



### Twenty Five African Countries Facing Debt Risks, Warns AfDB

AfDB President, Akinwumi Adesina has said that the rise in cost of debt servicing has led to 25 countries in Africa being at risk of either high –debt distress or in-debt distress. Adesina said African markets have had to bear the brunt from the strict monetary policies in the US and Europe.

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### News>>Nyeri County Government Offers Bursaries To Over 11,000 Students

P. 8. Some 11,840 students from needy backgrounds in Nyeri county have been awarded education bursaries by the county government bursary programme, Elimu Fund.



### Motivation>>You Need Not To Tolerate Every Situation For Sake Of Peace

P. 12. ...human beings must be willing, when need is, to do battle for the one against the other.....John Stuart Mill, Principles of Political Economy.



### Business>>Kenya Hosts Malaysian Palm Oil Forum 2023

P. 16 Kenya has hosted this year's Malaysian Palm Oil Forum, which aims to establish strong relationships that enhance business opportunities between Malaysian palm oil suppliers and their buyers.

# Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority Holding Property And Cash Worth Sh57B

“What we are currently holding is Sh27 billion in cash and cash equivalents, and this has grown from Sh. 500 million within the last five years. The dream that we have is to grow this to the baseline survey of Sh. 241 billion, which we will endeavor to reunite with the rightful owners,” said Njenga.



Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority chairman Kigo Njenga

STORY ON PAGE 9

# State Rolls Out Digital Labs To Scale Up Literacy

By: Chris Mahandara  
[@themtkenyentimes](https://www.instagram.com/themtkenyentimes)

The Ministry of Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy has embarked on the estab-

lishment of laboratories across the country to scale up digital literacy. Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary (CS) Eliud Owalo said the initiative will increase digital

literacy and skills amongst youth and members of the public as the government moves to ensure access to the internet through the digital superhighway project.

STORY ON PAGE 13

Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary, Eliud Owalo being taken through by a student.



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# India Increases Africa Lending In The Race To Counter China

By: Agencies  
@themtkenyatimes



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi

### Worth Noting:

- “Africa has made good use of credit lines,” extended for projects that include health care, infrastructure, agriculture and irrigation and India is seeing a steady increase in demand, she said.
- Despite the recent efforts by India to engage with countries in the world’s second-largest continent, the nation has lagged behind its bigger and wealthier neighbor in making inroads in Africa. While China’s loans to Africa have dipped since 2016, overall in the 10 years to 2020, it pledged \$134.6 billion (KSh18.8 Trillion) to African nations, according to data from Boston University’s Global Development Policy Center. That’s almost 11 times more than what India has offered.

Africa has become the second-largest recipient of credit from India as the country tries to catch up with China in expanding its influence in the resource-rich continent.

Forty-two African nations received about \$32 billion (KSh5 Trillion) or 38% of all credit extended by India in the last decade. According to Harsha Bangari, the managing director of India’s Export Import Bank, this is just a few percentage points below its neighbors.

The bank is an instrument of India’s “economic diplomacy,” Bangari said, adding that the South Asian nation has also opened up 195 project-based lines of credit worth about \$12 billion (KSh1.7 Trillion) across Africa which is three times the number it has in its own region in the last decade.

“Africa has made good use of credit lines,” extended for projects that include health care, infrastructure, agriculture

and irrigation and India is seeing a steady increase in demand, she said.

Despite the recent efforts by India to engage with countries in the world’s second-largest continent, the nation has lagged behind its bigger and wealthier neighbor in making inroads in Africa. While China’s loans to Africa have dipped since 2016, overall in the 10 years to 2020, it pledged \$134.6 billion (KSh18.8 Trillion) to African nations, according to data from Boston University’s Global Development Policy Center. That’s almost 11 times more than what India has offered.

China has also made an early move to tap mineral resources in Africa. The North Asian nation is tapping new centers of lithium supply, helping it navigate a tight market for a key metal for electric vehicles.

The country is also the biggest buyer of bauxite from Guinea, which holds one

of the world’s largest reserves of the ore used to make alumina and is said to be investing in developing the world’s biggest untapped deposit of high-grade iron ore in the West African nation.

However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government has pushed for greater reach into Africa, boosting both economic and diplomatic links.

As the continent deals with the economic fallout of the pandemic and Russia’s war in Ukraine, New Delhi is seeing an opportunity to push deeper into the continent.

In the last nine years, 18 of the 25 new Indian embassies or consulates were in Africa.

In February, India hosted 48 African countries at the Voice of Global South summit. Modi has also been championing India as a representative of the Global South and using platforms like its presidency of the Group of 20 nations to draw

attention to the debt crises in developing economies.


“We are trying to think 25 years from now,” external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said in a speech on June 28.

“And ask ourselves where are we likely to be in 2047 and what should we be doing now to prepare for it.

China’s quantum of financing is bigger than India, but New Delhi let’s governments decide what they need and doesn’t burden them with the sort of vanity projects Beijing is often critiqued for”, Bangari said.

“If you see the projects which India has supported you will see they bring a lot of benefits to the economy.”

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. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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# Annual Competition To Steer Growth Of Cycling In Kenya

By: Erastus Gichohi  
@themkenyatimes

Tourism industry players in Naivasha have committed to holding an annual cycling competition that will help tap and nurture local and international cycling professionals.

Dubbed Enashipai Wild Ride Mountain Bike Cycling, the competition seeks to position and cement Naivasha as a key cycling destination of choice, offering scenic views of roaming wild animals and mountains along its routes.

With the inaugural competition attracting over 100 cyclists and hundreds of enthusiasts, Enashipai Resort Director and organizer Wanjeri Mahiti said the sector players seek to grow the racing and cycling culture to an international level.

“We are in consultation with the Kenya Cycling Race Series organizers to make the Wild Ride Mountain Bike Cycling Challenge an annual event to be held in Naivasha”, said Mahiti.

Mahiti said the cyclists peddled through the challenging course routes home to the just concluded World Rally Championships [WRC] Safa-

ri Rally circuits in Kedong Ranch, which was a key memorable moment. “Next year, we seek to double the number of competitors and, in five years, attract over 1,000 local and international cyclists and hundreds of fans,” said Mahiti.

Mahiti said the competition, which is open to both amateur and elite cyclists, also seeks to promote good mental health and physical wellbeing by maintaining active lifestyles.

Mahiti said the competition will nurture a culture of cycling among young people, which is a key contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of enhancing mobility in urban areas.

According to Kenneth Karaya, a participant, the competition will help nurture local talents among the youth and develop their skills into a career-earning venture.

Karaya, who competed in the 50-kilometer elite race, said the Naivasha course offers a unique experience due to its challenging terrain as well as offering rare scenic views of roaming wild animals along the routes.

Another cyclist, Troy Barrie, a Canadian, said the competition will help develop local talents and build their experience to enable them to compete in international races as a career-earning venture.



Some of the cyclist.

Barrie said that aside from earning awards, cycling helps boost one’s health and well-being, promotes happiness, and eases mobility in congested urban areas.

On her part, Catherine Kariuki said

the competition presents a better platform for local cycling enthusiasts to develop their skills through different terrains and build a career out of racing.

Ms. Kariuki, who is set to compete

internationally, said she seeks to use her platform to motivate other young girls to join the cycling world, which currently has few members.

# Kiambu County Women Receive 120,000 Improved Chicks

By: Grace Naishoo  
@themkenyatimes

Women who practice Poultry farming in Kiambu County have received a total of 120,000 one-month-old improved Kienyeji chicks donated by Kiambu County Governor Kimani Wamatangi.

The exercise, which began in Kirenga and Kijabe wards in Lari Sub-County, will be extended across all 12 sub-counties.

Speaking while presiding over the launch of the distribution of the chicks, governor Wamatangi told the farmers that the chicks being given to them are seed capital to kick-start them and that the long-term goal is to have the beneficiaries supply the County Government Early Childhood Education feeding programme. “Every beneficiary will receive a total of ten chicks, and in three months from today, we will be buying eggs from them for our Early Childhood



Kiambu County governor Kimani Wamatangi giving out chicks.

Education feeding programme where each child will receive an egg and a cup of porridge every day,” said Wamatangi.

Wamatangi added that the programme seeks to enhance economic

empowerment through farming and to support farmers in diversifying their agricultural production to improve their living standards.

“800 farmers will today receive chicks in Lari Sub-County. If the

chicks are well taken care of and not sold, this will be a big boost to sustainable food and nutrition security in the county,” added Wamatangi.

The county boss further cited that in the coming weeks the County Gov-

ernment will also be distributing piglets, where listed male beneficiaries will receive four piglets each.

“The piglet programme will be targeting our youth to help keep them away from alcoholism and drugs, which have become a menace in our region,” he said.

Elisabeth Wangari, a resident of Kirenga in Lari Sub County and a beneficiary of the one-month-old improved kienyeji, told KNA the programme is going to change her life.

“I’m so excited to be among the people benefiting from this programme I’m sure it is going to change my life since I will have a sustainable income by selling eggs to the county government,” she said.

According to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization’s 2019 statistics, Kenya has an estimated 43.8 million chickens, contributing 5.1 per cent of the total livestock value added.

Poultry meat production is at 35,000 tons per year, while egg production is at 1.6 billion pieces per year.

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIRINYAGA

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# Mentee Programme Transforms Maternal Health Care In Murang'a

By: Florence Kinyua  
@themkenyaintimes

## Worth Noting:

- “The curriculum encompassed Emergencies obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) and offered the mentees practical training on Essential Continuous Medical Education (CMEs) and essential drills,” he said
- “As such, the Mentees cohort program covered topics such as PPH, Neonatal Resuscitation, shoulder dystocia, Pregnancy induced hypertension/ eclampsia, respectful maternity care, infection control and prevention management of normal labor and also post abortion care”

In a bid to end maternal newborn deaths and improve skilled birth attendance in health facilities across the county, Jacaranda health in collaboration with the Murang'a County Government witnessed the graduation of the first cohort of mentees and in-facility mentors under the MENTORS' programme.

The 68 granduants who are skilled nurses and midwives were drawn from 17 health facilities across the county and were rigorously trained for six months and equipped with enhanced skills and confidence to deliver comprehensive care to mothers and their babies.

Speaking at Kenol during the graduation ceremony, Jacaranda Health Deputy Country Director Job Makoya noted that the Mentors' programme is designed to nurture, polish and hone the skills of the nurses and midwives stationed in public health facilities with a primary emphasis of managing obstetric emergencies

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“As such, the Mentees cohort program covered topics such as PPH, Neonatal Resuscitation, shoulder dystocia, Pregnancy induced hypertension/ eclampsia, respectful maternity care, infection control and prevention management of normal labor and also post abortion care “

Dr. Makoya further noted that in order to end preventable maternal newborn deaths by deploying low cost sustainable solutions that will ultimately improve the quality of care in government's health facilities, the



Jacaranda Health Deputy Country Director Job Makoya giving certificate

mentees were also trained on the essential drills that come in handy when managing obstetric emergencies and newborn care.

“Our nurses and midwives are well equipped to handle normal birth of a non-vigorous baby, normal birth of a vigorous baby with immediate PPH, shoulder dystocia birth of a non-vigorous baby, mild PPH, eclampsia, breech delivery and assisted vacuum delivery (AVD),” he noted.

On his part, Murang'a County Health Executive Committee Member (CEC) Dr. Fredrick K. Mbugua while lauding Jacaranda Health for the Mentors' programme, assured the participants that the county is relentlessly put-

ting measures in place to ensure that mothers receive quality, dignified and respectable maternal care in the health facilities.

“To achieve the mission of ending maternal newborn deaths, the county is continuously involved in public education, capacity building, improving of infrastructure and partners support which is not only saving us significant resources but also ensuring our front-line health care workers polish their skills,” Dr. Mbugua added.

In Murang'a County, skilled birth attendance is currently at 96 percent (2022), a significant improvement from 85 percent in 2014 while skilled antenatal care improved from 97 per-

cent in 2014 to 100 percent in 2022. Nationally, the current KDHS 2022 statistics on maternal mortality stands at 357/100,000 live births which is a reduction from the previous statistics of 2014 of 365/1000 live births.

Further, skilled birth attendance stands at 89 percent, a significant improvement from 41 percent in 2003 while Skilled Antenatal care is at 97 percent.

Jacaranda Health is working on scaling up and expanding the Mentors' programme to reach health care workers across the county as is currently being conducted in 21 counties.

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# Nyeri County Government Offers Bursaries To Over 11,000 Students

By: Our Correspondent  
 @themkenyatimes

Some 11,840 students from needy backgrounds in Nyeri county have been awarded education bursaries by the county government bursary programme, Elimu Fund.

The list of beneficiaries comprises secondary school and, for the first time, special school students.

Other beneficiaries include college, polytechnic, and university students from the six sub-counties in the county.

Beneficiaries from boarding secondary schools each got Sh6,000, while those from colleges received Sh4,000, while students in special schools were awarded Sh 5,000 in sponsorship, whereas polytechnic students got Sh6,000 and their university counterparts received Sh 7,000, respectively.

Speaking when he issued cheques worth Sh40 million to the beneficiaries at the Asian Quarters Bus terminus, Nyeri Governor Mutahi



Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga during presentation of Elimu Fund cheques.

Kahiga reiterated his commitment to supporting the education sector to ensure that each child in the county is accorded a chance to learn.

“These bursaries bring major benefits for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and should be maintained alongside outreach pro-

grammes,” said Kahiga.

The county boss noted a total of Sh100 million had been set aside in the 2023–2024 financial year to go

towards the county’s Elimu Fund bursary.

# Gov’t Aims To Empower Marginalized Youths, Smallholder Farmers

By: Daisy Masinde and Lucy Gitei  
 @themkenyatimes

The Government is committed to helping marginalized, vulnerable youths and small-scale farmers to benefit from Agriculture, Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi has said.

The CS, while speaking on Tuesday during the National Agricultural Summit that brought together Millers and farmers and sought to find a solution to the problems facing the Agriculture sector in Kenya, said that agriculture plays a pivotal role in the country’s economy by creating employment and contributing to overall development.

“As we navigate a rapidly changing global landscape, it is important that we embrace innovation, sustainable practices, and collaboration to ensure a resilient and prosperous agricultural future,” said Linturi.

He noted that small-scale farmers, women, and marginalized groups often face numerous challenges, including limited access to resources, technology accessibility, and knowledge of market trends.

“Despite the challenges, the Agriculture sector has remained the most dominant sector, contributing about 22 per cent of the Gross Domestic product (GDP) and increasing the value of marketed agricultural products by 4.3 per cent from Sh 505.3 billion in 2020 to Sh 527.0 billion,” Linturi added.

Linturi said that the government’s priority in boosting Agricultural activities entails increasing the number of young people with knowledge in agriculture, increasing the uptake of digital agricultural solutions, improving the diversity of diets, including vegetables and dairy meat, and heightening climate action to build the resilience of the people.

“By prioritizing the needs of the

most vulnerable and marginalized, we can build a resilient and equitable agricultural sector that not only feeds our nation but also contributes to the well-being and prosperity of all through socio-economic development,” Linturi echoed.

He also encouraged everyone to develop sustainable food systems through responsible investments in livelihoods that protect and promote biodiversity.

According to Agriculture Sector Network General Manager Agatha Thuo, the summit was significant at a time when the sector was reeling from a decline in growth and experiencing the effects of the global food crisis in the country.



Agriculture, Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi

“The rollout of the agriculture sector growth and transformation strategy cannot be effectively realized without a deliberate paradigm shift, particularly a drift silo mentality to coordinate efforts in advocating for agriculture reforms,” Thuo high-

lighted.

She said that Agriculture policy reforms, value chain development, and inclusion must be approached from a coordinated perspective.

# Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority Holding Property And Cash Worth Sh57B

By: Our Reporter  
@themtkenyatimes



Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority chairman Kigo Njenga with CEO John Mwangi briefing the media yesterday.

## Worth Noting:

- Speaking yesterday during the National Holder's Conference, Njenga said that the Kenya Kwanza government has the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which requires financing, and the easiest way to finance it is to hasten the reunification of people and their lost or abandoned assets.

- "To do so, we are appealing to the National Assembly and the government to hasten the process of amending the laws and regulations to give claimants an easier way to get their assets, and this will increase the amount of money released to the mainstream economy for development," said Njenga.

- He explained that if they get a law which allows them to pay e-claims that are verified, people who are owed small amounts of money, who are the majority, will get paid, and this will inject cash flow into the economy.

The Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority (UFAA) is working towards increasing the amount of unclaimed assets being reunified with their owners in efforts to inject liquidity into the economy and drive economic growth.

UFAA chairman Kigo Njenga said that their major goal is to increase reunification of people and their lost and found assets.

Currently, the authority holds a total portfolio of Sh. 57 billion, with Sh. 27 billion in cash and around Sh. 30 billion in shares and other assets.

"What we are currently holding is Sh27 billion in cash and cash equivalents, and this has grown from Sh. 500 million within the last five years. The dream that we have is to grow this to the baseline survey of Sh. 241 billion, which we will endeavor to reunite with the rightful owners," said Njenga.

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He explained that if they get a law which allows them to pay e-claims that are verified, people who are owed small amounts of money, who are the majority, will get paid, and this will inject cash flow into the economy.

"We have started a national-wide sensitization campaign, and we are working with the media, religious organizations, and other social amenities to tell Kenyans that we are holding their money and encouraging them to come for it," said Njenga.

Njenga said that to date they have reunified assets worth Sh2 billion with their rightful owners, and they intend to increase it tenfold.

"Because it is not easy even glob-

ally to reunify people with their lost and found assets, we are going to continually invest these assets in efforts to safeguard them, with some of the investments being in government bonds and Treasury bills," Njenga explained.

He added that they are also looking at investing the funds into social bonds that will hasten the Kenya Kwanza BETA programmes like housing, where they have studied developed economies like the USA and discovered that they use unclaimed assets to enhance education and the transformation of societies.

Njenga called on the organizations holding unclaimed assets, including abandoned wages, abandoned court fines, and other securities like title deeds, abandoned tuition money, and caution money, to hand them over to the organization as stipulated by law.

UFAA CEO John Mwangi called on the holders of unclaimed assets to identify the assets, reunify them with their owners, and where reunification is not possible, remit them to the authority with the required information to help them trace the

owners.

Mwangi said that in the past one year they have received a total of Sh.4 billion from various institutions, which is the highest receipt they have had since they began operations, and this was necessitated by an amnesty giving holders an exemption from penalties if they comply.

He highlighted that the least amount they have paid is Sh17 and the highest amount paid is Sh85 million.

"We are encouraging members of the public to visit our searchable database through the USSD code \*361# or visit our website at [www.ufaa.go.ke](http://www.ufaa.go.ke) to find out if any unclaimed assets have been remitted under their name or someone they know," explained Mwangi.

# Kenya Power Workers Protest Against Unfair Treatment Of Their Colleague

By: Rop Janet  
@themkenyatimes

Kenya Power employees based at the Kitengela Branch held a peaceful demonstration yesterday protesting the assault on one of their own by Kitui East Legislator Nimrod Mbai. The workers marched from their offices to the Kitengela Police Station, condemning the attack and calling for the immediate arrest of the MP. In a video that went viral, the legislator is seen insulting and slapping the Kenya Power officer who had gone to disconnect an illegal power connection at his residence at Acacia Estate in Kitengela town. Residents of Acacia Estate had complained about frequent power outages, prompting the visit by KPLC, which established the illegal connection to the legislator's home. The KPLC workers called for justice to be served, adding that attacks on officers while at work had become a

common occurrence. The MP who was being sought by the police presented himself at the Kitengela Police Station and is expected to be arraigned at the Kajiado Law Courts.

Kenya Power official.



# Govt To Empower And Protect Plight Of Children-PS Kipsang

The Government is committed to continue investing in education to empower young people and build a labour force that will underwrite the country's development. Principal Secretary of Education, Ministry of Education Belio Kipsang assured that the government will continue to focus more on enhancing education systems in the country for quality learning. Speaking while opening a three-day children's devolution conference at Mpesa Foundation Academy in Thika, Kiambu County, Kipsang noted that the government has shown tremendous interest to empower young people through education for posterity. He singled out that the government had in the 2023/2024 budget allocated Ksh 628 billion towards expenditures in the education sector. These, among other initiatives, PS Kipsang reiterated were meant to better the environment of learners for the future. He lauded the collaborations that the national government has been having with local governments in various sec-

tors such as early childhood education insisting on the need for the two levels of government to work together to ensure that learners access quality education. The PS upheld that the government is working towards addressing the challenges in the education sector including tooling teachers and employing enough of them, infrastructural issues, social-cultural gaps that learners have been facing among them, and teenage pregnancies among others. Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi who was joined by his Wajir and Mombasa counterparts Ahmed Abdullahi and Abdullswamad Sheriff Nassir respectively revealed that his government had embarked on an ambitious ECDE school feeding program to keep learners in class. Under the program, Wamatangi noted that children will be getting eggs and porridge daily to retain them in school. Following an upsurge in the number of street families in the county, the governor noted that his administration will begin putting up safe homes for the neglected children



Principal Secretary of Education, Ministry of Education Belio Kipsang.

During the conference, Robert Simiyu, the UNICEF representative, called on the government to increase budgetary allocations for education systems, insisting that all children remain in school and continue studying uninterrupted.

# African Trade Ministers Meeting: Kuria Attacks On Media Justified



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga  
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



## Worth Noting:

- He once again proved wrong his critics who had been alleging he never understood matters of diplomacy and hence he was unfit to hold that office.
- I want to say this. In the history of this country, I have never heard a Minister of Trade having convened a high profile meeting of this magnitude.
- This would only happen if the President was directly involved in the preparations.
- I'm sure CS Kuria has briefed President William Ruto accordingly on areas of the conversation and invited him to open a two-day meeting.
- Why hosting Af-CFTA meeting in Nairobi is not a walk in the park?



Trade and Investment Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria

The Mount Kenya Times ePAPER yesterday published a front page lead story bearing the headline 'Kenya to Host 54 Trade Ministers Meeting'.

When I read this story, my expectation was that it would equally be given a big coverage by other media houses.

But this was not the case. This story never featured and if it did it was mentioned in passing or in a brief.

Notably, convincing 54 African ministers to fly to Nairobi was not a small task.

Equally, it was not easy to convince the Secretary General of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to have the meeting be held in Nairobi.

Here, the credit goes to our Trade and Investment Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria. He used his skills of diplomacy, negotiations and persuasions while showcasing Nairobi as the business hub destination in Africa.

He once again proved wrong his critics who had been alleging he never understood matters of diplomacy and hence he was unfit to hold that office.

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This would only happen if the President was directly involved in the preparations.

I'm sure CS Kuria has briefed President William Ruto accordingly on areas

of the conversation and invited him to open a two-day meeting.

Why hosting AfCFTA meeting in Nairobi is not a walk in the park?

The main reason is envy. The Trade Ministers and their respective governments knew that Kenya will gain a lot.

First, the hospitality industry will reap big as the Kenyan hotels will offer them and thier delegations full accommodation at thier own cost.

Secondly, the Kenyan business people and industrialists will have an opportunity to interact with them freely.

This will help to create new linkages and partnership. This will pave the way for new opportunities for Kenyan entrepreneurs to expand the scope of thier businesses beyond the border.

Given this scenerio, this was a big story but the mainstream print media opted to give it a wide berth for obvious reasons.

It is worth to note the preparations for this meeting coincided with a no-hold-barred attacks the CS directed at one of the media house.

At one point, he accused some of the journalists working for this station of having lose morals and operating a gutter press.

Kuria's anger emanated from story this media house had featured a few days earlier linking him to the alleged edible oil scam.

Appearing before the Senate committee, Kuria defended the government's

decision to award the tender for the importation of cooking oil. The process, he said, met all the requirements of law.

This media house had alleged that the decision was made by the cabinet, myself and Agriculture CS Mithika Linturi. These allegations were far-fetched, malicious and made in bad faith.

All relevant arms of the government including the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) were involved.

Two days later Kuria took this war notch higher, stating. This media house did not have an iota of truth. I challenge them to prove me wrong on this. Let them provide evidence, if they have any.

This station did not respond and many interpreted this as chickening out.

They also averred that this reaffirmed Kuria's position that this media house was pushing the agenda of Anti-President William Ruto's political forces, singling out the opposition outfit Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Party.

This started in the countdown to 2022 electioneering period when they were hired to champion the course of the Azimio leader Raila Odinga.

You never believed in Ruto presidency but it is time to accept the bitter truth. He won the election and so as a house media house you have a duty to treat the government of day in a fair and objective manner. If you fail to do so, what else did us expect to do? We will come out to defend ourselves by giving the

true picture and calling you out.

By this time, some of the media houses had come out to show solidarity with this station. However, they were cautious. As media houses, we have a duty to interrogate our stories and ensure what we publish is factual and authentic.

Kuria later asserted. The media freedom is not absolute. There are laws and regulations that govern your work.

So, this media house should choose whether it want to retrace its footing and remain as a professional body or become peddlers of lies, un-seived and biased stories or a political party.

The media is supposed the steer the course of public interest.

Kenyans stands to reap big from Af-CFTA meeting. So, why would the media stoop too low?

I have been listening to the views of a cross section of Kenyans. The media should have looked at the bigger picture.

Put aside the differences with Moses Kuria and do thier solemn duty of informing them about this meeting.

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

# You Need Not To Tolerate Every Situation For Sake Of Peace

By: N. George

@themtkenyentimes

## Worth Noting:

- In Kenya in the recent years we have had a lot of domestic violence that have resulted to deaths of the couples or their kids. The big question of what had led to such extreme cases yet marriages should be between two adults a male and a female who voluntarily agreed to live together as husband and wife. It is also allowable for divorce if unable to reconcile.
- At family level there are channels like going to a counselor, reporting the case to courts or even parting ways without seeking any external support.
- Many are times you find that such marriages have been toxic for quite a long time yet for fear of what other family or community members will say they tolerate each other only for the relationship to blow up leaving some or all the parties in casualty.



*War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things: the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth a war, is much worse. When a people are used as mere human instruments for firing cannon or thrusting bayonets, in the service and for the selfish purposes of a master, such war degrades a people.*

*A war to protect other human beings against tyrannical injustice; a war to give victory to their own ideas of right and good, and which is their own war, carried on for an honest purpose by their free choice, is often the means of their regeneration.*

*A man who has nothing which he is willing to fight for, nothing which he cares more about than he does about his personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.*

*As long as justice and injustice have not terminated their ever-renewing fight for ascendancy in the affairs of mankind, human beings must be willing, when need is, to do battle for the one against the other.....John Stuart Mill, Principles of Political*

*Economy.*

Everything was created with a purpose but not everything available is used for its correct purpose. This is due to conflict of interest among human beings and it usually leads to disturbance of the natural order and unpredictability of the future of whatever is being misapplied.

In Kenya in the recent years we have had a lot of domestic violence that have resulted to deaths of the couples or their kids. The big question of what had led to such extreme cases yet marriages should be between two adults a male and a female who voluntarily agreed to live together as husband and wife. It is also allowable for divorce if unable to reconcile.

At family level there are channels like going to a counselor, reporting the case to courts or even parting ways without seeking any external support.

Many are times you find that such marriages have been toxic for quite a long time yet for fear of what other family or community members will say they tolerate each other only for the relationship to blow up leaving some or all the parties in casualty.

A child who misbehaves in front of his parents but they fail to caution him for the family to remain peaceful poses a great threat to their kid as he will continue and behave the same in presence of some other people who will not be willing to tolerate them resulting to them either being ejected from a certain location like dismissal from the job or being reported to the authorities then tried before getting jailed.

The kids will blame his parents for not warning him early enough therefore it is better they take strict measures much as they may hate them in the current time over time they will appreciate their great and wise pieces of advice.

In a dictatorial regime the directives of the ruler and non-negotiable no matter how awkward they may seem. If they are oppressive all the subjects strictly adhere to them resulting to a lot of suffering for the time they will be under that rule.

When this happens the ruler is happy and at peace with his servants owing to their high levels of discipline. Should there be any one of them who rejects those bad ideas he may be hat-

ed and at times prosecuted but that will make the ruler to think twice before issuing any directive for fear of meeting resistance.

This will help him to improve his decision making and silently be happy with such challengers whenever the new idea adopted after rejection of the old one becomes more rewarding to both the administrators and the subjects.

Every individual in the whole world is unique. Do not be worried that you are not exactly like your colleagues even if you are identical twins.

Use your differences to better the relationship by showing how you can be of great help to others even when you look and act differently. Let us enjoy unity in diversity.

Do not hate your neighbour due to difference in opinion provided all of you mean well for each other.

# State Rolls Out Digital Labs To Scale Up Literacy

By: Chris Mahandara  
 @themkenyatimes

Continued from page 1

He said a total of 23, 000 devices are set to be installed in schools, universities, Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions, Vocational Training Centers (VTCs), and village ICT hubs to facilitate the training.

The digital literacy programme, he said, was critical for the government to achieve its bottom-up economic transformation agenda, adding that through the laboratories, the youth and other segments of the population at the bottom of the pyramid were set to benefit.

“We want our youth and the public at large to uptake digital skills so that they are relevant in the current operating environment,” he said.

Speaking during the launch of a digital laboratory at Maseno School in Kisumu County, Owalo said the move was in tandem with the government’s agenda to digitize services.

So far, he said, over 6, 000 services

have been digitized, with additional services set to be uploaded on the E-Citizen platform before the end of the year.

“As we do this, we must correspondingly facilitate digital literacy amongst our youth and the Kenyan public and public sector officials to facilitate optimal uptake of the digital infrastructure we are putting in place,” he said.

The CS asked traders at the bottom of the pyramid to take advantage of the digital laboratories and training and leverage the free public Wi-Fi being installed at various markets and bus parks across the country to venture into e-commerce.

“We are setting up a total of 25, 000 free public wifi hotspots spread equally across the country, targeting segments of society operating at the bottom of the pyramid,” he said.

The government he disclosed was in the process of rolling out a national addressing system and digital identification cards to make e-commerce a reality.

Affordable, locally assembled smart mobile phones, he added, were set to be launched in August to ensure that



Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary, Eliud Owalo being taken through by a student..

as many Kenyans as possible make use of the digital infrastructure installed by the government.

He added that the devices, which retail at Sh. 5,600, will scale up con-

sumption of online government services and online work.

The government, he said, has opened talks with global digital technology giants to link them with Kenyan

youths for opportunities to work online.

# Sports And Culture Committee Underscores Improved Service Delivery At Bomas Of Kenya

By: John Kariuki  
 @themkenyatimes

The National Assembly’s Departmental Committee on Sports and Culture on Tuesday witnessed the unanimous facelift that Bomas of Kenya has undergone in the recent past in a bid to position itself as a cultural custodian and ideal meeting place.

The Committee, led by the Vice Chair James Wamacukuru (MP Kabete), was conducting the inspection visit to evaluate the progress made in its rehabilitation efforts.

The committee commended the management of Bomas of Kenya for the improvements in terms of how the corporation has been transformed and how it has embraced technology in preserving our cultural heritage.

The State Department of Culture was allocated funds to rehabilitate

the auditorium in the Financial Year 2021/2022, and the Committee was satisfied with the works undertaken.

Additionally, the Committee was also keen to explore the opportunities that the department can make use of to benefit from the preservation of our culture.

The Committee members collectively commended Ms Peninah Malonza, the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Ms Umami Mohammed, the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Culture, and Mr Peter Gitaa, the Chief Executive Officer of Bomas of Kenya, for their commendable work in restoring and facelifting the centre. They recognized the centre as a crucial element in preserving our national identity.

During their remarks, the legislators also urged the Ministry and Department boards to find more effective ways of integrating culture into Kenya’s vibrant tourism programs. They emphasized the potential for generating revenue through appro-



Bomas of Kenya CEO Peter Gitaa.

priation in aid (A-in-a) as a means of achieving self-sustainability.

A nominated MP Jackson Kosgei

challenged the management of Bomas to continue showcasing Bomas of Kenya as the gateway to knowing

the culture of Kenya.

# This Word Shakes



Falling asleep to the melody

Walk around your flower garden  
I feel and I love you  
A handful of soil is even golden  
I think, I'm crazy about poetry

Your daughter serves you without break  
We are connected by a drop from the heart

I tremble when I listen and speak  
Stimulating.

The word - Motherland!  
Samatova Ismigul Sanjar's daughter was born in 2003 in Kashkadarya region. She graduated from the 4th general secondary school in Karshi. From 2021 a student of the Karshi State University. Her scientific works are published in the newspapers of the time and international journals. She is the winner of the Republican stage of the "Eng yaxshi kitobxon talaba" contest and "Yosh kitobxon".

This word shakes from the bottom of my heart

We are always there without realizing  
The beady eye that laughed in your crib  
We are always there without feeling

The shadow of the cypress is striking  
Adherence to the wrinkles of the mother

The lullaby of my mother is exciting

# This Word Shakes



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The shadow of the cypress is striking  
Adherence to the wrinkles of the mother  
The lullaby of my mother is exciting

Falling asleep to the melody

## My Mother



My mother is kind  
I'm the only one in the world  
My mother, my sister-in-law  
A masterpiece in my heart

You are my sunshine  
I will not give to the stars  
If you are by my side  
I will not be disappointed

I love you

The world will be narrow without you  
My mother is my mother  
The world will be with you

Badso Forfg

## Never Lose Your Hope



You have strength and beauty within,  
And the power to make magic begin.

Never lose your hope, my dear,  
For it is what keeps us going here.  
Believe in yourself and all that you can do,  
For there's nothing in this world that can stop you.

You are capable of achieving your dreams,  
No matter how impossible it seems.  
Just keep pushing forward and never give up.

And soon enough, you'll reach the top.

So hold your head up high and stand tall,  
For you are destined for greatness after all.

Never forget how amazing you truly are,  
The world needs more girls like you by far.

You are the miracle of the world,  
A shining star that's meant to twirl.  
Don't let anyone dim your light,  
For you are a force to be reckoned with, bright.

With every step you take, you conquer fears,  
And with every breath, you wipe away tears.

Hello, I am Makhfiratkhon  
Abdurakhmonova from Uzbekistan.  
I would be happy if you could publish my poem.

# DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

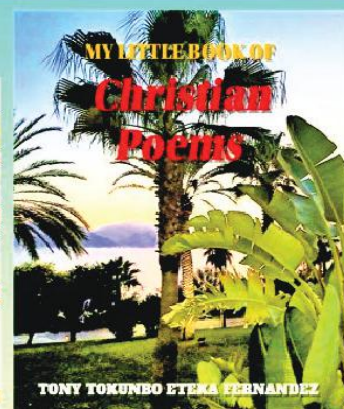
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## BUSINESS

## Kenya Hosts Malaysian Palm Oil Forum 2023

By: Emma Jolly Wambui and Peace Muthoka

@themtkenyatimes

Kenya has hosted this year's Malaysian Palm Oil Forum, which aims to establish strong relationships that enhance business opportunities between Malaysian palm oil suppliers and their buyers.

In line with the theme of the forum, 'Pioneering Sustainable Solutions for a Better Tomorrow', Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Plantation and Commodities Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof pointed out the importance of the Malaysia-Kenya trade relationship, with Kenya being the 5th largest destination market for Malaysian palm oil in the East African Region.

Speaking at a Nairobi hotel, Yusof emphasized that the mutual business relationship between Malaysia and Kenya has increased bilateral trade,



reaching USD 1.19 billion in 2022.

"We encourage the private-public partnership in both Malaysia and Kenya to seize the numerous opportunities in downstream higher

value-added palm derivatives and to explore new avenues for expanding the edible oil and palm oil businesses in areas such as oleochemicals, pharmaceuticals, processed foods,

and consumer brands," he urged.

According to Yusof, the significant role of palm oil in Malaysia's economy, being the highest-valued agricultural commodity exported in

2022, generated a revenue of (Malaysian Ringgit) RM137.8 billion.

At the same time, Malaysian Palm Oil Council Chief Executive Officer Belvinder Sron said that Malaysia supplies approximately 87 percent of Kenya's total oil exports and is used widely in various sectors of the Kenyan market, primarily in food applications.

Speakers in the Forum featured prominent local industry players and International experts from Malaysia, Europe, and Kenya, as the event gathered industry players and stakeholders from Malaysia and Kenya, strategically targeting stakeholders of the oils and fats industry in the East Africa region.

## MYDAWA Raises Ksh 2.8B As Regional Expansion Gains Traction

E-healthcare provider MYDAWA has announced the acquisition of Uganda's largest pharmacy chain Guardian Health for undisclosed amount.

The acquisition follows a Ksh 2.8 billion (\$20M) capital injection from Alta Semper, an international private equity fund targeting to democratize access to health and well-being, having first backed the company in October 2021.

"This investment marks our entry into digital healthcare in Africa, which we see as a major growth area and an extremely important drive of health outcomes across the continent in the coming years. MYDAWA was the logical choice for us as their proprietary technology, underpinning a scalable business model along with regulatory knowhow and market entry experience mapped extremely well to our own strategy," said Af-sane Jetha, Alta Semper Chief Executive Officer.

At the same time, the firm formally announced the appointment of Priscilla Muhiu as chief executive officer to replace Neil O'leary who is also the founder of the company. "MYDAWA is delighted to formally

announce the appointment of Priscilla Muhiu, who was most recently at Glovo, to lead its Kenyan business. Under Priscilla's leadership MYDAWA has already seen significant expansion of both consumer and business to business activity," the firm said in a statement.

MYDAWA says the acquisition of Guardian Health which has 19 stores in key locations in Kampala and neighbouring regions is part of its expansion strategy to consolidate its operations in the region and internationally.

"It is the ideal launchpad on which to overlay the e-health capabilities of MYDAWA – simultaneously making it both the biggest and most advanced e-health offering in Uganda. MYDAWA is dedicated to continuing its growth trajectory while constantly improving service for customers in Uganda. MYDAWA continues to be on the lookout for potential acquisitions and collaborations with promising start-ups across Africa," said Muhiu.

The firm which first began operations as an online pharmacy in Kenya is now a fully regulated one-stop-shop for healthcare with access

to consultations, tests, referrals, a continuous help desk, accessible through an omni channel delivery method based on customer preferences.

Purchasers of prescription medicine through its platform also have access to medical advice from professionals and pharmacy technicians who help deliver medicines to the customer's door.

The firm says to complete the service offering, it is opening walk in pharmacy/health centres in Kenya, the newest being the successful launch of a combined full-service pharmacy, health centre and fulfilment centre in Mombasa, Kenya.

MYDAWA recently received a major grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to expand its service offering into telemedicine and distribute HIV products in the region.



MYDAWA CEO Priscilla Muhiu. PHOTO | Courtesy

## Partners



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# Gov't Aims To Empower Marginalized Youths, Smallholder Farmers

By: Sally Namuye  
@themtkenyatimes

African Development Bank (AfDB) Group President, Akinwumi Adesina has said that the rise in cost of debt servicing has led to 25 countries in Africa being at risk of either high – debt distress or in-debt distress.

Adesina said African markets have had to bear the brunt from the strict monetary policies in the US and Europe.

The tough economic times has impacted interest rates and led to rising costs of debt serving. African Development Bank has warned that Africa external debt could rise from \$1.1 trillion to \$1.13 trillion.

“As a result, the external debt service payments due for 16 African countries will rise from \$21.2 billion (Ksh 3 trillion) in 2022 to \$22.3 billion (Ksh 3.1 trillion) in 2023,” said Akinwumi.

Kenya ranks third among African countries in terms of government debt to gross domestic products

(GDP).

Kenya debt to GDP ratio is currently at 64.8pc equivalent to Ksh 9.4 trillion according to the National Treasury comprising Ksh 4.7 trillion in domestic debt and Ksh 4.6 trillion in external debt.

The growth of continental loan obligations has been blamed on the adversities of COVID-19 pandemic and tightening their spending culture has caused these countries to downgrade.

The rising costs of energy and food prices from the Russian-Ukraine war and the rising costs of adapting to climate change compounded these challenges.

According to AfDB the average interest rates on debts has split over time where multilateral debts stand at 1pc and bilateral debts at 1.2pc. The tenure on the debts has also widened significantly between creditors.

“While the maturity of official debt was 30 years (for 62pc of the debt), the tenor for bonds have averaged 10 years. Thus, we now have a more short-term debt with higher interest rates,” added Akinwumi.



# Uganda To Tap New Technologies During International Energy Expo

Uganda is seeking to adopt new innovations and policies during the upcoming Power and Elec International Expo 2023 in Kampala.

The expo slated for this month is expected to have at least than 100 exhibitors from among others, EAC, India, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom.

East African Community (EAC) member is looking to use the platform enhance investments in the country’s energy sector from the consumer-to-business and business-to-business engagements during the expo.

“The Expo is an opportunity to enhance interaction with domestic and international companies and provide a comprehensive platform to enable the growth of the energy sector in Uganda,” said Irene Bateebe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.

Exhibitions & Trade Services India PVT Ltd (ETSIPL) which co-hosts

the event with the energy ministry said international expo will bring together national and international players in different spheres of power sector to showcase the latest innovations and technologies.

“The business community in this sector has a chance to showcase technologies but also discuss key policy challenges such as how to close the technological gaps and the national innovation systems required to foster technological progress,” added Bateebe.

ETSIPL is a leading exhibition organiser and promoter from India, handling over 50 exhibitions in a year around the world.

The Power and Elec International Expo 2023 will focus on promoting innovative technologies, creating awareness, and building sustainable collaborations in the energy sector.



PHOTO | Courtesy.

# Kenya Calls For Inclusion Of Women Entrepreneurs Within EAC

By: Our Reporter  
@themkenyatimes



East African Community and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano

## Worth Noting:

- While stressing the importance of empowering women, she noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prioritises women's empowerment captured in Sustainable Development Goal Number 5 advocates for gender equality and empowerment among all women and girls.
- Adding that, a 2021 treatise jointly authored by four gender experts and titled "Women's empowerment in East Africa: Development of a cross-country comparable measure" and published in the well-respected monthly journal "World Development" contains useful insights for purposes of this forum's discourse.
- The write-up observes that "the empowerment of women is a salient measure of social change and the process through which individuals attain 'the ability to make choices' under conditions in which choice was previously denied." She added.

Kenya has called for the involvement of women entrepreneurs in trade and investment in the East African Community (EAC).

According to the East African Community and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, she considers focus on women a confirmation that the spirit of gender complementarity has slowly but surely demolished myths that hitherto held certain chores as a preserve of one gender and a no-go zone for the other.

She was speaking during the inaugural East African Women's Business and Investment Forum in London.

CS Miano said the forum is a patently befitting doorway to a mutually beneficial partnership between the EAC and the United Kingdom.

While stressing the importance of empowering women, she noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prioritises women's

empowerment captured in Sustainable Development Goal Number 5 advocates for gender equality and empowerment among all women and girls.

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The write-up observes that "the empowerment of women is a salient measure of social change and the process through which individuals attain 'the ability to make choices' under conditions in which choice was previously denied." She added.

Miano underscored the immense opportunities the region has, noting EAC has bountiful options for an abundance of entrepreneurs and traders.

The EAC region covers roughly 4.8 million square kilometers, is home to about 285 million people with rich cultures and a combined GDP of about 240 billion Pound Sterling as at the year 2021.

Miano said the EAC region brims with mineral wealth ranging from precious metals, gemstones, semi-precious metals, metallic minerals and industrial minerals, noting that these are a recipe for the establishment of a whole range of industries.

She said the region is, undoubtedly ideal for tourism and associated industries citing the the wide variety of wildlife, beautiful beaches, good weather and an array of attractive natural features.

"The spectacle of about 1.5 million wildebeest migrating between Kenya and Tanzania every year is recognised as one of the world's seven wonders. Meanwhile, Africa's two highest peaks—Mount Kilimanja-

ro and Mount Kenya—are in the EAC region and so is the source of the famed Nile – Lake Victoria, itself the second biggest fresh water inland water body in the world. The Nile, meanwhile, is the world's second largest river after the Amazon." She said.

Adding that: "Coastal cities and towns in both Kenya and Tanzania have a rich historical and cultural heritage courtesy of long running close interaction with multiple world cultures for centuries."

With regard to agriculture, she said the EAC region's vast arable land produces some of the world's most sought after teas and coffees and is also known for its horticultural and flower farming, part of whose produce has markets in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

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# A Book Is A Source Of Enlightenment

By: Ismigul Samatova

@themtkenyatimes



Ismigul Samatova .

## Worth Noting:

- An important factor for a person to be educated, educated, professional, and happy is to be a friend of books, to read books all the time, and not to forget reading books for the rest of your life. A person who accompanies the book learns only and only the lessons of humanity.
- Reading books has a special place in the happy, peaceful and prosperous life of young people. The key to any success is this book. He is the foundation of our future.
- Therefore, dear young people, read a book, because if a book is a companion on the path of life, one will happily go through the paths of life.

The book is one of the miracles created by mankind, a tool that transmits book masterpieces of mankind to generations. A book is a person's best friend, a counselor, a source of wisdom and knowledge, a tool for thinking, a key to treasures, and a source of thought. The modern bookkeeper is the educator and teacher of today, the guide of the future. Spiritual treasure is real wealth. Our wise people say this about books: "A head without a book is an uncultivated field." There is a meaning in this wise saying that no one benefits from a field that does not grow hemp, just as no one benefits from it, so a head that has not seen a book does not benefit anyone. That's why we need to read a lot of books and develop our thinking.

Books played an important role in the lives of our ancestors. They saw the book as their friend. For example, Alisher Navoi said: "Book is a wonderful teacher. Every minute he can acquaint us with the wealth of knowledge of the wise." We have long valued the book over wealth. An example of this is that when Abu Ali Ibn Sina treated the ruler of Bukhara, Nuh ibn Mansur, he preferred to get access to the palace library instead of a chest full of silver. We have heard proverbs such as "There is no better friend than a book", "A book is a good friend". The great Russian scientist Alexander Pushkin always loved books. When Pushkin was dying, they told him to say goodbye to your friends. Pushkin sat on a bookshelf in the corner of the room and said, "Goodbye, my friends!" died. We should also keep the book as a friend, because the book is the source of all knowledge.

An important factor for a person to be educated, educated, professional, and happy is to be a friend of books, to read books all the time, and not to forget reading books for the rest of your life. A person who accompanies the book learns only and only the lessons of humanity. Reading books has a special place in the happy, peaceful and prosperous life of young people. The key to any success is this book. He is the foundation of our future. Therefore, dear young people, read a book, because if a book is a companion on the path of life, one will happily go through the paths of life.

Scientists, intellectuals, those who deeply care about the future of the country and the nation have been tormented by something until recently: why has the reading culture declined among our young people, in general, among our citizens? The value of the book, the most unique invention created by mankind, which brings light and warmth to people's hearts, helps to consciously understand the difference between white and black, good and evil, destruction and creativity, is the value of the book decreasing? Why do some people consider those who read books to be behind the times?

To be frank, these thoughts were the thoughts of all the intellectuals of our country, those who are worried about the future of the nation and its moral perfection. If we know that the book shows us the lighted path, shapes our spiritual world, helps us choose the only right path in the future, if we do not read it, we understand that the book is the greatest discovery created by man-

kind, but If we don't raise it to the level of "cult", then our ideas about the book will not be wrong?

The instructive aspect of the order is that it clearly reveals the present state of book publishing, distribution, book reading, reading culture, existing shortcomings, and errors. It is a well-thought-out system for publishing artistic, educational, scientific-popular, educational, literature aimed at increasing the intellectual potential of young people, providing educational institutions with them, sorting and translating mature works of representatives of national and world literature. based on the fact that it is not organized, funds for the purchase of books for educational and cultural institutions are not attracted from the available sources, holding presentations of new books in educational institutions, libraries and neighborhoods by enterprises specializing in book sales, reading culture special attention was paid to the fact that activities aimed at promotion, including promotion through mass media, are not at the level of high requirements.

There is a deep philosophy of the leader of our country, who laughs and talks about improving the culture of books and reading. First of all, as mentioned above, the book is a great force that lifts a person from earth to heaven and increases his spiritual power. Secondly, the book is a historical memory of humanity, a torch capable of strengthening all of us our spiritual and scientific ground, shining a bright future.

That's why in our country, acquiring knowledge, writing books, creating are always sacred concepts that show

the existence of the nation and what it is capable of. From Aristotle Hakim to Abu Ali Ibn Sina, from Plato to Abu RayhanBeruni, from Jalaluddin Rumi to Alisher Navoi, from Sahibqiran Amir Temur to Muhammad Sharif Gulkhani, formation of hundreds and thousands of thinkers, their recognition in the world, research and discoveries that will not lose their importance over time happened only and only through books. The reason why they are deeply studied by today's generation, and why they often refer to scientific and educational information, is due to the books created by our thinkers.

Indeed, the book is a force that motivates all of us to be good and helps us to solve all the problems that we face. That's why in our country, those who are familiar with books, who love books, who wrote books, who consider books as sacred and cherish them like pupils, are called intellectuals. Intellectuals were considered to spread light, enlighten the society with their actions and activities, and provide spiritual and social stability.

Indeed, this is a matter of great necessity. As a result of my personal observations, I can say that today there are hundreds and thousands of our compatriots who have a family library. Their libraries have such unique, rare books that are very rare and unique. We would like those rare works to become the spiritual property not only of this family, but also of the whole society by holding the contest "The best book-reading family", and that neighbors and experts in the field can use them effectively. We didn't want the family library to be just a decoration of the house, a symbol of the owner's "intellectuality". In this sense, in the selection of a family library, we would like to see that it is necessary to pay attention not to the beauty of this or that book, not to the fact that the pages are not folded, but to the extent of its reproduction.

In my opinion, this order will serve to further stabilize the socio-cultural environment of Uzbekistan, increase the reading level of our youth, and ultimately make the lifestyle of our people more prosperous. At this point, in order to further increase the interest of our young people in reading books, it is appropriate to organize an additional test on writing an essay on the subject of "Uzbek language and literature" during their admission to higher education institutions. we know The fact is that every year around 550-600 thousand young men and women graduate from vocational colleges and academic lyceums and try to enter higher education institutions. The recommended essay will undoubtedly increase their responsibility to read literary works. It is necessary to read a book in order to carefully preserve our national wealth. In fact, increasing reading culture is the need of the hour.

Ismigul Samatova, a student of Karshi State University

**Sports >>** \*Former Barcelona and Spain coach Luis Enrique has been appointed as the new coach of Paris Saint-Germain on a two-year deal, the French champions announced on Wednesday.

## New Man On The Wheel: Psg Appoint Luis Enrique As New Coach



*Luis Enrique was unveiled by PSG at a press conference alongside the Qatar-backed club's president Nasser al-Khelaifi at their brand new training complex in Poissy, to the north-west of the French capital.*

Former Barcelona and Spain coach Luis Enrique has been appointed as the new coach of Paris Saint-Germain on a two-year deal, the French champions announced on Wednesday.

The 53-year-old, who had been a free agent since being sacked as Spain coach last December, replaces Christophe Galtier after his departure from the club was confirmed earlier in the day.

Luis Enrique was unveiled by PSG at a press conference alongside the Qatar-backed club's president Nasser al-Khelaifi at their brand new training complex in Poissy, to the north-west of the French capital.

"I'm delighted to be joining Paris in order to enjoy a new experience," Luis Enrique said in a club statement.

"It's so exciting to meet new people, to live in this city, to

learn a new language and, above all, to manage PSG."

The new coach, whose full name is Luis Enrique Martinez Garcia, is the eighth man to lead the club since the transformative Qatari takeover of 2011 and, like those before him, will be charged with bringing them the success in the Champions League that has so far proved elusive.

PSG have never won Europe's most prestigious club competition, coming closest when they lost in the final to Bayern Munich in 2020.

They have gone out in the last 16 in five of the last seven seasons, losing to Bayern at that stage in the campaign just finished. That defeat proved costly for Galtier.

Luis Enrique arrives with pedigree in the Champions League, having won it as coach of Barcelona in 2015 when a brilliant

team led by an attack of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez beat Juventus in the final.

He now joins a club beginning their latest rebuild following the departure of Messi at the end of his two-year stay.

– Mbappe future in doubt –

There are doubts surrounding the future of superstar forward Kylian Mbappe after he told the club he would not renew a contract that expires next year.

Several high-profile new signings are expected to be confirmed as the club prepares to start pre-season training in the coming days, with a tour to Japan scheduled for later this month.

Luis Enrique brought to an end a three-year stay at Barca in 2017 and then became Spain coach in 2018.

However, he quit in June 2019

and announced the death of his nine-year-old daughter from bone cancer two months later.

He returned to the Spain post in November of that year, retaking the reins from Robert Moreno, and took La Roja to the Euro 2020 semi-finals and the 2021 UEFA Nations League final before being fired after their elimination from last year's World Cup in the last 16 in a penalty shoot-out against Morocco.

Galtier had only been in charge for one season and still had a year to run on his contract, but his departure had been expected ever since the end of the last Ligue 1 season a month ago.

"Paris Saint-Germain and Christophe Galtier have decided to terminate his contract as coach of the first team," the club said in a statement.

"Everyone at Paris Saint-Germain thanks Christophe Galtier, as well as his assistants Thierry Oleksiak and Joao Sacramento, for their professionalism and commitment over the course of the season, and wishes them the best in their future careers."

Galtier led PSG to a French record 11th title but that success was also overshadowed by their disappointing exit from the Champions League and a French Cup last-16 loss to Marseille.

The final weeks of Galtier's reign were also marred by accusations that he made racist remarks about players during his previous job at Nice.

He has vehemently denied the accusations but will stand trial in December on charges of "moral harassment and discrimination on the grounds of actual or supposed membership or non-membership of a particular ethnic group, nation, alleged race or religion", according to prosecutors in Nice.

The offences are punishable by three years' imprisonment and a 45,000-euro (\$49,000) fine.

AFP



GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti will take over as head coach of Brazil's national team for the 2024 Copa America, a source at the Brazilian Football Federation told AFP on Tuesday

# Ancelotti To Coach Brazil From 2024 Copa America: Source



Ancelotti has a season remaining on his contract with Real and will take over Brazil in time for the Copa America which will be held in the United States from June 2024

Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti will take over as head coach of Brazil's national team for the 2024 Copa America, a source at the Brazilian Football Federation told AFP on Tuesday. The federation had announced earlier that Fluminense's Fernando Diniz would take charge of the team in the interim period. Ancelotti has a season remaining on his contract with Real and will take over Brazil in time for the Copa America which will be held in the United States from June 2024. The former AC Milan and Chelsea coach will become the first

foreigner to coach Brazil in almost sixty years. The last foreign coach of Brazil was Argentine Filpo Nunez who was in charge for one game in 1965. Among his many successes, the 64-year-old Ancelotti has won the Champions League twice with both AC Milan and Real Madrid. He has also won domestic league titles in England with Chelsea, Germany with Bayern Munich and France with Paris Saint-Germain as well as with Real and Milan. Brazil were coached by Tite at last year's World Cup, but he

stood down from the role after their elimination at the quarter-final stage to Croatia. Ramon Menezes has been in charge of the team since on a caretaker basis. The CBF had earlier issued a statement saying that Diniz would be in charge of the team for the coming year. "Fernando Diniz will lead the Brazilian team for a year, and I'm sure he will do it with great competence, as always during his professional career," said CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues in a video statement. "It is a dream, an honor and a

huge pride to serve the national team," Diniz said. The 49-year-old will be in charge of the six South American qualifying games for the 2026 World Cup that will be played this year, including the clashes with Argentina and Uruguay. Brazil will start their qualifying campaign in September at home against Bolivia and then away against Peru.

AFP

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## Kate Supanida Takes Part In National Youth And Juvinile Art Exhibition

Kate Supanida Paosatheanpan, the cultural diplomacy of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Thailand get a participation certification from the 18th National Youth and Juvinile Art Exhibition by Bunditpatanasilpa Institute of Fine Art from 28th June 2023 - 30th July 2023 at 9.00 am. - 4 pm. at the national gallery, Bangkok, Thailand. In This year, Kate uses a kite to make her art.

Kate was also get award from the 17th National Youth and Juvinile Art Exhibition by Bunditpatanasilpa Institute of Fine Art in 2022 too from using bottoms for making a big turtle for her art concerning the idea of waste effects to the environment . It is the biggest Youth and Juvinile Art contest in Thailand.

