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Petition Committee Engages Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome On Various Issues

By: PSCU



Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome when she appeared before the parliamentary committee

Worth Noting:

- They voiced their apprehension over the lack of accountability and responsibility among governing bodies regarding the impending disaster posed by the presence of carcinogenic elements that endanger the lives of Kenyans.
- “There is an urgent need for someone to be held accountable for the dire situation at hand. It is unacceptable to witness our fellow citizens succumbing to water-related diseases, including cancer, when we possess the power and means to prevent and mitigate these fatalities,” said Marwa.
- In response, CS Wahome highlighted the establishment of an Inter-Agency Technical Committee dedicated to safeguarding rivers and managing pollution.

The National Assembly’s Public Petitions Committee held a meeting with Alice Wahome, the Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation. The CS had been summoned and appeared to respond to petitions which will address crucial issues including the pollution of River Athi, the desiltation of Matinga Dam, and the need for long-term solutions to address perennial water shortage at the ward level in Kenya.

The meeting was chaired by the vice chairperson Janet Siteinei who is the MP for Turbo.

The committee members raised issues with the pollution of River Athi. They pointed out the disconcerting situation where the agencies responsible for preventing such pollution claim to be “toothless” and stripped of their powers, thus raising questions about their effectiveness and ability to fulfil their mandates.

They voiced their apprehension over the lack of accountability and responsibility among governing bodies regarding the impending disaster posed by the presence of carcinogenic elements that endanger the lives of Kenyans.

“There is an urgent need for someone to be held accountable for the dire situation at hand. It is unacceptable to witness our fellow citizens succumbing to water-related diseases, including cancer, when we possess the power and means to prevent and mitigate these fatalities,” said Marwa.

In response, CS Wahome highlighted the establishment of an Inter-Agency Technical Committee dedicated to safeguarding rivers and managing pollution.

She emphasized that significant interventions are currently being implemented in this regard, and a comprehensive report detailing these efforts will be submitted to the Committee by the end of the month.

Regarding the Desiltation of Matinga Dam, the CS informed the committee that the Tana Athi Water Works Development Agency has been instructed to conduct thorough engineering studies and create detailed technical designs for the rehabilitation of the dam embankment, spillway, and the fencing of the dam reservoir area.

Addressing the petition for a ward-based solution to the persistent water shortage in Kenya, she informed the members that the Water for Schools program has been implemented to extend its coverage across the majority of the country.

The primary objective of this program is to ensure access to water directly for the people, emphasizing the importance of bringing water resources closer to communities in need.

In addition, she elaborated on the forthcoming ‘Kenya Groundwater Mapping Program’ that will be executed in collaboration with county governments, state corporations, and development partners. The primary objective of this program, along with the Horn of Africa resilience project, is to rehabilitate more than 400 rural water schemes and, if required, drill new boreholes to address water scarcity challenges.

Editor's Desk

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NSSF Boss Makes Maiden Appearance Before House Committee To Respond To Audit Queries

By: PSCU

The National Assembly’s Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture had a sitting with the new Managing Trustee of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) David Koros together with his departmental heads to review the Auditor General’s report on the books of accounts for Fund’s for the Financial Year 2019/2020.

The members questioned them on the several outstanding balances for receipts in bank statements not reflected in cash books and payments in cash books not reflected in bank statements.

Further, the MPs sought an explanation regarding payments in bank statements not replicated in cash books.

The committee asked Koros why the outstanding balances had not been cleared.

In his response, he told the commit-



Some of the committee members during the session

tee that reconciliation is a continuous process. He noted that the fund has automated the bank reconciliation process which has reduced the time taken to clear effects.

MPs Mary Wamaua (Maragua) and Martin Owino (Ndiwa) raised concerns on why the fund could not invest in a system that can do the reconciliation that results to timely updates to reduce any suspicious transactions.

Weighing on the same matter, Jackson Kosgey who is a nominated MP asked why the responses from the NSSF management had not taken care of the auditors concerns.

“Your response only indicates some reform intentions but does not clear the question of why you did not provide sufficient documentation at the time of audit,” held Kosgey.

The committee chairman Emanuel



NSSF team during the sitting

Wangwe from Navakholo constituency sought information regarding fixed deposits of over Sh200 Million held in two banks that have since been closed and therefore auditors were not able to confirm the balance.

Committee members including Wambugu Wainaina of Othaya constituency further raised the issue of members’ contrubutions to the Fund following the auditor’s revelations that deductions from employers take

time to be updated. After a detailed perusal of the report, committee members suggested that the delayed update of contributions be investigated.

Having been at the helm of the organisation for one month now, the Managing Trustee asked the committee to allow him time to deal with historical issues in the Fund as he strives to put things in order by deploying stringent management systems.

Kisii Law Courts Convicts Three Accused of Gouging Baby Sagini’s Eyes

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyatimes

Alex Maina Ochogo, Pacificah Nyakerario, and Rael Mayieka, who were charged with gouging baby Brighton Sagini’s eyes, have been convicted by the Kisii Law Courts.

Senior Resident Magistrate Christine Ogwenyo ruled that the prosecution had successfully proven that the three individuals caused grievous bodily harm to Sagini in Ikuruma village, Marani sub-county, Kisii ounty on December 13 of last year.

Magistrate Ogwenyo stated that the prosecution had established beyond a reasonable doubt that the three family members were responsible for the harm inflicted on Sagini.

The magistrate will determine their sentences after the prosecution, led by Hilary Kaino, presents a probation report regarding their ages and the welfare of Sagini and his sibling, Shantel Kemunto, who are currently being sheltered at a safe house.



Rael Nyakerario, , Pacificah Nyakerario and Alex Maina appeared before Kisii Law Courts photo/Elizabeth Angira.

“The prosecution has convincingly demonstrated that the accused committed the offense collectively. I will await the report from the prosecution to guide the sentencing,” ruled Ogwenyo.

She noted that Maina’s estranged wife, Teresa Nyaboke, testified that

he took a knife, went behind her mother’s house, gouged Sagini’s eyes, and then returned to confess the act to his mother.

The magistrate further mentioned that Nyaboke testified that Pacificah and Mayieka assisted Maina, the primary accused, in putting Sagini in a

sack and hiding him under her mother’s bed.

“What kind of people are these who put a child in a sack, consume alcohol, and celebrate? It is barbaric, brutal, and I feel the pain that Sagini endured,” stated Ogwenyo.

Maina is Sagini’s cousin, while

Pacificah and Mayieka are his aunt and grandmother, respectively.

Daniel Nyameino, a medic, testified that Sagini’s eye sockets were empty, his eyelids were dark, and he had scratch marks near his eyes and neck, indicating signs of a struggle.

Sagini was discovered abandoned in a maize plantation near Mayieka and Nyakerario’s houses. He was immediately rushed to Kisii Eye Hospital.

Representing Sagini were lawyers George Morara, Davine Biyaki, and Anita Nduhukire, while Kerosi Ondieki, Winston Magara, and Violet Moguche represented the accused.

Morara expressed his satisfaction that justice had been served to four-year-old baby Sagini after a lengthy legal process, a sentiment shared by his colleagues.

He added that the severity of the sentencing would depend on the probation report filed by the prosecution, noting that causing grievous bodily harm could result in a life sentence.

The sentencing of the three individuals is scheduled for July 21 of this year.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIRINYAGA

KERUGOYA LEVEL V COUNTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL

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Cooperative Movement Key Driver Of Socio-economic Transformation

Empowering women for social and economic development

By: Mary Karau Ngethe
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- There are many other grassroots groups that have formed successful SACCOs like boda boda operators, matatus owners, mama mboga women, among others where informal businesses get financial services and investments.
- Using the SACCO platforms the national and county governments are able to influence the members through imparting skills on saving and investments, management of SACCOs and the risks of poor management, and opportunities available from the various members. SACCOs are therefore a good platform for government to develop the population socially and economically.



Mary Karau Ngethe .

One of the most effective ways of curbing Gender Based Violence (GBV) is women socio-economic empowerment through some financial institutions like SACCOs.

There are about 23,000 cooperatives in Kenya, employing over 500,000 people directly, and offering uncountable indirect jobs in the inter-linked sectors like agriculture.

Addressing socio-economic factors is predicted to reduce GBV especially among adolescent girls and young women (AGYM) reliance on transactional sex and strengthen their self-

efficacy and decision-making powers in relationships.

The links between economic insecurity and GBV are complex and operate at an individual, interpersonal and societal level.

The senior women, adolescent Girls and young women who live in chronic poverty may find themselves more likely to experience acute stress and resort to risky strategies like early marriages and staying in abusive marriages increasing their risk of violence at the exchange of resources for basic needs.

SACCOS: Economic Strengthening In Action, Case of Muranga County Women SACCO

Women in Muranga County formed a SACCO where membership registration is Sh100 and is open to all women from the 8 Sub Counties.

Leadership involves representation from all the 35 wards. Savings are minimum Sh10 per day or Sh300 per month. Some women have saved as much as Sh150,000 in less than 5 years yet they are just ordinary grassroots women.

The SACCO was given land near Muranga University where they build a storied hostel with capacity to accommodate 400 students.

With good SACCO management the members will soon start getting monthly benefits and credit facilities.

There are many other grassroots groups that have formed successful SACCOs like boda boda operators, matatus owners, mama mboga women, among others where informal businesses get financial services and investments.

Using the SACCO platforms the national and county governments are able to influence the members through imparting skills on saving and investments, management of SACCOs and the risks of poor management, and opportunities available from the various members. SACCOs are therefore a good platform for government to develop the population socially and economically.

Women in particular, who rarely have opportunities to deal with money matters, and especially accessing credit since they rarely have collat-

eral to guarantee loans from mainstream banks.

SACCOs allow women to take soft loans from as little as Sh5000 which keeps increasing with every subsequent application. Some women are now able to access as much as Sh5,000,000 and above. Management of SACCOs therefore need to be very well structured under the oversight of GoK.

This is because the mass of our population relies on SACCOs to develop themselves especially in agriculture and trade.

To show how strong SACCO matters are to governments both national and counties, on 2nd July in Meru, the Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua gave a strong testimony on how SACCOs have given him good financial foundation through the Harambee SACCO, and he urged Kenyans to be members of SACCOs.

We also urge the national and county governments to strengthen the SACCO management to ensure citizens get good benefits from their savings and investments, and especially women members.

Mary Karau Ngethe is the Founder and CEO of A Life Coaching firm known as Impact Results Africa. She is a Global Leadership Catalyst, Transformative and family Certified Life Coach and a Celebrated Motivational Speaker who passionately advocates for "Peace in Our Hearts & in Our Families"

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Modernization Of The ASK Show Grounds In Top Gear

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyentimes

Azimio La Umoja-OKA leader Raila Odinga made good his threat to hold the public protest at Kamukunji grounds.

The protests coincided with Saba Saba day (July 7, 1990), a day marked to remember the brutality that security forces meted on the crusaders of multiparty democracy and thier supporters on that day. The heavily armed police used all the power at thier disposal to block them from accessing the Kamukunji grounds. The police had already banned the scheduled rally. Dozens of the protestors were shot dead.

I have lately been listening to a cross section of Kenyans. Raila's critics averred that he no longer stood for the ideals of democracy, social justice and human rights that he championed alongside Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia at the time.

Today, he was out to settle political scores with President William Ruto. Raila's ultimate goal was to force Dr Ruto to share government with him on 50-50 basis. Plan B is to force him to shake his hand.

This is as he has done in the past particularly during the reign of President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

But this time the going was tough for him. This is because it had dawned on him that President Ruto was not a pushover. He is a hard nut to crack. With this, Raila knew that he had been left with only one bullet hinged on the mobilization of the majority of Kenyans and inciting them to participate in his campaign of defiance.

In his earlier demonstrations, the somehow good turnouts would only be witnessed in his political bastions of Luo Nyanza and some parts of Nairobi.

At the time, his critics would aver. Kenya has 45 tribes. How come it is only his community that is disatisfied with the leadership of President Ruto and his administration?



ASK Nairobi Regional Manager Betty Rotich addressing the media.

So, he needed to shed off this tag. This is by reaching out to other communities.

He hoped the Saba Saba day would be a turning point. This is because many Kenyans were opposed to the new taxations contained in the newly enacted Finance Act, 2023.

Raila and his running mates Martha Karua and Kalonzo Musyoka had announced that the Saba Saba protests will take place in all parts of the country.

This time, the turnouts were somehow impressive.

In my Estate of Githurai, I got an opportunity to listen to the views of some of the residents. For some, Raila was on the right track. He was fighting for a worth course.

But others would have a different opinion, stating. Yes, it is true the cost of living is high but Raila cannot run away from this mess.

He was a core principal of the 'handshake' government and this is when things started going South.

He was contented with the way President Uhuru Kenyatta was running the government. This is because he had allowed him to occupy his seat at the high table where national cake was being shared.

tional cake was being shared.

Therefore, he fully supported the policies that ruined our economy. This include allocations of a huge chunk of taxpayers money running into billions of shillings to fund the BBI process and run political activities of the 'handshake' government.

By the time Uhuru was leaving of-fice, the retail price of a 2kg packet of maize flour (Unga) stood at Sh230. Since Ruto assumed office, the prices have come down ranging between Sh170 and Sh180.

The Githurai residents further observed. We know why Raila was fighting Ruto. It is simply because Ruto defeated him at the ballot.

Raila never thought he can lose this election. This is because the outgoing President and the whole of 'deep state' was supporting his candidature.

He, however, forget one thing. Dr Ruto enjoyed God's favor and had the people of Kenya on his side. That is why he trounced with ease.

Reports indicated that Raila reached out to President Uhuru when he realized that he was losing. He wanted him to issue orders that would have seen the final results manipulated and altered in his (Odinga) favor.

A call that Embakasi MP Bobu Owino made to Interior PS Karanja Kibicho was tellingly. He wanted him to order the arrest of IEBC chairman Wafula Chebukati before he announced the final results.

Uhuru declined to approve these evil designs aimed at plunging Kenya into anarchy. He never wanted to ruin his legacy at the tail-end of his administration.

Back to Saba Saba day, the turnout in Kisumu was high as it used to be. This is while noting this is the bedroom of Baba.

The previous protests in this region always turned chaotic as the police engage the battle-hardened youths

in running battles. This will end on a sad note where some protestors would lose thier lives and others left nursing serious gunshots wounds.

This time no such incidents were reported.

In Migori, the turnout was somehow good but it fizzled out some hours later. The police officers were seen clearing the boulders and stones they had used to block the main roads.

The latest media reports have indicated that President Ruto is set to make an intensive tour of this region starting with Homa Bay this week-end and in Siaya a week later. Is an indication he was good inroads? For years, this region was perceived to be Baba's bedroom.

In Nairobi where Raila addressed a Kamukunji Saba Saba rally there was a good turnout.

After a brief speech, Raila asked the protestors to join him in marching to the Central Business District (CBD). The police had a difficult time trying to repulse them.

In Mombasa, they were some actions but these were low-keyed.

Similar action was witnessed in Nyahururu. A sizeable number of youths demonstrated along the streets of this town. Nyahururu is the bedrock of the former Mungiki leader Maina Njenga and former Laikipia governor Nderitu Muriethi.

In Kisii, the youths heeded Raila's call and turned up in big numbers. The Police engaged them in fierce running battles. Some of them had entered town.

Media reports indicated a number of them were injured and admitted at the local hospitals. Hon Simba Arati, the governor of Kisii, is a staunch supporter and defender of Raila. He won the seat on an ODM ticket.

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

Worth Noting:

- According to Nyachwaya, the fears that Nairobi residents face water shortages whenever the show is near are not true since they have their own sources of water which support them before, during, and after the show.
- "The Nairobi show-ground has its own dam with a capacity of 65 million liters of water; it has several boreholes, and the water harvesting aspect has just increased the internal capacity," he said.
- Nyachwaya explained that the conferencing facility has a seating capacity of 6,000 people and urged people having conferences, exhibitions, religious gatherings, or any other meetings to make use of the state-of-the-art facility.



The modern Jamhuri Park Exposition and Conferencing Center which was constructed with funding from the national government and the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) and was completed in 2022. Photo by Joseph Ng'ang'a.

Saba Saba Day: The Origin And Context

By: Serfine Achieng

Worth Noting:

- As dozens of opposition supporters led by Azimio leader Raila Odinga went back to the historic Kamukunji grounds to celebrate the Saba Saba anniversary, Citizen TV visited the veteran politician Kathangu who was a pivotal organizer of the nationwide protests on 7th July 1990, the first Saba Saba.
- He says that the Saba Saba movement was birthed by political agitation which dated back to the 1970s when Mzee Jomo Kenyatta died.
- According to Kathangu, those who were seeking to succeed the late Kenyatta detested Moi's ascension to power, which was choreographed by Charles Njonjo. This feeling of political betrayal compounded with Moi's dictatorial style of leadership fanned the flames of agitation



Protestors charging police ..

The 33rd Saba Saba anniversary comes amidst growing political animosity and at a time when the country is grappling with the worst economic meltdown in years.

Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition Party leader Raila Odinga is pushing for economic reforms to address the high cost of living and the quashing of the Finance Act 2023.

This, according to veteran politician and former Runyenjes MP Njeru Kathangu, is a mere morphing of Kenya's struggle for transformation which is yet to be completed more than three decades later.

As dozens of opposition supporters led by Azimio leader Raila Odinga went back to the historic Kamukunji grounds to celebrate the Saba Saba anniversary, Citizen TV visited the veteran politician Kathangu who was a pivotal organizer of the nationwide protests on 7th July 1990, the first Saba Saba.

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political betrayal compounded with Moi's dictatorial style of leadership fanned the flames of agitation

"The Moi system then put up Nyayo house which was opened in 1982 the same year that these things were happening and it had been constructed for about 5 years meaning that the idea was still in their head, to punish, to torture to subdue everybody that was going to be talking against him," he explained.

In 1982, the Kenyan Air Force attempted a coup to overthrow Moi's government which turned chaotic. Many were beaten and arrested. Moi would then pass an amendment to the constitution introducing Section 2A which made Kenya officially a single-party state marking the end of competitive politics.

"Immediately before that, there was the attempted formation of a political party Kenya African Socialist Alliance (KASU) in June and that brought Jaramogi Odinga Odinga into house arrest, George Anyona into detention and I was spared because I had just come from prison in 1980," he said.

The climax of the growing displeasure was on 7th July 1990 when Kenya witnessed the largest nationwide protests. This was in spite of

the fact that the late Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia, leaders who were key in calling for the protests, had been arrested a few days before that.

"They were fighting for freedom, they were fighting for their independence and they were fighting for their land," he noted.

Over 20 people are reported to have died in that protest which left thousands injured. However, Moi's government bowed to pressure and allowed a return to political pluralism.

Section 2A of the constitution was repealed in 1991 and Kenya had its first multiparty elections in 1992 where about 8 political parties participated.

The democratic space was also expanded as Kenyans were allowed to enjoy their freedom of speech and assembly, rights that were previously curtailed.

Despite the gains, however, the country's quest for transformation has been snail-paced.

"The spirit of Saba Saba was to push for freedoms and democracy, the spirit of this Saba Saba is to push for survival; it is not very different, only that the environments are different, situations different and the people involved slightly different,"

Kathangu stated.

Among the issues weighing Kenyans down, according to the opposition, is the high cost of living and the passing of the Finance Act 2023 which they term punitive to the taxpayer

"For them to be able to seal the gap created but the debt then they have decided that maybe the best thing is to take tax from people's pockets, there is no country in the world that can be able to grow an economy from people's pocket," Kathangu suggested.

But as Azimio Leader Raila Odinga rekindles the Saba Saba flame, Njeru opines that it is time for the current president William Ruto, his political nemesis Raila Odinga and former head of state Uhuru Kenyatta to prioritize the interest of the country

"If there is nothing personal between the relationship between Uhuru, Raila and Ruto let Kenyans move and go please," he noted.

Technology Firm Develops Application To Enhance Access To Healthcare

By: Esther Mwangi and Sam Karanja
@themkenyetimes

A healthcare technology firm has developed a mobile application to enhance efficiency and access to health services.

The smart access application developed by Smart Applications International enables patients covered under medical insurance or corporate cover to access services at a click of a button.

Available on Android and iPhone Operating System, the application facilitates easy identification of patients and their insurance cover, aiding in quick access of services at over 4,400 health facilities spread across the country.

Smart Applications Group Chief Executive Officer Harrison Muiru said the service is also available through a USSD code for patients who don't have smartphones.

The innovation, he said, was a build-up on the biometric identification infrastructure which the company has rolled out across the country, adding that the smart access platform was



Smart Applications Group Chief Executive Officer Harrison Muiru with the firm's Head of Delivery Purity Njagi and Head of Hospital Operations Esther Macharia

fast and efficient and will save facilities time spent calling insurance companies to verify beneficiary details.

"When a patient visits a facility, they immediately know which service to offer them based on the contract parameters they have with the insurer," he said.

The company, he added, would continue to develop smart solutions to enhance efficiency in the delivery of health services.

"We have been in this sector for over 20 years now. We are impressed by the government's commitment to scale up E-health, and as a company, we shall continue to develop solutions that are patient-centered," he said.

Speaking during the inaugural Health Service Providers Summit in Kisumu, Muiru said the smart access system was set to enhance consistency in medical records to enhance better treatment outcomes.

Smart Systems International Head of Product Delivery and Support Purity Njagi said that through the mobile application, principal benefi-

ciaries who hitherto had to physically appear at a facility to authorise other members to get services will do so on the applications and share a generated short code to facilitate the process.

"Most mothers leave their children with caregivers, and when they fall sick, they are forced to return home to take them to the hospital. However, this application enables them to authorize the service on their mobile phones and share the code with the caregivers to access services at a health facility," she said.

Head of Hospital Operations Esther Macharia said the firm was working with health facilities to enhance efficiency in their processes and improve the patient experience.

In line with this, she added that the company has developed a Comprehensive Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) to revolutionize healthcare administration.

She disclosed that the system manages point-to-point operations of health facilities alongside stocks and financial records to ensure efficiency in their operations.

Access To Safe Water Severely Impacts Schools, Communities - CFK Africa

By: Hellen Lunalo
@themkenyetimes

The global problem of access to safe water and sanitation is staggering, as more than 1 billion people lack access to improved water sources and more than 2.6 billion people lack adequate sanitation.

In Kiambu County, more than 3,700 primary schools require improvements in safe water and hygiene facilities, and more than 35,000 community latrines are required throughout the county to meet government-recommended standards.

These statistics were the backbone of water quality assurance training conducted for public health workers in Thika by CFK Africa, a non-governmental organization.

"The social and economic consequences of inadequate water and sanitation services are generally devastating. Without these critical services, people fall ill, children miss out on learning, especially girls, and entire communities can be displaced by water scarcity. Safe water is not a luxury but a necessity. Every-



Stakeholders during the forum.

one has the right to safe water, proper sanitation, and hygiene, yet so many go without," said Eddah Ogogo, a primary healthcare coordinator at CFK Africa.

"At the same time, the benefits of access to safe water and sanitation, for individuals and societies alike, are beyond measure. These services are key to healthy development in children and to sustaining well-being as adults. They also offer a pathway to broader social and economic progress by supporting community health and productivity," she said.

The officers were trained on how to treat the schools' and local communities' water supplies with chlorine solutions to improve sanitation. They were also encouraged to establish school health clubs and community engagement forums where both students and community members would be taught appropriate hygiene techniques.

Handwashing stations would also be installed in both schools and communities, and where there was no water supply, community members would partner with the county in developing new water points. This is part of a three-year water and sanitation program that will support

the government in scaling up hygiene practices in Kiambu County.

"We have heard of cases in schools nationwide where students got sick and some teachers succumbed to what is suspected to be water contamination. This is very disturbing, and it is why we have decided to introduce water hygiene awareness in schools and neighbouring communities to make sure that incidents like these never happen again.

The training came at the right time because the program will determine whether school-based projects can provide a platform for permanent awareness and access to hygiene services, and if these techniques are proven effective at the county level, they will provide the framework for national implementation," said Patrick Wachira, a senior public health officer in Thika, during the training session.

The program is expected to reach at least 300 schools (including 90,000 students in the first three years) and will provide valuable information on the costs and benefits of school water, sanitation, and hygiene. Teachers and community health workers would be trained at a later date.

Raila Made Good His Threat To Hold Saba Saba Protests



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

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- But this time the going was tough for him. This is because it had dawned on him that President Ruto was not a pushover. He is a hard nut to crack. With this, Raila knew that he had been left with only one bullet hinged on the mobilization of the majority of Kenyans and inciting them to participate in his campaign of defiance.
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Azimio La Umoja-OKA leader Raila Odinga and former Murang'a Governor Mwangi wa Iria.

Raila Made Good His Threat To Hold Saba Saba Protests

Azimio La Umoja-OKA leader Raila Odinga made good his threat to hold the public protest at Kamukunji grounds.

The protests coincided with Saba Saba day (July 7, 1990), a day marked to remember the brutality that security forces meted on the crusaders of multiparty democracy and their supporters on that day. The heavily armed police used all the power at their disposal to block them from accessing the Kamukunji grounds. The police had already banned the scheduled rally. Dozens of the protestors were shot dead.

I have lately been listening to a cross section of Kenyans. Raila's critics averred that he no longer stood for the ideals of democracy, social justice and human rights that he championed alongside Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia at the time.

Today, he was out to settle political scores with President William Ruto.

Raila's ultimate goal was to force Dr Ruto to share government with him on 50-50 basis. Plan B is to force him to shake his hand.

This is as he has done in the past particularly during the reign of President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

But this time the going was tough for him. This is because it had dawned on him that President Ruto was not a pushover. He is a hard nut to crack. With this, Raila knew that he had been left with only one bullet hinged on the mobilization of the majority of Kenyans and inciting them to participate in his campaign of defiance.

In his earlier demonstrations, the somehow good turnouts would only be witnessed in his political bastions of Luo Nyanza and some parts of Nairobi.

At the time, his critics would aver.

Kenya has 45 tribes. How come it is only his community that is dissatisfied with the leadership of President Ruto and his administration?

So, he needed to shed off this tag. This is by reaching out to other communities.

He hoped the Saba Saba day would be a turning point. This is because many Kenyans were opposed to the new taxations contained in the newly enacted Finance Act, 2023.

Raila and his running mates Martha Karua and Kalonzo Musyoka had announced that the Saba Saba protests will take place in all parts of the country.

This time, the turnouts were somehow impressive.

In my Estate of Githurai, I got an opportunity to listen to the views of some of the residents. For some, Raila was on the right track. He was fighting for a worth course.

But others would have a different opinion, stating. Yes, it is true the cost of living is high but Raila cannot run away from this mess.

He was a core principal of the 'handshake' government and this is when things started going South.

He was contented with the way President Uhuru Kenyatta was running the government. This is because he had allowed him to occupy his seat at the high table where national cake was being shared.

Therefore, he fully supported the policies that ruined our economy. This include allocations of a huge chunk of taxpayers money running into billions of shillings to fund the BBI process and run political activities of the 'handshake' government.

By the time Uhuru was leaving office, the retail price of a 2kg packet of maize flour (Unga) stood at Sh230. Since Ruto assumed office, the prices have come down ranging between Sh170 and

Sh180.

The Githurai residents further observed. We know why Raila was fighting Ruto. It is simply because Ruto defeated him at the ballot.

Raila never thought he can lose this election. This is because the outgoing President and the whole of 'deep state' was supporting his candidature.

He, however, forget one thing. Dr Ruto enjoyed God's favor and had the people of Kenya on his side. That is why he trounced with ease.

Reports indicated that Raila reached out to President Uhuru when he realized that he was losing. He wanted him to issue orders that would have seen the final results manipulated and altered in his (Odinga) favor.

A call that Embakasi MP Bobu Owino made to Interior PS Karanja Kibicho was tellingly. He wanted him to order the arrest of IEBC chairman Wafula Chebukati before he announced the final results.

Uhuru declined to approve these evil designs aimed at plunging Kenya into anarchy. He never wanted to ruin his legacy at the tail-end of his administration.

Back to Saba Saba day, the turnout in Kisumu was high as it used to be. This is while noting this is the bedroom of Baba.

The previous protests in this region always turned chaotic as the police engage the battle-hardened youths in running battles. This will end on a sad note where some protestors would lose their lives and others left nursing serious gunshots wounds.

This time no such incidents were reported.

In Migori, the turnout was somehow good but it fizzled out some hours later. The police officers were seen clearing the boulders and stones they had used to block the main roads.

The latest media reports have indicated that President Ruto is set to make an intensive tour of this region starting with Homa Bay this weekend and in Siaya a week later. Is an indication he was good inroads? For years, this region was perceived to be Baba's bedroom.

In Nairobi where Raila addressed a Kamukunji Saba Saba rally there was a good turnout.

After a brief speech, Raila asked the protestors to join him in marching to the Central Business District (CBD). The police had a difficult time trying to repulse them.

In Mombasa, they were some actions but these were low-keyed.

Similar action was witnessed in Nyahururu. A sizeable number of youths demonstrated along the streets of this town. Nyahururu is the bedrock of the former Mungiki leader Maina Njenga and former Laikipia governor Nderitu Muriethi.

In Kisii, the youths heeded Raila's call and turned up in big numbers. The Police engaged them in fierce running battles. Some of them had entered town.

Media reports indicated a number of them were injured and admitted at the local hospitals. Hon Simba Arati, the governor of Kisii, is a staunch supporter and defender of Raila. He won the seat on an ODM ticket.

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



Violent mobs flocked into streets of Kisii town to protest over high cost of living
Photo/Elizabeth Angira.

Adequate Education And Experience Should Give Someone Humility

By: N. George

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Those with good mastery of the tasks they do are always able to remain in charge at all times without need for consultation.
- They are able to respond to various questions regarding their work in a good way so they do not become hostile to anyone who is trying to query their mode of operation.
- The great mastery help them to correctly assess the level of understanding of other people who they are dealing with in a certain subject hence be able to rate and support others to develop deeper understanding of the matter making them to be friendly to other people as there is nothing about them in regard to the subject they can fear.



It's an universal law intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility. Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn.

A Greek philosopher Plato said that empty vessels makes the loudest sound meaning that people who talk a lot about their knowledge, talent or experience are often not as knowledgeable, talented or experienced as they claim to be.

When a container is half empty or having some empty spaces it becomes difficult to carry especially if what is within it is moving even when the content is in liquid form for example if you carry ten litres of water in a twenty litres jerrican on your back the water will be moving sideways, you will be unstable even if you transport

such liquid with a lorry with the container being half empty the lorry will be unstable. A similar case happens to those people with little knowledge it challenges most of them in dealing with issues regarding the subject that they are not well conversant with.

Those people who doubt their knowledge has a hard time trying to prove the much they know. The big question to them is whether those around them are aware about their level of knowledge. In an attempt to prove to people that you have a lot of knowledge of the subject people try to exaggerate whatever little they have.

The ones with limited knowledge about a certain subject when put in charge majority of them have fear that they may be overshadowed by their juniors so they keep suspecting their juniors or trying to micro-

manage the processes. What troubles them is their inability to verify whether the work done or going on is done through the correct process.

Those with good mastery of the tasks they do are always able to remain in charge at all times without need for consultation.

They are able to respond to various questions regarding their work in a good way so they do not become hostile to anyone who is trying to query their mode of operation.

The great mastery help them to correctly assess the level of understanding of other people who they are dealing with in a certain subject hence be able to rate and support others to develop deeper understanding of the matter making them to be friendly to other people as there is nothing about them in regard to the subject they can fear.

Thorough understanding of a subject helps one to know what is required to have such an accomplishment. He is able to respect other people who have taken similar steps to attain the standards he has so he will have a good understanding of them.

Knowing that you have knowledge on a certain subject leaves you with no doubt hence no need to prove that you know. This will help you to come up with ideas of how to handle any case that is presented to you in the best possible way without need to exaggerate or feel belittled.

Raila To Lead More Protests Wednesday

By: Capital News

Worth Noting:

- “We even got to KICC where they have always blocked us from accessing and we ended up at Central Park which was our destination from Kamukunji,” he said, “so after this sucessful raly, we are going to have another one on Wednesday next week.”
- Odinga told journalists during a briefing at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Foundation (JOOF) that the move is part of the renewed efforts to pressure President William Ruto out of power.
- “The power belongs to the people and that is why I am saying that we must get it back,” he said as he launched the collection of 10 million signatures.



Violent mobs flocked into streets of Kisii town to protest over high cost of living photo/Elizabeth Angira.

Azimio leader Raila Odinga has announced more protests on Wednesday next week following what he described a “successful mission from the Friday rally.

Odinga said he was happy that his supporters were brave enough to march to the Nairobi Central Business District from Kamukunji where he addressed a rally.

“We made a major achievement because we were able to access the CBD even though police tried to stop us,” he said, declaring that “We are unstoppable.”

Police lobbed teargas to disperse a crowd that was following him from Kamukunji where he was accompanied by dozens of other Opposition leaders.

“We even got to KICC where they have always blocked us from accessing and we ended up at Central Park which was our destination from Kamukunji,” he said, “so after this sucessful raly, we are going to have another one on Wednesday next week.”

Odinga told journalists during a briefing at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Foundation (JOOF) that the move is part of the renewed efforts to pressure President William Ruto out of power.

“The power belongs to the people and that is why I am saying that we must get it back,” he said as he launched the collection of 10 million signatures.

The Azimio leader also fingered police for their move to block the protests which he said is the constitutional right of Kenyans even as he claimed that his convoy had been shot at by during Friday’s demos.

He displayed pictures at the press conference that showed what appeared like a bullet hole on the side of his vehicle.

Another image showed part of his vehicle’s rear window vandalized.

“We were actually aiming to get to the KICC, and they blocked us, and they were shooting in our direction,” Odinga said as he showed journalist parts of the damage to his vehicle.

Earlier Odinga had ordered a mass march to Nairobi’s Central Park on Friday in renewed agitation against President Ruto’s presidency.

However, although Odinga managed to access the City Centre his entourage was met with heavy force by the anti-riot police who deployed teargas and water cannon to stop him and his supporters from accessing Central Park.

Odinga who has refused to ac-

knowledge Ruto’s presidency despite the Supreme Court dismissing his challenge in September 2022 asked his supporters to “directly exercise power” terming President Ruto’s mandate as “illegal”.

“We are saying today that the time for discussions is over. Our constitution in Chapter One, says power is in the hands of the people. And they can exercise that power anytime,” he told his supporters at a rally in Nairobi’s Kamukunji grounds.

Hundreds of Azimio supporters gathered at Kamukunji as Odinga readied for a fresh round of anti-government protests weeks after his troops ditched bipartisan talks in Parliament.

Addressing his supporters on Friday, Odinga who has lost a significant number of Azimio lawmakers to Ruto’s Kenya Kwanza side said Parliament had betrayed Kenyans.

“Kenyans elected leaders to Parliament, and they have betrayed them. Ruto himself who took over power illegally has betrayed Kenyans.”

The opposition chief said the protests were in response to the high cost of living and what he termed as “punitive taxes” imposed by President Ruto’s administration.

Undeterred by the early morning

cold and early morning showers, the supporters voiced their dissatisfaction with the state of the economy and the tax measures enforced by President Ruto’s government under the Finance Act 2023.

Some chanted “tumechoka!” (we’re tired!) as they blew whistles displaying coordinated messages sanctioned by the Odinga-led opposition alliance.

Odinga has since kicked off the collection of 10 million signatures, saying Kenyans are tired after the Finance Bill was approved leading to the skyrocketing commodity prices.

Odinga said stated that he is determined to ensure power gets back to the people through constitutional means.

“Power belongs to the people and that is what the Constitution says,” he told a Saba Saba rally in Kamukunji Friday, “We are starting to collect ten million signatures from today, and by the end of next week we will have them.”

I NEED YOU MOM!!!

When my dreams are dreams
When my pain is heaven.
When my heart is full of sorrow,
I don't need you, mother!

When my head hits the pillow
When my loved ones left me,
When my friends sold my secret
I don't need you, mother!

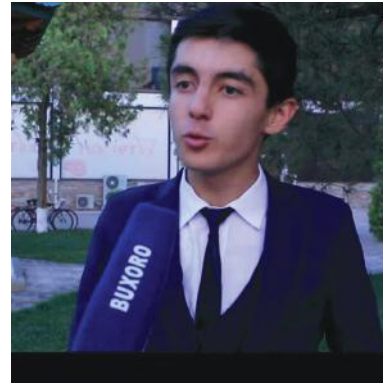
Be the head of our weddings,
You don't fit into our homes,
Pray for us mother,
I don't need you.

I am fed up with your love,
I lay my head on your chest
I bow at your feet,
I don't need you!

Normamatova Mokhichekhra Tokhirovna



Is There Water?



Nature has given millions of blessings to creatures on earth; air, water, fruits. It is impossible to imagine our life without such delicacies. We go outside, take a deep breath, and drink water until we are full at the springs. This is great HAPPINESS.

But is our "happiness" running out? When you are full of water, somewhere a child is looking for water. Somewhere, people are digging wells day and night to drink water. We hardly think about people like us, acting like "I'm hungry and I'm full." We waste hours of water for nothing. Are we not being ungrateful for

the blessings that nature gives? We are not the only ones living in the world. Thousands of people will die in hundreds of remote villages because of our "small" mistake. According to world scientists, after a few years the planet Earth may run out of water. Even after reading this message on the phone and the Internet, we are dealing with the blessings of life as best we know how. On a remote island,

Five or six villages use only one small well. They believe that whoever wastes water should be punished severely. The blessings of nature are diminishing. Huge ice continents are melting in seconds. Due to improper use of water, you can't find a drop of water in the seas, today. Humanity cannot do anything without the will of nature. Only if we stop the water that is wasted in front of us, we will prevent thousands of deaths.

Mukhammad KHODIYEV
Uzbekistan

I Call Him My Moon



I Call him my moon,
Koz of him, my love oozes,
Like a fresh blood, his love circulates in
my veins,
In my heart and my brain I think am
about to get insane!

He's not diplomatic but he can calculate
my moves,
The way he drives me crazy I'd take
actions to sue,
He's not light because as a true African
lady I prefer dark,
Yes "dark dark" koz I need not his skin
reflection, his heart beams light in my
life,
He's six feet tall since I need him to
step higher on our love,
He got nice beards, nice teeth,
His broad smile would make one to keep
gazing,
An African man full of vibes Ooh he's
amazing,
And his outfit, I bet he got a bunch of
secret admirers,
His personality makes me want to brag
to my fellow sisters,
He's a full package and this leaves me
giving a big thanks to Sweet Jesus!

@Wamboo Poetry

Dreams In My Heart



Those times were the time when the autumn season had arrived. The time when the school had just stepped on the threshold... When I always remember these times, I get a strange feeling, because I still remember the first time I went to school and it makes me excited. The decorated bags on the desks, the cute classroom set up just for us, I felt like it was all for me. The school became such a place for me that when I went there, I felt like I was walking into another world, into the world of knowledge... The dreams in my heart did not let me rest at all, it did not even allow me to sleep. I can say that my constant pursuit of news and interest in knowledge in my youth brought me to this point. However, I realized that one incident in my life was a real miracle that changed my big dreams. Being stuck in a wheelchair depressed me, it was as if life stopped for me. At that time, I did not want to talk to anyone, when I was no longer interested in

anything. Forced me, that is, I started walking by writing gratitude, and I felt that my life became more beautiful as soon as I started setting goals for myself. Since my biggest dream was to send my parents on Umrah trip, my health has also changed, even my father: "Daughter, you have been through so many trials, and you are gone. You are almost in the same condition as before, Alhamdulillah, they gave me strength. Even in my worst moments, my dreams and goals did not make me weak, on the contrary, they helped me to recover and return to life." It is my DREAMS that encourage me to walk.

QURBONOVA GULSANAM was born on April 16, 2006 in Dehkanabad district of Kashkadarya region. Today she studies at school 68 in Dehkanabad district. Her articles have been published in international magazines. Journal, "Kenya Times" newspaper, "Page 3 News" newspapers and other international newspapers and magazines covered his creative works. In the field of science, the winner of the regional Olympiad in the German language, prize winner; in the field of sports, table tennis, chess, has won a number of prizes in checkers. Her favorite activities are making decorative flowers, reading books, playing sports. She participates in Young Reader contests due to her love for books.

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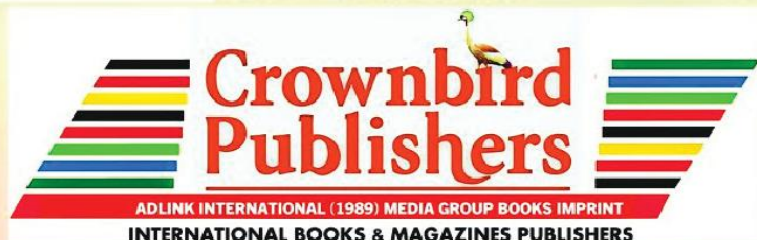
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CLIMATE

Logging Ban Lifted In Commercial Forests Only, CS Tuya Reiterates

By: Capital Correspondent

Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya has reiterated that the lifting of a logging moratorium announced recently by the Government only applies to commercial plantations and not indigenous forests as misconstrued by a section Kenyans.

She said the lifting of the ban imposed by the Government in 2018 following a spike in illegal logging was meant to allow for the harvesting of mature plantations including those owned by the Government.

"We have had a ban on logging existing in the country since 2018. At that time, it was a response to rampant illegal activities and high degradation of our ecosystems.

"When you hear about the lifting of the ban on logging, it only applies to the commercial plantations which have not been touched since 2018 due to the moratorium," CS Tuya reiterated.

The CS spoke on Thursday in North Horr town, Marsabit County where he commissioned Tiniko and Horri Gudha wetlands, restored by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) as part of the 15 billion national tree growing and ecosystem restoration programme.

CS Tuya revealed that Kenya had a total of 150,000 hectares of commercial forests across the country, adding that a maximum of 5,000 hectares will be harvested annually to allow for replanting and regeneration of logged acreage.

"The 150,000 hectares are in parts of our gazetted forests, only there will we allow for harvesting of commercial, exotic trees but not in indigenous forests," the CS said.

She said the lifting of the ban would allow private forest owners who had been restricted by the 2018 moratorium to harvest their mature trees.

"The logging ban also came with restrictions upon private forests where farmers who have forests within their farms could not log. With the lifting of the ban, they will be allowed to log in a regulated manner," the CS said.

To address illegal logging that led to the 2018 ban, CS Tuya said her Ministry was strengthening Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to effectively undertake its enforcement mandate by among other interventions, the recent recruitment of additional rangers.

Additionally, the Cabinet Secretary, who was accompanied by Marsabit County MP Naomi Waqo, said she



Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya.

had ordered KFS to mount a ruthless countrywide crackdown on illegal logging starting in Mau forest complex.

"Because of the reason why we had the ban on logging in the first place, we still have to be vigilant to make sure that no illegal activities are happening within our forests," she said.

CS Tuya also spoke about the ongoing recruitment of youth to support the 15 billion national tree growing programme dubbed 'green army' saying the Government will recruit 4,000 youth in the first cohort.

"We have advertised for the first lot of 4,000 youth and the advert is running up to 22nd of July. That's just the first cohort. We intend to do up to 100,000 young people across the country to help us restore back extension services we need in forest conservation and ecosystem restoration," she said.

On wetlands restoration, CS Tuya said the programme fits into her Ministry's 15 billion national tree growing programme and Kenya's broad climate action agenda spearheaded by President William Ruto who is the current Chairperson of the

Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

"The President is leading from the front, that's why we have the first ever Africa Climate Summit happening in September in Nairobi," the CS said.

At the same time, CS Tuya said the ongoing reform of the climate change law to streamline carbon markets will be complete by September this year.

"For a very long time, we've had carbon credit projects happening in Kenya without the Government knowing their extent or collecting revenues.

"For communities, revenue sharing arrangements have been opaque. It is not known how much goes to the investor and how much goes to communities," CS Tuya said.

Later, the CS addressed a public baraza in North Horr town where he rallied area residents to take up tree growing as an intervention to mitigate against climate change and the expanding Chalbi Desert.

"If we conserve our environment we will be able to end drought. We will get water. We will get food," the CS rallied North Horr residents as he

thanked NEMA for restoring Tiniko and Horri Gudha wetlands.

Other speakers at the public baraza were NEMA Director General Mamo Mamo, Narok County MP Naomi Waqo and North Horr Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) Sylvester Mwangulu.

Hon Waqo reiterated the Cabinet Secretary's call for restoration of wetlands in the expansive County including Aite wetland which she said was the lifeline of Saku sub-county.

The County MP promised to lead a massive tree growing campaign in North Horr soon saying the recent drought was "an eye opener".

"The journey we have started today is the journey to transform the desert. Conservation of the environment is the work of wananchi. If we take care of the environment, it will take care of us.

"Please take good care of the trees we plant. I will come here to bring development during which we will plant trees," Hon Waqo assured.

Worth Noting:

- The CS spoke on Thursday in North Horr town, Marsabit County where he commissioned Tiniko and Horri Gudha wetlands, restored by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) as part of the 15 billion national tree growing and ecosystem restoration programme.
- CS Tuya revealed that Kenya had a total of 150,000 hectares of commercial forests across the country, adding that a maximum of 5,000 hectares will be harvested annually to allow for replanting and regeneration of logged acreage.
- "The 150,000 hectares are in parts of our gazetted forests, only there will we allow for harvesting of commercial, exotic trees but not in indigenous forests," the CS said.

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Date: 14th June

Time: 9am – 5pm

Venue: Apollo Centre,
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African Union Unveils Major New Fund For Investment In Biotech And AI Startups

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- The 4D Pact will lead to a new framework for channelling massive resources being raised by African Union agencies from development finance institutions and international aid organisations to more agile innovators such as startups, university spinoffs, and SMEs who today struggle to raise finance for areas critical to development.
- Resourcing these more agile economic actors is expected to have a significant impact on major developmental contexts where Africa still lags behind such as health, trade, local manufacturing, and job growth.
- The AU institutions at the forefront of this ambitious push to shift more resources to innovators to tackle neglected development sectors are: the AfCFTA Secretariat, Africa CDC, AUDA-NEPAD, Africa Civic Aviation Commission, and the Africa Capacity Building Foundation.

African leaders are looking to inspire a new generation of innovators who can increase Africa's competitiveness in globally hot technology fields such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology and health sciences.

The leaders, convened by the African Union and AfroChampions, hope to create the next homegrown unicorns based in Africa, hiring Africans and building products and services focused on Africa's unique problems and challenges so that the continent stops being overdependent on imported technology.

During the pandemic, Africa's overdependence was manifested through shortages of personnel protective equipment, ventilators, vaccines and therapies, among others.

Leading African Union (AU) agency heads are poised to announce the ambitious plan at a virtual summit dubbed the Boma of Africa on 8th July to launch an initiative called 4D. The Agency Heads will sign a pact to mobilise tens of millions of dollars to boost the initiative at the Boma.

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The key problem that the AU 4D Pact is solving is bridging the current gulf between private funding for innovation and traditional development financing for Social objectives, which unfortunately continues to widen.

This chasm has led to large amounts of private funding going to agile innovators for useful economic activities like fintech and ecommerce but with limited applicability to the surrounding development infrastructure that will make Africa economically resilient.

Many of the venture capital and private equity funded products and services struggle to scale and most fail to expand into critical sectors like health, agriculture, education and natural resource value addition due to weak infrastructure, institutional support and government incentives.

To address this gap, the 4D Initiative adds a special layer of venture building, scaling and support systems to the financial commitments to im-

prove the prospects of success for the Innovative entities that qualify for success. According to the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, the details of the 4D Initiative are still being worked out, but the underlying model was built on the Trillion Dollar Fund (TDF) initiative launched in 2020 by the African Union Commission at the instance of the Assembly of Heads of State, the supreme policy organ of the African Union.

Phase one initial pledges for the TDF and 4d have collectively crossed the \$1 billion.

"Most of the resource commitments are linked to existing commitments in vaccine manufacturing and genomics across different agencies. What is changing is that the Pact will shift more of these committed resources to new actors in Kenya and other major centers of African innovation; and such actors include Startups, University Spinoffs, Accelerators, Incubators and Intellectual Property (IP) commercialisation entities," said Nsanzabaganwa.

Development Finance Institutions being mobilised by the AU include BADEA, AFC, AfDB and Afreximbank.

4D Stakeholders will now drive the African Union strategy to expand investment in Africa into local production of advanced technologies with critical social impact such as

medicines, vaccines, medical devices, gene therapies, biotech, artificial intelligence and biomaterials.

Whilst the Trillion Dollar Fund initially aimed to boost trade in African-made goods under the AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area), the scope will now expand to manufacturing and technology development.

With a strong focus on biotech innovation, digital health, artificial intelligence, and the green economy.

To ensure that the mobilized funds make a significant social impact, the initiative has already established an innovation marketplace and common digital platforms.

These platforms will enable startups to rapidly scale up their services. Among the platforms are the AfCFTA Hub, ProPer, PanaBIOS, and Transforma.

Additionally, the initiative will support the commercialization of research at African universities by fostering spinoffs.

At its core, the 4D Initiative envisions an innovation-driven marketplace that encourages cross-border collaboration to shape a greener continent and generate climate-smart jobs.

On the occasion of Africa Integration Day, influential stakeholders from across the continent, convened by the African Union and AfroChampions, are virtually coming together to articulate a groundbreaking action plan for the 4D roadmap.

The plan aims to leverage the power of technology as an enabler, foster a culture of collaboration, and propel science market, offers abundant opportunities in sectors such as biomedicine, vaccines, biopharmaceuticals, e-genomics, and biosecurity, just waiting to be tapped into.

By signing the 4D pact, continental integration will receive a much-needed boost, leading to job creation and the establishment of robust knowledge economies.

This endeavor aligns with the Africa Union's Agenda 2063, which outlines the vision for the desired future of the continent. During the summit, Tidjane Thiam, an esteemed international banker, will deliver a keynote speech on positioning Africa for global relevance.

The Boma event will also be attended by various Presidents and business leaders, including the Presidents of Ghana, Ethiopia, and Comoros, with the latter currently chairing the African Union.

County Implements Climate Change Mitigation Measures

By: Esther Mwangi and Sam
Karanja
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The Chief Officer disclosed that the County Government and its partners were working with communities to facilitate the reseedling of degraded rangelands so as to increase the availability of livestock pasture, protect the revived rangelands, and promote their sustainable use so as to avert any destruction.
- “It’s not only human beings that are feeling the effects of climate change but also wildlife; the ecosystem and livestock have been affected,” Mr. Mungai said.
- For the long term, the Chief Officer indicated that Governor Susan Kihika’s administration had started a vigorous tree planting and nurturing campaign to increase the County Forest cover in line with the country’s vision of increasing forest cover to 30 per cent by 2032.



The County Government of Nakuru has embarked on promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices such as agroforestry to mitigate the effects of climate change. The devolved unit has also scaled up its investments in renewable energy sources, particularly solar, to help reduce greenhouse emissions and promote sustainable energy. According to the Chief Officer in Charge of Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources, Mr. Kennedy Mungai, the County administration was also supporting farmers to receive training on climate-smart agricultural techniques, to enable them to enjoy increased crop and animal yields despite their environmental conditions. Mungai said the farmers were being equipped with the new techniques, including conservation agriculture, integrated pest management, the use of drought-resistant crop varieties, drip irrigation, water harvesting, and promoting sustainable livestock practices like rotational grazing. “In tandem with these capacity-building initiatives, communities have been supported to access farm inputs, establish thriving kitchen gardens, and acquire small animal stock like goats and chickens. These

endeavours bolster household food security, nutrition, and income levels,” Mungai added. The Chief Officer disclosed that the County Government and its partners were working with communities to facilitate the reseedling of degraded rangelands so as to increase the availability of livestock pasture, protect the revived rangelands, and promote their sustainable use so as to avert any destruction. “It’s not only human beings that are feeling the effects of climate change but also wildlife; the ecosystem and livestock have been affected,” Mr. Mungai said. For the long term, the Chief Officer indicated that Governor Susan Kihika’s administration had started a vigorous tree planting and nurturing campaign to increase the County Forest cover in line with the country’s vision of increasing forest cover to 30 per cent by 2032. While acknowledging that planting fruit trees had additional benefits as sources of food, the CECM explained that trees produce oxygen needed by living things in addition to providing protection for birds and mammals and reducing the amount of stormwater runoff, which in turn reduces erosion and pollution in wa-

terways. Speaking in Molo when he inaugurated a two-day workshop of agricultural sector stakeholders aimed at addressing impacts of climate change, Mr. Mungai indicated that the main focus of his department for the next five years will be climate change mitigation and adaptation, with a clear emphasis on green energy, water resource management, and unexploited opportunities brought by climate change. “We aim at ensuring that Nakuru becomes a county with low carbon emissions and achieves a climate-resilient economy that sustains the livelihoods of its residents while contributing to the national development agenda. Our objectives revolve around food and water security, environmental conservation, green energy, and sustainable financing, among others,” said the Chief Officer. The workshop that was organized by the County Government in collaboration with the Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) was also attended by the Director of Environment and Climate Change, Ms. Grace Karanja, as well as county and sub-county environment officers and administrators.

At the same time, Mr. Mungai regretted that there was enough evidence of climate change in Nakuru; a challenge he noted was systematically erasing the county from the list of top food baskets in the country. He said the County was experiencing prolonged drought, extreme precipitation, and the risk of flooding, which he noted had been increasing with the long rainy seasons becoming shorter and drier, while the short rainy seasons were turning longer and wetter, resulting in the floods. He added that the devolved unit was, as a result, building the resilience of communities to climate change by constructing or upgrading water infrastructure so as to enable families to enjoy clean and safe piped water all year round, even in times of drought. The County, he added, was also nurturing a generation of youth environmental conservation champions who will leave no stone unturned in their pursuit of climate change mitigation and adaptation, a move he said was aimed at fostering a legacy of environmental stewardship.

Thembelani Majingo Annual Soccer Tournament

under 21

Top 16

Prizes 1st

kit,beeps,ball,medals,trophy

2nd: beeps,ball,medals

3rd:beeps,ball,medals

Individual awards

- .Goalkeeper of the tournament
- .Top goalscorer of the tournament
- . player of the tournament

Date: 15,16 December 2023

venue: Green central sports ground,Madibogo village in NW.

Time:08h00-18h00 daily

Registration opens now
closing date: 1 November 2023



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For more information
Thembelani Majingo Foundation Fa



Unclaimed Assets Authority Seeks Amendments To Expedite Payout Process

By: Wangari Mwangi and Samuel Maina
@themkenyatimes

The Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority (UFAA) is seeking to amend the Unclaimed Financial Assets Act number 40 of 2011 in order to reduce the time taken by Kenyans to access their claims from the authority.

Under the current framework, it takes 90 days from the time a person files a claim on an asset to the time the authority finally delivers its decision regarding the asset.

Additionally, all claims, including small-value claims, are subjected to the same lengthy process, which often discourages individuals with small claims from pursuing their assets.

According to UFAA’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO), John Mwangi, the proposed amendments will also seek to integrate technology, which will in turn improve the claim settlement process.

Additionally, Mwangi says that the authority is also pushing for the harmonisation of all other existing laws on unclaimed assets to eliminate any hindrance that could bar UFAA from



UFAA’s Chief Executive Officer John Mwangi with Huduma Kenya’s Ben Kai addressing the media in Nyeri.

accessing the unclaimed assets from the holders.

“There are amendments which are supposed to be made to the UFAA Act 40 of 2011. The current legal framework doesn’t differentiate whether one is claiming Sh 1 million or Sh 10 because the process is the same. So we are working with the legislators to change our legal framework to make it easy for the claimant so that once we establish who you are, then we are able to pay you your money without the lengthy

process,” said Mwangi.

The CEO was speaking in Nyeri during the launch of a three-day public sensitisation drive where members of the public were encouraged to check their status on any unclaimed assets.

The drive, which will be jointly undertaken by Huduma Kenya, was also aimed at encouraging holding institutions such as banks and Saccos to surrender unclaimed financial assets in their possession.

Currently, the authority holds Sh

27.28 billion in cash in the form of unclaimed bank deposits, savings deposits, dividends declared by various companies, money from telecoms, unclaimed pensions, and Sacco deposits. UFAA is also in possession of 1.2 billion units of unclaimed shares.

Similarly, the authority has paid out Sh 2 billion in cash and another 39.7 million units of shares, with Mwangi blaming the low reunification rates on a lack of awareness among the general public about UFAA.

“The main challenge is that a lot of people do not know about UFAA, and that is why we have started the nationwide initiative to sensitise people to check or collect their unclaimed assets. It is imperative that these monies be reunited with their rightful owners and ploughed back into the economy,” said Mwangi.

From Nyeri, the campaign will be rolled out in Kiambu and Thika. Ben Kai, the Huduma Kenya CEO, said that they would be partnering with UFAA to ensure that they bring the public closer to their assets. He noted that five out of the 52 Huduma centres in the country had already set up an UFAA desk, and plans were underway to popularize the service in the remaining 47 centres under the Huduma Mashinani outreach programme.

“We have Huduma centres in all 47 counties, and our work is to bring all government services closer to Kenyans. This is a platform that UFAA can leverage on to reach as many Kenyans as possible. As Huduma, we have also come up with another channel, Huduma Mashinani, where we will be taking the services right to the doorstep of Kenyans and bringing them closer to their assets that would have been lost,” said Kai.

Treasury Secures Ksh 70B To Fund Stalled Projects

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

The National Treasury has secured Ksh 70 billion (\$500m) through a syndicated loan organized by a consortium of five international lenders.

This is part of the Ksh 84 billion (\$600m) that Kenya was seeking in the international market to finance various projects in the 2022/2023 budget.

A statement by the five lenders has not disclosed the interest the three and five-year loans will attract.

Treasury plans to borrow Ksh 200 billion from the international market in the fiscal year 2023/24 to repay maturing debts and fund stalled projects, especially in the transport

sector.

The funds are expected to ease the cash flow crisis and boost the country’s dwindling foreign exchange reserves which have taken a hit from the weakening shilling.

Treasury coffers are cash-strained amid debt maturity pressure coupled with highly ballooned debt-servicing costs in recent years and is considering a raft of interventions including going for another Eurobond to help deal with the situation.

In March this year, Kenya approached four international lenders namely, Standard Chartered Bank of the UK, US-based CitiGroup, and South African lenders Standard Bank and Rand Merchant Bank to arrange a Ksh 84 billion facility.

However, the markets have been unfavorable due to dollar pressure

and the ongoing commodity market crisis that has made international financial markets volatile.

In the current financial year, Kenya is tapping Ksh 405 billion loan at the Africa Export and Import Bank whose cost will vary depending on the purpose of every withdrawn portion during the three years that the facility will be active.

Expert says the trade financing route is expected to be cheaper than the concessional loan withdrawals since the bank will only factor in the commissions for every project supported.



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Sports >> *Commonwealth Games 800m champion Mary Moraa admits she will need a lot of divine intervention if she is to clinch the World title at August's World Championships in Budapest.

Commonwealth Champ Moraa Leaves It 'In God's Hands' As She Eyes World Title In Budapest



Mary Moraa reacts after a past race. PHOTO/Timothy Olobulu.

Commonwealth Games 800m champion Mary Moraa admits she will need a lot of divine intervention if she is to clinch the World title at August's World Championships in Budapest.

The World 800m bronze medalist is widely tipped by many to clinch gold in the Hungarian capital but she thinks such predictions are null and void without God in it.

"As I have said before, I am looking for a podium finish in Budapest. I've been in the form of my life but if I say that means I will win gold, then it would be

premature. I know all the other athletes I will face have similarly worked hard and will present a portent threat to me," Moraa said.

Moraa added that her morale has gone through the roof ever since she clocked 1:57.07 to win the Commonwealth title in Birmingham.

She is hoping that her confidence remains sky high as she heads to Budapest for another shot at the world title.

"After Birmingham, I saw that my morale had gone up a lot. I have also had older athletes

who have been mentoring me and guiding me. I am looking to continue on the same path to Budapest and I hope I will be in top shape when I get to the start line," she said.

Moraa was at her usual best on Friday afternoon when she clocked a national record of 50.38 to win the women's 400m at the national trials for the World Championships at Nyayo Stadium.

Mercy Odongo finished second in 52.22 as Maureen Nyatichi came third in 52.75.

Moraa was elated at her feat,

expressing her desire for more of the same.

"It is something I am so proud of...I thank God for it and look forward to breaking more records," she said.

Moraa added: "I don't know about doubling in the 400m and 800m. That is something I leave to the selection panel. For me, my focus is on the women's 800m where I hope for a podium finish."

Capital News

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Double world champion and record holder Faith Kipyegon is flirting with the idea that she might double at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest next month, after winning in the 5,000m at the Kenyan trials on Friday.

On-Form Kipyegon Flirting With The Idea Of Doubling At The World Championships



Faith Kipyegon wins the women's 5,000m race at the National Trials. PHOTO/Timothy Olobulu.

Double world champion and record holder Faith Kipyegon is flirting with the idea that she might double at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest next month, after winning in the 5,000m at the Kenyan trials on Friday.

Kipyegon broke both the 1500m and 5,000m World Records last month.

With a wildcard already in her specialty 1500m race, she believes she can do the 5,000m as well.

“I am preparing to double with

both the 1500m and 5,000m next year at the Paris Olympics and I am also thinking of the same at the World Championships. Of course, my big aim is the 1500m where I want to defend my title and that is the big fish I want to go for,” Kipyegon said after winning the Trials.

She added; “This year I had two targets, one of which was the World Record and I have already achieved it. Now, the next thing is to defend my title and that is what I am going for in Budapest.

At the Trials, Kipyegon was peerless in the 5,000m race, winning in a time of 14 minutes, 53.90 seconds ahead of Lilian Kasait who timed 14 minutes, 56.50 seconds. Kasait ia assured of making the team by virtue of finishing second. Margaret Chelimo, third in the 10,000m in Oregon last year finished third in 15:07.49 and might also make the team.

Meanwhile, Kipyegon will turn her attention to the Monaco leg of the Diamond League, her final competition before the Worlds.

She will comoeete in the mile and she hopes for a good performance to spur her into Budapest with high spirits.

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Backpage



Airtel Kenya Rolls Out 5G Network In Sixteen Counties

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Since the first launch by Safaricom in October last year, Kenya has added 373, 573 5G subscriptions according to the third quarter sector statistics report by the communications authority (CA).
- Speaking during the launch, Information, Communication and Digital Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo said the continuous expansion of the fifth generation network in Kenya by mobile network operators is will help spur economic growth through establishment of smart industries, industrial automation and enhance service delivery in among other sectors, health, education, transport and agriculture.



Digital Economy CS Eliud Owalo experiencing gaming.

Airtel Kenya has announced the availability of its high speed 5G network in sixteen counties in Kenya becoming the second mobile network operator to do so.

The mobile service provider Managing Director Ashish Malhotra says Airtel Kenya has constructed more than 370 active 5G sites in 180 wards across the country.

"Today marks a significant milestone as we proudly introduce our 5G network, a state-of-the-art infrastructure that provides data speeds up to 10 times faster than 4G, incredibly low latency, and the ability to seamlessly connect billions of devices. Airtel 5G will revolutionize various sectors, such as smart cities, education, healthcare, Agri-tech, transport systems, entertainment, and more, shaping the future of Kenya," said Malhotra.

Since the first launch by Safaricom in October last year, Kenya has added 373, 573 5G subscriptions according to the third quarter sector statistics report by the communications authority (CA).

Speaking during the launch, Information, Communication and Digital

Economy Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo said the continuous expansion of the fifth generation network in Kenya by mobile network operators is will help spur economic growth through establishment of

smart industries, industrial automation and enhance service delivery in among other sectors, health, education, transport and agriculture.

"The launch of this platform is yet another major milestone, in the

growth of Kenya's mobile telephony and data services," said Owalo.

The telco says Airtel 5G network will be concentrated in specific zones, including highly populated residential areas, malls, hospitals, city centers, and central business districts.

The designated 5G zones will be clearly marked for customers' convenience in identifying and accessing faster internet speeds so long as they have 5G-ready devices.

"Our 5G launch positions Airtel at the forefront of a technological revolution that exemplifies our dedication to progress, innovation, and empowering our people. The benefits that will transform businesses and industries will create opportunities to further unlock Kenya's potential," added Anthony Shiner, Airtel Africa Chief Commercial Officer.

As at March this year, out of 47.96 million mobile data subscriptions, 15.8 million were on 2G, 3G had 10.6 million while 4G had the highest subscriptions at 21.2 million.

Airtel Kenya currently has 3,200 sites which provide network coverage of 89pc in all 47 counties. The telco is targeting to roll out 650 additional sites this year of which 50pc have been deployed.

