be the peak of the event.

“The COVID years kept us off, but we are back across the country, and Nakuru will exhibit in a big way. Traditional exhibitors are still here, and they will make our show a significant contributor to the agricultural sector.

“We are prepared to give the show-goers an easy time to enjoy the show. A lot of events and entertainment will be going on at the arena, and there is a lot to learn. It is a one-stop laboratory, especially for learners undertaking the CBC curriculum,” added Dr. Migwi.

MPs Push For Public Inquiry Into NHIF Scam

By: Kamche Menza

Continued from page 1

Robert Pukose said only a comprehensive probe would unravel the truth behind the massive fraud adding that it was time radical changes were undertaken at the health insurance.

“We, as a committee, cannot turn a blind eye to the misappropriation of public resources within NHIF. The only path to uncover the truth behind the NHIF crisis is through a public inquiry,” he said.

“Next week, we will convene to establish the terms of reference for the inquiry and invite all relevant stakeholders to present their knowledge of the situation at NHIF,” he added.

Part of the probe would focus on alleged preferential treatment enjoyed by privately-owned hospitals over public health institutions.

Moyale MP Prof. Guyo Waqo Jaldesa who is part of the 15-member

committee says it is still incomprehensible how a private hospital could perform more surgeries than renowned public facilities such as Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH).

Supporting the proposal for a public inquiry, Mogotio MP Reuben Kiborek regretted the persistent fraudulent activities at the insurance fund.

“If we aim to establish Universal Health Insurance (UHC), we must address the deep-rooted corruption at NHIF, even if it entails removing the entire NHIF board of management and directors,” said Kiborek.

His sentiments were supported by Nyeri Town MP Dancun Mathenge who said only a public inquiry would expose the rot at NHIF.

The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) has already suspended all eight medical facilities implicated in the scandal.



Nyeri Town MP Dancun Mathenge.

CBK Unperturbed By VAT Hike On Fuel, Predicts Growth Above 5Pc

CBK

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) new governor Dr Kamau Thugge projects inflation rate to subside to within medium term target by end of the third quarter.

This is despite increases in Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products from 8pc to 16pc by the government.

During a post Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Tuesday, Dr Thugge was optimistic that inflation will ease to between 2.5pc-7.5pc by September 2023, supported by reductions in key levies charged on imports of the products.

“There are offsetting factors as you are aware that the Import Declaration Fee has been reduced from 3.5pc to 2.5pc and similarly the Railway Development Levy has also been reduced from 2pc to 1.5pc. These will mitigate any impact that may arise from VAT on fuel but we

do expect some increase in July,” said Dr Thugge.

Non-food-non-fuel inflation continues to impact the overall rate of inflation, rising to 4.3pc in May from 4.1pc in May which according to the governor, indicates “persistent underlying inflationary pressures in the economy”, a move that has forced the committee to tighten its monetary stance.

The Finance Act which comes into force on July 1, 2023 will now see the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority apply the new rate in its next review, setting consumers for possible higher transport costs.

The governor is also projecting Kenya’s real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to register a growth of above 5pc this year from 4.8pc last year with budgetary allocations targeting key value chains.

Additionally, the Ksh 140 billion (\$1b) Development Policy Operation (DPO) Kenya tapped from the World Bank last month to provide low-cost budget financing is projected to improve private sector cash flow and support growth with



Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) new governor Dr Kamau Thugge.

settling of pending bills to suppliers and in turn reduce non-performing loans.

“National Treasury will actually now spend and also transfer the resources that are required to the national and county governments. With

national government and county governments paying (suppliers) we would expect the level of non-performing loans to decline,” Dr Thugge added.

During yesterday’s sitting, the MPC hiked benchmark rate by 100 ba-

sis points-an 84 months high- from 9.5pc to 10.5pc. The next MPC meeting is scheduled for July.

Sharipova A Scientific Researcher And Education Devotee



- ◆ Active participant of conferences and webinars held on the scale of the republic
- ◆ He is an active participant in the intellectual game held at the university
- ◆ As an example of scientific research within his specialty, more than 20 articles have been published in international journals
- ◆ More than 10 articles and theses have been published on the scale of the republic
- ◆ Khwarizmi International School of Olympiads (KHISO) - a permanent participant in the Olympiad of the International Olympiad School named after Al Khorazmi
- ◆ An article was published in the newspaper "The Mount Kenya Times" of the state of Kenya.
- ◆ Winner of the category "author of the best article" in the competition held among female students of higher educational institutions dedicated to the "International Day of Women and Girls in the Field of Science" on February 11 in our country.

Sharipova Nodira Shavkatovna is a Chirchik State Pedagogical University, Faculty of Tourism, Foreign Language and Literature, 2nd level student

- ◆ IELTS item 6
- ◆ Multilevel CEFR B2 (62 marks)
- ◆ "Education Devotee" commemorative badge
- ◆ "Scientific researcher" commemorative badge
- ◆ Participant of about 20 Forums and owner of "best delegate".
- ◆ Organizer of the forum "Zamon farzandlari"
- ◆ Active member of the "Golden Wing" volunteer academy.

Now They Talk Too!

That is, in English. Wherever and whenever the problems of the blind are discussed, the main topic is the lack of Braille books and textbooks. It aims to help (blind) children master the English language thoroughly. The following are the specific achievements of the manual: ensures mastery; the publication of the dictionary in Braille helps the reader to read and write words by hand, and to understand easily by listening to the audio CD attached to the book. Publishing textbooks for the visually impaired still remains a problem. Another challenge is whether the textbooks are being printed based on their ability. Are they interested? According to statistics, there are 39 million blind people in the world. Another 200 million people are partially blind. Advanced technologies offer new opportunities for them.

In December 2020, in Uzbekistan, students of boarding schools underwent a special medical examination within the framework of the "Kongil Kozi" project. The author of the project is the deputy chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Mass Media Support and Development Public Fund Saida Mirziyoyeva. Within the framework of the project, textbooks in Braille were published, a computer center specialized in the needs of blind and visually impaired children was created, the technical base of all boarding schools was developed, and other small projects have been implemented. We need to create textbooks for the blind to thoroughly study foreign languages using new methods. As a solution to the existing problem, we are working on the development of elementary intermediate English textbooks. It consists of two parts, a dictionary book and a conversation book. In addition, there is a disk version of the book and a program version. We named the book "Ilm bu -nur". It uses one of the methods that are becoming popular all over the world, the "minimonic" method. The dictionary contains 800 words. It is created based on their physiological condition, and they can learn to speak quickly and easily from this book. Another convenience is that it is given in Braille, English, and Uzbek languages. There is also a disk and software option. and they are currently being worked on. The minimonic method is a method that encourages the child to think and think freely, and the difference from other methods is that it allows the child to learn a lot in a short time. It also helps to identify taste. According to psychologists, a child understands 75% of things by sight, this statistic is definitely for healthy children. However, in this textbook, we want to introduce the art of drawing with dots. The method of understanding

pictures by feeling we need to deepen it. Depending on the age of the blind child, we can convey the necessary knowledge to him through levels using this method. Our goal is to simplify language learning among blind people, to help them get international and national certificates, and to provide them with a job in the future.

Sadoqat Beg'omova by author the Republic of Uzbekistan



Earth day!

In connection with Earth Day, various calls are being held in almost all countries and cities. This holiday is also widely celebrated in my country, Uzbekistan. In school 22, Buloqboshi district, Andijan region, under the leadership of teacher Hakimova Yoqitoy, a festive event called "The most beautiful picture" was held among schoolchildren.

We express our gratitude to the proud teacher of our school, geography teacher Hakimova Yoqitoy, who organized this holiday. The holiday was very beautiful and fun.

Classes competed with each other. Everyone's drawings are so beautiful.
Nozima Gofurova



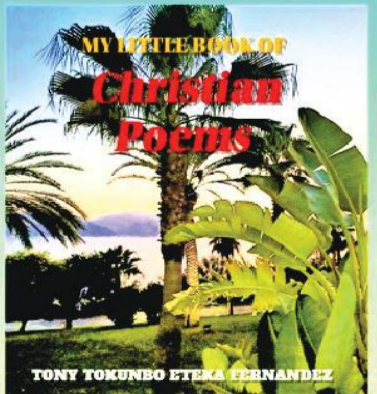
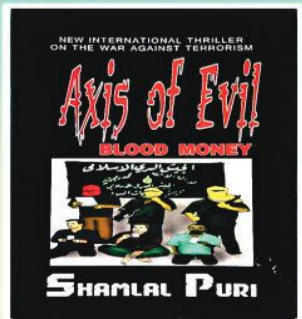
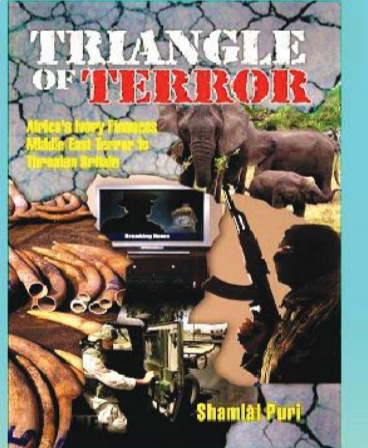
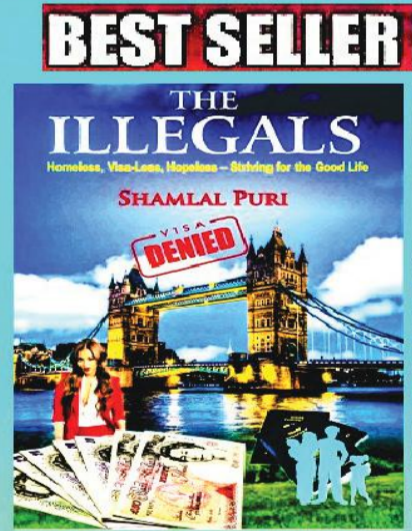
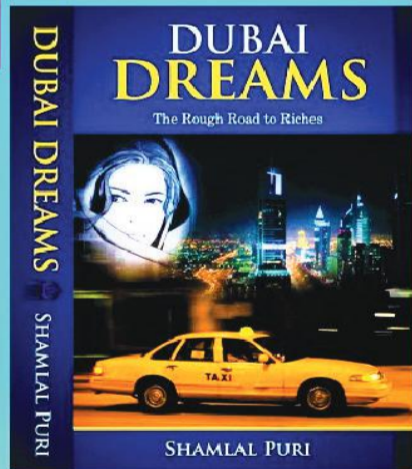
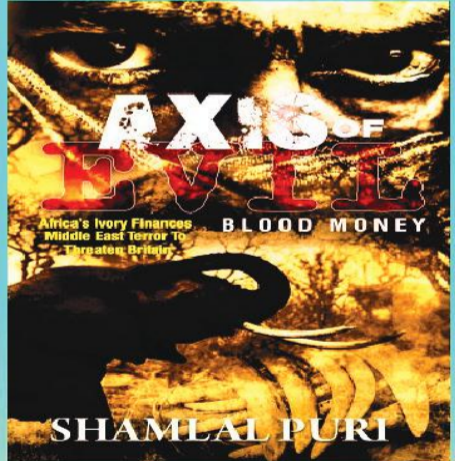
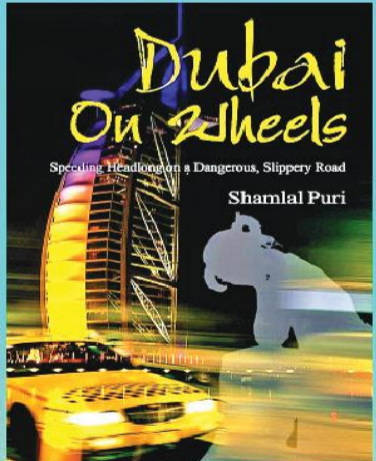
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BUSINESS

Stakeholders Undergo Post-Harvest Losses Mitigation Training

By: BHellen Lunalo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Thika Branch ABSA Bank Manager Mr. Hebron Mwangi noted that Kiambu County was economically endowed in terms of agriculture, and because of the value-added chains that had been set up to manage post-harvest losses, many people had gained meaningful employment opportunities from the chains.
- “We have noted that up to 40 per cent of produce is lost after each harvest, which means that for a farmer who was to earn Sh20 from the produce, four shillings would be lost, and in most cases, these four shillings are the profit margin for the farmer, which is a huge loss that we intend to restrain. We are excited to be part of the partners that elevate the incomes of our farmers,” said Mwangi.



Mr. Ojepat Okisegere, the CEO of the Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya.

Fresh produce stakeholders from Thika area underwent a training programme aimed at controlling post-harvest losses which interfere with their profit margins.

The event, which took place at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization Practical Training Centre (KALRO-PTC), was organized by the Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya in association with ABSA Bank.

Statistics indicate that Kenya loses up to 40 per cent of fresh produce through post-harvest losses, mainly because most farmers and value chain stakeholders do not understand how to manage the losses.

“This training is meant to cushion farmers from losses by imparting knowledge on methods that can manage post-harvest losses. We have established that most of the fresh produce harvested, especially vegetables, fruits, herbs, and spices,

ends up rotting in the farms, and it is for this reason that we decided to conduct a capacity-building forum since every post-harvest loss for a farmer is huge for them in terms of business,” said Mr. Ojepat Okisegere, the CEO of the Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya.

He also noted that fruits and vegetables are the most affected produce in terms of losses and lauded private firms like ABSA, who have come on board to provide financing for facilities required by farmers in terms of technology.

“We are pleased with the support we have received from our current partners and are calling upon other partners as well as the County Government to partner with us so that we can tap into each other’s strengths when it comes to the management of the losses,” stated Okisegere.

Thika Branch ABSA Bank Manager Mr. Hebron Mwangi noted that

Kiambu County was economically endowed in terms of agriculture, and because of the value-added chains that had been set up to manage post-harvest losses, many people had gained meaningful employment opportunities from the chains.

“We have noted that up to 40 per cent of produce is lost after each harvest, which means that for a farmer who was to earn Sh20 from the produce, four shillings would be lost, and in most cases, these four shillings are the profit margin for the farmer, which is a huge loss that we intend to restrain. We are excited to be part of the partners that elevate the incomes of our farmers,” said Mwangi.

Speaking to journalists, David Kuria, an avocado farmer, said he had learned a lot at the training and was ready to implement the information to ensure that he received maximum profits from his next harvest.

“The training couldn’t have come at a better time as I am almost harvesting the produce I planted at my farm. I expect to have better profit margins this year now that I know the areas I have to improve on. I also plan to share the information I have received here with other farmers in my area who were unable to attend the training,” said Kuria.

The consortium has conducted pilot forums in Kirinyaga, Meru, Nakuru, and Embu and intends to train stakeholders in other parts of the country as well.

Partners

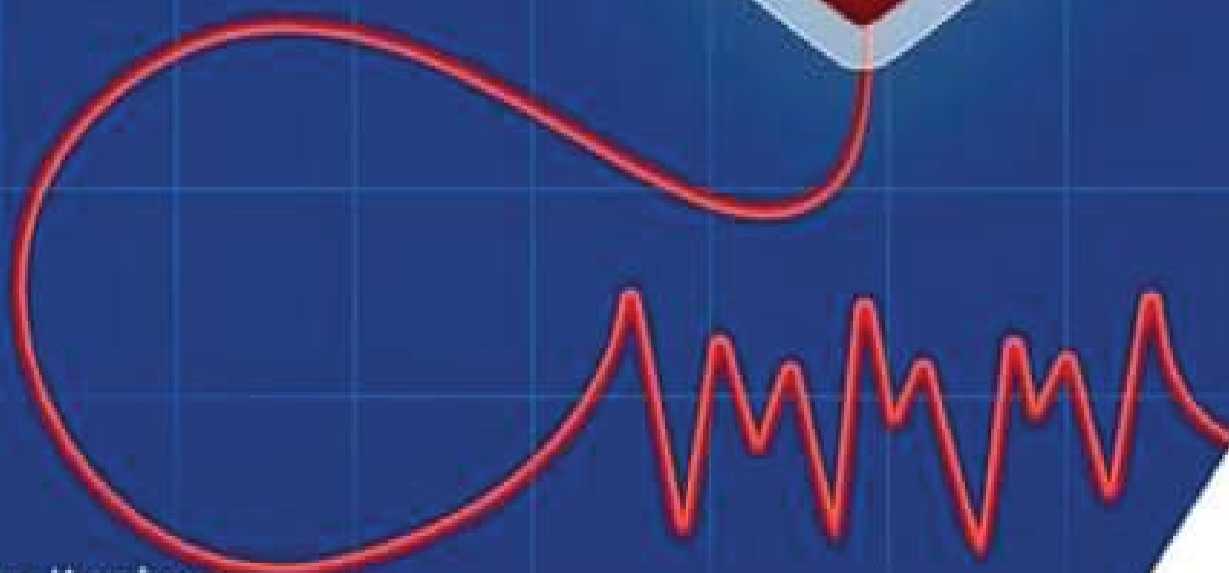


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KCB Bank Unveils Plan To Support Schools' Transition To Clean Energy Solutions



Worth Noting:

- Additionally, it will enable it to scale up its efforts to support the adoption of clean and modern cooking solutions which uses less fuel, limit smoke emissions, and reduces the amount of greenhouse gases emitted to the environment.

- “Schools have been identified as large contributors to inefficient cooking as they prepare high volumes of meals by consuming over 685,000 tons of firewood and charcoal per year. This has drastic consequences on the environment, economic development, and public health in a world where close to 2.6 billion people still lack access to clean cooking solutions. We are therefore keen to position schools as the cornerstone of Kenya’s sustainable future powered by affordable, reliable, clean, and modern energy distributed to all,” Wanjeri said.



Head of KCB Foundation, Caroline Wanjeri (Right).

KCB through its social investment arm, KCB Foundation Tuesday announced a programme that will see it extend financial support to learning institutions to transition to clean energy cooking solutions.

Under this arrangement, KCB Foundation will provide a partial grant of between 10pc to 30pc of the cost of buying and installing Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) equipment for qualified learning institutions.

The rest of the funding will be provided through pre-arranged financing solutions and will be available to all secondary schools, both public and private learning institutions countrywide.

The move is in response to the revelation that a large portion of fuel demand comes from Kenyan schools where about 90pc of public schools use firewood for cooking and pay

up to \$20,000 per year for the wood, which makes cooking fuel one of the biggest expenses in schools’ meal budgets.

Making the announcement, the Head of KCB Foundation, Caroline Wanjeri noted that the roll-out of the clean cooking programme is a testament to the bank’s collective efforts to support Africa’s drive to achieve SDG 7 with particular emphasis on universal access to modern energy services for all.

Additionally, it will enable it to scale up its efforts to support the adoption of clean and modern cooking solutions which uses less fuel, limit smoke emissions, and reduces the amount of greenhouse gases emitted to the environment.

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meals by consuming over 685,000 tons of firewood and charcoal per year. This has drastic consequences on the environment, economic development, and public health in a world where close to 2.6 billion people still lack access to clean cooking solutions. We are therefore keen to position schools as the cornerstone of Kenya’s sustainable future powered by affordable, reliable, clean, and modern energy distributed to all,” Wanjeri said.

To date, the bank has disbursed loans worth Kshs. 60 million to 30 schools across the country with KCB Foundation giving Kshs. 30 million in the form of grants during the pilot phase.

“KCB has been at the forefront of mobilizing the financial sector’s climate action and supporting carbon-positive projects in society. By

supporting the transition to cleaner fuels like LPG, we shall be enabling learning institutions to realize up to 40pc savings in their cooking budget with better health and environmental outcomes, improved kitchen hygiene, and motivation of workers. It will also be an opportunity to build on our existing efforts to widen the range and reach of activities in support of a just energy transition that is partly spearheaded by our own greening programme dubbed “Linda Miti” which has seen us plant over 160,000 trees in 943 schools this year,” Wanjeri added.

PS Ronoh inspects and Commissions Water Projects in Kericho County

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyatimes



PS Dr Ronoh flagging off Water Police Unit in Kericho

Worth Noting:

- The PS added that it was regrettable that billions of shillings was being spent yearly on water projects yet little focus has been given into it. "When we talk about water management, I don't expect further destructions... we cannot be investing billions yet we are failing to manage it," Dr Ronoh said.

- Dr Ronoh said Water management is a very critical component in the whole ecosystem of water deployment and added that going forward to utilization of technology in the management of water will be elevated and pointed out use of technology will not stop at water management alone but will also include the construction of sewerage systems. He said the Ministry will embrace compartmental sewerage systems, where containers are used as opposed to the conventional sewerage systems that are constructed.

Principal Secretary State Department of Irrigation Dr Paul Ronoh yesterday made an extensive tour of Kericho County where he inspected and Commissioned Water projects in the county.

Among the projects inspected includes, Water Supply Systems at Duka Moja, tour of New Kimugu Intake and treatment works, Timbilil Treatment Works, Soliat Dam and proposed Kenya Water Institute site, Soin Technical Institute, Kaplelartet and Commissioning of Kapsoit Water Supply Project which will also benefit Telanet Primary and secondary schools.

Earlier in the day, PS Ronoh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Governor of Kericho County Dr. Erick Mutai, for the reduction of Non- Revenue Water (NRW) which stands at 52 % in the county.

The PS also flagged off the Water Police vehicles for the county add-

ing that the Ministry has intensified effort to protect water infrastructure just like any other critical Government infrastructure that is protected by the law.

The PS added that it was regrettable that billions of shillings was being spent yearly on water projects yet little focus has been given into it. "When we talk about water management, I don't expect further destructions...we cannot be investing billions yet we are failing to manage it," Dr Ronoh said.

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containers are used as opposed to the conventional sewerage systems that are constructed.

"The containerized systems are very effective since if there is a population increase in a certain town, we just add another container instead of constructing a new system," He said , adding that the containerized system is neat, fast in deployment, and reduces the cost of land.

He called on the contractors and Kenyans at large to take the lead role in protecting water pipeline systems and meters along road reserves against damage to prevent taxpayers' money from going into waste and undermining last mile water reach to the grassroots.

The PS who was accompanied by Water Secretary Eng. SAO Alima, Secretary of Administration Mr Stephen Kihara, CEOs Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency Mr Chrispine Juma, CEO, Central Rift Valley Water Works

development Agency (CRVWWDA) Eng Samuel Oruma, Owidi Odoyo(Chair LVSWWDA) Members of Parliament Benjamin Lang'at (Ainamoi), Joseph Kimutai Cherorot (Kipkelion East), Justice Kemei (Sigowet/Soin), Beatrice Kemei Chebaibai (Kericho County Women Rep) was received by the local County Commissioner Mr. Michael Lesimam and security officials.

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Raila: Prepare For Protests From July 7

By: Capital FM

Azimio leader Raila Odinga has vowed to mobilise street demonstrations from July 7 to protest the Finance Bill assented to by President William Ruto.

By signing the Bill, Raila said the president ignored pleas by Kenyans not to inflict more pain on the cost of living.

“Now you know that the only language Ruto and the Kenya Kwanza understands is street protests and boycotts,” he said at Kamukunji Wednesday on arrival from an overseas trip.

Odinga told a rally in Kamukunji that the Kenya Kwanza government had betrayed Kenyans hence the need to boycott.

“We are the people,” Odinga said, “and the people are supreme.”

He said the Bill signed by President Ruto will push the cost of living up and make life difficult for Kenyans.

“And that is why we are saying that Ruto must be made to listen to the people and the only way is to resist,” he said signaling the resumption of

mass protests.

He said, “protests and boycotts is the only language Ruto will understand because he declined to listen to the voice of the people.”

President Ruto signed into law a bill that raises taxes on a wide range of items defying criticism that it will pile more economic hardship on citizens.

The new tax package was approved by parliament last week and will double tax on fuel to 16 percent and introduce a new housing levy, a move expected to have a ripple effect in a country hamstrung by high inflation.

Ruto, who took office in September after a bitterly fought election, is seeking to fill the government’s depleted coffers and repair a heavily-indebted economy inherited from his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta, who splurged on major infrastructure projects.

Kenya is now sitting on a public debt mountain of almost \$70 billion or about 67 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), and repayment costs have jumped as the shilling sinks to record lows of around 140 to the dollar.

The new law — expected to gen-



Azimio leader Raila Odinga..

erate more than \$2.1 billion — will hike taxes on basic goods and services including food and mobile money transfers.

The contentious bill stipulates for a 1.5 percent levy on the salaries of all tax-paying Kenyans that will be matched by employers to fund an affordable housing programme.

People who earn 500,000 shillings

(\$3,600) a month will now pay 32.5 percent in income taxes while those making 800,000 shillings (\$5,700) will pay 35 percent, up from the current 30 percent.

Sales tax for small businesses has also been tripled to three percent.

A new five percent withholding tax for digital content creators has also been introduced.

The bill was approved by the Na-

tional Assembly despite widespread opposition from Kenyans, civil society and Azimio leaders with the president declaring that it will be passed.

He even dared MPs who will fail to support it, branding them “the enemy of the people and progress.”

IEBC Selection Panel To Resume Recruitment As Bipartisan Talks Collapse

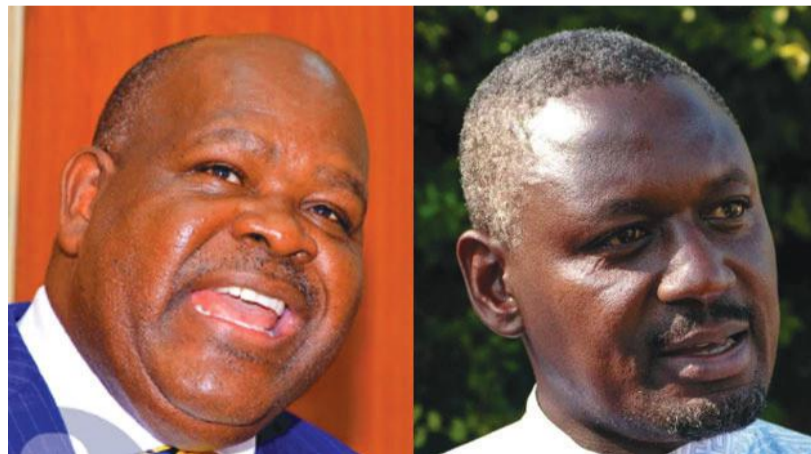
By: IRENE MWANGI

The suspended recruitment of new members of the electoral commission is poised to resume in earnest after bipartisan talks between the opposition Azimio coalition and government-leaning Kenya Kwanza side collapsed on Tuesday.

A Selection Panel constituted in February had put the process on hold to allow for negotiations after Azimio contested its membership.

Talks between Raila Odinga’s Azimio and Kenya Kwanza hit a snag after the government signed declined to co-sign a letter it considered unlawful.

Tharaka MP George Murugara, co-chair of the bi-partisan team had termed Azimio’s demands as extra legal leading to a stalemate early



Bipartisan committee joint chairperson George Murugara (Kenya Kwanza) and Otiende Amollo (Azimio)/CFM.

June.

The Murugara-led camp issued an ultimatum on Tuesday for Azimio to resume talks or have the Selection Panel led by Nelson Makanda proceed with its mandate.

“It is one month since Azimio suspended the talks indefinitely, in our view as Kenya Kwanza we should resume the talks. We either agree to talks or the law takes its course,” Murugara said.

“We are inviting our colleagues for a meeting on Tuesday, the July 4, so that we can proceed and deal with the matter,” he added.

‘Held at ransom’

Murugara termed the reconstitution of IEBC as an urgent matter citing by-elections which are yet to be conducted in a number of Wards and Constituencies.

He emphasized that Kenyans can no longer be held at ransom saying the law should be allowed to take its course.

“The first topic to be discussed which is of paramount importance is IEBC, we must discuss the reconstitution of the Commissioners because it is urgent, it is important top every Kenya,” he said.

Kibwezi West MP Mwangi Mutuse (Kenya Kwanza) said should the Azimio Coalition team refuse to turn up for the meeting the Selection Panel should proceed with the reconstitu-

tion of the electoral agency which was halted to give room for talks.

“The issue of IEBC is an emergency and should be dispensed with expeditiously, we are asking the Azimio to come for the talks on Tuesday, if they will not turn up then the existing laws will guide the process of reconstitution the Commission,” Mutuse said.

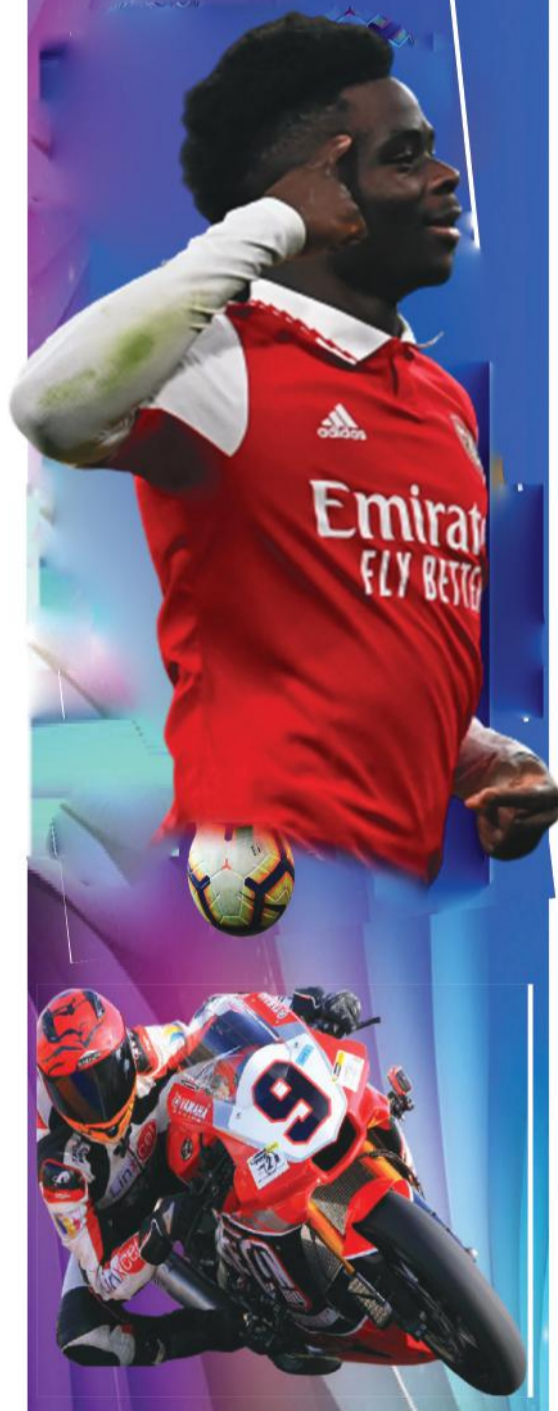
Rarieda MP Otiende Amollo (Azimio) who co-chaired bi-partisan team with Murugara accused President William Ruto’s troops of sabotaging talks.

“You cannot conduct bipartisan dialogue through unilateral press statements and ultimatums,” he said.

“The talks stalled when the co-chair declined to sign the letters to IEBC and the Selection Panel claiming these were independent bodies who cannot be controlled,” Otiende asserted.

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Sports >> *Treble winners Manchester City have made a formal £90m bid for West Ham captain Declan Rice

Declan Rice: Manchester City Make Official Bid For West Ham Captain



Treble winners Manchester City have made a formal £90m bid for West Ham captain Declan Rice.

However, Arsenal are expected to put forward a third bid for the 24-year-old England midfielder as negotiations over his future intensify.

The Gunners' offer of an initial £75m in four payments, plus £15m in add-ons, was rejected by West Ham last week.

City's offer is believed to involve an £80m initial payment but falls short of the £100m the Hammers are looking for.

Sources believe discussions

around Rice are now reaching their final stages and some kind of agreement with either City or Arsenal is likely.

Although they have lined up Chelsea's Mateo Kovacic in a £25m deal, the loss of Ilkay Gundogan to Barcelona means City manager Pep Guardiola is

keen to bolster his midfield options.

Rice, who led West Ham to European success with the victory over Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final, is viewed as the ideal candidate.

KBC

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Sports >> *The double Olympic Marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge will be hoping to write history and win his third consecutive crown next year during the Paris Olympics

Kipchoge Seeking An Olympic Marathon Treble



Eliud Kipchoge.

The double Olympic Marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge will be hoping to write history and win his third consecutive crown next year during the Paris Olympics two months after his disappointing performance at the Boston Marathon where he finished distant sixth.

The world record holder regarded as the greatest marathon runner of all time has set himself many challenges in his dazzling career, and remains insatiable despite his two Olympic titles, his world record of 2:01:09 in Berlin in 2022 and an incredible 15 wins in 18 marathons he has entered.

He broke the mythical two-hour barrier over the 26.2 mile (42.195 kilometre) distance in Vienna in 2019, with a time of 1:59:40, but the feat was not recognised as an official world record as it was not in open competition.

Victory has eluded the 38-year-

old in the Boston and New York marathons, which if he won would make him the first man to have all six major titles under his belt.

“The priority now is to focus on the Olympics and win a third time. The other (challenges) will come later,” Kipchoge says in an interview with AFP at the renowned Kaptagat training camp in Kenya’s Rift Valley.

His two Olympic marathon gold medals in 2016 and 2021 put him at level pegging with Ethiopia’s Abebe Bikila (1960, 1964) and Waldemar Cierpinski of East Germany (1976, 1980).

A third gold at the Paris Olympics in 2024 would make Kipchoge the undisputed marathon giant at the Games, and bring him a victory steeped in symbolism.

The French capital was the city where he won his first international crown in 2003 at the age

of 18, clinching the 5,000 metres world championship title ahead of sporting legends Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco and Ethiopia’s Kenenisa Bekele.

However, Kipchoge does not rule out giving up on his other goals.

“If time comes in to hang the racing shoes, I will say bye to other big things in sport.”

Sitting on a shaded bench in the Kaptagat camp where he has lived and trained for several months a year for 20 years, Kipchoge looks back on his poor showing in Boston on April 17, where he dropped from the lead group in the 30th kilometre.

This rare failure dampened his spirits.

“I’m trying to forget what has happened in Boston. It’s caught in my mind... but I believe that what has passed has passed.”

With his lifelong coach Patrick Sang, he has analysed the rea-

sons for his disappointing performance, saying “it’s mostly the hamstring”.

He brushes aside concerns about his difficulties on hilly courses such as Boston and New York and which will also confront him in Paris.

“It is not really a concern, but I respect everybody’s thoughts,” he says. “I think it was a bad day and every day is a different day. I’m looking forward for next year.

“Everybody can write anything, you have no control. But I know myself.”

Kipchoge is now preparing for his final marathon of the year.

“I’m doing well. My training is going on in a good way,” he says

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Dr. S. Kayalvizhi English Lecturer And Author

By: Our Reporter

@themkenyatimes

Dr. S. Kayalvizhi cleared SET in 2008 and has 4 years teaching experience as an English Lecturer in Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani.

She has handled UG, PG and M.Phil classes. She has attended many National, International seminars and conferences. Her Paper Presentations are published in books with ISBN and ISSN Numbers.

Her Ph.D Thesis is titled as AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF WOMEN'S PSYCHE IN THE NOVELS OF BARATHI MUKHERJEE. The writer Barathi Mukherjee has appreciated the chapterization of the thesis by commenting "your mode of organisation strikes me as both original and astute."

This has really added credentials to the Ph D., Scholar. Dr.S.Kayalvizhi cleared TET in 2012 and got appointed as a BT Assistant in SNVGHSS, Elayamuthur, Tiruppur in 2012. She teaches English along with life skills to students. She makes her class very lively through real life narrations and incidents.

She is also interested in drawing and creative writing. She has written Short story, article and poems that are published in Esteemed Publications.

Her short story "Scary Scars" is published in Sparkles of Short Stories. Her article "My Daughters: My Assets" is published in Namaste India E Magazine.

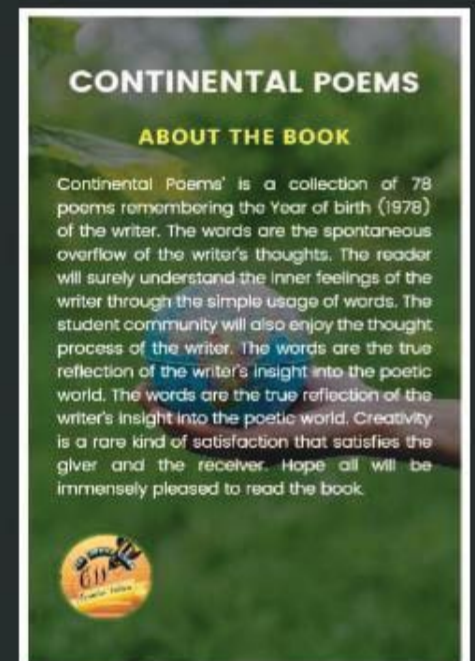
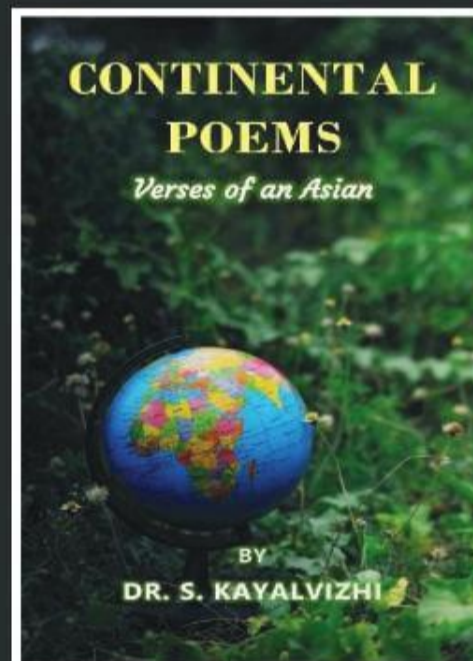
Tamil: My Mother Tongue and Mysteries in Glitters of Creative Writers, Water and Smile in A Bouquet of Colourful Emotions, Love's Message in Love; True or False An International and Bilingual Anthology of Love Poems, Thorny Roses and Accept Life in Mesmerizing Honey Drops, My Stress Busters in World Through Poetic Sensibility, Empowering Women in Magic of being a Woman are some of her poems published in respective anthologies.

She has edited various Anthologies of Poems. As an Alumni, she has been a Resource Person in a four day Career Guidance Workshop conducted by APAC (W), Palani.

She has delivered a motivational speech to the College Students. She has received many awards in the field of Education. She has produced cent percent result in TN SSLC English Exam for the past 7 years. She is interested in exploring her talents in creative writing. She is thankful to her Motivator Brindha Mam and the Creative Writers Group.

Her book 'Continental Poems' is a collection of 78 poems remembering the Year of birth (1978) of the writer. The words are the spontaneous overflow of the writer's thoughts. The reader will surely understand the inner feelings of the writer through the simple usage of words.

The student community will also enjoy the thought process of the writer. The words are the true reflection of the writer's insight into the poetic world. Creativity is a rare kind of satisfaction that satisfies the giver and the receiver. Hope all will be immensely pleased to read the book.



Worth Noting:

- This has really added credentials to the Ph D., Scholar. Dr.S.Kayalvizhi cleared TET in 2012 and got appointed as a BT Assistant in SNVGHSS, Elayamuthur, Tiruppur in 2012. She teaches English along with life skills to students. She makes her class very lively through real life narrations and incidents.
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