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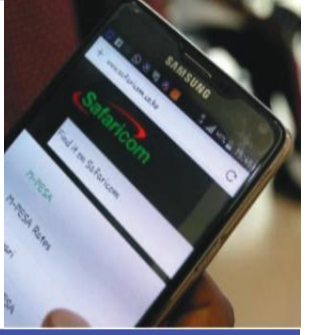
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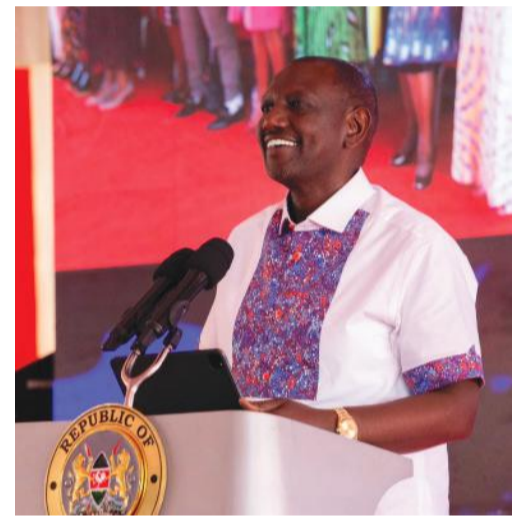


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Committee chairman Kimani Kuria (centre)



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Stop Stigmatizing Mental Illness, Pastor Dorcas Urges Kenyans

By: Prudence Wanza



Worth Noting:

- “I look forward to where every university will have a dean and counselors to speak to our students, where students can get some help,” she said
- In her recent visit to Miritini Rehabilitation Centre in Mombasa County at least 60 % of the recovering addicts confessed to be university student and drop outs.
- “Mental health and drugs are robbing out country a future generation. This is a global crisis.
- And as the boychild champion am more concerned because the male gender -who is the boychild report more cases of mental health and suicide,” she said



The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas.

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas has urged Kenyans not to stigmatise those suffering from mental illnesses.

Speaking during a youth forum dubbed Sikika Youth Fest at the Mt.Kenya University in Thika Pastor Dorcas expressed concerns over continued stigmatisation towards those suffering from mental illnesses.

“What we are trying to do is doing sensitisation, so that people do not stigmatise those suffering. We start to talk demystify mental illness so that those suffering can have the courage to talk to anyone around them,” she said

She further called on universities and institutions of higher learning in the country to introduce deans and

counselors in the institutions.

“I look forward to where every university will have a dean and counselors to speak to our students, where students can get some help,” she said In her recent visit to Miritini Rehabilitation Centre in Mombasa County at least 60 % of the recovering addicts confessed to be university student and drop outs.

“Mental health and drugs are robbing out country a future generation. This is a global crisis.

And as the boychild champion am more concerned because the male gender -who is the boychild report more cases of mental health and suicide,” she said

“I will speak about the boychild until they hear me. As a mother I will speak until the whole world hears.

Because the boychild is important. I know when I advocate for my boychild case, am advocating for my girlchild. The boy is the seed carrier. Both must be brought up together and must be equally valued,” she noted

The forum brought together university students from various institutions under the theme SIKIKA, TUBONGE, TUSIFICHE.

During the forum Pastor Dorcas shared her story on suicidal thoughts back in her Kenyatta University days. She says she had contemplated suicide when a gas cylinder she had bought for her mother exploded burning their neighbour’s children.

It is a situation that led her to regrets on why she had bought the gas cylinder. It is out during the time that

a friend requested her to accompany them to go to see the then President Daniel Arap Moi in his Kabarnet Gardens residence.

Pastor Dorcas says when they arrived at the President’s residence, she tried to run towards the president to be shot dead by the President’s security team.

Pastor Dorcas called on the youth to speak out when depressed.

“You must speak to one another; you must find someone to lean on. And we must offer shoulders to one another. Do not keep those things to yourself,” she said

Under her office Pastor Dorcas has been advocating for establishment and revival of many rehabilitation centers.

“In the counties we are settling up rehabilitation centers so that we can rehabilitated people who need help. And with the help of NHIF it will be easier and accessible to all,” she said Mt.Kenya University Co-Founder Dr.Jane Nyutu expressed concerns over the young age which the youth are getting into mental disorder and depression noting that many are getting into such due to peer pressure.

“We have the culture of ‘sponsorship’ that has rendered our youth desperate in their future lives. Not forgetting the celebrity culture, many want to live like someone they have seen. Many young people are falling into the trap of celebrity status,” she said

“Many of our young people have fallen into stress and depression when they feel they are different from others,” she added

The Mt. Kenya Times



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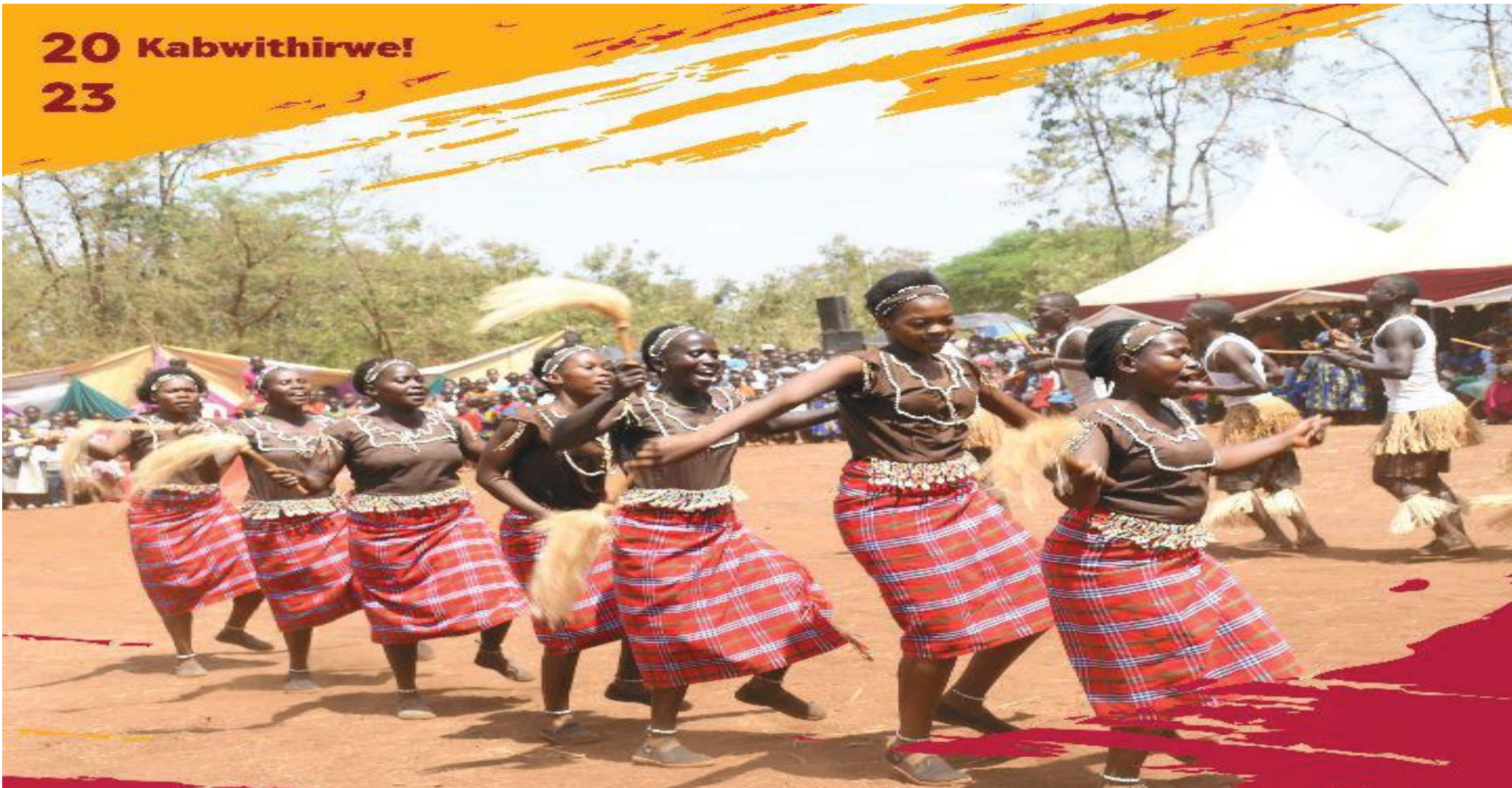
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Legislator Unveils Shocking Truth: Impassable Road Claims Exposed as Elaborate Hoax

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Bobasi Constituency Legislator Innocent Obiri Momanyi, representing Kisii County, has expressed his concerns over sustained demonstrations by local residents regarding the deplorable road network in the area.

He has accused his alleged detractors of organizing a hoax and misleading the public.

The residents of the area have threatened to push for the recall of their Member of Parliament due to his failure to facilitate the tarmacking of the 20-kilometer Igare-Nyacheki road, which they consider to be in a pathetic state.

Early this week, the residents held demonstrations along the road, and they have vowed to continue protesting monthly until the MP takes action.

Speaking at a funeral in Keigamere village in Bobasi Constituency, the MP defended himself, stating that the 13-kilometer Igare-Materio-Nyacheki road, which is referred

to as impassable, is actually an all-weather road and not as bad as claimed by the locals.

He stated that he could not identify the specific section of the road that was badly damaged, which led the residents to plant banana stems as a form of protest.

The MP accused his political detractors of mobilizing a section of the residents to create fake videos of the road's condition and spread them on social media.

He believes that these demonstrations and videos are meant to tarnish his image.

According to the legislator, the road in question falls under the jurisdiction of the county government.

However, he claimed that he had already resolved to apply murrum (gravel) to improve its condition, despite being accused of neglecting it.

The MP assured the electorate of his commitment to grading the road while awaiting funds from the National Treasury.

He notified his detractors that the electorate is well-informed and will have the opportunity to vote for a

leader of their choice in the upcoming general elections.

"I urge do not be misled by some individuals who want to tarnish my name," said Obiri.

The residents have repeatedly appealed to the legislator to repair the road, stating that it has been ignored despite being rendered impassable during torrential rains.

The MP said that the contractors are on the site and have commenced the work doing regular maintenance of the roads to motorable standards as they push for tarmac. Igare-Materio-Borangi, Nyamache-Mogonga, Mogonga-Emenwa, Riamamwana-Riamarube-Nyambunde, Nyamokenye-Kenyerere and Rise-Nyambunde.

He assured the residents they are working towards ensuring they secure additional mileage of tarmac this term as a more long term solution to infrastructure challenges.

The MP has promised the residents to remain calm as plans are underway to apply murrum and improve the road's condition.



Maintenance of the roads ongoing Igare-Materio-Borangi, Nyamache-Mogonga, Mogonga-Emenwa, Riamamwana-Riamarube-Nyambunde, Nyamokenye-Kenyerere and Rise-Nyambunde. Photo | courtesy.



MARY EDITH KIMAMA MEDICAL APPEAL

The family and fundraising committee invites you to a fundraising function in aid of Mrs. Mary Edith Kimama's hospital bill and care amounting to Ksh 5Million. The fundraising will be held on Saturday 3rd June 2023 at the Holy Family Basilica (St. Johns Hall) in Nairobi CBD starting at 2pm.

Kindly Send Your Contribution to:

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Why You Should Embrace ‘People -First -Language When Addressing People With Disability’

By: Brenda Holo

@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Basically, it means: putting the person before a qualifier. In this case I'm talking about people with disabilities. So instead of saying, "I have an autistic sibling," you'd put the person before the disability: "I have a sibling who is autistic".

- Well, because your sibling in this case is a person who happens to have autism. His /Her identity is not autism, they might be tons more. When you put their disability first, you are perpetuating a stigma that may seem harmless, but it results in false ideas people have around a certain type of person they see as different.

Think of that nickname your classmates jokingly called you back in the day. You hated it, right? It made you feel like a lesser human being. But if you told someone how you felt, they'd probably tell you, "It's just a name like any other. Don't let it grow in you". Well it's 2022 folks only one week to 2023. And we are woke enough to know that the language we use to describe the people around us makes an impact, right?

Labeling people is dangerous. When we place labels on people, we create a stigma that separates individuals from the community.

We continuously use words to iden-

tify people as something different or as lesser. We do this with gender, ethnicity, as well as disability. Once we apply a label to a group of people, it makes it easier for us to treat that group as less than equal.

Lately, I have noticed people slipping back into old habits. By labeling people with adjectives that describe their disease, disability, illness or limitation, we put them last.

What is "people-first-language"?

Basically, it means: putting the person before a qualifier. In this case I'm talking about people with disabilities. So instead of saying, "I

have an autistic sibling," you'd put the person before the disability: "I have a sibling who is autistic".

Why do we need to embrace the language?

Well, because your sibling in this case is a person who happens to have autism. His /Her identity is not autism, they might be tons more. When you put their disability first, you are perpetuating a stigma that may seem harmless, but it results in false ideas people have around a certain type of person they see as different. Instead use your words to foster a positive outlook that raises the individual up.

Studies in the recent past have shown that the words we choose are important. Using disease first language like "an epileptic" instead of "a person with epilepsy" made a significant difference in how people felt about interacting with that person on various levels.

Using people's first language, (people WITH disabilities) when communicating with those who do not have a disability or disease makes them less likely to associate negative stereotypes with us and our community.

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First Lady Of Kenya Receives Bicycles From The Republic Of Korea Worth Sh27.6M

By: PCS



Worth Noting:

- Expressing her gratitude, Mama Rachel Ruto extended her deepest appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its unwavering commitment to promoting sustainable transportation and empowering individuals through the donation of bicycles.
- The donation includes 100 commuter bicycles, 155 electric bicycles, and 28 mountain and road bicycles, which will contribute to enhancing non-motorized transportation in Kenya.
- Mama Rachel Ruto emphasized the global climate goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- She highlighted that road transport accounts for up to 10 per cent of global carbon emissions, making cycling an essential pathway to a safe and sustainable future for all.



First Lady Mama Rachel Ruto with Ms Hoeseung Hwang at State House yesterday.

The First Lady of Kenya, Mama Rachel Ruto yesterday received a donation of 283 bicycles from the Republic of Korea.

The handover ceremony to Mama Doing Good held at State House was attended by the Ambassador of The Republic of Korea Yeo Sung-Jun, and his spouse Ms. Hoeseung Hwang.

Expressing her gratitude, Mama Rachel Ruto extended her deepest appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its unwavering commitment to promoting sustainable transportation and empowering individuals through the donation of bicycles.

The donation includes 100 commuter bicycles, 155 electric bicycles, and 28 mountain and road bicycles, which will contribute to enhancing non-motorized transportation in Kenya.

Mama Rachel Ruto emphasized the global climate goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

She highlighted that road transport accounts for up to 10 per cent of global carbon emissions, making cycling an essential pathway to a safe and sustainable future for all.

Cycling is a zero-emission mode of transportation, offering a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to vehicles that rely on fossil fuels.

The First Lady highlighted the

broader impact of the donation, stating that it contributes to building a healthier and more environmentally conscious society.

The bicycles will be distributed to women and men across Kenya, empowering them to join a global com-

munity of cyclists and symbolising empowerment, independence, and new opportunities.

Mama Rachel Ruto emphasised the importance of advocating for safe and inclusive cycling infrastructure, ensuring that cycling becomes a vi-

able option for people of all ages, genders, abilities, and income levels. She acknowledged the significance of the “Share the Road” campaign in promoting safe and sustainable means of transportation.

Ambassador Yeo Sung Jun noted that the event marks a milestone in our shared commitment to empowering women, promoting sustainable transport, and fostering a greener future.

“As the Korean Ambassador to Kenya, I am deeply proud to be part of this momentous occasion. It is a testament to the strong bond between our two nations and our unwavering dedication to supporting initiatives that promote gender equality. The donation of around 300 bicycles, worth approximately 200,000 US dollars, symbolises our belief in the power of sustainable mobility,” Ambassador Yeo Sung Jun said

In conclusion, Mama Rachel Ruto expressed her deep appreciation for the support and partnership of the Republic of Korea. She commended their impactful contributions, which will forever be engraved in the hearts of the Kenyan people.



Bicycles .

Lawmakers Move To Consider Measurers To Fund The 2023/2024 Budget As Committee Wraps Up Public Hearing

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyentimes



Committee chairman Kimani Kuria (centre).

Worth Noting:

- Over the last decade, the historical average annual increase in total expenditure and net lending has been about 12%. Projections show that this year, the National Treasury has maintained the Government's fiscal consolidation efforts by limiting expenditure growth.
- National Treasury statistics show that Kenya's tax revenue collection as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has stagnated at around 15 per cent over the last decade. Consequently, the country has lagged behind other comparable African countries whose tax revenue collection is between 20 per cent and 25 per cent.
- For instance, ordinary revenue as a share of GDP declined from around 16.2 per cent in 2013/14 financial year to around 15 per cent in the last financial year.

The Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning wound up round one of public hearings on the Finance Bill, 2023, after receiving submissions and memoranda for nine-straight days.

The committee received them from organised groups and individuals on various proposals contained on the Bill.

This Bill comes at a time when the country is facing reduced revenues due to its debt burden, a huge wage bill among other competing national priorities and in the wake of diminishing revenues owing to the country's debt burden, a huge wage bill among other competing national priorities.

It provides for ways and means of financing the next financial year budget. Section 39 of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act requires a balance between Budgeting and Revenue raising. This implies that, should there be any reduction in the proposed tax measures, the House will also have to cut the proposed Budget proportionally.

According to the Tabled Budget

Estimates, the proposed total expenditure and net lending for the financial year 2023/24 is KSh3.6 billion, representing a 6.4% (Sh215 billion) expenditure increase relative to the current financial year budget.

Over the last decade, the historical average annual increase in total expenditure and net lending has been about 12%. Projections show that this year, the National Treasury has maintained the Government's fiscal consolidation efforts by limiting expenditure growth.

National Treasury statistics show that Kenya's tax revenue collection as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has stagnated at around 15 per cent over the last decade. Consequently, the country has lagged behind other comparable African countries whose tax revenue collection is between 20 per cent and 25 per cent.

For instance, ordinary revenue as a share of GDP declined from around 16.2 per cent in 2013/14 financial year to around 15 per cent in the last financial year.

One of the drivers of the decline

in ordinary revenue collection as a share of economic output was the one percentage point decline (from 7.9 percent to 6.9 percent) of income tax collection as a share of GDP.

Notably, the performance of income tax which accounts for around 46 percent of ordinary revenue collection will have a significant impact on future tax revenue prospects.

The committee has not been shy of asserting these facts to the over 180 respondents who appeared before them to file their oral submissions.

Last week, the Committee's Chairperson Kimani Kuria underscored the fact that the country has to grow revenues to not only seal the deficit gap, but to also help fund the government programs and meet other government obligations.

"We all live in this country and are aware of the dire economic situation the country is in. We all have to agree to provide solutions to our current fiscal challenges", the chairman told the stakeholders.

He told the stakeholders that the ripple effect that would emanate from for instance, from the proposed Na-

tional Housing Development Fund is great, given the jobs that the program is set to create, and the demand for inputs the program would create for the manufacturing sector.

This provision among others that received little focus during the public hearings are however likely to be the game changers in the efforts to support the 2023/2024 budget.

After undertaking public participation on the Bill as required by law, the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning is now expected to engage the National Treasury and the Kenya Revenue Authority on some of the fundamental issues raised by respondents before retreating to write its report.

The Report is expected to be tabled when the House resumes from recess early June for consideration.

The Bill has a timeline of approval of 30th June, 2023, which coincides with the enactment of the Appropriation Law, 2023. If approved, the new law will be expected to apply as from 1st July.

President Ruto: We Will Monetise The Creative Industry

By: Prudence Wanza

President William Ruto has assured the country of the Government's support for the creative economy.

He said the government had initiated a programme under the Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture to growing the arts industry.

The Head of State noted that the programme creates a continuum through which gifted youth secure dream careers after their studies.

"We would want to see the arts grow so that they can also contribute productively to our growth," he explained.

The President was speaking on Friday during the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival hosted at State House, Nairobi.

The Initiative, he added, is a flagship project through which "we will revolutionise the way we organise sports and the arts in Kenya."

"We are lucky that we are implementing a curriculum that recognises performing arts such as music, dance, drama and film as learning components."

The President noted that the move will see students leave secondary school armed with knowledge both theory and skill in the arts.

He commended the students for the skills and talent exhibited during the performances.

"We have been educated on a lot of issues; some of the themes presented here touch the society to the core."

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua who was present said the Government will keep supporting the sector "for our country's sustained growth".

"The monetisation of content will help us tame unemployment and increase earnings, especially to the youth," said Gachagua.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, President William Ruto & CS Ezekiel Machogu.

Act Now Or Suffer Climate Consequences-Prime CS Mudavadi

By: Muraya Kamunde

The Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said the state will not relent on actions to mitigate against the harsh consequences of climate change.

In his speech read by Health CS Susan Nakhumicha the PCS regretted that the country was facing the severest drought in 40 years due to failure to act, saying the best way to mitigate against the consequences was greening.

"We have set a target of planting 15 billion trees to achieve a 30 per cent tree cover by 2032. This ambitious target translates to 1.5 billion trees every year. It is doable; to wade-off encroachment of Climate Change. It is no accident that the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry was created," said the PCS at Kakamega Forest where 29,000 trees were planted.

"I had looked forward to personally



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi .

participating in this exercise but National duty has taken me to Angola to represent Kenya in talks to restore peace in Eastern DRC."

He said though the country appeared to have met the constitutional 10 per cent forest cover, his hunch was we

should do better than that.

Mudavadi likened that to moving two steps forward and one step backwards because the effort at increasing forest cover was frustrated by persistent environmental destruction of trees for charcoal burning, and in-

stances of unlawful Shamba System.

He said the greening was a two-pronged approach which involved tree cover where ordinary wananchi are involved and forest cover which largely involved the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and other state organs.

"The Kenya Forest Services (KFS) tells us that the 10 per cent was achieved after planting over 1.8 billion trees in a span of 3 years (2019-2022). Moreover, a total of 48 billion Kenyan shillings was needed for this noble cause," he said.

The PCS said the tree cover stood at 12.13 per cent out of the target of 30 per cent by 2032.

He said under tree cover, every Kenyan is encouraged to plant trees wherever they are in Kenya.

"This is why I recently called on the 57,212,380 million Kenyans (as at May 2023) to plant a tree on Madaraka Day. If they have heeded my call, we should by yesterday have added about 60 million trees towards the 15 billion target," he said.

He said to ensure the culture of tree planting was institutionalized his

office adopted 10 acres at Egerton University in Nakuru County and planted 5,000 trees on five acres in only one day.

He lauded the Kakamega Forest Heritage Foundation for spearheading reforestation of the unique forest.

The PCS at the same time challenged the locals who participated in the exercise that they should not just plant but ensure the seedlings they plant grew matured.

"Tree and forest cover are being countermanded by incidences of community insensibility to impacts of Climate Change. This calls for persistent community sensitization and mobilization to the next level – Tree Growing" he said.

Adding: "It is not enough to plant trees. Tree Growing is critical in meeting the cover targets. You must look after planted seedlings to grow into mature trees. This is the essence of Tree and Forest Cover, and not just the seedlings planting exercises."

Ruto's Launch Of Second Phase Of 'Hustler Fund' Demonstrated He Means His Words



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



President Ruto after launchign hustlers fund

Worth Noting:

- Well, his critics in Azimio would take advantage of this to portray him in bad light. He had promised you that he will do this or that within this timeline but he has not kept his word. This reeks of hypocrisy and dishonest.
- With due respect to Azimio leader Raila Odinga, I want to ask him. When you served as a cabinet minister for Roads and Public Works in the first term of Mwai Kibaki presidency and later as a Prime Minister in the second term of Kibaki administration, did you manage to roll out all the promises within the timelines you had set out? The answer is a Big No.

In the countdown to 2022 General Election, the 'Hustler Nation' narrative became the key plank of the Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate William Ruto.

While identifying himself as a real 'hustler', he managed to convince millions of Kenyans that he was having a solution to the myriad of the problems facing them.

I know the pain you going through and he always pointed an accusing finger at the 'Handshake' government duo of President Uhuru Kenyatta and his partner ODM leader Raila Odinga.

These two gentlemen are sons of dynasties and so they have never encountered any problem in their lives.

The Kenya Kwanza brigade always revisited the remark made by one of them when he asked. How much does a loaf of bread cost?

In this conversation that now coalesced around the 'Dynasties versus hustlers', Dr Ruto mainly targeted women and youths because he knew a big chunk of them were jobless.

This wave was very strong and at some point it started to send cold shivers down the spines of his political competitors.

Attempts by his detractors to tame him would not bear the fruits. This came when it was too late.

Majority of Kenyans had made up their mind and were only waiting for the polling day to cast their votes in support of Dr Ruto. This came to pass.

Having been at the helm of power for last eight months, the conversation has now changed. The focus shifts to whether he has fulfilled the pre-election pledges.

Allow me to give my response by looking at the Kenya Kwanza manifesto which categorizes pledges into two: the long and short term prom-

ises.

In my considered view, President Ruto has made good progress.

Yes, he would not keep the timelines he had set out in the implementation of some of them.

Well, his critics in Azimio would take advantage of this to portray him in bad light. He had promised you that he will do this or that within this timeline but he has not kept his word. This reeks of hypocrisy and dishonest.

With due respect to Azimio leader Raila Odinga, I want to ask him. When you served as a cabinet minister for Roads and Public Works in the first term of Mwai Kibaki presidency and later as a Prime Minister in the second term of Kibaki administration, did you manage to roll out all the promises within the timelines you had set out? The answer is a Big No.

We know that Dr William Ruto assumed office at a time when Kenya was being confronted by five major challenges: The ravaging drought (the worst in 40 years), dilapidated economy, foreign debts, and Russian-Ukraine war and at a time when Kenya was recovering from devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

In light of this, I hope majority of Kenyans would not fall prey to Raila and his brigade political machinations of casting President Ruto as a 'failure'.

We know the reasons why the opposition leaders have been doing this. It is simply because Dr Ruto wrestled them down at the ballot.

Though Raila had carved a niche of rejecting the presidential elections results particularly those that had catapulted Presidents Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta to the helm of power, one can understand why he remains so bitter and is yet to come

to terms with this loss?

He was enjoying the full backing of the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Deep State and System.

So, the word 'defeat' did not exist in his vocabulary. He never contemplated losing.

He had these mis conceived, false believe and warped idea. Even if I lose at the ballot, the outgoing President will help me to manipulate and alter the results so that I'm declared the 'winner'.

Many believed part of this game involved crafting a plot that would frighten the chairman of the IEBC and make him come to a conclusion that his life was in real danger. This would happen if Wafula Chebukati refuses to cooperate.

The chairman stood his gun and went ahead to declare Dr Ruto as the winner.

The local and international observers, who had already given the outcome a clean bill of health, commend him for this.

Raila suffered another setback at Supreme Court of Kenya. After hearing the petition, they Judges dismissed the case.

In a unanimous decision, the observed. The petition fell far short of meeting the requisite threshold. This is because it had been built on quick sand and shaky ground. It is nothing but a cocktail of raw propaganda, outright lies and half truth.

A few days ago, President William Ruto led the nation in the celebration to mark the 60th Madaraka Day, the first since he becomes the President. This event was held in the newly refurbished Moi Stadium in Embu town.

The president seized this opportunity to launch the second phase of the 'Hustler Fund' targeting groups such as Chamas and Saccos.

Upon applying via digital platform, each group was eligible to access a loan of between Sh20,000 and Sh1 million.

In doing this, President Ruto left no doubt he recognized the importance of this day. Madaraka is a national day set aside to celebrate when Kenya attained internal-self-rule.

Here, we normally remember our freedom fighters, which went to the forest and waged a fierce battle against the British colonial government.

Today, we are enjoying the fruits of their sweat and great sacrifices.

Patriotism and commitment to liberate fellow Kenyans from the yoke of colonial slavery is what drove them to go to the forest to fight for land and freedom.

That is why they won this battle because it was not about pursuing their selfish and personal interests.

After Kenya got its full independence, the founding President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta listed poverty, disease and ignorance as the three main challenges that needed to be fought and vanquished.

60 years down the line, we have made very little progress. This is despite the presidents of the successive governments crafting and unveiling a raft of interventions.

President Ruto is also laying out a strong foundation to deal with these challenges.

As he promised during the campaigns, he is using different strategies.

As for the launch of the second phase of Hustler Fund, formally known Financial Inclusion Fund, the President was privy to this.

The founding fathers of had identified poverty as one of enemies of our nation. This explains why he choose this occasion to unveil the fund.

The first phase which targeted the individuals is still continuing.

The President disclosed that 20.2 million Kenyans have so far applied and accessed the loans.

Sh30 billion have been dispersed to them through the digital platform. The platform is secured. No corruption. You get your money in realtime.

Out of Sh30bn, Sh19.7bn has been repaid, he stated.

The president is on the right course. Let us support his efforts.

For his critics, he has been telling them. I have no problem with you correcting me and my administration if we do something wrong.

However, you should engage us in a constructive and structured dialogue and criticisms.

This demonstrates that Dr Ruto is a true democrat.

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

Some Helpful Persuasion Tactics

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes

PERSUASION TECHNIQUES



Worth Noting:

- You should be able to provide compelling reasons for your interaction with the people seeking for a favour. Thorough and convincing explanation will help you get nod to go ahead with the interaction or interruption.
- The explanation may be verbal or nonverbal or both, An example if you are a customer service staff who going to work and outside your work station you find a long queue of people and you wish to request them to give you way so that you can serve them yet the clients do not know you they are thinking you are one of the clients and you want to jump the queue you need to explain yourself.

Are you marketing a product, buying goods and services where the prices are negotiable, wooing a party of opposite gender in search of a spouse, wooing voters doing an election campaign in all these activities you are supposed to be attractive enough to ensure not only people listen to you but also develop interest in you and follow you.

In our day to day activities we interact with people knowing how to persuade them with help us start and develop healthy relationships as a result any doors of opportunities will open.

Imitating the other person's behavior in a subtle way like taking a drink at the same time, crossing legs or even facial expressions makes the other person feel like you are similar and may tend to agree with you more.

You need to have a good understanding of the subject matter, know your clients well devise appropriate communication channels to ease the work and have a good flow of goods, services and information.

Maintaining eye contact most of the time and getting closer to the person while talking is important in persuading the other party. It signals frankness, confidence and good chemistry between the parties.

There is a smaller difference be-

tween persuasion and manipulation and it depends with the nature of the person who you are dealing with or implementing a strategy. Persuaders are calm, kind and appealing while manipulators are over confident and usually aim at instilling fear to get issues done.

Below are common persuasion techniques useful in convincing clients.

Being polite in your expression

Kind words like please may I, please and excuse me shows great regard to the other party and while reciprocating they will respect your time and honour request.

Spicing up the kind word with a smile will make wonders as the mood would be welcoming and the conversation will be more friendly and compelling.

Provision of a warm drink

A warm drink promotes relation, remove toxins, keep the body healthy, hydrated, improve digestion and relieve congestion. The relaxed mood helps the other party to be open to receive your message. During drinking one is able to think of the issues being discussed after which he or she will be able to respond with a well thought answer.

Clearly explaining the reason for your request

You should be able to provide compelling reasons for your interaction with the people seeking for a favour. Thorough and convincing explanation will help you get nod to go ahead with the interaction or interruption. The explanation may be verbal or nonverbal or both, An example if you are a customer service staff who going to work and outside your work station you find a long queue of people and you wish to request them to give you way so that you can serve them yet the clients do not know you they are thinking you are one of the clients and you want to jump the queue you need to explain yourself. You can use words like I am a customer care staff in this institution could you please allow me to access the entrance door so that I can get in and begin my service.

If you are a police officer and you wish to control traffic, if you are in uniform you will be easily recognized and the road users will easily follow the rules upon noticing your present even without having any verbal communication

Using a convincing speech

While persuading someone your speech should be void of doubts. You should have good mastery of the

subject being discussed, your tone should show confidence.

Listening with keenness

A good listener creates the notion of patience and understanding this eventually helps the listener to win trust from the other party. Once you are trusted you are able to easily convey your message and the chances of your request becoming accepted are enhanced.

Listening will give you an opportunity to understand the person who is talking to you. You will also be able to know which any gray areas and lay emphasis on them to clear all doubts.

Compliment

When you offer a compliment you dilute all preconceived ideas or other narratives they might have heard about you and create a friendly environment to start fresh and friendly relations.

The compliment should be honest. Telling someone 'wow you look great', you look so pretty,

Compliments are contagious if you say a good thing about one person, bright smile and laughter soon the rest will join in smiling and laughing the mood will be jovial.

Senator Omtatah Files Lawsuit, Challenges Finance Bill 2023 In Court

By: Martin Mwanje

Busia County Senator Okiya Omtatah has made true his threats to challenge the Finance Bill 2023 in court. The first time Senator Friday filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of the contentious Bill which he terms unconstitutional.

Senator Omtatah had vowed to seek redress in court after the Madaraka Day celebrations saying he will not sit by and watch as the Bill that threatens to destroy the industrial base of this country is enacted into law.

“This is a war on the Republic of Kenya, it is a fight for the soul of this country, and we are not going to shy from it,” he said at the floor of the Senate Wednesday.

In a suit filed under a certificate of urgency Friday, Omtatah faults the Executive for usurping the roles of both the taxman and the two Houses



Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah .

of Parliament.

He argues that President William Ruto is forcing the passage of the Bill which he says amounts to coercing Kenyans to pay tax irregularly.

In the case, the Senator has enlisted over 30 articles of the Constitution which risks being violated if the Bill is passed.

“Earlier today I filed a lawsuit chal-

lenging the legality of Finance Bill, 2023. There are clear limitations that cannot be breached when doing taxation. You cannot force somebody to save. You cannot force somebody to

join an association”, said Omtatah after filing the lawsuit.

This coming at a time the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning has finalized public hearings on the Bill.

The Committee, led by Molo MP Kimani Kuria, has for the last nine days been receiving submissions and memoranda from organized groups and individuals on various proposals contained in the Bill that provides for various ways of financing the 2023/24 Budget.

The Committee is now expected to engage the National Treasury and the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) on thorny issues raised by respondents during the hearings before retreating to write its report.

Thereafter, the report is expected to be tabled in the National Assembly for consideration.

The Bill has an approval timeline of June 30, 2023 and will come into effect from July 1, 2023 if enacted into law.

Sakaja To Unveil Second County ICU, Ground Break Central Kitchen Construction

By: Capital Correspondent

The Nairobi County Government is set to launch a second Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Mbagathi hospital. Governor Johnson Sakaja made the announcement during the 60th Madaraka day celebrations, held at the Joe Kadenge stadium (City stadium).

“In six months, we unveiled the first ICU in the County at the Mama Lucy Hospital. In the coming days, we will launch a unit that will provide newborn nursery, special care nursery, and neonatal intensive care services at the Mbagathi Hospital. I want to re affirm my commitment to transforming and modernising county health facilities for the provision of affordable and quality healthcare services to Nairobi residents,” Sakaja stated.

The governor pointed out that pupils in Nairobi public schools will

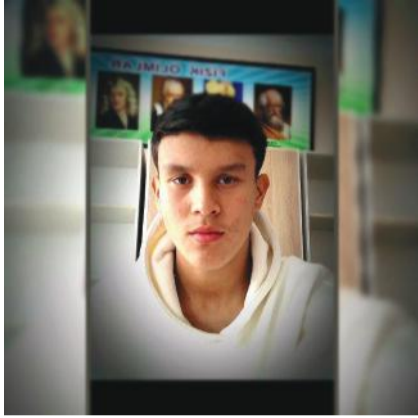
soon enjoy free lunch as he is set to ground break the construction of 17 central kitchens in the 17 sub counties in the city to actualize the school feeding programme which will pave way for food distribution to public schools in the city.

Sakaja who made a grand entrance to the stadium in the 1966 Rolls-Royce Austin Princes, which was bought by the then Nairobi City Council in 1968 – as a ceremonial car for the mayor was accompanied to the 60th Madaraka day celebrations by Deputy Governor Njoroge Muchiri, in attendance were All Nairobi County Executives, The Ag. County Secretary, Patrick Analo, All Chief Officers, Chief of Staff, David Njoroge, County Attorney, Lydia Kwamboka, The Governors Council of Advisors, Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna, County Assembly speaker Hon. Ken Ngondi, Makadara MP Hon. George Aladwa and Members of Parliament and Nairobi County Assembly MCAs.



Nairobi Governor, Johnson Sakaja, with five year old Zana Muriithi from State House Day Nursery who recited a poem during the 60th Madaraka day celebrations held at the Joe Kadenge stadium. Governor Sakaja is set to break ground, which will pave the way for the construction of 17 central kitchens in the 17 sub counties of Nairobi..

One true friend is enough!



Encouragement when you fall,
The one who holds your hand on a difficult day,

One who overcomes hardships
One true friend is enough.

If he shares your laughter,
Being a shield and standing next to you,
He sees your son as his son
One true friend is enough

If you stumble, there are kickers
There are those who turn away and leave,
Suffers when it comes to sadness and

anxiety

One true friend is enough.

If he didn't cheat, he couldn't sell,
It was impossible to throw stones from behind,

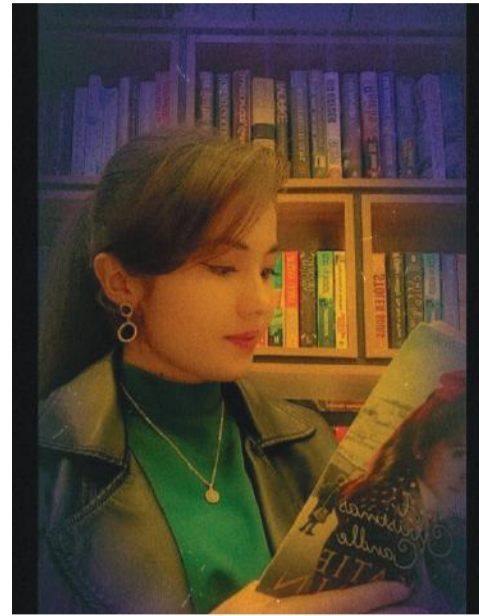
One lost in one day
One true friend is enough.

If your words are not heavy,
If you always justify your trust,
If you are worried
One true friend is enough

Call me my friend for God's sake!
Let everyone envy you
Take care of yourself!
One true friend is enough.

The son of Fakhridin Mekhrobjon Sultanbayev was born in Beruni district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Currently 17 years old. 10th grade student of a specialized school in the Beruni district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan

Knowledge Gained From Books



Everyone has read at least 10 books due largely to utmost importance of them in life and I have read wide range of books so far. To exemplify, secular, religious, business, psychological and leadership books.

Each book has its own knowledge to give to a person, and I can easily say that through the information in the book, people gain experience in their lives. Personally, from the book I read about business and leadership, I learned skills that can be used in life and can easily get out of problems.

Through this knowledge, I am currently working as a participant,

coordinator, volunteer, leader, organizer of many projects. Even through my personal project, I trained more than 100 students and shared the knowledge I got from books with about 1000 young people.

In addition, I have proven that exchanging ideas while reading a book, freely expressing one's opinion, and developing a world view gives knowledge, the reason is that during conversations with many people, when we exchange ideas, they ask me the following question:

"How many books have you read in your life and what books do you recommend?" that I feel that I have easily read a lot of books because of these questions.

To'iqinova Sevinch O'tkirovna is the third-year student of the Faculty of English Philology of the Uzbek State University of World Languages. The winner and participant of numerous local and international competitions. Sustainability Promoters & Sustainable Collaborators Ambassador of Great Britain.

Thank You For My Parents



My age is passing, like a beautiful flower.
Always grateful for bread, salt and pepper,
Thank you for my father and mother.

They are winter and spring,
My dark nights, dinner not dinner.
I told them the truth, I expressed,
Thank you for my father and mother.

I was born Urgut district, Samarkand region.
My name is SABINA
My last name: KAKKHOROVA
My father's name and surname: Mingbayev Salim.

My mother's name, surname: Begmatova Motabar.

There are 6 of us in the family, I am the eldest child, I have 2 brothers and 1 sister.
Kakharova Sabina
Kahharov Halim
Kahharova Mushtari
Kahharov Abdullah
I am 2021

Graduated from the 16th general secondary school in 2022.

I entered philology.
My brothers and sister are school students now.

At the moment, I am working in an English language training center.

Thank you for everything, thank you
Bright day, peaceful night, thank you for my life.

I am happy that I am healthy,
Thank you for my father and mother.

My eyes are happy when I see
Their laughter brings joy.
It's enough to love her as my only daughter,
Thank you for my father and mother.

If I don't see for a moment, my eyes will search,

They laugh at every word I say.
Send it to pilgrims, I'm the one
Thank you for my father and mother.

Every day is endless, I am full of happiness,

Life

When I leave life and the world,
If I don't hold flowers in your hands.
Don't be offended, take my head.
If I pour out like a spring and don't flow back.

Well, don't remember, don't be sad,
They say "he is no longer in the world".
Look up at the sky and smile softly,
Say: "Dreams are enough today."

If my soul turns into a butterfly
I come to you every day, you know.

Don't even look at your face
If your daughter forgets like me.

Sabina Adulazizova

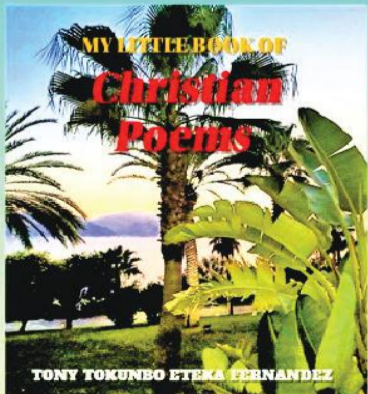
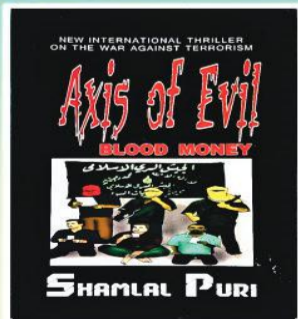
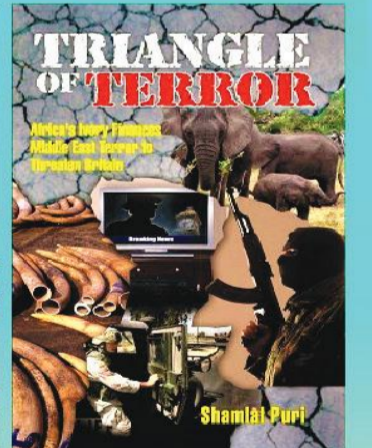
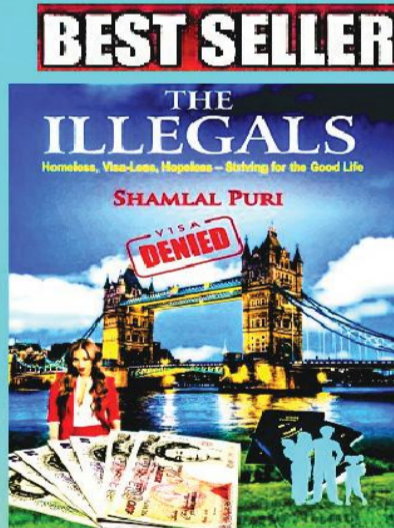
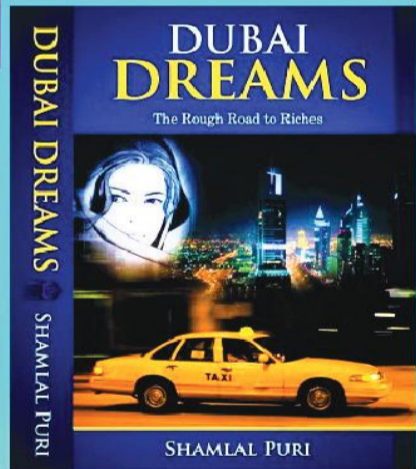
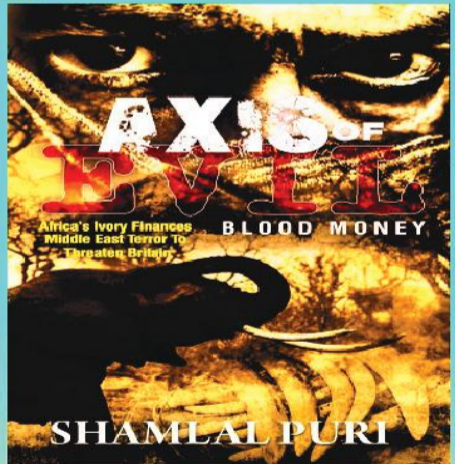
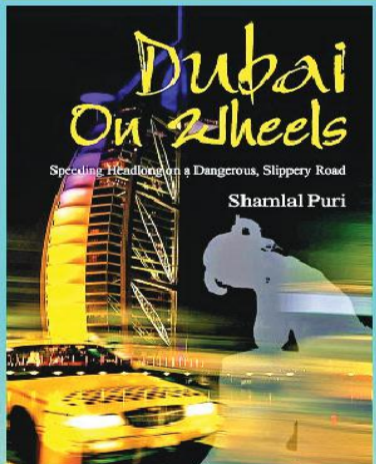
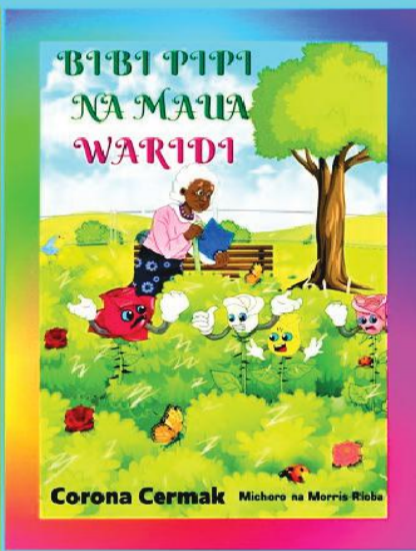
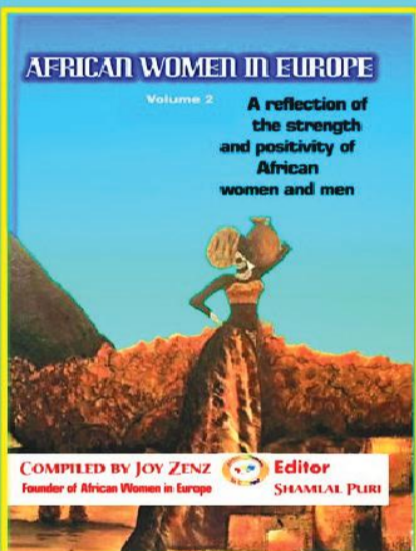
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Data Protection

Office Of Data Protection Commissioner To Devolve Services To Counties

By: Business Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The ODPC also has the mandate of registering Data Controllers and Data processors, receiving complaints from data subjects, investigating violations of the Data Protection Act, and carrying out public education on the right to privacy, among other activities.
- According to Mr Otieno, the ODPC has only registered 2305 Data controllers and processors against the tens of thousands of others yet to register, saying failure to adhere to the Data Protection Act will attract sanctions.
- “We expect compliance from all data controllers and processors who must carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA),” he added.



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) will be rolling out its services to counties in a move to bring services closer to the people as it seeks to enhance greater awareness of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2019.

According to the Deputy Data Director, Oscar Otieno, ODPC is set to devolve its services to Mombasa, Nakuru, and Kisumu cities by the end of this month, with Eldoret, Garissa, and Nyeri Huduma centres expected to host their services before October this year.

“Under our 3-year Strategic Plan, we intend to roll out our services to all the counties,” he added.

The Data Protection Act 2019 has the mandate to provide subjects with rights and remedies to protect their personal data from processing that is not in accordance with the Act.

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plaints from data subjects, investigating violations of the Data Protection Act, and carrying out public education on the right to privacy, among other activities.

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“We expect compliance from all data controllers and processors who must carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA),” he added. Both Kenyan businesses and individuals are increasingly having to contend with emerging online threats, with Naivas supermarket and Kabarak University being the latest victims of cybercriminals.

Mr Otieno made the remarks in Kitale, Trans Nzoia County, where the Commission held an awareness outreach programme to over 100 Data

Controllers and Processors drawn from both the public and private sectors.

He said so far, the Commission has received 2831 complaints, of which 922 were admitted, but 1895 were declined under preliminary review for not meeting the threshold.

“ODPC, under the Act, encourages self-regulation and the settlement of disputes by way of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) either through facilitation, conciliation, mediation, or negotiation as opposed to court processes,” he added.

Speaking at the forum, Kwanza Deputy County Commissioner Benedict Munyoki, who represented County Commissioner Gideon Oyagi, said increased collection of data by both government and private entities has fueled a threat to personal data by predators.

He raised concern that some agencies involved in data collection were misusing members’ data, hence the

need to strengthen privacy mechanisms through the Data Protection Act.

“Some agencies were misusing members’ data, and we have witnessed increased cases of cyber-crime, characterized by blackmail, hacking of Facebook, or emails,” he added.

Those sensitized on the Data Protection Act, 2019 included youth leaders, officials of boda boda operators, religious leaders, bank representatives, and both national and county officials, among others.

ODPC has launched a countrywide awareness campaign that seeks to inform members of their rights to data protection.



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Did You Know?

By: Nyanoti Ishmael
@themkenyatimes

Judiciary' President and supreme court's CJ Martha Koome's state-of-the-art Toyota Land Cruiser 300 GR Sport which costs up to Sh20 million \$147,364.

The car model launched in 2021 was inspired by the 1995 Dakar Rally, where the drivers asked for cars that could withstand tough weather conditions.

Its exclusive features include a reinforced bumper and the Electronic-Kinetic Dynamic Suspension System (E-KDSS) with a 3.5-litre twin-turbo-charged V6 engine.

It has exclusive E-KDSS suspension, locking front and rear differentials, Gazoo Racing interior trim, matte grey 18-inch alloy wheels and glossy exterior

or detailing.

It also has a sunroof, black roof rails, side steps, rear privacy glass, daytime running lights, fog lights and headlight washers.

It has a built-in refrigerated cooler, four-zone climate control, eight cup holders and four bottle holders.

The vehicle also comes with ventilated seats for the first and second-row occupants and a heated steering wheel.



CJ Martha Koome's state-of-the-art Toyota Land Cruiser 300 GR Sport .

Citizen TV's Purity Mwambia On The Verge Of Being Homeless In The United States

By: Nyanoti Ishmael
@themkenyatimes

Who is Purity mwambia ? Why is she hitting the headlines again? For those who watch Royal media media owned Citizen TV must have heard the name Purity Mwambia. Purity Mwambia is a Citizen TV Investigative Journalist well known for her exposes.

Investigative segments have always made her find herself on the wrong side with the authorities. Purity has done a good number of exposes with the most recent one being "Guns Galore" this Gun galore exposure sent her to exile in the United States of America to seek refuge in the badlands.

Mwambia went into exile in the United States after her expose of rogue cops that earned her death threats.

The talented journalist went into exile in 2021 after she expose 'Gun Galore' that shed light on how rogue police officers hire out guns to thugs. Mwambia who recently appeared at a conference organised by the United

States Department of State to discuss the unique challenges faced by women in the news industry.

The celebrated journalist was part of a panel discussion hosted by the Bureau of Global Public Affairs. One of the sessions was on women living in exile because of their journalistic work.

The talented journalist went into exile in 2021 after she expose 'Gun Galore' that shed light on how rogue police officers hire out guns to thugs. Citizen TV investigative reporter Purity Mwambia has narrated the struggles she has been going through while in the US. .

Mwambia narrated her struggles stating that she has not achieved a lot in her journalism career for the two years she has been in exile.

"Thank you for this opportunity. My challenges are not very different from other investigative journalists in exile. First of all, when you come here from your country where you've done big stories, you've quoted all these people who are doing some corruption, big shots in the government... but believe me, when you come here, it's like your voice is silenced," Mwambia said.



Purity mwambia .

"It's hard to navigate the US media landscape, especially for global journalists. It's so hard. I've been here for two years and I've only been able to do one story with one of the local companies."

Mwambia disclosed that she had been abandoned by her organization and she is on the verge of becoming homeless in the US.

"Some who come here say it is like the American dream but has its own challenges. You find yourself in a place where there is no one to talk to, no one to run to.

Personally, I was brought here by an organisation and they abandoned me. They left me; I'm on the verge of homelessness because I don't know what to do next.

Every day when I walk past all these metro buses and I see these homeless people. It's one of those stories I would have loved to tell as a journalist, but now I walk as if I'm literally in their shoes, not knowing what's going to happen to me," Purity Mwambia revealed.

Sigh Of Relief As Govt. Announces Plan To Re-Open Garissa Immigration Offices

By: Nicholas Kigundu

The government is set to re-open the Eastern Regional immigration offices in Garissa in an effort to facilitate expeditious processing of critical documents.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki, who was on a tour of various security installations in the region, said the move was part of Kenya Kwanza administration's efforts to enhance equal access to quality services.

"The Government will, from 1st July 2023, reopen the Immigration office in Garissa County to facilitate seamlessly and expeditious processing and issuance of passports and other critical documents to the residents of North Eastern region." Said Kindiki.

In an effort to boost the capacity of the country's specialized security and intelligence teams to combat terrorism and other related crimes, Kindiki said the government will invest 20 billion shillings in the modernization of equipment and other facilities for various security agencies.

The modernization which will see the acquisition of modern aircrafts and firearms as well as integration of latest technologies is meant to help the country effectively deal with modern day security threats such as terrorism, cross border crime, banditry and livestock rustling, trade in illicit alcohol, drugs and psychotropic substances.

He was accompanied by Deputy Inspector General of Police Noor Gabow, religious leaders, regional peace Committees members, Garissa Governor Nadhif Jama as well as other political leaders from the region.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki.

Senator Thang'wa Pushes For Extended Public Holidays

By: Martin Mwanje

@themtkenyatimes

Kenyans stand to enjoy extended public holidays should the proposed changes by Kiambu County Senator Karungo wa Thang'wa to the Public Holidays Act sail through.

The youthful lawmaker has drafted the Public Holidays Amendment Bill which proposes that where a public holiday falls on a Tuesday, the preceding day which is a Monday also becomes a public holiday.

The bill also proposes that when a public holiday falls on a Thursday, the succeeding day which is a Friday also becomes a public holiday.

"If this law was effective from January 2023, this year alone could have only affected three days," says Thang'wa who terms his proposal "holiday economics".

According to him, had the law been enacted by now, Kenyans could have this year benefitted from three off days, one being during yesterday's

Madaraka day celebrations which was marked on a Thursday meaning today (Friday) could have been a holiday, and during Utumishi Day which will be marked on a Tuesday in October and Jamhuri day which will be marked on a Tuesday.

Thang'wa says countries like the Philippines have such an arrangement already in place that he says is bound to provide workers with ample time to rest, recharge, and prioritize their well-being both physically and mentally.

"It will also allow for quality time with loved ones, celebration of traditions, and the opportunity for travel and tourism," he contends adding that extending public holidays will support economic growth and promote domestic tourism by encouraging longer trips and visits to new destinations thus benefitting the hospitality and tourism industries.

Political analyst David Makali was quick to laud the proposed amendment bill terming it progressive.

"Dear Kenyans, let us support this bill by Sen Karungo Thang'wa. The kind of bills that make sense."



Kiambu County Senator Karungo wa Thang'wa.



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COME AND EXPERIENCE THE BEST FOOTBALL

Over 350,000 Children In Horn Of Africa Learning Somali Language With Daariz App

By: Capital Correspondent



Worth Noting:

- Developed in response to these challenges, Daariz offers virtual reading, writing, comprehension lessons and a digital library, ensuring everyone can access a consistent and high-quality education.
- Daariz is designed to help in-school and out-of-school children and adults achieve functional literacy in Somali language within a short period of time. It combines fun, interactive games, and personalised feedback with a reward system, making learning enjoyable and engaging.
- The app's offline access has critically enabled more women and girls, who face significant educational barriers, to acquire literacy skills remotely. About 48% of Daariz learners are women and girls which is significantly higher than female school enrolment in the region.

Over 350,000 children and adults across the Horn of Africa (Somaliland, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya) are learning to read and write in Somali with a free language app, Daariz.

Launched in 2021, Daariz aims to address the region's low literacy rates by making language skills more accessible and inclusive for learners of all ages.

Daariz was developed by the Sahamiye Foundation, a charity working to improve education in the Horn of Africa and empower all people with lifelong literacy skills.

The Horn of Africa currently faces a multitude of challenges, from an absence of rural schools to recurring droughts and ongoing conflict, coupled with a highly mobile population which all contribute to low school enrolment and limited access to quality education. As a result, over 70% of late primary school students in the region cannot read and understand a simple story in Somali. The region's average school enrolment, at around 30%, also continues to be one of the lowest in the world.

Developed in response to these

challenges, Daariz offers virtual reading, writing, comprehension lessons and a digital library, ensuring everyone can access a consistent and high-quality education.

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"In the beginning, reading was difficult for me and I struggled to understand names or other texts. I spend most of my time at my stall in the market of Hargeysa. I downloaded the Daariz programme and began using it regularly, dedicating two hours each morning. I would spend 30 minutes reading each page. I continued this way for six months. Now,

my reading has improved significantly and I have started to read and write on my own," Safiya, a market stall owner in the city of Hargeisa, said.

With speed and automaticity being essential for effective literacy development, Daariz helps people to develop their pace with reading and retention of information.

This focus has significantly reduced the time it takes to achieve functional literacy, from 450 hours to just 50.

Daariz also incorporates culturally relevant elements like virtual camels and badges to engage learners. Earning a herd of a hundred 'virtual camels' – cherished symbols of wealth in Somali culture – indicates achievement of functional literacy, a critical milestone.

To date, learners have earned an impressive five million 'camels' for their literacy achievements. Soon, learners' virtual camel stock will outnumber the actual seven million-strong real Somali camel grazing in the Horn of Africa region.

"Daariz fills a critical gap in the Horn of Africa, providing accessible and engaging literacy education

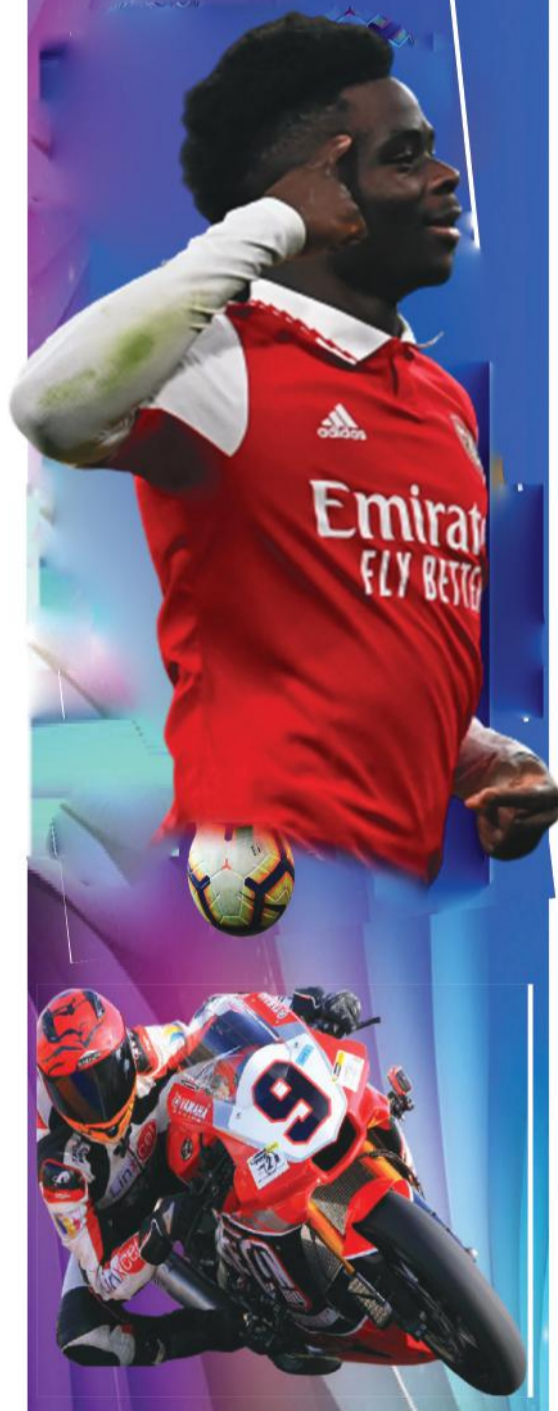
where it's most needed. The 350,000 learners is not just a number, but a testament to our shared belief in the transformative power of literacy. Each person represents a story of resilience, potential, and a brighter future," Ismail Ahmed, founder of The Sahamiye Foundation, said.

"Our vision is to unlock the potential of every learner, regardless of their location or situation. Daariz equips people of all ages with the confidence to learn at their own pace, to challenge themselves and have fun in the process. This is particularly important for girls, students who are out-of-school and adults who may have missed out on schooling."

Daariz further supports learners to progress and improve their skills by monitoring test results, app usage, engagement levels, speed reading performance.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Erik ten Hag fears Manchester United forward Antony is "unlikely" to recover from injury in time for Saturday's FA Cup final against Manchester City

Man Utd Face Antony Fitness Blow Ahead Of Fa Cup Final



Manchester United forward Antony (2L) is likely to miss the FA Cup final.

Erik ten Hag fears Manchester United forward Antony is "unlikely" to recover from injury in time for Saturday's FA Cup final against Manchester City.

Antony was stretched off during the first half of last week's Premier League win against Chelsea.

United boss Ten Hag had hoped the Brazilian could return to face treble-chasing City in the first all-Manchester FA Cup final.

But Antony has made slow progress this week and looks set to be sidelined at Wembley.

"Unlikely (he will be fit)," Ten Hag told reporters on Friday. "Dos Santos (Antony) still has a chance but it's a really small chance.

"He didn't make the progress, so he still has a chance but unlikely he is available."

Antony Martial's injury-hit season will also end on the sidelines.

The 27-year-old strained a hamstring towards the end of Sunday's win against Fulham and he will miss the final after scans showed a muscle tear.

Despite the fitness issues plaguing his team, Ten Hag remains confident United have the squad strength to beat arch rivals City. "These questions so many times about the absence of players in the last couple of months," he said.

"Every time I say the same answer: it's about the players who are available and many times we were successful.

"We have a good squad and from that good squad we make a good team."

United are looking to complete the domestic cup double for the first time, having lifted the League Cup in February.

Meanwhile, Premier League champions City can become only the second English club after United to win the top-flight

title, the FA Cup and the Champions League in one season.

City face Inter Milan in the Champions League final on June 10.

United fans are desperate for their side to extinguish those dreams as Pep Guardiola's men look to replicate Alex Ferguson's 1999 treble heroes.

"We want to win, we want to win a cup," Ten Hag said. "It's not about stopping them. It is about that we win, that we win the cup. We have a great opportunity.

"That's great that we deserved that opportunity to be in the cup final and then meet Man City. That's a great opportunity.

"We fought so hard for it. I think we progressed that well that we are in that FA Cup final."

City won this season's first Manchester derby 6-3 at the Etihad Stadium, with United coming back to win 2-1 at Old Trafford in January.

United finished 14 points behind City, who won a fifth title in six seasons, and Ten Hag is well aware of the quality posed by the champions.

"They play very good football, so they deserve it. Of course I look at others because they are opponents and I evaluate it, but we look to ourselves," he said.

"We make very good progress, we are in a good direction and now we use the coming period as well.

"Now we get the opportunity in the summer to make new targets, new goals on the short term.

"But the longer term, yeah, that will stay the same. As I said last year, we want to restore Man United but we have a way to go."

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> * UEFA began disciplinary proceedings on Friday against AS Roma coach Jose Mourinho for using insulting and abusive language against the referee in the Europa League final against Sevilla.

UEFA Charge Mourinho For Abusing Referee After Europa League Final



UEFA charge Mourinho for abusing referee after Europa League final

UEFA began disciplinary proceedings on Friday against AS Roma coach Jose Mourinho for using insulting and abusive language against the referee in the Europa League final against Sevilla.

Mourinho was filmed repeatedly calling English referee Anthony Taylor a “disgrace” in a profanity-laced tirade in the sta-

dium car park in Budapest after Wednesday’s final, which Roma lost in a penalty shootout.

Roma will also be charged after their supporters threw objects and lit fireworks and caused crowd disturbances.

Sevilla were charged with similar infractions.

Taylor booked 13 players, seven of them Roma players, while the

bad-tempered game was littered with delays due to the unusually high number of fouls.

The English referee was then targeted by angry Roma supporters at Budapest Airport.

Referees’ body PGMOL said: “We are appalled at the unjustified and abhorrent abuse directed at Anthony and his family as he tries to make his way home from

refereeing the UEFA Europa League final.”

AFP

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Mrs. Santhi A Poet and Teacher

Mrs. Santhi C is working as a B.T. Assistant in Government Model Girls Higher Secondary School, Bhuvanagiri, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu.

She has around 28 years of teaching experience in Government School and six years teaching experience in Matriculation School. She is very simple. She is like an open book. She is very helpful to all. She was born in Sirkazhi.

She had her Primary Education in S.S.K.V. School in Kanchipuram and Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in Government School, Vandavasi.

She has acquired M.A., M.ED., M.PHIL., in Annamalai University. She has attended CELT Training for one month, given by Regional Institute of English Teaching, Bengaluru through online in 2021 in pandemic time and received certificate with A+ Grade.

She gathered more experience from this training. She is interested to write poems. She has written around 700 poems on various topics.

She has a lot of interest to write poems and she makes her students to write poems. She writes poems from 2021. Her motivator and well-wisher is Mrs. Brindha Srinivas who is working in GHS., Mel-pattampakkam, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, Founder of Creative Writers Group.

BLOOMING BUDS

Simple verses to young buds



BY
SANTHI.C