US Company Establishes Pyrethrum Factory In Naivasha

The pyrethrum sector in Nakuru and the country has received a boost after an American company, Kentegra Biotechnology, embarked on the construction of an ultra-modern processing plant in Nakuru that will create 600 direct jobs.

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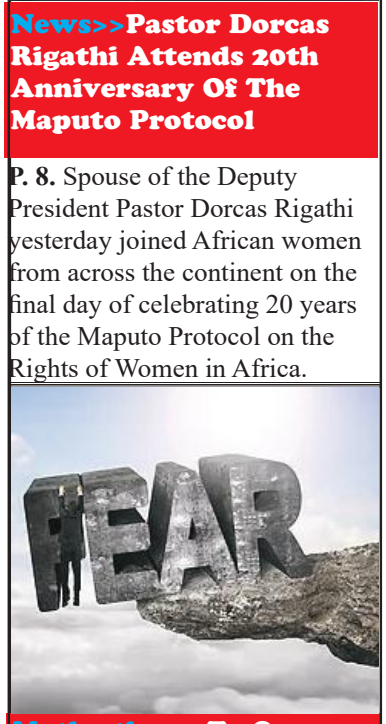
News>>Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Attends 20th Anniversary Of The Maputo Protocol

P. 8. Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi yesterday joined African women from across the continent on the final day of celebrating 20 years of the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.



Motivation>>To Overcome Fear, Be Ready To Face It

P. 12. The first duty of man is to conquer fear; he must get rid of it, he cannot act till then..... Thomas Carlyle

Business>>East African Business Community Want Second Hand Clothes Promoted

P. 16 The Mitumba Consortium Association of Kenya (MCAK) has called on governments across the East Africa region to boost Second Hand Clothing and Textile Sector

Why The Visit Of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi Was Rescheduled

During his visit to Kenya, Raisi will hold a bilateral meeting with President William Ruto at State House Nairobi at 7.00AM. He will then proceed to lay a wreath at the Mausoleum of the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

STORY ON PAGE 9

Mwea Water Canals To Be Completed In Two Months - PS Irrigation

By: Mutai Kipngetich
@themtkenyatimes

State Department of Irrigation Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho has assured Mwea rice farmers that all the water canals would be completed within two months.

The 2.4km canals that stalled at 1.5km have hindered distribution of water into the rice field.

Speaking during a familiarization tour at Kirinyaga County from the Thiba Dam to Mwea Irrigation Scheme, the PS said that with completion of canals, over 5,600 farmers would benefit from uninterrupted

STORY ON PAGE 13

Officials from National Irrigation Authority join the PS Irrigation in inspection of ongoing canal construction.

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Public ECDE Centres In Murang'a County Get A Facelift

By: Bernard Munyao
@themtkenyatimes

Kyaume ECDE centre in Ithanga after its renovation..

Worth Noting:

- **"After renovating 250 centres in the current financial year, the remaining ones will be done in the 2024/2025 financial year. Apart from the civil works, the project also involves equipping the centres with furniture to ensure our young children have better places to study," he added.**
- **Early childhood and youth polytechnics are part of devolved functions with Murang'a county government also allocating Sh. 10.5 million in the current budget to renovate youth and vocational training centres.**

The county government of Murang'a is set to complete Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres by the end of the 2024/2025 financial year.

Since Irungu Kang'ata's administration took over power as the county chief in August last year, the devolved unit has so far rehabilitated and equipped 126 ECDE centres.

The county has about 700 ECDE centres which initially were dilapidated affecting the learning of young children.

Kang'ata's administration in November last year passed a supplementary budget allocating Sh10 million to kick-start renovation of the centres based on priority.

Construction of new classrooms of the centres commenced early this year with priority given as per request of MCAs.

The county government in the current financial year has allocated Sh130 million for the project where 250 centres are earmarked for rehabilitation.

Kang'ata on Monday lauded the progress in implementation of the project saying already rehabilitated centres are offering a conducive learning environment for young children.

Speaking while commissioning Mwana wi Kigio ECDE centre in Kakuzi Mutubiri ward, the governor observed that in some centres, they are forced to build new classrooms since the existing ones are in bad condition.

"After renovating 250 centres in the current financial year, the remaining ones will be done in the 2024/2025 financial

by the county administration in partnership with a local non-governmental organization.

Majority of the programmes being done by the county government, Kang'ata di-

The programme is being implemented

Kyaume ECDE centre in Ithanga before its renovation..

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative.
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Residents Urged to Embrace Peaceful Demonstration

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

A section of elected leaders in Kisii County have asked residents to embrace peaceful demonstration called by the Azimio la umoja leaders and shun destroying other people's properties and disrupting their businesses.

Kisii National Member of Parliament, Dorice Donya Aburi and Magenche Ward Representative, Timothy Ogugu have urged security officers not to use excessive force to contain the protesters.

They deplored the Saba Saba protests in Kisii town in which three people were reportedly shot and killed by police officers, terming it unfortunate and unacceptable.

The protesters were demonstrating over high cost of living and controversial Finance Act, 2023

She petitioned human rights and police oversight agencies to take initiative so as to help rein in police brutality.

The Wiper Democratic Party Mp was speaking at Mokomoni area in the Ward, Machoge Borabu constituency where she donated food stuff and clothes to poor residents.

"We had similar protests in other places but nobody was killed. I commend my Party leader, Kalonzo Musyoka for holding the protests peacefully" Donya said, adding, she abhors violent protests.

The Wiper Democratic Party Mp was speaking at Mokomoni in the Ward, Machoge Borabu constituency during public participation where she donated food stuff and clothes to poor residents.

She blamed some elected leaders with factions in the county for inciting youths to cause violence in their supremacy battles and challenged them to stop and address the high cost of living to ease the suffering of residents.

The MP challenged the protesters to shun drinking alcohol and abusing drugs before taking part in the protests, saying they will confuse them and cause chaos.

"We cannot support the supremacy war. There is no need to destroy peoples' properties in the name of protests" Donya told the press.

She cited that they will ensure that truth and justice prevail, and those responsible for any misconduct to be held accountable.

Donya appealed to the national government administration agencies to always engage in meaningful conversations with peaceful protesters, community leaders, and stakeholders, by listening to their concerns and working together towards viable solutions.

According to her by doing so, they create an environment conducive to sustainable progress and a brighter future for all Kenyans.

Ogugu said the government had signed an agreement with the Saudi government to import fuel to ease the suffering of Kenyans, stressing, the high cost of fuel was hurting the majority of Kenyans.

They urged the government to import maize and give them to millers to mill and sell the flour at subsidized prices.

Kisii National Member of Parliament Dorice Donya Aburi donating food and clothes to the residents at Mokomoni Bomachoge Borabu photo/Elizabeth Angira

Security Guard Succumbs to Injuries, Multiple Injured in Robbery Attack

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Security guard succumbs to injuries, as multiple injured in robbery attack in Suneka , Bonchari Constituency.

Peter Nyaende Moenga aged 60 years security guard of the Mora Supermarket was shot on the right side of the back of his chest and the bullet lodged on the chest after the thugs made away with unknown amount of cash.

The deceased person was rushed to Nyangena Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The robbers numbering nine who were armed with AK-47 rifle and pistol upon reaching at the said supermarket they removed the guns and started shooting, break the Mpesa shop where the ladies were counting money some of them entered into the shop and started shooting employees who were inside the supermarket.

The proprietor was about to close for the day when they stormed.

Confirming the incident Kisii South OCPD Charles Machinji said that the other two employees who sustain injuries due hit by blunt objects were Vivian Ouru aged 24years who sustained injury on her right hand and Edwin Marongo aged 26 years who also sustained injury on his head.

They were rushed to Marble hospital for treatment.

Machinji cited that at the scene six cartridges of AK-47 of 7.62mm calibers were collected and also the incident was captured by CCTV camera of the said supermarket.

OCPD said that they have launched investigation over the incident.

The deceased person has been transferred to Nyangena Hospital waiting for autopsy.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIRINYAGA

KERUGOYA LEVEL V COUNTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL

STATE OF- THE- ART MEDICAL FACILITY

KIRINYAGA RISING

HDU

The hospital inpatient wing will have 12 HDU beds.

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EAC Unveils Online Tool To Measure Performance Of One Stop Border Posts

Worth Noting:

- **Ssemuwemba said OSBPs are central to the implementation of infrastructure projects and enhanced interconnectivity of markets, as well as regional integration on the continent as a solution to delays and costs of transport of goods and passengers.**
- **"The OSBP Performance Measurement tool will enable us to collect and analyse data in real-time, giving us up-to-date performance rates, including wait times, clearance processes, and trade flows. This real-time reporting will enable us to promptly identify bottlenecks and any other issues, therefore facilitating quicker decision-making and effective resource allocation", said the Deputy Secretary General.**

The East African Community (EAC) has unveiled an online tool to measure the performance of the 22 One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) across the region.

The EAC Secretary General in charge of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs, Annette Ssemuwumba, unveiled the One Stop Border Post Performance Measurement Tool on behalf of the EAC Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki, during the opening session of the 14th African Union High Level Private Sector Forum that is taking place in Nairobi, Kenya this week.

Ssemuwemba announced that the tool is now ready for use and that Partner States and stakeholders will embark on data collection, sensitisation on use and full roll out.

OSPBs are an important infrastructure at border crossing points and contribute to spur intra-regional trade by reducing the costs of doing business through reduction of time and costs taken to cross borders. Further, OSBPs eliminate multiplicity of documentation associated with two-stop border posts' bureaucracies.

Lack of data to inform decision making on major aspects such as OSBP performance, human resources and state of the physical and digital infrastructure have often slowed down collective action for optimal performance of existing OSBPs.

The OSBP Performance Measurement Tool will involve a range of measurements including time spent on administrative procedures, reduction of transport costs, reduction of inventory costs, and an increase in revenue collection and trade.

Customs administrators in the EAC region will use the data generated by the measurement tool to assess OSBP performance and institute improvement strategies. Specifically, the tool has been developed to provide the necessary mechanism to measure the performance of OSBPs on six fronts, namely: Time, Cost, Volume/ Throughput, Infrastructure, Inter-Agency Coordination and User Satisfaction.

Ssemuwemba said OSBPs are central to the implementation of infrastructure projects and enhanced interconnectivity of markets, as well as regional integration on the continent as a solution to delays and costs of transport of goods and passengers.

"The OSBP Performance Measurement tool will enable us to collect and analyse data in real-time, giving us up-to-date performance rates, including wait times, clearance processes, and trade flows. This real-time reporting will enable us to promptly identify bottlenecks and any other issues, therefore facilitating quicker decision-making and effective resource allocation", said the Deputy Secretary General.

The OSBP performance measurement tool has been developed with support from USAID through TradeMark Africa – TMA (formerly TradeMark East Africa). This complements TMA partnership with EAC Partner States to build and operationalise 16 out of the EAC region's 22 OSBPs, investing over US$117 million.

The TradeMark Africa Senior Director for Trade Environment, Alban Odhiambo, said there was a need for the region to ensure a return on investment on the development of the OSBPs through enhanced trade in the region.

"A lot of human, time and monetary capital has been invested in putting up the OSBPs, we must therefore ensure we derive the most value through regular monitoring and enhancements as this is important to keeping down the costs of doing business in EAC," said Odhiambo.

The EAC continues to put concerted efforts to improve overall trade facilitation and business environment. Some of the measures that have been introduced include the implementation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) which has reduced the time and cost of cargo transportation from the ports to the hinterland, and the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Scheme, which offers priority clearance of goods for trusted operators and the One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), which has shifted border operations to one side of the border in the country of entry and ensures that all transactions are conducted at once by all agencies involved.

The unveiling ceremony of the EAC OSBP Performance Measurement Tool was attended by Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs from the Partner States and other dignitaries from across the region.

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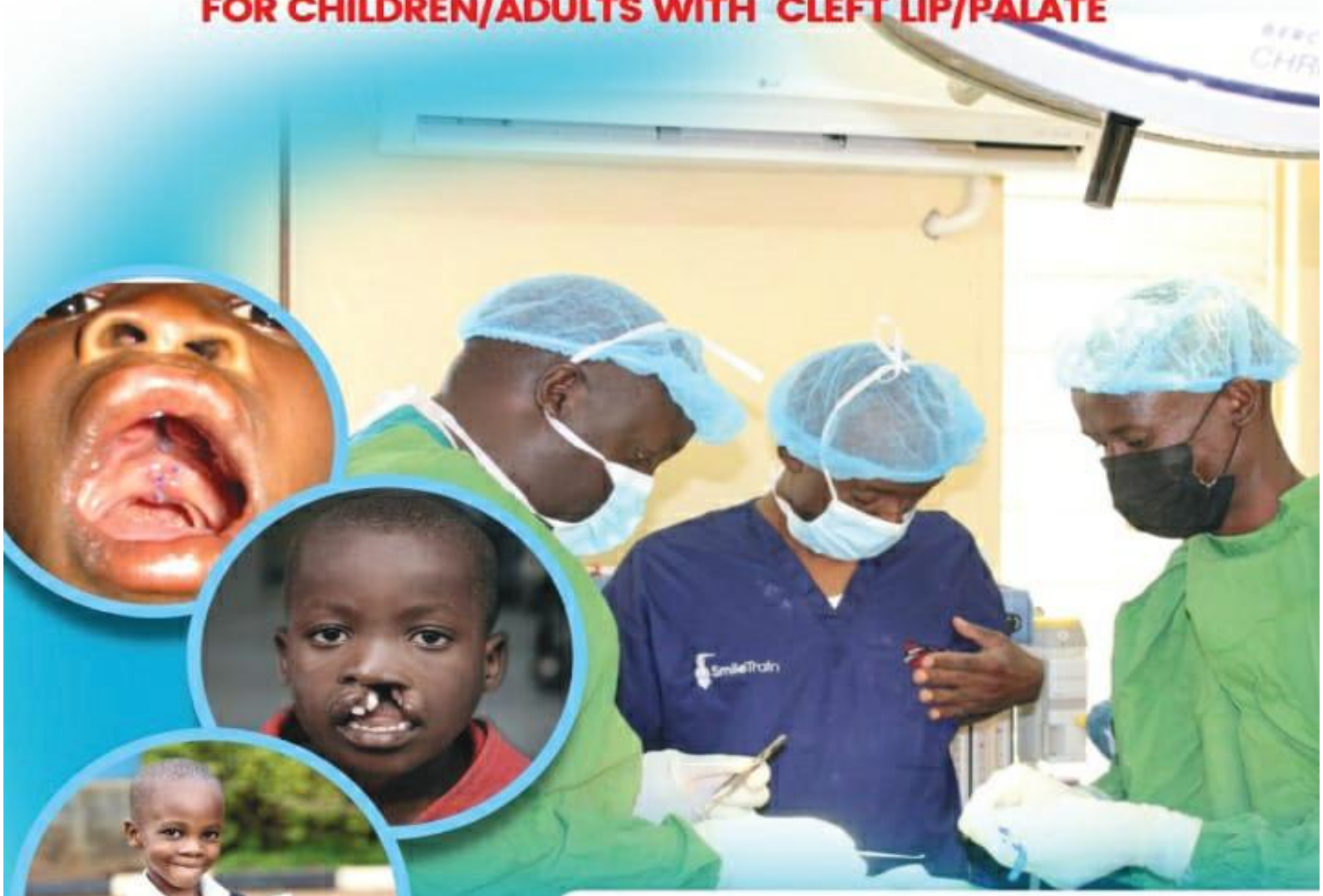

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Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Attends 20th Anniversary Of The Maputo Protocol

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi yesterday joined African women from across the continent on the final day of celebrating 20 years of the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Pastor Dorcas challenged the hundreds gathered in Nairobi that "mothers and women do not just meet, but their meeting counts with the birth of international, earthshaking and transformative agendas".

"Women are the economic drivers, especially in Kenya, constituting the bulk of the population at 51 per cent," she said

She further recognized the beaten path by women who sought for the empowerment of women and girls, and also made commitments for their countries.

Kenya is among the 43 countries out of 54 in Africa that have ratified the Maputo Protocol. The protocol addresses violence against women, harmful cultural practices, female genital mutilation, girls empowerment through education and employment, promotes economic safety nets, and rights of women living with HIV/AIDS.

"Today, we stand on the shoulders of formidable women who have bravely laid the foundation we build upon. I honour them and the sacrifices they made to get us where we are today. Those who attended the Beijing conference and started clamouring for women's rights. Those who paid high prices to form many impactful organizations that have made great strides in women's rights including the Pan African Women's organization," said Pastor Dorcas.

She urged those attending the anniversary celebrations to implement the Maputo protocol the African way for effectiveness, and sustainability.

"If we resort to the African values of mentorship we shall achieve some intended outcomes of the Maputo Protocol," said Pastor Dorcas.

She also urged women to work together, promote and protect each other for the peace and security in Africa, integration of the African union and promotion of the African ideologies.

Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi ..

Plans To Restore The Ol-Donyo Sabuk National Park Unveiled

By: Muoki Charles
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) has partnered with local investors and the surrounding community in a tree planting initiative geared towards saving the Ol-donyo Sabuk National Park from wanton destruction.

The move seeks to redeem the once-green forests on the Kilimambogo hill in Matungulu, Machakos County, which was once a major water tower for residents of the nearby areas.

A visit to the hill, home to several herds of buffalo and other wild animals, showed wanton destruction of the forest through logging, which residents attribute to the continued dry spell that has over the years hit the area.

Speaking during a tree planting exercise on the slopes of the hill yesterday, the Warden in Charge of the National Park Fredrick Kisera said the exercise will help restore the forest as well as the water towers.

Kisera said they have started a free seedling distribution exercise for the surrounding communities to help restore the forest cover.

He warned that his officers were on high alert to deal with logging and illegal activities of charcoal burning that had rendered the mountain dry.

"The hill is a shell, so dry and bare compared to years ago when it was evergreen. It was the main water tower for the surrounding community and many rivers which is no longer the case currently. We however hope that with the tree planting initiative, the forest and water sources can be restored," said Kisera.

His sentiments were echoed by Kel Chemicals Ltd., a Thika-based fertilizer manufacturing company. Chandrabhan Chemurkar said his company would support this noble cause.

Chemurkar advised the locals not to destroy these natural resources, saying the degradation of forests would eventually affect their children and future generations.

He further said Kel Chemicals in conjunction with other pharmaceutical companies has launched a program to help communities and local schools plant many trees which is in line with the government's directive on tree planting.

Paul Jomo, the chairman of Green Blue Foundation Africa, a Thika-based CBO said his organization would train the community, schools, and other organizations on a new tree-planting technology that doesn't require much water.

Jomo said they will be monitoring the seedlings for a period of three years to boost their survival rate.

Chandrabhan Chemurkar, from Kel chemicals ltd; a Thika-based fertilizer manufacturing company during a tree planting exercise at OlDonyo Sabuk National Park.

Why The Visit Of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi Was Rescheduled

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua has clarified the postponement of the state visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

In a statement yesterday, Mutua explained that the visit was rescheduled to allow for the finalization of key MoUs that are crucial for advancing relations between the Kenya and Iran.

"The Iranian President will now arrive today (Wednesday) for a State Visit," stated Mutua.

He further emphasized that the visit will provide an opportunity to review and strengthen bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of both countries.

During his visit to Kenya, Raisi will hold a bilateral meeting with President William Ruto at State House Nairobi at 7.00AM. He will then proceed to lay a wreath at the Mausoleum of the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta.

The Iranian President was initially scheduled to hold a joint press conference with President Ruto, but the meeting was canceled.

Raisi is embarking on a three-day visit to Africa, including Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

According to IRNA, this will be the first visit to Africa by an Iranian president in 11 years, and it is part of the government's inclusive foreign policy.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Nasser Kanani described the trip as "a new turning point" which could bolster economic and trade ties with African nations.

"He will lead a delegation from Tehran at the invitation of his counterparts in the host countries to examine potential possibilities for improving commercial and political ties," the ministry said.

Raisi's tour aims to strengthen Iran's position in the $600-billion African economy in line with the administration's stance on economic multilateralism.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Kenya To Send Second Batch Of Nurses To The UK

By: Margaret Kalekye

Plans are in top gear to send more Kenyan nurses to work in the United Kingdom.

The Ministry of Health Tuesday revealed it was making preparations to send the second batch.

The first cohort of nurses left the country in June last year following a bilateral agreement between Kenya and Britain signed by retired President Uhuru Kenyatta and UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Principal Secretary of State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni Muriuki said progress is being made in the development of recruitment guidelines for nurses under the Kenya-UK Bilateral Agreement for Collaboration on Healthcare Workforce.

Speaking during a consultation with officials from the Ministry of Health and British High Commission Muriuki, emphasized the purpose of the guideline to streamline the preparation and recruitment process, thereby opening up more opportunities for Kenyan nurses.

The Principal Secretary reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring the successful execution of the bilateral agreement, further underscoring the significance of this opportunity for Kenyan nurses.

UK and Kenya governments signed a bilateral agreement in July 2021 on health workforce collaboration.

Kenya is expected to send at least 20,000 nurses to the UK in three years in an agreement inked between the two countries when Kenyatta visited the UK in July 2021.

Principal Secretary of State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni Muriuki

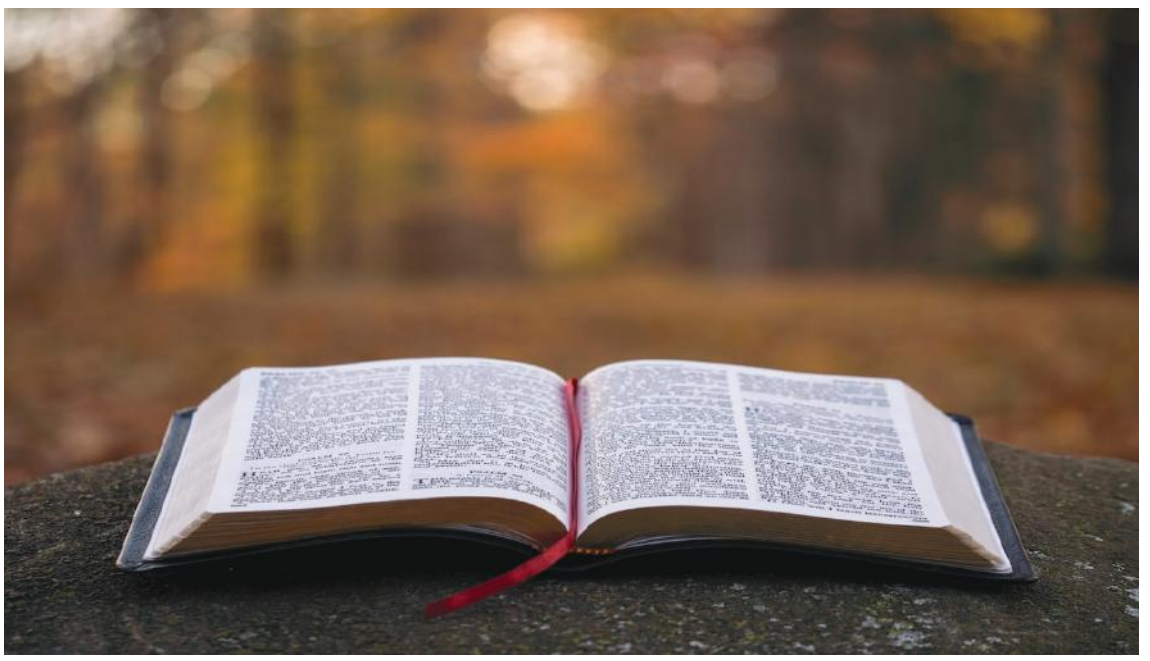
Fatherhood's "Do Nots" Pt 2

By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Fathers who criticize their children often bring them to discouragement. The parallel version of this "do not" in Colossians 3:21 indicates that children embittered by nagging and deriding "lose heart" (NASB) — like a horse that has had its spirit broken. You can see it in the way a horse moves, and you can see it in the eyes and posture of a disheartened child. Criticism comes in many ways besides overt words. Some parents never praise their children on principle — "my praise will mean something when I give it" — only they never give it. Then there is faint praise, backhanded praise like that given to the boy who had just scored a soccer goal: "That was okay, son; now next week do better." Often it is not the words — it is the tone of voice or the distracted eyes which say it all.

Why are fathers critical? Perhaps that is the way their fathers treated them. Perhaps they are simply critical people who mask it well in public, but cannot restrain themselves in the heat of domestic relationships. To such fathers, God's Word comes like an arrow headed for the bull's-eye: do not exasperate your children with criticism.

Overstrictness is another toxic practice. Some fathers exasperate their children by being overly strict and controlling. They need to remember that rearing children is like holding a wet bar of soap — too firm a grasp and it shoots from your hand, too loose a grip and it slides away. A gentle but firm hold keeps you in control. We cannot begin to estimate the ravages of overstrictness on the evangelical Christian community over the years. I some occasion in ministry, some people are buried who lived virtually all of their seventy years in reaction to the harsh legalism of their upbringing — lost bars no one could manage to pick up.



GOD HELP US AND DELIVER US ALWAYS.

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

Subsidized Artificial Insemination Programme Boosts Dairy Farming

By: Mutai Kipngetich
@themtkenyatimes

At least 3,800 farmers in Kirinyaga County have benefitted from subsidized Artificial Insemination (AI) services that seek to upgrade the county's cattle breeds to increase milk production.

The AI services support project, which is a partnership between the County Government and the Kenya Animal Genetic Resource Center (KAGRIC), aims at giving dairy farmers a new breed that will increase milk production, enabling farmers to earn more money from the sale of milk.

The AI programme is being undertaken through four Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) targeting 60 dairy community interest groups. Initially, farmers would pay between Sh. 1,000 and Sh. 2,000 for each cow served, but the initiative has seen this drop to Sh. 500 per animal.

The initiative witnessed the CBOs being provided with semen, nitrogen tanks, and technical expertise to provide AI services to dairy farmers.

Speaking while visiting one of the CBOs, the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary, and Fisheries, Dr. John Gachara, said apart from the affordable AI, the county government is also supporting 66 dairy farmer's groups across the county to produce quality feeds for improvement of their dairy cattle nutrition, which will in turn increase milk production.

"We intend to go further beyond here and ensure that, through dairy cooperatives, farmers are fetching good money for their milk. We will have a milk processing plant in the upcoming industrial park at Sagana for value addition to our milk, which is key to the improvement of the profitability of the milk," said Gachara.

Beneficiaries hope for high productivity as AI comes in addition to machines for feed production that was previously done. Titus Gatua, the beneficiary, said the tanks for storage of semen will go a long way in improving the breeds of their cattle as well as increasing milk production, which will translate into increased income for farmers.

"The county government through the Wezesha programme has provided us with machines to produce quality and affordable feeds for our cattle, and this has helped us increase milk production. We are hoping the improved breeds will more than double our current milk production," said Gatua, a member of Ndia Dairy CBO.

The dairy improvement programme has seen groups receive animal feed mixers, single phase motors, hay balers, motorized grass cutters, and choppers. The groups also got the initial raw materials, such as wheat bran, maize, and sunflower seeds, to make feed. Some of the dairy cooperative societies have also been supplied with milk coolers and yogurt-making machines.

PPDT Decision To Confirm Kega, Sabina As Bonafide Leaders Of Jubilee Party was Anchored in Law

By: **Joseph Mutua Ndonga**
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Jubilee Party interim Secretary General Kanini Kega and interim Party Leader Sabina Chege .

Worth Noting:

- **As you are aware, our party is a top affiliate of Azimio La Umoja-OKA Coalition. Top leaders of the coalition led by Raila Odinga and his running mate Martha Karua attended the NDC.**
- **Uhuru ruled out relinguishing his position as the party leader.**
- **I have opted to stay on in order to show the other side (read Kenya Kwanza and Kega's faction) that I'm not a pushover.**
- **They have been issuing threats and insults to me. The other day goons invaded our land and stole our sheep. Uhuru cannot be shakened by this. Let them look for another person not Uhuru Wa Kenyatta.**
- **The push and pull in the Jubilee party started soon after President Uhuru retired after completing his final and second term in office.**

The law is a double-edged sword. It cuts on both sides. This is how the Jubilee Party Deputy Secretary General Joshua Kutuny summarized the decision by the political Parties Disputes Tribunal (PPDT) to confirm East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) member Kanini Kega and Nominated MP Sabina Chege as the bonafide top leaders of the Jubilee Party.

In a ruling to a petition filed by Former Ndaragwa MP Jeremiah Kioni and his team, the PPDT ruled that Kega, Sabina team had followed the due process of law in effecting the new changes.

As a tribunal, we concur with the decision by the Registrar of Political Parties (RPP) that the latter two were the bonafide leaders of the party.

Kioni's faction that comprised Vice Chair David Murathe and Treasurer Kangwe Gichohi had filed a counter-suit seeking to overturn the decision of the Registrar.

For the three key allies of former President Uhuru Kenyatta, it was a double-jeopardy. Apart being ousted, the Tribunal ordered them to pay the legal cost of the appeal to the Registrar Anne Nderitu.

In the new changes, Sabina replaces Uhuru Kenyatta as the party leader and Kanini Kega replaces Kioni as the Secretary General.

The decision by the Tribunal was a big blow to the former President. During the party National delegates conference (NDC) he had chaired a few months earlier, he excluded total confidence to three officials, now ousted.

He stated: These officials led by Kioni have been steering the party in the right direction.

As you are aware, our party is a top affiliate of Azimio La Umoja-OKA Coalition. Top leaders of the coalition led by Raila Odinga and his running mate Martha Karua attended the NDC.

Uhuru ruled out relinguishing his position as the party leader.

I have opted to stay on in order to show the other side (read Kenya Kwanza and Kega's faction) that I'm not a pushover.

They have been issuing threats and insults to me. The other day goons invaded our land and stole our sheep. Uhuru cannot be shakened by this. Let them look for another person not Uhuru Wa Kenyatta.

The push and pull in the Jubilee party started soon after President Uhuru retired after completing his final and second term in office.

He consequently handed over the instruments of power to newly elected President William Ruto.

In the countdown to the 2022 general election, he abandoned Dr Ruto, his deputy, and threw his full weight behind the candidature of Azimio leader Raila Odinga.

This young man Ruto can wait. For now this mzee (Raila Odinga) is the right person to succeed me because he means well for the country.

His project lost and many thought he would abandon him after the elections. The first step being to relinguish his position as the chairman of the Azimio Council. This did not come to pass.

Up to date, it is widely believed that he was still pushing the agenda of Azimio leader.

I'm sure many would recall the remarks he made in Kisumu town after attending the burial of former Education CS George Magoha in Siaya.

Flanked by Raila, he said. Baba is my leader and I'm loyal to him. Besides, I remain as an active member of the Azimio. I only retired as a President. I'm not tired.

Some weeks later, a group of the leaders from Mount Kenyans claimed that Uhuru was the key financier of Raila's demonstrations. Uhuru have since remained non-committal.

For Kanini Kega Kega-led faction, it was not a matter of whether they will win the battle or not. It was a matter of when the ruling on the correct interpretation of the constitution of the party and national constitution would be delivered.

This is because they always argued thier case while citing the relevant provisions of the law.

This started when they convened the first National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in Nakuru.

The turnout was high and exceeded the quorum by far. For the Kenyatta team, they seemingly suffered from what I would call 'a big man syndrome'.

Notably, the decision by former President to continue holding on his position in Azimio was being interpreted as utter violation of the law. This is because the provisions of Presidential Retirement Act 2012 required the outgoing President to relinguish his position 6 months after leaving office.

Therefore, one can understand where those telling Uhuru that he risks losing his lucrative package were coming from.

After the PPDT ruling, I listened to comments made by Kega and Joshua. We respect the former President and wish him well. We still consider him to be a member of our party.

He is free to come back but this can only happens if he abandons Azimio. Jubilee is no longer an affiliate of the opposition Coalition. We followed the due process when quitting.

As I conclude, I want to give Kioni faction a free advise. If you are contemplating moving to the High Court to challenge the decision of PPDT, stop wasting your time. You cannot win. When delivering their rulings, the judicial officers are guided by the constitution, statutory laws and facts not politics.

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

To Overcome Fear, Be Ready To Face It

By: N. George
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Two strangers who later date then get married cannot reach that stage unless they engaged in conversation. You may befriend such a person who admires someone he or she meets but fears to start the conversation for the fear that he or she may be dismissed or may be interpreted to be desperate for a partner or is lonely.**
- **It happens that at times the other person could be having similar thoughts at the end of the day you remain strangers who have seen each other but just imagines how the other person thinks of you.**
- **Until the time you gain courage and either of you start the conversation you may remain doubtful about the opinion of your potential partner about you as the better half.**

The first duty of man is to conquer fear; he must get rid of it, he cannot act till then..... Thomas Carlyle.

A look at a bicycle rider you would wonder how he maintains his balance and perhaps it is speeding. When you climb it for the first time high are chances that you fall second and third time too you will fall with it.

Many like to ride but fail to train for the fear that during the training all the falls they get will leave them hurt but you cannot use theory to learn how to balance it. Unless you decide that you will give a trial and not care of the number of times that you will fall provided you learn the new skill your wishes will remain just as mere wishes.

A person who admires swimming but never makes an attempt for fear of being drowned remains a admirer until that time he will dispel all the fears, get in to water and practice what he has been thinking about until he perfects it.

There are certain careers that majority of people in the society treat as prestigious for example an engineering course but at the same time they claim that studying them is demanding in terms of time and mentally draining so you find some of the potential learners who admire the course but are afraid to study it for fear that they may fail. Unless they ignore the hearsay, enroll and study their dreams to be in such professions would remain just dreams.

Two strangers who later date then get married cannot reach that stage unless they engaged in conversation. You may befriend such a person who admires someone he or she meets but fears to start the conversation for the fear that he or she may be dismissed or may be interpreted to be desperate for a partner or is lonely.

It happens that at times the other person could be having similar thoughts at the end of the day you remain strangers who have seen each other but just imagines how the other person thinks of you.

Until the time you gain courage and either of you start the conversation you may remain doubtful about the opinion of your potential partner about you as the better half.

When visiting new places and tends to be unclear of the direction of a certain location of interest there are people who would walk or drive in various roads until they reach the feature of their interest for example you have travelled to Nairobi city and you wish to visit the national archives.

However there are others who are bold enough once they are in the city they ask for direction. Much as not all people would be knowing where you are heading to or would wish to direct you if you happen to find someone genuine you would have an easy time as there could be no struggles in getting to the location.

The fear of how anyone you ask the ion will respond to you may make you have unnecessary delays or get tired before you locate the venue. You will also not be able to determine whether there are genuine people who can direct you to your location of choice or not.

As human beings we need to learn a lot from human babies who are born unable to speak like adults, unable to eat like them, unable to walk like adults but overtime they perfect in doing all these acts. When unable to walk they crawl then use available structures to reinforce self as they walk, when unable to stand they use what is available as support then stand. When unable to pronounce the words spoken by others correctly they pronounce how they hear until they perfect over time.

Any trial you make counts even if you fail in your next trial you will be able to know from where to start and also what to avoid minimizing the chances of failing like in your last attempt.

Failure to try is usually mental energy which can be changed into success through getting practically involved in what you fear. It is a challenge to you to go and try what is legal and important to you but you failed to do it due to fear of failing.

Mwea Water Canals To Be Completed In Two Months - PS Irrigation

By: Mutai Kipngetich
@themtkenyatimes

Continued from page 1

water supply.

He commended the project's execution and the scheme mechanization through the use of rice combine harvesters, which minimized cost of production and post-harvest losses.

The PS said completion of the canals will ensure the additional area is put under irrigation for enhanced food production of rice in line with the Government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.

In order to avoid seepage and water loss, he urged the contractors to speed up the implementation of Mwea Irrigation Development Project and complete it within the expected timelines.

"We expect more farmers to get water after the completion of canals. Currently, we are at 5600 and a few complaints about the canal but in two months the 2.4 km will be done. With the mechanization of harvesting of rice, the cost of production will reduce by 50 percent as well as post-harvest losses," the PS said.

Officials from National Irrigation Authority join the PS Irrigation in inspection of ongoing canal construction..

National Irrigation Authority (NIA) chairperson Eng. Gilbert Maluki said the Authority is committed to ensuring that all farmers get water for irrigation efficiently. He further affirmed that financial constraints led to delay of canals but in three months, all farmers will have water.

He also gave assurance of the local market as they engage with Kenya National Trading Company (KNTC), Ministry of Education for school feeding programme, Ministry of Defense and Interior so that they supply the Mwea rice to their department.

"Our mandate is to ensure that water is available to farmers. We are in talks with KNTC as our major off-taker, Education through a school feeding programme, police training in Kiganjo and Kenya Defense Forces," Maluki said.

Local leaders who accompanied the PS led by Senator Kamau Murango and County MP Jane Njeri requested more subsidies in all farm inputs as well as provision of clean water to the farmers.

Kirinyaga County Assembly Deputy Speaker Jinaro Jamumo said they have set aside Shs.150 million for canal construction and within a short period, the complaints about construction would be a thing of the past.

He added that the county government would work closely with the NIA to ensure smooth management of farmers' affairs.

"As County Assembly, during this financial year, we have set Sh150 million out of Sh200 million for the canals. We shall add the rest in due time. We as local leaders will support the NIA for the sake of our farmers," he said

Chairperson of Mwea Rice Farmers' Peter Chege said with constant availability of water, they were ready to do three seasons annually and called upon the government to support the farmers.

CS Njeru Spearheads Title Issuance

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Cabinet Secretary in the ministry of lands Zachary Mwangi is focused, dedicated and results oriented

Under his short stint, he has midwived the title issuance of Embakasi Ranching Company who for decades has been in the dark.

The title issuance ceremony was presided over by His Excellency The President Dr William Ruto.

President William Ruto directed the Ministry of Lands, Public works, Housing and Urban Development to roll out titling programmes in Nairobi County.

The President said there was an urgent need to reach the more than 85 percent of the city that lacks title deeds.

The President was speaking this afternoon at Ruai in Nairobi when he was issuing over 2000 title deeds to Embakasi Ranching Company shareholders.

Ruto urged land buying companies to work in collaboration with the Ministry to provide details of people who bought land so that they can be issued with the title deeds for development purposes.

"It is very unfortunate that over 85 percent of Nairobi residents do not have title deeds a reason why they cannot develop, " said the President adding that the Government through the Ministry of Lands, Public works, Housing and Urban Development is working tirelessly to digitize all land records so that Kenyans to improve security of land tenure.

In his remarks, CS Njeru who was also accompanied by Lands and Physical Planning PS Generali Nixon Korir, said that on top of the 2177 title deeds issued today, another 8000 were ready for issuance awaiting a few administrative processes.

"I am happy to report to you that we've made some progress in processing the titles. Your Excellency, since your administration assumed office, my Ministry has processed 75,761 titles spread across 17 Counties. In Nairobi we have a target of 45,000 titles by 2025," said CS Njeru.

However, Njeru pointed out that the process has not been smooth owing to a few challenges. For instance, he said, there are 1,862 cases concerning Embakasi Ranching Company.

Njeru pointed out that his Ministry through the titling programme had been able to issue 15,859 titles and intend to issue approximately 35,100 titles under the scheme.

Embakasi Ranching Company Limited has been in existence since 1975. Its original purpose was to engage in agricultural activities such as livestock rearing, poultry keeping and horticulture.

CS for Investments, trade and Industry

Moses Kuria, Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja, MCAs and the Chairperson Embakasi Ranching Company Ms Lucy Nyokabi Mathenge were also present during the event.

President William Ruto and Cabinet Secretary in the ministry of lands Zachary Mwangi issuing title deeds

Happy Birthday To Dear Me

Coming like a thief
In the night, with teeth
Sharpened, tongues wagging
The day came not lagging
Behind 12 July arrived.

No joy derived, from success
If not another milestone,
I had no joy nor access,
To best celebration,
But mere ration,
To keep going!

Some does is year
Some are sick, I wear
My full year with joy
Thankful for breath, coy
And thirst for more
But grateful for life.

I sit and chant, rejoicing,
Happy birthday to dear
Me.

Dr. Paula .O.M Otukile

Thai's Aspiring Actor 8 Year Old Kamolchaya

Kamolchaya Chayachirakit or GamSai is a Thai 8 year's old girl who dreams to be an actress. She loves Saran Siriluksana or Porshe - a favorite Thai Actor and a well- known singer on television series. Gamsai has a lot of talent up her sleeve and has been guaranteed many national awards. Not only singing, dancing and fashion show, she also got yellow belt Taekwondo. In her spare time, she has also been doing charity activities occasionally.

Currently Gamsai is studying Grade 2 at Saint Mary School located in Smut Prakan province, Thailand. She always does everything with her best to fulfill her dreams.

She always works with Kidzio Studio for being model in Kiddy magazine in Thailand's book stores and for runways and television programmes on free TV channel.

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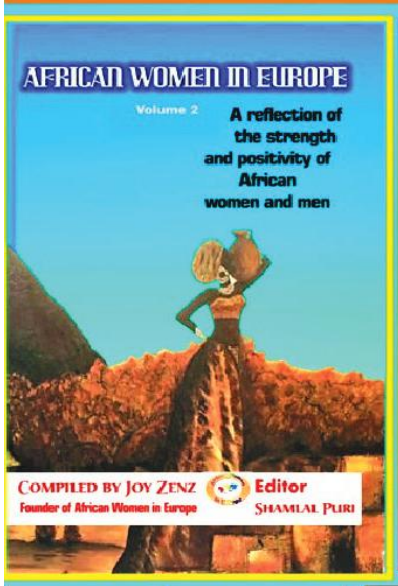

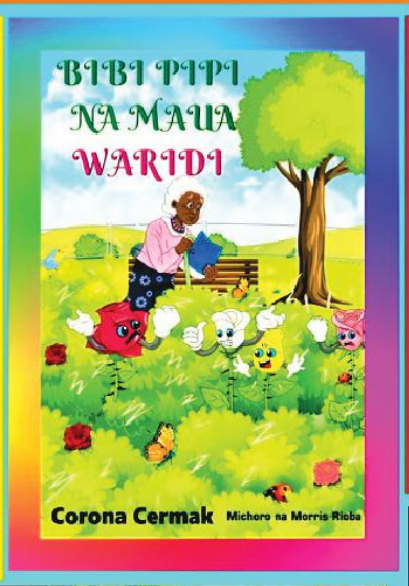

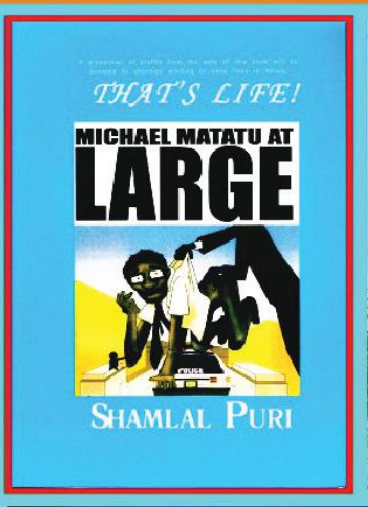

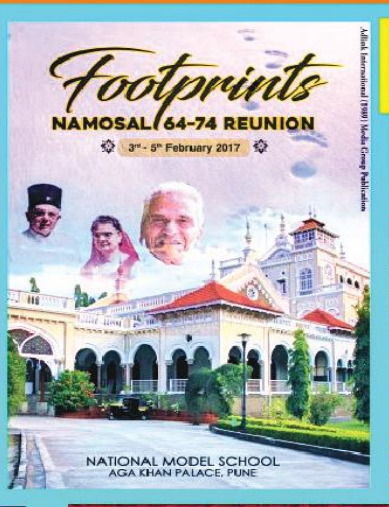

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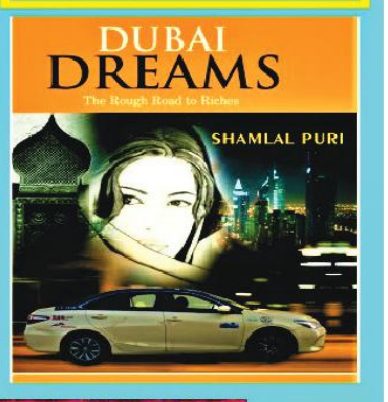

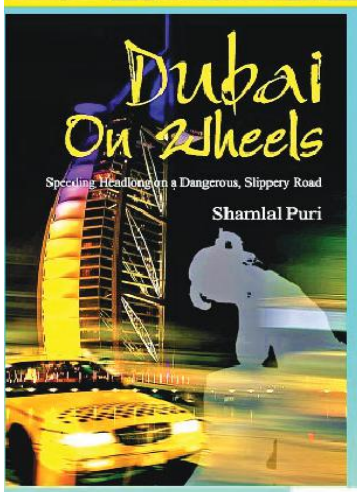

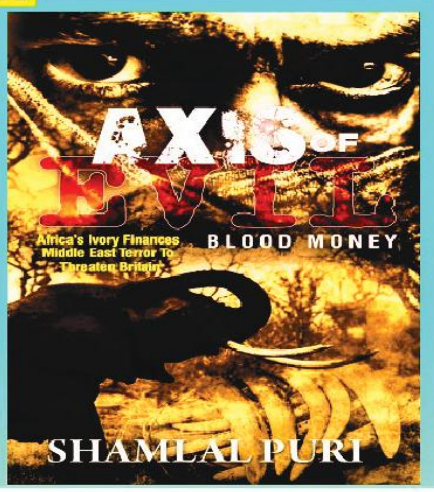

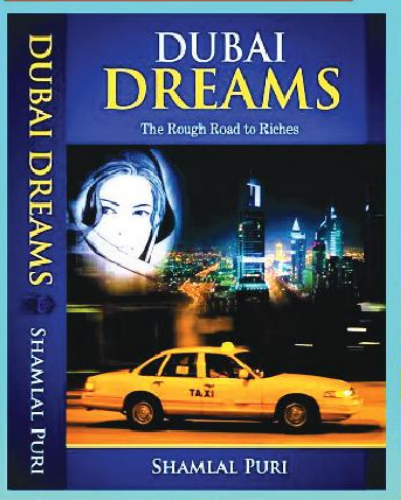

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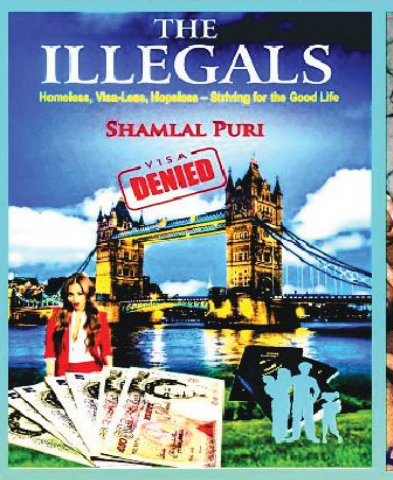

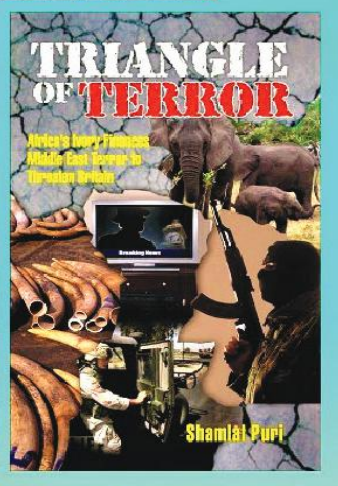

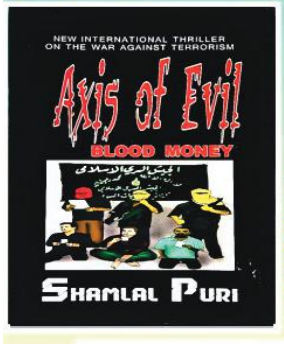

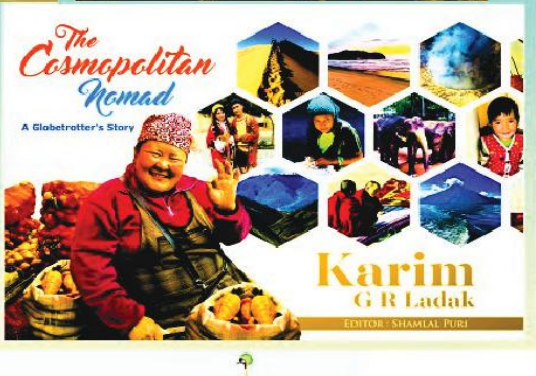

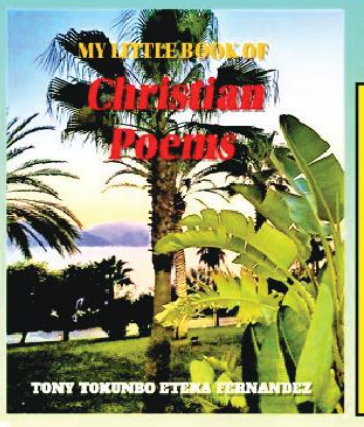

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BUSINESS

East African Business Community Want Second Hand Clothes Promoted

By: Susan Gichanja and Daisy Masinga
@themtkenyatimes

MCAK Chairperson Teresiah Wairimu.

Worth Noting:

- **"It is crucial to dispel the misconception that a growing secondhand industry undermines domestic textile production; rather, we stimulate our own textile production using recyclable materials and fostering innovation to create a thriving domestic textile industry by supporting SHC," stated Wairimu.**
- **Further, Wairimu added that the world is awakening to the environmental imperative of extending the life of clothing through reuse and reducing textile waste; therefore this sector aligns perfectly with the global focus on the circular economy.**
- **The Chairperson revealed that every ton of second-hand clothing imported into the EAC states generates an impressive 7.58 jobs providing a significant source of income for millions of individuals involved in second-hand clothing distribution chains across East Africa.**

The Mitumba Consortium Association of Kenya (MCAK) has called on governments across the East Africa region to boost Second Hand Clothing and Textile Sector (SHC) for enhancing economic and social development.

The Second-Hand Clothing sector (SHC) represents a powerful force for economic growth, environmental sustainability, and job creation in East Africa and has empowered millions of people particularly women and young people by giving them a chance to establish thriving micro-businesses in second-hand clothing supply chains.

Speaking during the event, MCAK Chairperson Teresiah Wairimu has sensitized on the need to not be swayed by those advocating the imposition of barriers and restrictions on the second-hand clothing sector, as such measures would only undermine the livelihoods of 3.4 million hardworking individuals in East Africa and hinder the progress of the majority.

"It is crucial to dispel the misconception that a growing secondhand industry undermines domestic textile production; rather, we stimulate our own textile production using recyclable materials and fostering innovation to create a thriving domestic textile industry by supporting SHC," stated Wairimu.

Further, Wairimu added that the world is awakening to the environmental imperative of extending the life of clothing through reuse and reducing textile waste; therefore this sector aligns perfectly with the global focus on the circular economy.

The Chairperson revealed that every ton of second-hand clothing imported into the EAC states generates an impressive 7.58 jobs providing a significant source of income for millions of individuals involved in second-hand clothing distribution chains across East Africa.

"The second-hand clothing market makes substantial contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and government revenues. In 2021, the industry delivered government revenue estimated at US$419 million across East Africa which is used to fuel public sector development, improve infrastructure and provide essential services for the citizens," Wairimu voiced.

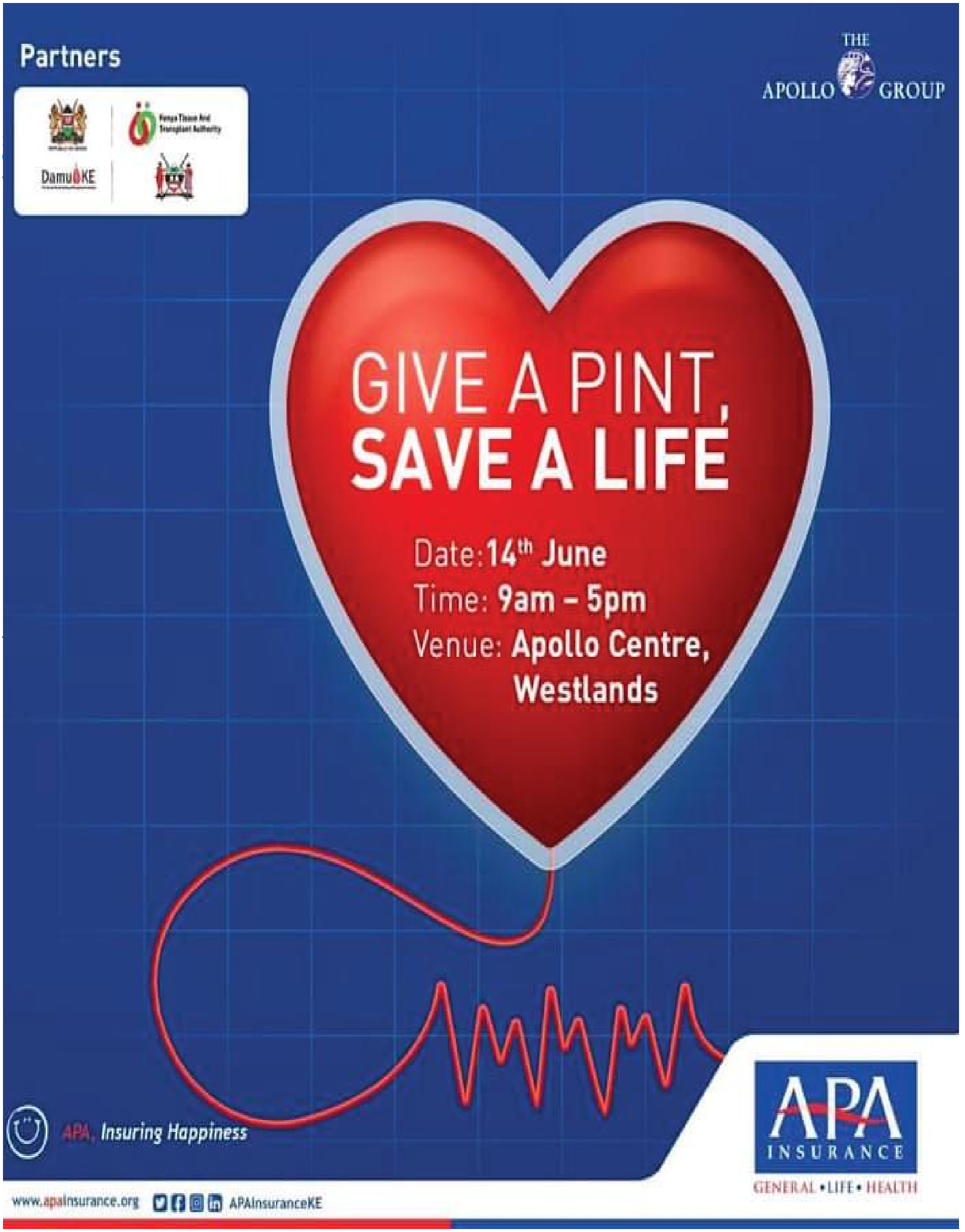
She observed that the availability of second-hand clothing also enhances consumer welfare by providing affordable options for those on low incomes, helping to ease poverty and improve living standards as well as appealing to the rising African middle class by providing quality clothing.

She added that it is essential for policymakers to recognize that the expansion of domestic textile production and the growth of the second-hand clothing industry are not mutually exclusive and therefore we should build upon the strong foundation we already have.

"I am pleased to launch our latest report ahead of African trade ministers converging in Kenya this week. Our report shows once again how important the Mitumba industry is to Kenya and East Africa. Our dedication to these endeavors should be seen as a message to all stakeholders that we are active and engaged in our communities and global in our capabilities," Wairimu announced.

She noted that the report's findings will provide guidelines on how East Africa can lead the way to a more sustainable textile industry, rejecting the wastefulness of fast fashion in the west but forging a valued industry that supports jobs and the wider economy.

At the same time, the Professor of Public Policy at Queen Mary University of London, Patrick Diamond noted that the report makes the case that the second-hand clothing sector is vital to the economic and social future of the countries that comprise the East Africa Community (EAC) and that growing the industry is a win-win for consumers, governments and the environment.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US Company Establishes Pyrethrum Factory In Naivasha

By: Mabel Keya-Shikuku and Erastus Gichohi
@themtkenyatimes

US Ambassador to Kenya Margaret Whitman with Kentegra Biotech official during the groundbreaking ceremony.

Worth Noting:

- **The company will be located opposite the Delamere stop shop along the Naivasha-Nakuru highway and will sit on a 12-acre piece of land dubbed the New Vasha Special Economic Zone. It is set to commence its operations by early next year.**
- **Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika welcomed the move, saying pyrethrum farming is a flagship project through which her government envisions pyrethrum becoming our farmers' main income-generating crop.**
- **"To us in Nakuru County, Pyrethrum is grown in eight of 11 Sub-counties, which include Molo Kuresoi North, Kuresoi South, Njoro, Gilgil, Naivasha, Bahati, and Subukia. Even though the potential for pyrethrum farming stands at 30,000 acres of land, currently only 2,148 acres of land are under pyrethrum farming."**

The pyrethrum sector in Nakuru and the country has received a boost after an American company, Kentegra Biotechnology, embarked on the construction of an ultra-modern processing plant in Nakuru that will create 600 direct jobs.

Once completed, the factory is expected to process over 300,000 tonnes of pyrethrum by the end of this year and more than 750,000 tonnes by the year 2025.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Kentegra Biotech Pyrethrum factory in Naivasha, , US Ambassador to Kenya, Margaret 'Meg' Whitman, said the US Government, through the US International Development Finance Corporation, has funded the construction of the factory at a cost of 10 million US dollars (Sh1.4 billion).

She further revealed that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) also granted Kentagra Biotech a grand of Sh84.7 million for a feasibility study for the factory and has in total extended a total of Sh1.69 billion to the company for the pyrethrum project in Kenya.

The Ambassador affirmed Kenya as the US' preferred investment destination, adding that her Government is committed to seeing Kenya succeed in industrialization to become Savannah`s Silicon Valley.

The company will be located opposite the Delamere stop shop along the Naivasha-Nakuru highway and will sit on a 12-acre piece of land dubbed the New Vasha Special Economic Zone. It is set to commence its operations by early next year.

Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika welcomed the move, saying pyrethrum farming is a flagship project through which her government envisions pyrethrum becoming our farmers' main income-generating crop.

"To us in Nakuru County, Pyrethrum is grown in eight of 11 Sub-counties, which include Molo Kuresoi North, Kuresoi South, Njoro, Gilgil, Naivasha, Bahati, and Subukia. Even though the potential for pyrethrum farming stands at 30,000 acres of land, currently only 2,148 acres of land are under pyrethrum farming."

To this end, the Governor said the County Government of Nakuru and other stakeholders have distributed more than 66 million seedlings to farmers since 2017, and more than 7,056 farmers have benefited, all in a bid to help the county reach its potential in pyrethrum farming. They have also mobilized farmers to form cooperatives and pyrethrum growers' associations in order to reap maximum benefits from pyrethrum farming.

"Our resolve as Nakuru County Government to restore pyrethrum as the commercial booster crop is driven by the fact that a decade ago, Kenya used to account for 80 per cent of all pyrethrum bought by international companies but is now only accounting for five per cent as we face challenges with inadequate funding, inadequate planting materials, competition from higher-value crops, post-harvest losses, poor pricing, high labour costs, pests and diseases, and poor infrastructure," the governor said.

Kihika added that to turn the tide and place pyrethrum farming on an upward trajectory, the county government, in collaboration with other players, has provided seedlings to farmers and sought to build capacity in good agricultural activities to promote production.

She observed that in addition, her government is promoting contract farming between farmers and processors Kentegra, such as Pyrethrum Processing Company of Kenya (PPCK) and Africhem Botanicals, ensuring timely payment of farmers and extension services, and providing farmers with modern dryers in partnership with stakeholders such as Good People International.

"We are also encouraging farmers to embrace climate-smart technologies to mitigate against drought, mobilizing farmers into cooperatives for bargaining power, fast-tracking the pyrethrum industry policy, revisiting the legal implications of ownership of PPCK assets, and attracting investors by easing doing business in the county," the governor stated.

The revival of the crop with a ready market will help eradicate poverty and boost the livelihoods of local communities. His county is one of the biggest pyrethrum-growing areas in the country.

In a bid to attract investors to help the county in its mission of lining agriculture and industry, Nakuru County is taking adequate measures to create a business-friendly environment.

In January, the County Government of Nakuru entered into a collaboration agreement with the United States of America to promote agriculture, technology transfer, trade, and investment opportunities that could transform the livelihoods of the residents.

Kenya became the most important supplier to the American market in 1940, shipping the flower in its dry form for processing in America to make a liquid, which was and still is the basis of the best household insecticide.

In the 1990s, pyrethrum was the third-largest Kenyan export crop, providing an income to over 200,000 smallholder farmers in the country who controlled over 90 percent of the world pyrethrum market, while today its share is two per cent.

Along the way, pyrethrum production in the country declined from a high of 18,000 tonnes in 1992 to the current national production of less than 500 metric tons per year. At that point in 1993, supporting 200,000 farmers provided a livelihood to more than two million people.

However, in the mid-1990s, the growing use of synthetic insecticides in America (Kenya's largest market), affected Kenyan pyrethrum growth.

The counties where the crop is grown are Nakuru, Narok, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Meru, Laikipia, West Pokot, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nyamira, Kisii, Bomet, Kericho, Kiambu, Trans Nzoia, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, and Bungoma.

Area MP Jayne Kihara, who was present, welcomed this move, saying the revival of pyrethrum farming will empower local farmers economically and boost their livelihoods.

Kentegra Biotechnology is among the privately owned firms that were granted a permit to help revitalize the pyrethrum sector in Kenya and is currently operating in over six counties with over 10,000 contracted farmers. Several companies were also granted permits to extract, process, and sell pyrethrum products when the industry was liberalized seven years ago.

Other private pyrethrum processors who have been issued permits are Africhem Botanicals, Pypro, and HighChem. The entry of private companies breaks the monopoly that was enjoyed by the State-owned Pyrethrum Processing Company of Kenya in Nakuru.

Kentegra Biotech is using a new variety of pyrethrum that produces a flower every two weeks for 10 months in the year instead of a flower variety that grows once a year, which is preferred by developed nations.

The locally grown pyrethrum, which has been researched and developed in partnership with the University of Eldoret, is drought-resistant, blooms all year around, and promises three times more income than other competing crops.

Kiambu County Government Unveils 3rd Generation CIDP 2023-2027

By: Grace Naishoo
@themtkenyatimes

Kiambu County government has unveiled its third generation County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for the year 2023-2027.

Launched by Governor Kimani Wamatangi, the five-year comprehensive plan with a budget of Sh168 billion is built upon five core pillars: Governance, People, Resources, Competitiveness, and Harmony.

The Governor said the budget projection which has been raised by Sh52 billion from Sh116 billion in 2018-2022 when only Sh61.8 billion was mobilized, would mostly be drawn from the equitable share.

"The plan is; about Sh127.9 billion will be drawn from the equitable share, (Sh.76.9 billion) own source revenue and conditional grants (Sh52 billion) while Sh40 billion is to be realized through partnerships with the national government, private sectors and donors," said Wamatangi.

The governor cited that the county government will operate with an annual budget of Sh21.6 billion, in the next year, the figure is set to rise to Sh23 billion, Sh25.3 billion in 2025-2026, 2026-2027 (Ksh27.5 billion) and Sh29.9 billion in the last financial year.

He added that the plan seeks to make Kiambu a model transformative county delivering exceptional service and unmatched socio-economic development.

"It is therefore my pride to present a CIDP which is a covenant with the people, and which is anchored on governance, people, resources and competitiveness in making Kiambu great again mantra… which has laid emphasis on health, education, water connectivity, roads, agriculture, affordable housing and digitization of land registry, ICT as well as youth empowerment," Wamatangi said.

He also mentioned that the plan draws inspiration from his own manifesto and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda of the Kenya Kwanza Government.

Kiambu County Governor Kimani Wamatangi unveiling the county's 3rd Generation Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for the year 2023-2027 at an event held at the county headquarter in Kiambu Town.

"By integrating these strategic frameworks, the CIDP creates a cohesive roadmap that will guide the county's progress over the next five years, with implementation scheduled to commence in July 2023," he said.

The county boss noted that the plan aligns with the national development framework, the Kenya Vision 2030, as well as the Medium-Term Plan.

Senate Security Committee Meets To Deliberate On Remuneration Of Village Elders

By: PSCU

The Senate Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations chaired by Baringo Senator William Cheptumo yesterday held a meeting to deliberate on the petition regarding recognition and remuneration of village elders under the Nyumba Kumi Initiative.

During the meeting, members were taken through a brief on the provisions and possible routes that can be considered by the committee regarding the petition.

The petitioner Benson Kagete, the Secretary General National Community Ambassadors in his petition prays that the Senate amends the National Government Co-ordination Act No. 1 of 2013 to provide for village as the lowest administrative unit after a Sub location and establishment of a village Council.

He further wants the Senate to cause the Ministry of Interior and National Administration to develop a comprehensive policy on the recruitment and remuneration of village elders and in particular the policy to cover, the terms of engagement, functions of the village elders, criteria for recruitment, termination of engagement and make any other order that it deems fit in the circumstances of the Petition.

Senators resolved to engage more stakeholders, among them the Cabinet Secretary for Interior, the Inspector General of Police, Council of Governors on the matter.

Senators Fatuma Dullo of Isiolo County and George Mbugua attended the meeting.

Baringo Senator William Cheptumo during yesterday's session.

ECOSOCC Hosts Forum On Democracy And Digital Governance

By: Rebeccah Maria
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Tanui stated that by leveraging digital technologies, African nations can streamline administrative processes, improve public service delivery, and create an environment conducive to sustainable economic growth and development.**
- **"In Kenya for example, we have begun the process to digitize all Government services and have a central hub from where they can be accessed online, through the e-citizen portal. Currently over 5000 services are accessed online," he revealed.**
- **Tanui advised that it is imperative for African governments to establish robust cybersecurity frameworks, develop local expertise, and collaborate with international partners to safeguard critical infrastructure and protect citizens' personal data.**

The Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) held the 2nd Annual Citizens Forum 2023 within the continental discourse on issues of democracy and digital governance.

Speaking at the event, State Department for Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) and the Digital Economy Principal Secretary, Engineer John Tanui said that in an era driven by technological advancements, it is essential for Africa to harness the power of digital technologies to achieve its goals as outlined in Agenda 2063 and other continental aspirations.

"Democracy, with its principles of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability, provides the foundation for good governance by embracing digital technologies upon which governments in Africa can enhance their efficiency, responsiveness, and service delivery to citizens," Eng. Tanui highlighted.

He observed that Digital Governance can promote citizen engagement, enabling them to participate effectively in the decision-making processes that shape their lives.

This inclusivity, he added, fosters trust, strengthens democracy, and ensures that the diverse voices of Africa are heard and represented.

Tanui stated that by leveraging digital technologies, African nations can streamline administrative processes, improve public service delivery, and create an environment conducive to sustainable economic growth and development.

"In Kenya for example, we have begun the process to digitize all Government services and have a central hub from where they can be accessed online, through the e-citizen portal. Currently over 5000 services are accessed online," he revealed.

Tanui advised that it is imperative for African governments to establish robust cybersecurity frameworks, develop local expertise, and collaborate with international partners to safeguard critical infrastructure and protect citizens' personal data.

The PS cited one of these frameworks as the African Union's Malabo Convention on cyber security and personal data protection which Kenya is taking steps to ratify.

"Digital governance and the utilization of emerging technologies also contribute to political stability and regional development. By promoting transparency and accountability, digital systems reduce corruption and enhance trust in government institutions. This, in turn, fosters political stability and creates an environment that attracts foreign investments," he exemplified.

At the same time, Tanui pointed out that emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics hold tremendous potential for Africa's development.

The PS said that AI can be employed in various sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, and finance, to drive innovation and improve service delivery, while Robotics, with its ability to automate tasks and augment human capabilities, can revolutionize industries and create new avenues for economic growth.

"Africa should actively invest in research and development in these fields, foster collaboration between academia and industry, and build a workforce equipped with the necessary skills to harness the potential of emerging technologies," he remarked.

At the same time, ECOSOCC Head of Secretariat, Mr. *William Carew said that good governance and democracy have always monopolized debates across the world, but the novelty of this initiative lies in bringing technology to the dialogue.

He added that democracy and digital governance have emerged as critical components in shaping the political landscape of our continent, offering new opportunities for citizen participation, transparency and accountability.

"In today's world, digital technologies offer unprecedented opportunities and challenges. They have the potential for positive transformation, but when improperly used, they can fuel divisions within and between countries, increase insecurity, undermine human rights and exacerbate inequality," Carew explained.

Carew voiced that efforts to strengthen democracy in Africa are ongoing and the African Union (AU) plays a significant role in advocating for democratic governance, promoting human rights and addressing governance challenges.

"When the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) was adopted in 2007, it was a progressive legal document that identified and addressed some of the continent's main governance challenges such as civil participation, inclusion and representation of women and minority groups, free and fair elections, and unconstitutional changes of government," Carew revealed.

He recalled that at that time, internet and mobile phone penetration were very low in Africa, with only 5 percent of the continent's population being online.

However, he posited that this situation has changed significantly since then as social media platforms have become more popular, although admittedly, the continent lags in terms of global mobile coverage.

"One of the significant challenges posed by digital technologies is the rapid spread of disinformation and misinformation. Social media platforms and online news outlets have become breeding grounds for the dissemination of false information, propaganda, conspiracy theories, cyber-attacks, hacking and data breaches (even the AU was recently hacked)," he explained.

Carew said that this event has now been rebranded as the ECOSOCC Annual Citizens Forum and each year it will be organized on the margins of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting with a contemporary theme as per the public's demands.

Reprieve For Locals As Water Shortage Challenge Is Addressed

By: Emily Kadzo
@themtkenyatimes

It was a reprieve for 3000 residents of Kihingo Ward, Njoro sub-county, after the county government equipped three major boreholes in the area.

The locals, through the Department of Water, received waterlines for civil works for Jirani Kioo, Stoo Mbili, and Ndeffo-Ruthiru area water projects that will help address the water shortage issues.

Speaking during the event, the area MCA, Simon Kamau, urged the locals to utilize the commodity well once it's operational for purposes of regular supply in the social amenities they have, such as schools and hospitals, among others.

"You have grappled with water scarcity challenges here for a long time, and therefore, once the boreholes are functional, use them well for a continuous supply of this important commodity," advised Kamau.

According to Kamau, by doing this, it would not only allow them to have an ample supply of water but also give them time to attend to other issues to make a living for their families.

"This provides an opportunity to economically empower the community and positively help transform the lives of the locals," said the MCA.

He warned against those out to vandalize the equipment meant for the civil works, urging the locals to be vigilant and report any suspicious activities while warning that those found culpable would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Conditions Created For Young People In Gijduvan

By: Zarifa Muhammedova Zafarovna
@themtkenyatimes

Today, young people have many opportunities. The conditions created for them are endless. As an example, "Barkamol Avlod Boyal" schools. There are many achievements of the students studying here. Kadyrov, a member of the sports club.

Shokirjon participated in the boxing sport among teenagers in the Jizzakh region and took the proud 1st place. In particular, the members of the mental-arithmetic club Hojiakbar Ismatov and Khudoyiberdiyeva Umida G'ijduvan were in power.

Participated in the last "Mental Arithmetic" competition and took the proud 1st place. The happiest students won a ticket to the competition in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. Member of the robotics club Ro ziyev Sardar stood out among his peers with his ambition and won the 1st place in the competition held in Resbuplika. Sheraliyev Akobir, a member of the physics club, was lucky to become a student ahead of schedule following the advice of his teachers' ldi.

The members of the English language club participated in the English language proficiency test and got high marks.

I, like the students, also learn in this school. This year, my collection of poems called "Boychechak Tabassumi" was published. I can say that it is not only my achievement, but also the achievement of my teachers.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, stated, the cornerstone of development and the force that makes the country powerful and the nation great are science, education and training. The fact that young people who study in schools equipped with technologies will become great people in the future makes people happy.

The school offers children from 6 to 18 years of age a wide range of opportunities for their comprehensive development and meaningful leisure time creates opportunities. This center is organized in a separate building or in separate educational blocks of the buildings of general education schools, provided with a separate entrance and does not interfere with the study process at school, and operates independently.

The children who have reported will be accepted based on the agreement concluded with their parents. At the moment, there is a school of the type we are talking about in Gijduvon district, and I also participate in the club education in this school. 1620 students like me are lucky to study in this school.

The school "Barkamol Avlod Boyal" covers seven directions. They are the following directions:

1. Craft and manual labor;
2. Sports;
3. Foreign languages;
4. Tourism and ecology;
5. Culture and art;
6. Preparation for higher education institution and school;
7. Technical design and modeling.

Currently, this school has more than 40 circle classes, and the most enjoyable class is 16,500 soums. The prices are affordable. Do you also want to get quality education from qualified teachers in this school, in modern rooms? Then we invite you to "Barkamol We invite you to the "generation of children" school. Because your time will not be wasted in the summer season!

Zarifa Muhammedova Zafarovna was born on April 10, 2006 in the Gajdumak neighborhood of Gijduvon district, Bukhara region. Currently, she is studying in the 11th grade of the Gijduvon district specialized school. This year, a poetry collection called "Boychechak's book" was published. He regularly deals with fiction.

Zarifa Muhammedova Zafarovna .

Sports >> *Free agent Ashley Young has agreed to join Everton and is scheduled to have a medical on Tuesday after leaving Aston Villa.

Ashley Young To Have Everton Medical After Agreeing Deal

Ashley Young with ball.

Free agent Ashley Young has agreed to join Everton and is scheduled to have a medical on Tuesday after leaving Aston Villa.

Young's contract at Villa Park expired and he has held talks with Luton, while there was also interest from Saudi Arabia.

Young, 38, won the Premier League and FA Cup with Manchester United, as well as the Serie A title with Inter Milan.

The full-back would be Everton's first signing under manager Sean Dyche.

Former Burnley boss Dyche took over in January, replacing the sacked Frank Lampard, and guided the club to Premier League survival on the final day of the season.

Winger-turned-defender Young won the Europa League and League Cup with United and earned 39 England caps, playing in the 2018 World Cup semi-final defeat by Croatia.

Young has played over 700 career games for club and country, including 32 appearances for Villa last season, and will provide experience to an Everton side that has narrowly escaped relegation the last two seasons.

On Monday, the Toffees travelled to Switzerland for a five-day training camp in the Alps where they will face second-division side Stade Nyonnais on Friday.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> ***France striker Kylian Mbappe has called his club side Paris St-Germain "divisive" as doubts intensify over his future at the French champions.**

Kylian Mbappe Calls PSG 'Divisive' In Magazine Interview

France striker Kylian Mbappe

France striker Kylian Mbappe has called his club side Paris St-Germain "divisive" as doubts intensify over his future at the French champions.

The 24-year-old, whose contract at PSG expires in 2024, made the comments to France Football magazine.

PSG's all-time leading scorer has told the club he will not sign a new deal.

"I think that playing for PSG doesn't help much because it's a divisive team, a divisive club," Mbappe is reported as saying.

Paris St-Germain chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi said he would not allow Mbappe to leave on a free transfer when his contract expires next summer.

Mbappe, who has won Ligue 1 five times with PSG since joining from Monaco in 2017, scored 41 goals in all competitions last season as he helped the club clinch an 11th league title.

But they once again failed in their quest for Champions League success as they were knocked out in the last 16 by Bayern Munich.

"We did what we could," said Mbappe. "You have to talk to the people who make the team, who organise the squad, who build this club."

Luis Enrique was appointed head coach last week, replacing Christophe Galtier, and takes over a squad in transition.

PSG have already allowed Argentine World Cup winner Lionel Messi, 36, to join MLS side Inter Miami, while the future of Brazil forward Neymar, 31, is also in doubt.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

The MT. KENYA TIMES

The Mt Kenya Times

Factors preventing children from expressing their talent

By: Diyora Tursunboyeva
@themtkenyatimes

Annotation: This article took into consideration about a variety of negative factors which can prevent children from pouring out their own ability and talent

The key words: Attention, kindness, fear, defeat, dream

The one and only supreme task of man in this world is to achieve his own destiny. All people know their destiny when they are young. But as time passes, a mysterious force convinces them that it is impossible to realize their destiny. This mysterious power seems to be a blessing to the human race, but in fact, it is this same power that shows the way to realize one's destiny. It prepares the human spirit and freedom for that great task. There is a supreme truth in this kurrai land: when you really want something, you will definitely achieve it, because such a desire is born in the spirit of the world. That's why you were created on earth. Paulo Coelho (The Alchemist).

Before a person is born, his parents or grandparents decide who he will be, what profession he will take or what kind of person he will be. It seems that if a child grows up based on the scenario they choose, they will become the most famous person, a person who can conquer great heights and take bold steps towards great goals.

For them, children's wishes and abilities seem to be completely unimportant and unnecessary. Do you know what professions parents choose first? Yes, of course, they want and choose the most modern, high-income profession, which they are engaged in at the moment, as well as their successors.

A child comes into the world, slowly begins to take steps towards his destiny. What is "own destiny"? This is the supreme essence of our life on earth. However, not everyone is lucky enough to find the courage to follow this path to the prospect of the most sacred dreams.

In Paulo Coelho's work "The Alchemist", it is written that 4 pitfalls prevent the realization of human dreams. The first is that the biggest dreams in life are broken to the human being from childhood as unfulfilled dreams. He grows up with this understanding.

As the years go by, his heart is filled with guilt and guilt. One day there will come a moment when the desire to follow the path of one's destiny seems to him more frightening than death because of this ugky burden, and then a person will lose the sense of understanding why he came to this world. Feels as if it has become.

When he overcomes these fears and begins to step towards his dreams, a new test and hardships will be waiting for him. The thing that hurts people is that they give up everythings at the last step. Oscar Wilde wrote: "Man always destroys what he loves most in life".

Dear parents, who condemn their children to life-long disappointment because of money and material world, you should never forget that, unlike other creatures, man always strives for excellence in this world and sets his sights on a good life. Lives but not everyone understands the concept of "good life "correctly. Maybe some people think that the only way to reach the top is to satisfy their needs in material life and try to achieve it without even committing crimes, while others choose a completely different path.

Knowing very well that material things and the desires of the soul are not a guarantee of true highness, true highness and a good life is to be spiritually strong and spiritually perfect, and he gives his all in this way. There are such people that it is impossible not to envy them, parents who could see their talents and abilities have become famous all over the world today because of their support for their children.

Let's say that Kim Ung-Yong is a 4-year old university student with a Guinness world record. As the owner of the IQ"210" level, he was recorded in the "Guinness" book of records. Gregory Smith was nominated for the Nobel Prize 4 tines in 12 years,and became a university student at the age of 10.

Akrit Yaswal is a 7-year old surgeon and a university student at the age of 15. His biggest goal is to find a cure for cancer. Kleopatra Stratan is the youngest performer, at the ago of 3 she gave a 2-year old artist, her mother, seeing her interest in art, takes her to an art teacher in Melbourne and shows her. At the age of 4, her solo exhibition opened in New York.

Worth Noting:

- **In Paulo Coelho's work "The Alchemist", it is written that 4 pitfalls prevent the realization of human dreams. The first is that the biggest dreams in life are broken to the human being from childhood as unfulfilled dreams. He grows up with this understanding.**
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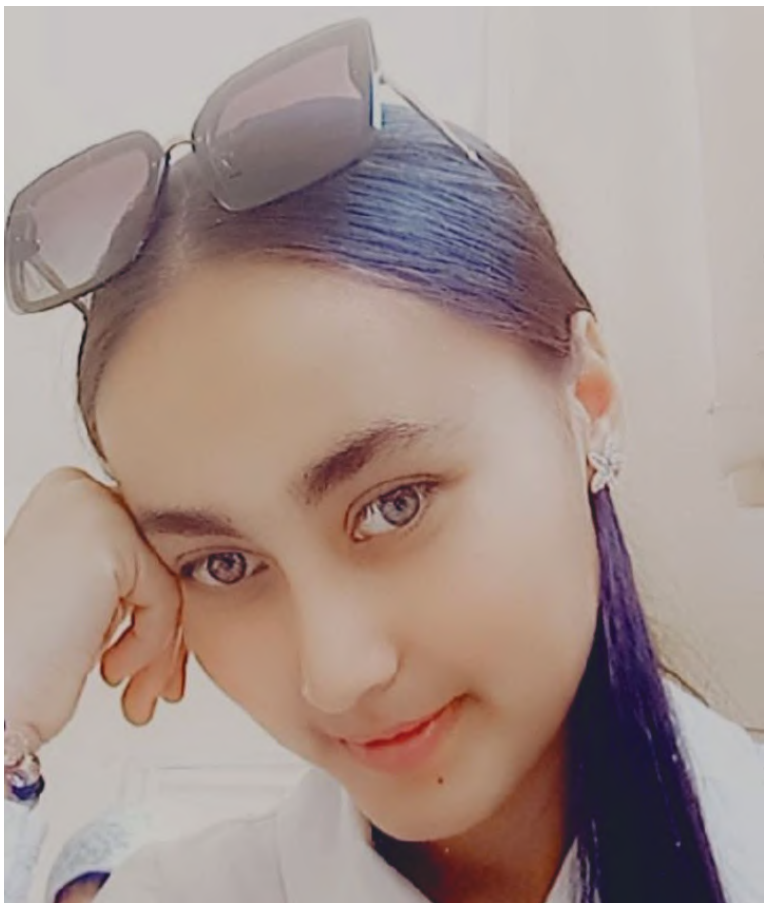

Diyora Tursunboyeva .

There are people among us who, when they talk about great people like this, it is in their blood, and they think that their circumstances and our circumstances are drastically different. In fact, they do not know how many great breeds are flowing in our blood.

At that time, they read books by candlelight. Now let's think, nothing can stop your child from becoming the owner of the profession he wants from the moment you make it possible for him. English biochemist S. Gouse says that there are more obstacles to the development of human abilities in social conditions than in biology. The English psychologist D. Kidgin comes to the same conclusion and thinks about the decisive influence of education on the intellectual development of a person. Representatives of the second concept argue that the ability is completely determined by the social conditions of life and aducation.

For example, Gelvesiy once said that it is possible to create a genius with the help of education. Russian scientist A.N.Leont'ev with his theory of functional organs, which was founded by A. Ukhtomsky, supports a similar concept. Prominent Russian psychologist S.L.Rubinstein objects to the concept of A.N. Leontev.

In his opinion, innate talent is areality, it should be developed. No one person has the same fingerprints, so their talents are different from each other. It is up to us to preserve such unique talents, to further improve and improve them. It is true that we are influenced by external factors, social environment and some of our parents in order to reveal our talent.

Yes, of course, our parents wish only the best for us, but they do not know that they have extinguished our talent without knowing it. In this regard, many people do not become mature specialists by choosing professions they do not like and face many difficult situations throughout their lives. Dear parents, always support your child's opinion, because the country needs mature specialists.

Diyora Tursunboyeva is a Namangan State university, Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology Field of applied psychology 2nd stage student

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