



Central Region's Mixed Reactions Over The State Of Logging

Controversy continues to surround the lifting of a six-year moratorium on the logging ban after the High Court issued conservative orders rescinding the directive.

At the same time, loggers from the Central region who had borne the brunt of the ban now claim there was another High Court ruling that had granted them access to the government forests

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News>>Tana Water Works Development Agency Donates To Group Allied To Dorcas Rigathi Foundation

P. 8. Mount Kenya region based water organisation, Tana Water Works Development Agency has chipped in to promote the undertakings of recently rehabilitated drugs and alcohol addicts.



Motivation>>Youth - Teen Leadership In Adolescent

P. 12. Youth groups can play a vital role in supporting young people to grow and build skills to succeed in their lives.



Business>>Renewed Partnership between CFAO Kenya Limited and Equity Bank Kenya Empowers Farmers with Enhanced Financing Options. P. 16

Kenya, Mozambique Commit To Strengthen Bonds

 The head of State said “Kenya celebrates the long-standing warm and cordial relations between the two countries” even as he undertook to strengthen ties between Nairobi and Maputo, “to enhance trade volumes that remain relatively low.” The President lauded the agreements signed Thursday, for instance in the area of security saying the stability of countries is front and center of any meaningful nationhood.



President William Ruto and President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi in Maputo, Mozambique

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Bitok Meets Vice Chancellors To Fast-Track Onboarding Of Universities On E-Citizen

By: Capital Correspondent

Public universities are racing against time to beat the end-year deadline to migrate over 1,000 ser-

vices including admission procedures on the e-citizen portal.

Speaking during the opening of a retreat bringing together Vice Chancellors and other senior administrators from 47 public universities,

Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary Prof Julius Bitok said the move in line with a presidential directive on consolidation of government services on a single

STORY ON PAGE 13

Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary Prof Julius Bitok/FILE



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Government, IGAD Collaborate On Transboundary Pest Management

By: Nice Wambui and District Masinde

@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Linturi expressed his concerns over the region's increased vulnerability to climate change and observed intensification of extreme climate events, including droughts and floods and their impact on food security and livelihoods.
- He further recognised the crucial role of technology and data to enhance efficiency of risk transfer and microinsurance corporations, which will recognise the need for awareness campaigns and educational programmes to promote the benefits of risk transfer and microinsurance organisms.



Agriculture Principal Secretary at the State Department for Crop Development in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Josephat Muhunyu and other delegates pose for a photo.

The Ministers, Heads of Delegations and representatives of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member states have embarked on the path to discuss and share collective understanding of the region's state of risk transfer mechanisms and transboundary pest management and affirm shared commitment to promote proactive risk management.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Cabinet Secretary (CS), Mithika Linturi, lauded the initiative by IGAD through its climate prediction and application centre (ICPAC) and the support provided by the United States of America in the role of risk transfer and microinsurance mechanisms in building the resilience of societies against various risks.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Agriculture Principal Secretary at the State Department for Crop Development in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Josephat Muhunyu, the CS said, "There are many risks like climate-related disasters and disease outbreaks that transcend national boundaries and there is a need to explore opportunities for cross-border

collaboration in order to effectively address shared challenges."

Linturi expressed his concerns over the region's increased vulnerability to climate change and observed intensification of extreme climate events, including droughts and floods and their impact on food security and livelihoods.

He further recognised the crucial role of technology and data to enhance efficiency of risk transfer and microinsurance corporations, which will recognise the need for awareness campaigns and educational programmes to promote the benefits of risk transfer and microinsurance organisms.

"I urge Member states through the IGAD secretariat to be proactive in sharing information and best practises to co-ordinate and build the necessary capacities in combating the locust menace to predict, monitor and control the spread of new swarms," Linturi said.

In addition, the CS declared joint commitment to develop a comprehensive road map that prioritises the strengthening of the region's food systems and enhancing resilience to the multi-dimensional risks that impact food security across the region to promote their wellbeing and sustainable development, which will lead to peace.

"I commit to working with Desert Locust Control Organisation of Eastern Africa (DLCO_EA) and Food and Agricultural Organisations (FAO) to collaborate and synergize their activities in combating desert locust and other transboundary pests and provide technical support to member state to enhance early warning systems," he noted.

The IGAD Executive Secretary, Dr Workneh Gebeyeh, said that the recent assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that climate change is a threat to all future development efforts in Africa due to high vulnerability of local communities and their low capacity to address the impacts of climate variability and change.

"Food insecurities caused by extreme weather events, transboundary pest infestations, violent conflict and micro-economic challenges in the IGAD region have reached unprecedented and alarming level," he said.

Gebeyeh emphasised the need to come together as a unified force to address vulnerability more effectively, promote sustainable development and build resilience among pastoralists and subsistence farmers.

"The integration of risk transfer and microinsurance services into community-based approaches is vital for promoting social cohesion and mutual support, which will improve access to education and health care for the vulnerable population within our region," he added.

He noted that to maximise the impact, they should address challenges such as limited awareness, financial literacy and regulatory barriers through United efforts so as to ensure(implementation and long-term success.

Gebeyeh emphasised that implanting integrated pest management (IPM) practises across the region will reduce reliance on chemical pesticides and promote sustainable pest control since pest control regulations will facilitate smooth movement of Agricultural commodities, thus increasing trade opportunities and ultimately enhancing food security.



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Why Construction Of Five County Headquarters Stalled - PS Arumonyang

By: PSCU

The Principal Secretary for Land, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, State Department for Public Works Joel Arumonyang` yesterday a Senate Committee that inadequate funds is to blame for stalled County Headquarters.

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget heard that lack of adequate funding is among the challenges that have slowed or stopped completion of construction of 5 County Headquarters in the country.

PS Arumonyang explained to the Senator Ali Roba led committee how construction of county headquarters of Isiolo, Nyandarua, Tharaka Nithi, Lamu and Tana River were slowed or stalled, appealing to the Senate to intervene and help sort out the issue.

The PS submitted that in Isiolo the



The Principal Secretary for Land, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, State Department for Public Works Joel Arumonyang` yesterday at Senate

project was only 50 per cent complete, in Tharaka Nithi 82 per cent and 60 per cent complete in Tana River County.

In Lamu and Nyandarua counties,

the construction is at 60 and 55 per cent complete respectively.

The ministry was given one month to deliberate and give a report on transfer of the contracts to the five

counties fully.

Members in attendance were Mandera County Senator Ali Roba (Chairperson), Mohamed Faki (Mombasa), Richard Onyonka (Kisii), Eddy

Oketch (Migori) and their colleague from Kakamega County Dr. Boni Khalwale.

Kisii County Rival Boda Boda Chair Fred Nunda Remanded at Kisii Main Prison, Awaiting Murder Charges Plea

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Kisii county rival boda boda chair Fred Nunda has been remanded at Kisii main Prison, awaiting murder charges plea.

The suspect was alleged to have connection with the death of the deceased James Omare a rider who was injured four months ago when warring faction of boda boda riders clashed and died while undergoing treatment at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital.

The suspect appeared before Kisii Law courts which ordered him to undergo a mental assessment at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH) in connection with murder.

Deputy Registrar, Dorcas Mac` Andere also ordered that Fred Nunda, a boda boda chair be remanded at Kisii prison 14th August.

She directed the prosecution, led by

James Morande to avail him to court to take a plea on miscellaneous murder charges preferred by the prosecution.

In his application, Morande told the court the suspect to be remanded at the prison to avoid tension and be arraigned after a mental assessment has been done on him.

The Prosecutor told the court Nunda was arrested in Nyamira County, saying, he is a resident of Gesonso in Kisii couth Sub County, Kisii County.

Nunda`s lawyer, Wilkins Ochoki urged the court to remand him at a police station but the prosecutor opposed, saying, a station has a specific number of people to be hold there for 24 hours before they are arraigned in Court.

Further, Morande said that the prison has a remand section and it is for his safety cited that Nunda`s Lawyer has not given a reason why he wants him to be hold at a police station.

Ochoki objected the application of detaining his client at Kisii main



Kisii County Rival Boda Boda Chair Fred Nunda Arraigned at Kisii Law Courts. Photo /Elizabeth Angira

prison, and a resident of Kisii, and he is not only boda boda chair, but also leading over 300 riders in the town

The lawyer told the court police have a mandate to ensure that, there is peace and order, saying that if there is any breach of peace, police will

take action.

He said the application by the prosecution to remand him at the prison was premature since he had not taken a plea on the charges.

Ochoki said that the accused person has not taken a plea and there is no

evidence to support the prosecution`s belief there will be a breach of peace.

Lawyer, George Morara is representing the victim`s family.

He will be appear in court on 14th for plea taking.

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THEME:
*Promoting Climate Smart
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Digitising Farmers' Records Improves Production

By: Arnold Linga Masila

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- He further said that the centralised system would also ensure support in a range of other areas that reinforce a seamless agricultural production landscape, including extension services, cooperative planning, marketing, and investor collaboration, among others.
- The national government has been firm on ensuring food security, focusing on four major value chains: staple foods, livestock, dairy, and horticulture.



Principal Secretary in the State Department for Crop Development, Harsama Kello.

The national government has made a clarion call to farmers countrywide to register and reap benefits from the centralised Kenya Integrated Agriculture Management Information System (KIAMIS).

The call was made by Principal Secretary in the State Department for Crop Development, Harsama Kello, during a meeting in Nairobi that brought together Agricultural Value Chain Actors under the umbrella of the National Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP).

The PS said that having all the farmers on a centralised platform would make it possible to effectively distrib-

ute agricultural subsidies while at the same time identifying each county's potential and pumping resources into viable projects.

"Having all farmers' data in one place will make it easy to plan for food production in the country. It will be easy to identify each region's potential and put resources into productive projects," said Kello.

He further said that the centralised system would also ensure support in a range of other areas that reinforce a seamless agricultural production landscape, including extension services, cooperative planning, marketing, and investor collaboration, among others.

The national government has been firm on ensuring food security, focusing on four major value chains: staple foods, livestock, dairy, and horticulture.

According to Kello, the country aims to plant 200,000 acres under sunflower farming and the plans to procure seeds are already underway.

In yet another move to make good on its food security agenda, the national government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has embarked on an ambitious plan to turn 500,000 acres of idle public land into food production zones.

This move, according to Kello, will

go a long way towards curbing the perennial shortage of maize, the number one staple food for Kenyans, and avoiding the importation bottlenecks that rule the global maize market.

In Taita Taveta County, the food security bug has stung the administration, and multiple plans are currently in motion to revamp food production and value-added chains.

The key sub-sectors leading the new realisation are dairy, rice, banana, livestock, and poultry production, which have seen increased resource allocation from the devolved unit's budget and support from the national government and non-governmental organisations.

Speaking at the event held in Nairobi, Taita Taveta County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Irrigation, Erickson Kyongo, said the current administration has already made bold steps in supporting food production, value addition, and market chains.

Part of the county's ambitious plan is to see milk production rise from the current 20 million litres to 30 million litres per year, boost rice production from 4644 tonnes to 12,000 tonnes annually, and complete the banana factory at Taveta.

"We've got a clear roadmap of what we need to do as part of the food security agenda, and we count on the support of the national government, NGOs, and private players to achieve these ambitious goals," said Kyongo about the county's preparedness for the five-year NAVCDP life cycle.

The

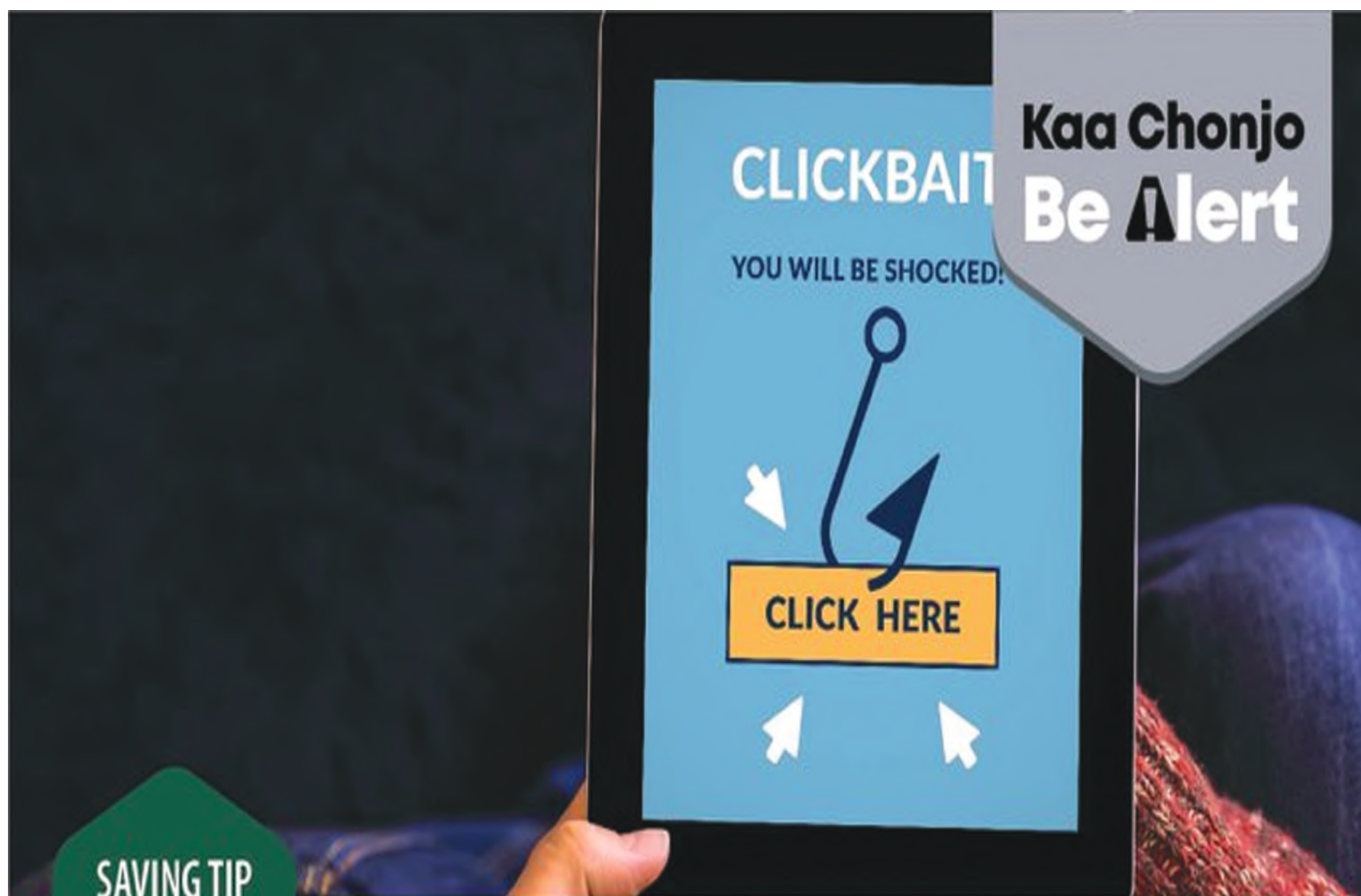
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Tana Water Works Development Agency Donates To Group Allied To Dorcas Rigathi Foundation

By: Our Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Mount Kenya region based water organisation, Tana Water Works Development Agency has chipped in to promote the undertakings of recently rehabilitated drugs and alcohol addicts.

The group, working from Hiriga Health Centre in Kiamariga Township in Mathira constituency received a 10,000 litre water tank, which they will be using to store the commodity for watering seedlings.

The agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka presented the tank to the group through the coordinator of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua's spouse charity organisation; Dorcas Rigathi Foundation.

The coordinator Bishop Barnabas Kinyua, while receiving the donation said it will ease water shortage in the group's main activity of nurturing seedlings.

He said that apart from the seed-



Some of the group members at work. Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU

lings project, the group of men and women was involved in sporting activities as a way of keeping away from drugs and alcohol.

He disclosed that the group members recently underwent a rehabilitation programme after indulging in various drugs and alcoholic beverages.

After coming out of the rehabilitation, Pastor Dorcas took over the role of mentoring them and, through

her foundation, she funded the seedlings nurturing programme which they undertake at the compound of the health facility.

The Bishop revealed that the Second Lady was carrying out such activities in various other parts of the mountain region where he coordinates her programmes and also in other parts of the country.

Gideon Kamwiti, the group supervisor thanked the Second Lady for



Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka handing over a water tank to Bishop Barnabas Kinyua yesterday

her kind gesture saying most of the members were now able to make a saving from the wages they get for engaging in the project.

He said with adequate water supply, they will now be able to realize their dream of having over 500,000 seedlings in the next few months.

Wilson Nguri, a member revealed that him and other members were

now able to invest since they no longer engaged themselves in alcoholism activities.

While presenting the tank, the Agency chairman said they were planning to drill and equip a borehole.

The borehole, he noted will be expected to supply the commodity to the local public institutions and also some farmers.

The NG-CDF Committee Commences A Countrywide Public Participation Forum On NG-CDF Act Amendments

By: PSCU

The National Assembly's Select Committee on the National Government Constituency Development Fund, led by Chairperson Musa Sirma from Elama Ravine, has initiated a series of public participation forums across the country.

To facilitate engagement, the committee has been subdivided into various subcommittees, each tasked with covering different counties and engaging with the public.

The chairperson led a subcommittee to Nakuru County, where they actively engaged with representatives from all eleven constituencies within the county.

The main aim of these public participation forums is to stimulate meaningful discussions and refine the proposed amendments to the



Musa Sirma addressing journalists yesterday in Nakuru.

National Government Constituency Development Act No. 30 of 2015.

This proactive approach ensures that the amendments align harmoniously with a recent Supreme Court ruling, emphasizing the essential separation of powers between the

National Government and County Governments.

The integration of public participation as a crucial aspect of this amendment process reflects a commitment to democratic decision-making and effective governance.

The collective sentiment of Nakuru County's residents highlighted the National Government Constituency Development Fund's commendable efforts in advancing education and development projects.

The residents expressed their support for increased bursary allocations and proposed the introduction of special school sports for the handicapped.

This demonstrates a strong desire to ensure inclusivity and equal opportunities.

During the committee's engagement in Kericho County, they met with representatives from the county's six constituencies. A particularly moving testimony was shared by a disadvantaged student who had dropped out of school. Thanks to the intervention of the area's Member of Parliament, Joseph Cherorot, through the NG-CDF, she was able to resume her education and continue her studies.

The residents of Kericho County also lauded the NG-CDF's positive impact on educational outcomes, as evidenced by improved transition rates and higher retention rates in schools.

"I am totally in agreement with the amendments because NG-CDF plays a major role in education and security. Transition rate has gone up, retention rate is high, security has been improved and implementation of C.B.C has been supported through infrastructure funded by NG-CDF," said Caroline Yegon.

MPs Sirma, Elachi and Kimutai acknowledged the valuable contributions and input received during these interactions, assuring both Nakuru and Kericho County residents that their suggestions and concerns will be given due consideration as the amendment process moves forward.

Kenya, Mozambique Commit To Strengthen Bonds

By: Eric Biegon

Kenya and Mozambique yesterday signed seven MoUs on various areas of cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, diplomatic training, public service training, investment promotion, Blue Economy, and mutual recognition of driving licenses. Speaking during the signing ceremony, President William Ruto said the Kenya-Mozambique relations stand on a strong pedestal of trade and investment. The head of State said “Kenya celebrates the long-standing warm and cordial relations between the two countries” even as he undertook to strengthen ties between Nairobi and Maputo, “to enhance trade volumes that remain relatively low.” The President lauded the agreements signed Thursday, for instance in the area of security saying the stability of countries is front and center of any meaningful nationhood.

“Signing of the agreements on defense and security is significant because we are dealing with the challenge of violent extremism, terrorism, and organized crime in our region. Sharing of experiences will make our teams better prepared,” said Ruto. “No meaningful development can take place in an environment that is not secure or in a space that is not stable,” he added. On behalf of Kenya, he assured his host that he was “looking forward to cooperation in this space so that we can get rid of terrorists and criminals who are impeding our progress,” President Ruto said this when he held bilateral talks with President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi in Maputo, Mozambique. Ruto who is on a two-day State Visit is in the company of First Lady Rachel Ruto, Justin Muturi (Attorney General), Cabinet Secretaries Alfred Mutua (Foreign Affairs), Aden Duale (Defence) among others.



President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and President William Ruto in Maputo, Mozambique.

KUCCPS Suffers Setback After Parliament Nullifies KMTC Placements

By: Abdiaziz Hashim

The over 42,000 students who applied to join Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) in September 2023 to pursue health-related courses will now have to wait longer to know their fate. This is after Parliament Thursday nullified the placement process undertaken by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) over alleged illegalities. The National Assembly health committee led by Robert Pukose in a surprise move declared the process null and void and directed KMTC to seize the matter from KUCCPS. “It is obvious that the process is null and void, there is a court order that clearly says placement of students should be done by the KMTC board,

therefore, KUCCPS conducting the placement is illegal,” said Pukose. Also the committee ruled that the students who had paid Shs 2,000 for application, will not be required to make fresh payments when applying afresh. KUCCPS which for the first time onboarded the medical course applications onto its system has been directed to transfer the money to KMTC. Interested candidates had until August 4, 2023, to apply for the September 2023 semester. The committee has further directed Health CS Susan Nakhumicha to advertise the programs afresh. Earlier, KUCCPS CEO Mercy Muthoni Thursday who appeared before the National Assembly Committee on Health revealed that 42,610 had applied for different courses as such over 30,000 students would miss out on the admissions.

KMTC APPLICATION SUPPORT

KUCCPS has opened applications for KMTC courses for the September 2023 intake
The application deadline is August 4, 2023

Applicants who need guidance should visit the following KMTC campuses, where KUCCPS officers will be present, from August 1, 2023 to August 4, 2023.

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3	Bungoma	Bungoma
4	Kakamega	Kakamega
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6	Embu	Embu
7	Garissa	Garissa
8	Homabay	Rachuonyo
9	Isiolo	Isiolo
10	Kajiado	Loitoktok
11	Kericho	Sigowet
12	Kiambu	Thika
13	Kilifi	Kilifi
14	Kisii	Kisii
15	Kisumu	Kisumu
16	Kitui	Kitui
17	Kwale	Kwale
18	Laikipia	Nyahururu
19	Lamu	Lamu
20	Machakos	Machakos
21	Makueni	Makueni
22	Mandera	Mandera
23	Meru	Meru
24	Migori	Kuria / Migori
25	Mombasa	Mombasa
26	Murang'a	Murang'a
27	Nairobi	Mathare
28	Nakuru	Nakuru
29	Nandi	Mosoriot
30	Narok	Trans-Mara
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33	Taita Taveta	Taveta
34	Tana River	Tana River
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38	West Pokot	Kapenguria
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41	Wajir	Wajir
42	Nyeri	Nyeri
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Applicants may also visit ANY HUDUMA CENTRE for support.
For more information, call the KUCCPS Customer Service lines 020 5137400, 0723954927 or the KMTC hotline 0202725711

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Discipline Of Integrity: A Crisis!



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

The straightforward poem/prayer of Fred Holloman, chaplain of the Kansas Senate, comes as no surprise: “Omniscient Father: Help us to know who is telling the truth. One side tells us one thing, and the other just the opposite. And if neither side is telling the truth, we would like to know that, too. And if each side is telling half the truth, give us the wisdom to put the right halves together. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

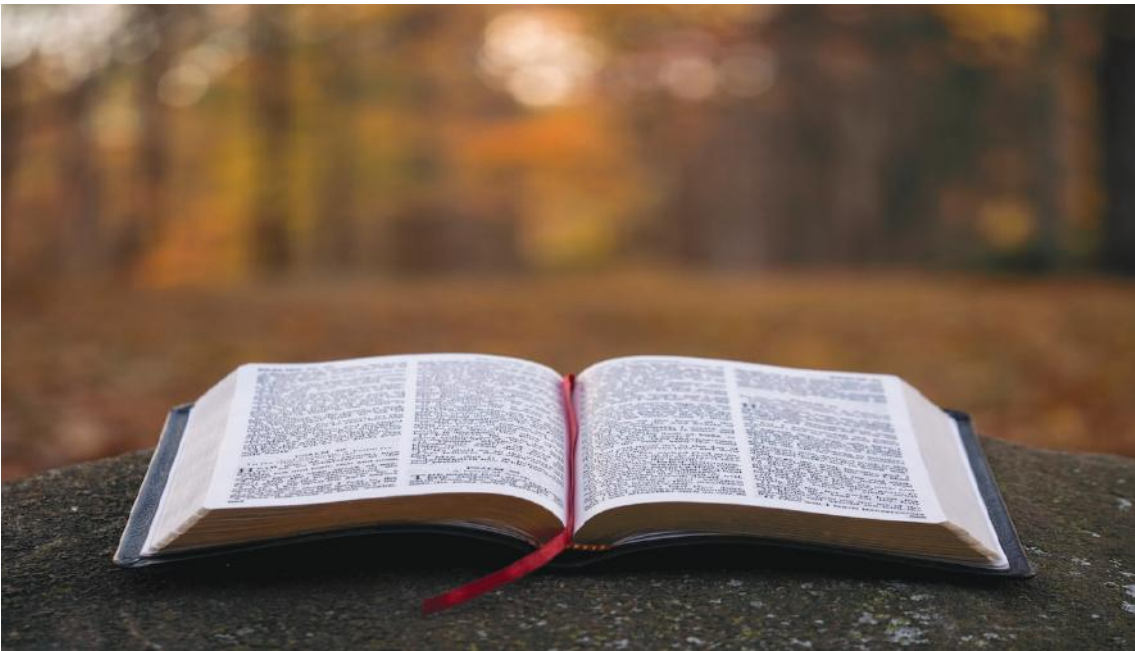
Truth and integrity have not only proven elusive for many in leadership, but likewise for our future leaders, some of whom are literally schooling themselves in deception!

But the main reason for the integrity crisis is that we humans are fundamentally dishonest. We are congeni-

tal liars. Right smack in the middle of the Apostle Paul’s string of observations on the depravity of man in Romans 3, we read, “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit” (v. 13). No one had to instruct us in the art of dishonesty.

Even once we are regenerated, if we do not discipline ourselves under the Lordship of Christ, we return to deceit like a duck to water. Our situation is exacerbated by the subtle seas of deception which surge back and forth over our culture through its media, so much so that we scarcely know where reality is. Many Christian men traffic in delusion. Some who lack integrity do not even know it.

Integrity is one of the greatest needs of the Church today. The Church needs people who not only refrain from blatant lying, but are free from hypocrisy. Paul says, in fact, that honesty is necessary for growth in the Church: “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). Literally, the divine medium for au-



thentic church growth is truthing in love — speaking and doing truth to one another.

HALELUJAH. GOD ALMIGHTY REIGNS FOREVER.

References:
The Living Bible
Discipline of a Godly Man(Book by Kent Hughes)

Evangelist Eric Musa:
(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; “NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2”. For prayers, devotion, and

to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

Kenya Celebrates The 6th Africa CRVs Day As A New Civil Registration Office Is Opened

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyetimes

The Civil Registration Services Department has today celebrated the African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics day alongside other African countries. The day that was adopted six years ago by the 32nd ordinary session of the AU executive council is marked on 10th of August every year in the around the Africa continent,

The days calls to attention the importance of Civil Registration as the source of credible vital data that is collected through registration of births and deaths. This year’s theme’ the potential to increase coverage, quality, and timeliness of data through digitalization of civil registration systems. This theme is in tandem with the ongoing government efforts to transform and modernize the Civil Registration system through digitization, end to end.

Speaking at a breakfast meeting today to Mark the day, Amb (Prof) Julius Bitok, PS State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services underscored the importance of digitizing civil registration and vital statistics systems as part of critical digital public infrastructure to

promote the linkage and use of this vital data across government agencies.

The day also saw the new Athi River subcounty Civil Registration office officially opened. Officiating the opening of the office was Mr. Paul Mwangemi, the secretary Civil Registration Services. This office comes as a great relief to the people of Athi river subcounty who had to travel to Machakos town and spend over five hundred shillings to apply for birth and death certificates.

Mr. Mwangemi encouraged Athi River residents to take advantage of this office and apply for births and deaths certificates to help increase the registration coverage of the office to 100%; as he also left an assurance that the department of Civil Registration will look into opening more two offices within the county by the end of this year.

‘A birth certificate is your child’s initial identity documents; therefore, I urge all the parents to ensure that your children are registered for birth certificates; this way they will easily be enrolled to school and be able to access all other government services like health. ‘Soon you also will be able to apply for these vital documents at your convenience as the government is in the process of fully digitizing the civil registration service systems’.

To mark its commitment in ensure ease



Paul Mwangemi, secretary civil registration services with Machakos devolution executive Consolata Mutisya open civil registration offices in Athi River subcounty on August 10, 2023. Photo | Courtesy

in access for birth certificates, the first ever beneficiaries of the Athi River Sub-county Civil Registration office were issued with birth certificates.

CJ's Move To Transfer Judge Thande and Others Was Within The Laws Governing The Judiciary



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- A few days ago, the CJ transferred a number of judges to various Court stations across the country. The shakeup also saw others swapped to serve in other branches of the judiciary and remained in the same court stations.
- In doing this, the CJ had looked and considered their strength and experiences in terms of performing their constitutional duties to the satisfactions of their employer-the people of Kenya.
- Madam Justice Mugure Thande, who was initially hearing the case challenging the Finance Act 2023 and she had issued orders stopping its implementation, was among those affected. She was moved from Nairobi to Malindi Law Court.



Madam Justice Mugure Thande.

The Chief Justice (CJ) of the Republic of Kenya is bestowed with powers to transfer the judges of the High Court. The CJ is the chairperson of the Judicial Service (JSC) whose key mandate is to recruit, vet and nominate the qualified candidates.

The nominees are forwarded to the President for formal appointment. The role of the president is ceremonial as he has no power to reject any of them.

A few days ago, the CJ transferred a number of judges to various Court stations across the country. The shakeup also saw others swapped to serve in other branches of the judiciary and remained in the same court stations.

In doing this, the CJ had looked and considered their strength and experiences in terms of performing their constitutional duties to the satisfactions of their employer-the people of Kenya.

Madam Justice Mugure Thande, who was initially hearing the case challenging the Finance Act 2023 and she had issued orders stopping its implementation, was among those affected. She was moved from Nairobi to Malindi Law Court.

It is worth noting this is not the first time she had made a decision that drew sharp mixed reactions from political elite.

So one would have expected her to have been transferred long time ago.

We recall that one of the rulings she had made had actually rubbed the Chief Justice Martha Koome the wrong way. The CJ respected her decision as she did not contest it.

The judges are entitled to make independent decisions while being guided by the constitution and other laws of the land.

Well, President William Ruto's critics in Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition would take advantage of the shake-up to push their political agenda of painting the head of state in bad light.

They would single out Thande's transfer. Listen to these baseless and unfounded claims.

She has been transferred because of trying to stop the implementation of taxes contained in Dr Ruto's first budget.

This re-enforces our position that Judiciary has been captured by the Executive.

Why I would not expect Kenyans to buy this? Since he assumed office, President Ruto has been walking the talk. This is in terms of respecting the decisions of the courts. I have never heard him defying and dismissing court orders as not worth the papers they are written on.

This is despite the fact that some of these orders would end up derailing his plan and agenda designed to transform and better the lives of Kenyans.

During the tenure of his predecessor, the story was different. President Uhuru Kenyatta used to openly defy court orders that were not in favor of his administration.

Besides orders stopping the implementation of Finance Act 2023, President Ruto suffered another setback when the court suspended the appointment of Chief Administrative Secretaries (CASs).

Ruto's administration, however, got a relief when the Court of Appeal overturned Thande's orders. This cleared the way for implementation of the Finance Act.

Azimio wanted Kenyans to believe that President Ruto had a hand in Petroleum Regulatory Authority's decision to adjust the prices of fuels upward. Azimio leader and his brigade is yet to give iota of evidence to support their claims?

While defending his decision the CEO of Kipra stated that he had not yet received the court order.

Parliament has passed the Finance Bill and the President had assented it into law.

Our job is to do the implementation.

The timelines were clear when this should start.

We also recall the ruling that was made by the court during the Azimio led demonstrations.

A judge of the High Court declined to stop the protests on ground that the court did not have the power to do so.

The provisions of Article 37 of the constitution were very clear. The Article grants Kenyans with freedoms of assembly, association, to demonstrate and picketing.

This did not go down well with President Ruto's Kenya Kwanza administration. This is because the demonstrations always turned chaotic, destructive and bloody.

The government rightly argued this flew in the face of the same law that the judge quoted. The law required the protest to be peaceful and the protestors be unarmed.

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

Youth - Teen Leadership In Adolescent



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- This is where different roles and styles of the adult leader come into play. There will be times when you will nurture, educate, encourage, coach, mentor and inspire. You will need to take the time to build strong, trusting relationships with the youth. Although a lot of energy is often put into working with teens, the payoff can be tremendous.
- Youth may also need concrete information about practical skills like how to run effective meetings, team building, public speaking, and facilitation skills that will empower them. Again, remember your role is to be supportive. For example, you may work with youth on facilitation skills, but let them find their own words and style.



Youth groups can play a vital role in supporting young people to grow and build skills to succeed in their lives. While the adult may assume primary leadership of the group at its onset, part of the adult leader's role is to foster youth ownership of the group as it becomes more established. Hopefully, you will have a few energetic young people with a strong commitment to the group who, with support from the adult, can serve as contact people for the group, take responsibility for the organization of group activities and events, and make sure that meetings run smoothly.

The first step in developing youth leadership is identifying potential leaders. You will likely have some outstanding leaders in the group. These are the people who follow through on commitments, have their own ideas but are also willing and able to involve others in meaningful ways, and have enough time to set aside for planning. Some youth may not be comfortable volunteering although they have a lot to offer, so they may need encouragement and coaching to assume new roles.

Providing opportunities to assume smaller roles in meetings is a low-risk way to let youth test ideas, learn from others and see what they are good at. A small activity will also allow you to observe the youth and see them in action. Look for different skills in your members – and value the differences. Someone who has a lot of energy and is outspoken may be good at public speaking but may need help to not dominate the group.

It may be helpful to discuss what qualities the people in your group think makes a good leader. You might brainstorm a list of qualities together, and ask the group, which are most important to them. Remember that no one has all of the traits of a leader. Anyone who is interested in serving as a leader should be able to identify their strengths as a leader as well as the skills they would like to develop. The Leadership Quiz and the Skills and Interest Survey in Tools can help you and the young people in your group assess their leadership skills.

This is where different roles and styles of the adult leader come into play. There will be times when you will nurture, educate, encourage, coach, mentor and inspire. You will need to take the time to build strong, trusting relationships with the youth. Although a lot of energy is often put into working with teens, the payoff can be tremendous.

Youth may also need concrete information about practical skills like how to run effective meetings, team building, public speaking, and facilitation skills that will empower them. Again, remember your role is to be supportive. For example, you may work with youth on facilitation skills, but let them find their own words and style. This section includes handouts on what it takes to be a leader, running meetings, and facilitating activities.

You could include these in an orientation packet for the youth leaders to help them with their new role. You might also include things to remember when resolving conflict (See Com-

municating Across Disagreement) and "Tapping into your Strengths (included in Getting Organized). On-going opportunities for practice and feedback will lead to confidence and growth. As youth develop in their leadership roles, make sure to recognize their accomplishments both personally and publicly. Three key points emerge from the literature on the life course that are particularly relevant for adolescence. First, circumstances experienced in one phase of life can have consequences for later phases. Evidence shows that early childhood experiences can predict adolescent outcomes. For example, low birthweight predicts depression in adolescent girls. Similarly, experiences during adolescence can predict later life outcomes.

The work of Falconi et al. (2014) showed that early adolescence is a sensitive developmental period for males, with stressors between 10 and 14 years of age being related more strongly to a shorter life span than stressors experienced earlier in life or after age 15. It is also important to note that later consequences might occur in different domains of life. For example, links between different aspects of children's development have been modeled in the Young Lives project, identifying children's height at age 12 as associated with cognitive outcomes during adolescence.

Specifically, in Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam, an increase of 1 standard deviation in early height for age predicted an increase of cognitive skills by 6%–17% during ado-

lescence. In addition, how children report feeling about themselves and their opportunities (psychosocial well-being) can relate to their later learning outcomes.

Stunted or less healthy children may not achieve the same learning outcomes as their peers for many reasons—they might not go to school regularly, may start school later, or may learn less in school. Policy approaches to achieve success within one sector (education in this example) have a crucial interest in engaging beyond that sector (such as earlier health and nutrition). Furthermore, the impact of stressors on an individual is cumulative, making it difficult for individuals to catch up once they fall behind.

For example, in Vietnam 48% of those in the bottom quartile of math scores at age 12 had left school by age 15 (Rolleston et al., 2013), further limiting their life chances. Benefits in one age group can be derived from interventions in an earlier age group improvement sometimes requiring multiple interventions.

Longitudinal research also showed that gender differences emerge at particular points in time, interact with other forms of disadvantage, and accumulate. Disadvantage is transmitted intergenerationally, often through the educational or health status of the mother. Young people are particularly vulnerable to the impact of childhood and chronic poverty, which is often transmitted intergenerationally.

Bitok Meets Vice Chancellors To Fast-Track Onboarding Of Universities On E-Citizen

By: Capital Correspondent

Continued from page 1

platform was non-negotiable. Bitok who officially opened the onboarding retreat at the PrideInn hotel in Mlolongo urged the administrators to comply with the directive that is intended to boost convenient access of government services and raise collection of the relevant revenue. “We have crossed the Rubicon on this and going digital is no longer an option. It is a non-negotiable minimum that all public universities are required to comply with and for very good reasons because digitalisation is a legacy target of the government.” Among the benefits he listed that the universities stand to enjoy by going digital is being able to track online and in real-time their revenues collected from students’ payments and other services offered by the institutions.

Taming pilferage

He said the digitisation drive will be linked to the launch of the smart/digital ID and the Unique Personal Identifier number that are set to be launched later this year as the government also seeks to make it harder to forge Kenyan registration documents to comply with international travel requirements. Over 5,127 government services are currently available on eCitizen and an almost similar number is targeted for online end-to-end availability by December. President William Ruto gave all public institutions, including universities, an end-of-year deadline to digitise their services. Besides cutting the cost on time and money for clients seeking government services, the campaign is also expected to minimise corruption and pilferage believed to cost the government millions of shillings in lost revenue. Vice Chancellors who spoke at the



Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary Prof Julius Bitok/FILE.

forum appealed to the government to provide free and reliable internet to public institutions to make it easier and affordable for the university community to enjoy online services.

They also sought assurances that universities will be able to access on time monies intended for day-to-day operations and other recurrent expenses. Availing their services online is espe-

cially critical for the universities who are expecting the latest batch of new students from next month.

Paradigm Initiative Joins the National Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation in Kenya

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyentimes

Paradigm Initiative (PIN), a leading pan-African Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) working to advance digital rights and digital inclusion, has joined the National Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation in Kenya. The national coalition aims to address critical issues surrounding freedom of expression, content moderation and dis/misinformation in the digital age. This will be done in view of Kenyan citizens’ unique online challenges. According to PIN’s Chief Operating Officer, Nnenna Paul-Ugochukwu, the organisation’s decision to join the coalition emphasises its dedication to advocating for digital rights across Africa. PIN works dili-



PARADIGM
INITIATIVE

gently to propose policy solutions and monitor the legal and policy landscape surrounding information and communication technologies (ICTs) to empower and protect citizens’ online rights. Miriam Beatrice, the organisation’s Programs Officer – East Africa, stated, “We firmly believe in the ob-

jectives and vision of the National Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation in Kenya. Through this coalition, we will work to ensure that content moderation strategies are founded on international human rights best practices and tailored to the specific needs and challenges Kenyan netizens face.” The coalition, led by UNESCO East

Africa, has other notable members, such as the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), Build up, Article 19, the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), Code for Africa, Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTAnet), the Africa Centre for People, Institutions and Society (Acepis), representatives from Academia, the Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE),

among others. PIN’s decision to join this coalition signifies its unwavering commitment to fostering open and inclusive digital spaces while upholding the rights of individuals in the online realm in East Africa and beyond, Ugochukwu concludes.

The Future Is Ours



Freedom.

Let's enjoy Friends, the future is ours,
My homeland became the place of
progress.
Our century is the Age of Information,
Come to my dears, see our physique.

We are clever, smart and guileless,
Educated with the knowledge of old
generations,
The period holds our hands, we are rapid,
We are observant, diligent in every field.

Young poet Sevinch Kuziboyeva was
born in 2004 year in Namangan city of
Uzbekistan. Her poems published „Qalbim
torlarin chertar sabolar“ „THE FIRST
STEP“ personal poetry collection and
„Spectrum of Uzbek“ literature, „Türk
dünyası şairleri“ named in International
collection

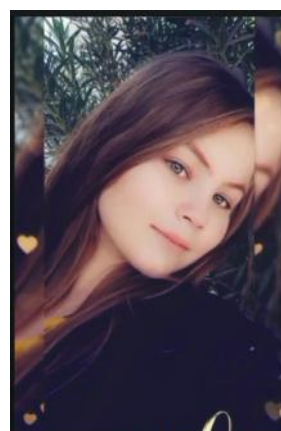
So she have took medal of named,
World talent union“

Let's enjoy Friend, the future is ours,
Let's Flourish in the homeland called,
"heaven".

Let's save your golden soil in life,
Let' shine like the sun in the wide world.

Our country is free and developing,
Its villages, communities, cities are
picturesque,
Dew would drop to my eyes in the
morning,
It matches my words expressing

Sometimes I Can't Tell The Truth



Stalking my way, you catch some food.
Mother, it is impossible to forget about
The days I spent far away from you.

Love more your youngest son, mother,
Say "my joy, my existence" every time I
call.

Childhood is a poem, which is written in
stone,
I wish I made you feel the peace in your
soul.

I ask God the order for chaotic thoughts,
I ask God to give the meaning to all my
words.

Mother, I committed the sin by myself,
Of course, I will also beg his pardon!

Nematullayeva Fayaza Nusratullayevna
was born in 2004 in Termez state,
Surkhandarya region. Currently, she is
studying at Termez state university

Sometimes I can't tell the truth,
However, I don't want to tell a lie.
Dear mother, I go away from myself,
I cannot come back to my personality.

Dear mother, my life beats in my chest,
The alarm clock of my justice rings.
When I go far away from the God,
Decease in my deep heart pounds.

Sometimes when I am hungry, I laugh

Protect Nature



A blue outstretched hand.

There were deserts, there was a sea, there was
a field,

The form of tyranny makes nature pale.
My sprouts will shrivel if I don't water them,
It shows the cause of ignorance.

Heads Man is an optimal solution for himself,
Different ways.

If we don't take care of them, they will become
deserts like deserts.
Even lakes.
08/05/2023

The steppe-deserts consider me a friend,
My heart laughs.
If I hope, I will believe,
Being seen.

Even if the storms howl and rise,
Calm down.
If I spread my arms, the songs
Hooray tinar.

I planted a seedling, the bucket caught the clouds,
It's raining.
The purple wind quenches his thirst,
Milk the man.

The seeds of the millennium sprout.
Like grass.
I landed like a butterfly on the rocks,
It's natural to forget.

In my gaze, the world is circumcision,
Blue happy.
Let the food you prepare for the earth,
Hard work.

I strive in the endless ocean,
Foggy road.
It lights up from the sound of babies,

O'tkir Mulikboyev Kochkor oglu, Koshrobot district,
Samarkand region, Republic of Uzbekistan

The son of Mulikboyev O'tkir Kochkor was born on
August 11, 1990.

Currently, he is a student of the ISFT Institute,
majoring in "Primary Education".

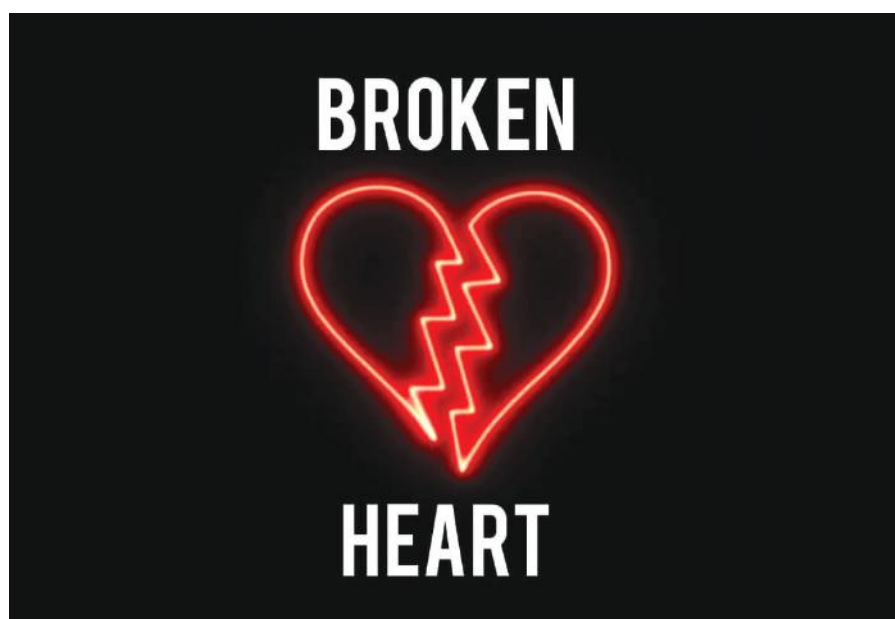
Promoter of creative and cultural issues and
primary education teacher at school 75 in
Koshrobot district, Samarkand region

His creative works are "Bakht khuniragi"
Tashkent, "Buta 5" Azerbaijan, "Turan writers"
Turkey, "Anthology of Kazakh and Uzbek artists"
Uzbekistan, "Uzbek writers anthology" Canada,
"Young Pencilers 2" " Published in Moldovan,
republican and international collections.

His poems were translated into Turkish,
Azerbaijani, English, Russian and published in more
than ten countries.

Hundreds of poems have appeared in the press.
Awarded with the "Initiative Reformer" badge of
the international level.

Broken



As soon as homeless,
The plastic packets, were packed
under the label - Garbage,
And entitled to tread across the land,
To be useless and senseless.

See, Life isn't worthless,
More metrics and mediocre meanings,
The murderers of shadow less sheaths,
Shall surprise it at times of great

change.
Well it isn't expired, is it?

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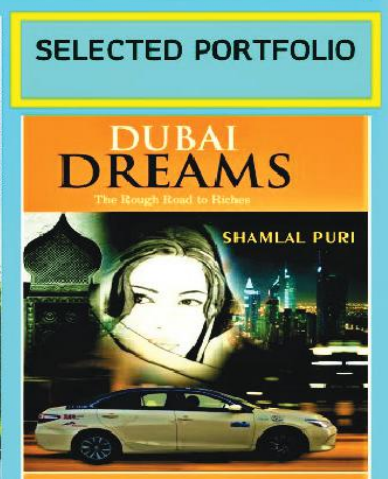
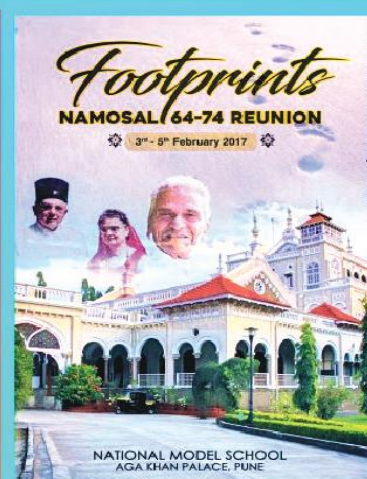
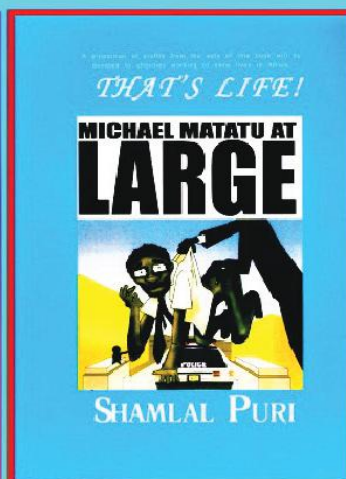
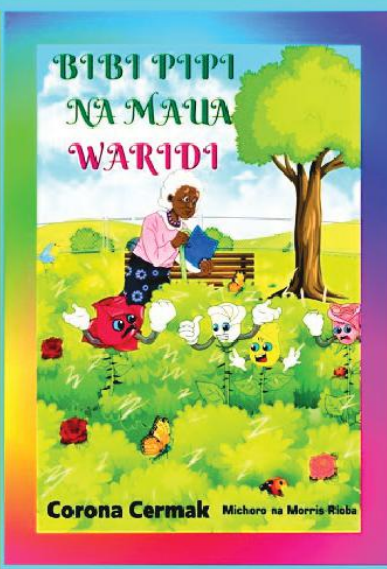
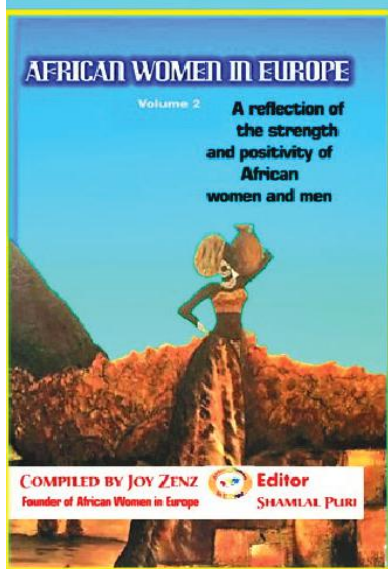
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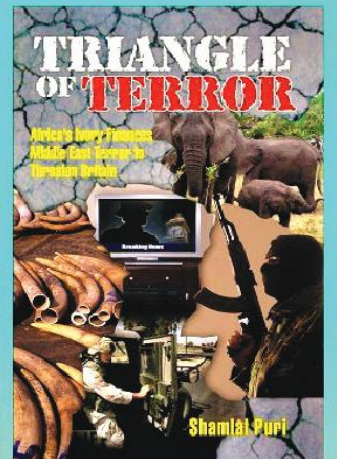
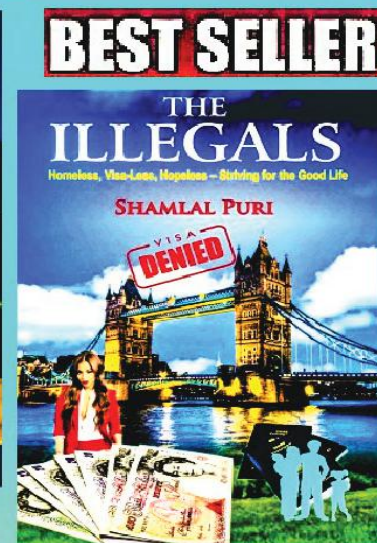
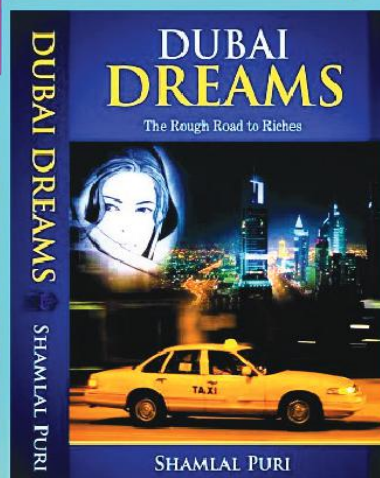
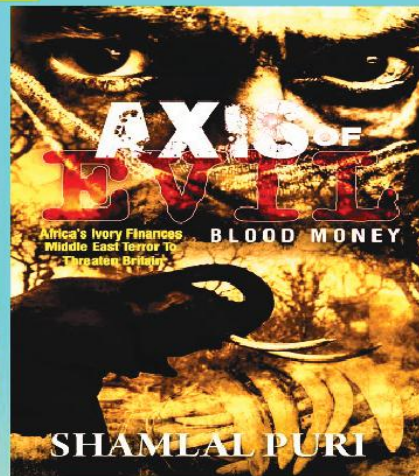
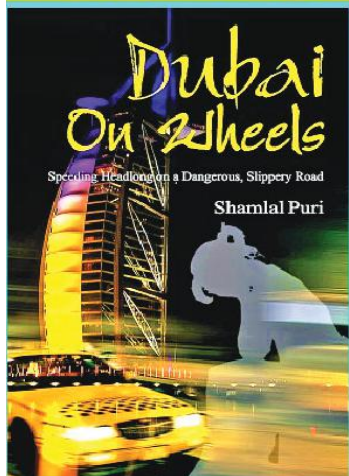
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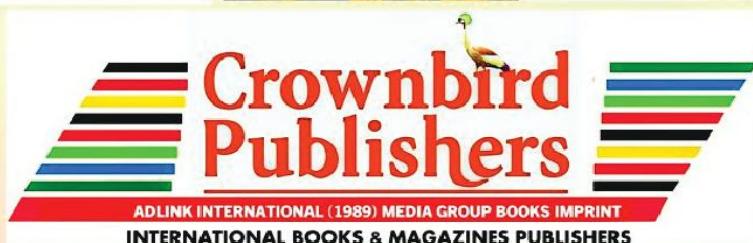
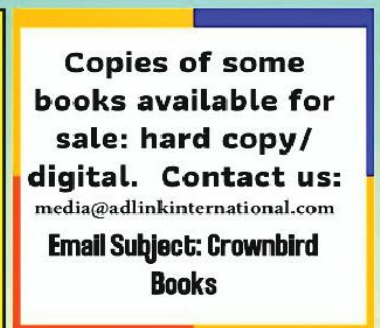
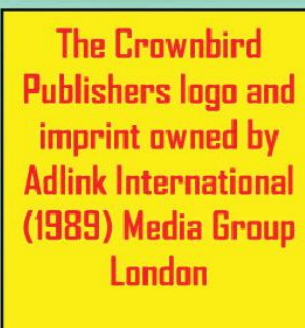
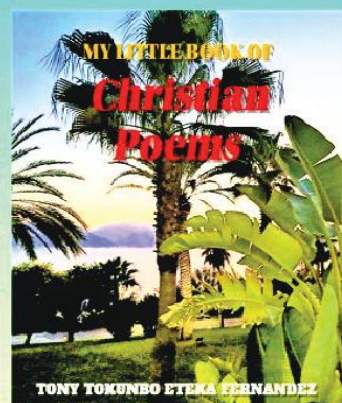
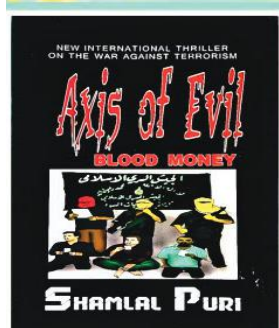
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BUSINESS

Renewed Partnership between CFAO Kenya Limited and Equity Bank Kenya Empowers Farmers with Enhanced Financing Options

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The financing covers a maximum of 90% of the tractor cost, and at the customers' request, the service kit cost may also be included in the total cost, subject to the Banks' discretion and approval.
- The tenure of the loan facility has been set at a maximum of 60 months, offering flexibility to suit the financial preferences of farmers.
- Repayment options encompass monthly, seasonal, and unstructured schedules, tailored to align with the customers' convenience as specified in the facility documents.
- The partnership also extends to implements, where farmers can benefit from a margin of up to 90% finance. To qualify, the cost of the implement should not exceed 20% of the tractor cost, or as approved by the Bank.

CFAO Kenya Limited, a subsidiary of the renowned Corporation for Africa and Overseas (CFAO SAS), is thrilled to announce the renewal of its strategic partnership with Equity Bank Kenya. This renewed collaboration will revolutionize the agricultural landscape by providing farmers with improved financing options, increased benefits, and a range of comprehensive services.

Under this renewed partnership, farmers can now access an impressive 90% financing for a wide array of CASE IH tractor brands and models, as well as franchised implements distributed by CFAO Kenya Limited. This remarkable financing rate represents a significant enhancement over the previous 80%, reflecting the commitment of both entities to empower and support the agricultural community.

The financing terms have been meticulously designed to cater to the diverse needs of farmers:

- The financing covers a maximum of 90% of the tractor cost, and at the customers' request, the service kit cost may also be included in the total cost, subject to the Banks' discretion and approval.
- The tenure of the loan facility has been set at a maximum of 60 months, offering flexibility to suit the

financial preferences of farmers.

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- The partnership also extends to implements, where farmers can benefit from a margin of up to 90% finance. To qualify, the cost of the implement should not exceed 20% of the tractor cost, or as approved by the Bank.

- In addition to the financing benefits, CFAO Kenya Limited is proud to offer its valued customers a compelling array of services:

- A free service kit comprising two air filters, one hydro filter, and one oil filter, ensuring top-notch maintenance and longevity of the equipment.

- A generous one-year warranty on CASE tractors and franchised implements, reflecting the company's commitment to quality and reliability.

To safeguard the interests of farmers, a negotiated insurance premium rate of 1.5% has been established through Equity Bancassurance Intermediary Limited (EBIL). Furthermore, CFAO will provide a one-year free insurance cover through EBIL, reinforcing the comprehensive support available to



CFAO KENYA Managing Director, Akira Wada.

farmers.

"We are excited about the renewed partnership with Equity Bank Kenya, which will elevate the agricultural industry in Kenya by offering farmers enhanced financing options and unparalleled benefits," stated the chairman and country delegate of CFAO Group of Companies in Kenya Amb. Dennis Awori. "Our commitment to driving agricultural growth and prosperity remains steadfast, and we look forward to a successful partnership ahead."

Speaking at the partnership signing event, Samuel Makome Equity

Group Chief Commercial Officer said "The partnership strengthens the relationship between Equity Bank and CFAO. We are registering success, but this is part of a journey, we can do a lot more. So far 436 units were sold in the last one year, out of which 25% have been financed by Equity Bank, and by far the largest financier."

Consistent with Equity Group's strategic approach outlined in the Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan (ARRP), Samuel Makome further emphasized, "This partnership aligns with the ARRP across multiple pillars. These include Pillar 1, which focuses on Food and Agriculture, Pillar 4, dedicated to MSME and small-holder empowerment and business expansion for enhanced economic prosperity, and finally, Pillar 5, addressing Social and Environmental transformation." Makome also highlighted that the partnership is set to introduce global standards to African markets, commencing with the EAC region. He added, "Equity Bank's unwavering dedication lies in providing comprehensive financial services that foster social and economic empowerment for consumers, businesses, and communities alike."

This renewed partnership underscores the shared vision of CFAO Kenya Limited and Equity Bank Kenya to uplift the agricultural sector and empower farmers with the resources they need to thrive. As the campaign duration extends for the next twelve months, both parties remain committed to exploring avenues for further collaboration, ensuring sustained growth and success for the farming community.



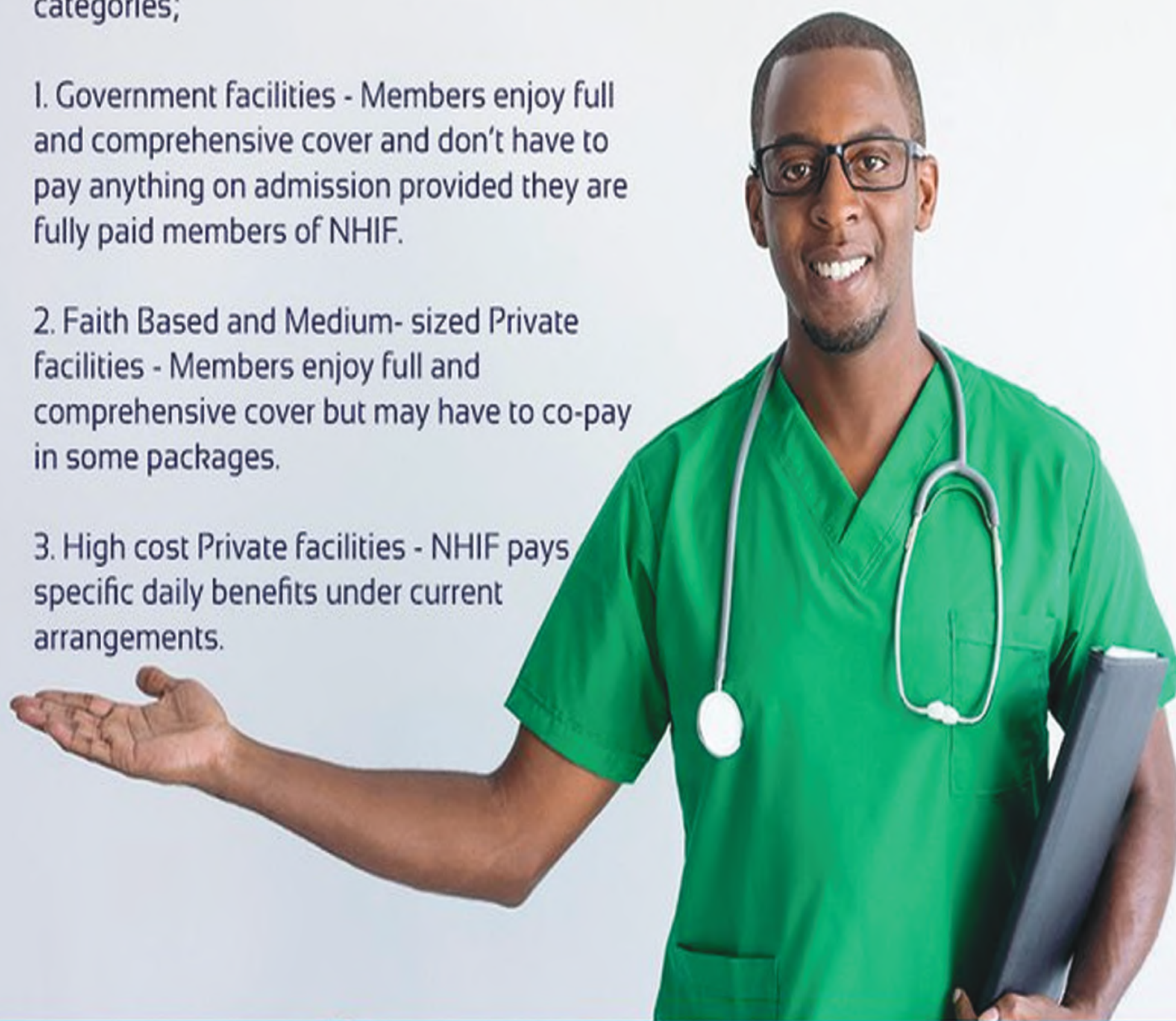
Left, Chief Commercial Officer of Equity Group, Samuel Makome. Right, CFAO Kenya Managing Director, Akira Wada



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Central Region’s Mixed Reactions Over The State Of Logging

By: Samuel Maina
 @themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “Even before the ban was lifted, most millers who had paid money in order to harvest trees in the forest were counting losses running into millions since the trees they had been allocated had already rotten.”
- This means that by the time they were trooping back into the forest, there was little, if anything, worth salvaging. Therefore, imposing another order barring us from collecting what we had paid for will only be a death knell to our business, taking into consideration that the majority of us are still servicing loans we had taken to purchase modern equipment and hire staff to run our ventures,” he told journalists.



The State Of Logging.

Controversy continues to surround the lifting of a six-year moratorium on the logging ban after the High Court issued conservative orders rescinding the directive.

At the same time, loggers from the Central region who had borne the brunt of the ban now claim there was another High Court ruling that had granted them access to the government forests issued on February 24 this year and therefore question the necessity for another order.

Last week, Justice Oscar Angote granted stay orders stopping President Dr William Ruto’s executive order that had lifted the freeze on logging in June.

The court similarly barred the State from issuing new permits to millers to harvest trees in government forests until the conclusion of the current suit.

The case had been filed by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) after it raised substantive arguments in the manner in which the logging ban was lifted, claiming the government had bypassed the public when arriving at the decision.

The court has directed the matter to come up for a hearing on August 14.

But Central Region Saw Millers Association spokesperson Wachira Gitau now claims further delay in execution of the State’s directive that allowed the resumption of logging in commercial estates will only jeopardise their business further.

He says even by the time President

Ruto lifted the ban, loggers from the six counties he represents had lost forest products worth millions of shillings after the timber they had paid for rotted in the forests.

“Even before the ban was lifted, most millers who had paid money in order to harvest trees in the forest were counting losses running into millions since the trees they had been allocated had already rotten.”

This means that by the time they were trooping back into the forest, there was little, if anything, worth salvaging. Therefore, imposing another order barring us from collecting what we had paid for will only be a death knell to our business, taking into consideration that the majority of us are still servicing loans we had taken to purchase modern equipment and hire staff to run our ventures,” he told journalists.

Nyeri County Ecosystem Conservator Moses Wahome, while acknowledging the existence of the recently disclosed court, said they were still awaiting a directive from Nairobi on the way forward.

He also promised to comment on the matter once it has been dispensed with but declined to comment on the fate of those who had already paid for permits to harvest trees in 2018.

“It is true that we are aware of the existence of a court order that was issued last week in regard to the directive that had earlier been issued by the government. But we are still waiting for direction from the head-

quarters on the best way to address this matter and the way forward from here,” he said.

Joseph Irungu, who runs the Ebenezer Timber yard at King’ong’o area near Nyeri town said he was optimistic the new court order would be vacated to allow him harvest timber worth Sh600,00 he had paid for in 2018.

Irungu, who is yet to receive clearance documents from the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), has also downplayed fears of being locked out of the forest for the second time, arguing that the matter in court would soon collapse.

“I am not worried about the case in court since the government has already lifted the moratorium on logging. Actually, I am expecting to get my clearance permit any time from now (Tuesday) to enable me to harvest the portion of trees I had paid for before in 2018,” he pointed out.

Gitau claims those who are going to court to obtain orders to stop logging in commercial forests were not sincere in their purported quest to preserve the country’s forest cover but were out to seek partisan interests at the expense of the millers.

He has further accused LSK of raising issues with the Government’s move to allow members of the public access to cultivate fast-maturing crops in the forest under the Shamba system, popularly known as pelis, while at the same time taking care of growing tree seedlings.

“The Plantation Establishment for Livelihood Improvement Scheme or Shamba system, has been the mainstay of our commercial forests since colonial times, where the local community has been integrated in management and preservation of growing trees as they undertake simple farming activities for their upkeep. When we go ahead and chase the same people from these establishments, it means we will have nothing to talk about in the coming days. It is therefore unfortunate when the Law Society of Kenya goes to court to bar such activities without offering any tangible alternative on how we are going to increase our forest cover as a country,” he opines.

According to the National Forest Resources Assessment Report, the country’s forest cover stands at 8.83 percent.

Nyeri County has three times the nationally recommended 10 percent forest cover and a tree cover of 45.17 percent.

The moratorium on logging was reached following the findings of a task force that had been constituted by the government to inquire into forest resource management and logging activities in the country.

The task force found out that the board and the management of KFS had been unable to “stem and in some instances, have directly participated in, abated and systematised rampant corruption and abuse of office in undertaking harvesting of forest products.

Forest plantations currently cover at least 335,000 acres in all gazetted reserves in Kenya, including Mount Kenya, Aberdare, Mau Forest Complex, Cherangani Hills and Mt Elgon.

In 2019, sawmillers across the country raised concern over the ban on logging, saying trees worth billions of shillings were rotting in the government forests and in the process, denying Treasury at least Sh30 billion annually in lost revenue.

According to the 2020 Economic Survey Report, the total public forest cover rose from 141,600 hectares in 2018 to 147,600 hectares in 2019 as a result of the ban on logging.

Kenya had hoped to attain its target of 10 per cent forest cover by this year, according to projections by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics released in 2020, a feat that remains elusive.

Squatters Decry Over Land Benefit

By:Alfayo Isaac
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- According to Emmy Chelangat a resident in Chelimo said after holding a successful meeting chaired by Principal Secretary, state department for Lands and physical planning Nixon Korir after he toured the place last week said they agreed to be compensated and leave the land for government development.
- ‘We had filed a case at the environment court seeking to be handed over the land title deeds by the government and due to the case were still on the court we came in agreement to withdraw the case so as to allow smooth running of the government structures as the all Chelimo squatters and to date could understand why we haven’t benefitted on the plan we need to be included as soon as possible,’ says Chelangat.



Alfred Langat, a resident of Chelimo squatters speaking to press on Thursday..

Kericho squatters has called upon the committee foreseeing the registration process to be included in the beneficiary list .This comes after the county and national government announce that that the victims will be compensated to pave way for the construction of the modern housing plan and other government institutions.

The victims claimed that there was no justice during the registration process saying the led team registered only persons who were residing on the land leaving out others who were displaced the by the first county government regime of Kericho.

Speaking on Thursday led by Samuel Rugut said they haven’t been residing in the land for the last 25 years and are entitled to be compensated.

‘To date we are living on rental houses on outskirts of Kericho town after we were displaced and denied

to build homesteads in the land by the last county regime of Kericho and we decided to do farming on the land and move on to urban center to shelter and when this process of registration commenced we were involved but after a couple of days the registration team only registered persons who had temporary houses leaving us with lots of questions on our minds’, Rugut said.

He demands answers by the registration team for which criteria they used during the process where only a few benefitted.

According to Emmy Chelangat a resident in Chelimo said after holding a successful meeting chaired by Principal Secretary, state department for Lands and physical planning Nixon Korir after he toured the place last week said they agreed to be compensated and leave the land for government development.

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over the land title deeds by the government and due to the case were still on the court we came in agreement to withdraw the case so as to allow smooth running of the government structures as the all Chelimo squatters and to date could understand why we haven’t benefitted on the plan we need to be included as soon as possible,’ says Chelangat.

Alfred Langat a resident echoed Chelangat’s words saying upon they received the information for the registration process they have been on the premise for more than six hours but the process didn’t kicked and upon inquiring he claims the officers in-charged said the registration ended on Wednesday 9th 2023.

‘How can the process ended without including the less fortunate on the registration list ,we were born here ,our late grandparents fight for the victory of this land but were robbed by death and now were are alive why can’t we get our land

back since we have nowhere to reside ‘,Langat lamented.

He claims they lost properties such as houses they had built on the land when the county government of Kericho asked them to vacate to allow construction of the Kericho county show ground agricultural.

The residents called upon the leaders of the community to assist in settling up the matter and it will be solved they threatened to move to court in due time for justice.

Kericho County Commissioner Micheal Lesimam dismiss the claims saying the exercise is still own and every person who are genuine people will benefitted when process ends.

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



SeamlessHR Partners With Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation To Launch Earned Wage Access Platform In East Africa

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- He recommended organisations automate their HR administrative tasks for better efficiency of systems, “Remove the hassle of manual HR administration and replace it with digital solutions which improve the harmony between employer and employee, hence increasing productivity.”
- In Kenya, blue-collar workers are paid between Sh100 and Sh450 per day for jobs ranging from cleaning, picking and packaging, washing, repairing and packaging dry cells.
- Most of these workers are paid at the end of the month, and do not enjoy additional benefits from their employers.
- “At Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we believe in financial inclusion for workers in the blue-collar sector. We also aim to break cycles of poverty especially for those who have to use physical assets when transacting using cash which can be get lost or stolen,” says Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation representative, Mr Will Kaplan.

Blue-collar workers in Kenya will now access earned wages before their payday following a new partnership between technology firm SeamlessHR and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Through the partnership, SeamlessHR has introduced a new platform dubbed Barizi that allows employees to access their salaries before payday and manage financial emergencies without paperwork and at a lower cost.

Additionally, the platform helps casual workers build their credit history which enables them to access sizeable loans with longer repayment periods.

Giving the keynote address, Mr. Vimal Shah, Chairman Bidco Africa said, “The reality on the ground is that in Kenya we have a million people earning less than Kshs.30,000 per month. This results in many blue-collar workers having little or no access to credit, even though they are the ones who keep the wheels moving in organisations and factories.”

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Success for us is if the blue-collar workers can get access to affordable credit to help households to smooth out consumption and become more resilient to economic shocks, said Mr Kaplan.

According to KAM representative, Winnie Ngumi, “Out of 18 million workforce in Kenya, informal workers comprise over 80% while only 2 million make up formal employment. Most blue-collar workers tend to receive fewer benefits from employers and this explains their financial insecurity. They do not have access to emergency funds, and thus tend to turn to loan shacks and predatory mobile lending apps, sinking into a cycle of debts.”

According to the economic survey of

2023, in the 10 years between 2012 and 2022, the number of casual jobs have gone up by 134 percent from 220,700 to 517,000 compared to a 29 percent rise in the number of regular permanent jobs to 2.4 million.

“The Barizi solution will improve the financial state of wellbeing of blue collar sector. They do not have to worry about emergency money. This will in turn positively impact their drive and motivation and at the end improve their productivity,” said SeamlessHR CEO and Co-Founder, Dr. Emmanuel Okeleji.

The initiative is aimed at improving the overall financial well-being of the blue collar workers whose needs have been largely overlooked and creating a long lasting impact on this segment of Africa’s talent.

He added that the platform is built on the latest cloud technology to ensure casual workers get instant financial wellness.

The system can automatically calculate how long one has worked and one can access their salary up to the day they have worked.

“It’s not a loan or a credit facility that uses employment as collateral. Barizi will give employees access to the wages they have earned for the days they have worked within the month. In addition,

we have also built a comprehensive technology tool to track time and attendance. With the ability to access their hard-earned wages in real time, casual workers can transform their aspirations into realities and enable them to have a better life,” he added.

In the Kenyan market, the platform is backed by PesaLink and Diamond Trust Bank (DTB).

The firm has also partnered with the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, representing top casual worker employers.

The event, themed “Win-Win: Optimising Blue-Collar Employee Welfare and Productivity”, took place on at the prestigious Capital Club, Nairobi.

It was an exclusive gathering that brought together the top 30 employers of blue-collar workers in Kenya, including prominent manufacturers, with the objective of facilitating discussions and devising impactful strategies to enhance the welfare and productivity of this vital workforce segment.

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Sports >> *The captain of the Kenyan team to the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Emily Ngii, has asked Kenyans to pray for them as they seek to come away from Hungary with a basketful of medals

“We Are Going To War, Pray For Us,”- Racewalker Emily Ngii Urges Kenyans Ahead Of World Champs In Budapest



Africa 20km racewalk champion Emily Ngii in training at the Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani ahead of the World Championships. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

The captain of the Kenyan team to the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Emily Ngii, has asked Kenyans to pray for them as they seek to come away from Hungary with a basketful of medals.

Ngii described the one-week championships as a ferocious war during which Team Kenya will be battling other nations for glory.

“We are ready and have prepared well. We are eager to bring the big prize back home and all we ask of Kenyans to pray and support us as we compete in Budapest. This is war...we are going for war with only one mission — to collect medals,” the Commonwealth Games 10,000m racewalk champion said.

The 36-year-old will be making her second appearance at the global showpiece, following on from last year’s edition in Oregon, United States, where she finished a disappointing 30th in the women’s 20km walking race.

However, that performance at the 18th edition of the championships was only a blip on what was otherwise a glory-filled 2022 for Ngii.

She clocked 1:34:30 to win the African title for the women’s 20km race walk in Reduit, Mauritius in June last year before collecting bronze in the women’s 10,000m race walk at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Ngii will be heading to Eastern Europe full of hope and con-

fidence following an unbeaten streak in 2023 thus far.

She was crowned the national champion in June after clinching the women’s 20km racewalk in addition to reigning supreme in the 2nd and 6th Athletics Kenya Track and Field Weekend Meeting.

Also hopeful of good fortunes in Hungary is the 2016 Olympics javelin silver medalist Julius Yego, who will be making his sixth appearance at the World Championships.

Yego, who will be deputising Ngii, is hoping Budapest will be a repeat of Beijing in 2015 where Kenya lead the medal standings.

“The team is ready...we have really trained well. We are looking forward to reclaiming the ti-

tle we won in 2015. I was part of that team. Rest assured, this team has trained well and everybody is looking forward to doing their best. We pray that everything goes well and I hope we will come back home celebrating like we did in 2015. For me, I will do my best...I am back and see you in Budapest,” the 2015 world champion said.

The team met Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba on Thursday evening at the Kenya National Library where they received the national flag as they prepare to depart the country by Monday, latest.

The CS said the team have the blessings of all Kenyans.

“Please go well...represent us well. We cherish you...we love you. We consider you to be ambassadors...to be the best products that Kenya puts out there in the world. And, here we send you again. I am very happy that the team we are sending out is a mix of incredible experience and youth,” he said.

The athletes are set to receive increased allowances as part of the government’s revised reward scheme for Kenyan sportspersons.

“The allowances have been revised significantly. We want our athletes to be comfortable both locally when they are preparing to represent us and out there internationally when they are competing,” Namwamba said.

The team will depart for batches with the last group expected to fly out on Monday, ahead of the opening ceremony for the championships on August 19.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has initiated the rehabilitation works for the Woodley Stadium and Joe Kadenge Stadium formerly known as City Stadium.

Joe Kadenge To Be Honoured With Life-Size Statue Outside Refurbished Stadium – Sakaja



Photo: NAIROBI COUNTY.

Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja has initiated the rehabilitation works for the Woodley Stadium and Joe Kadenge Stadium formerly known as City Stadium. Speaking during the ground-breaking exercise, Sakaja said the county government has set aside close to 600 million Shillings in this year’s budget to elevate the stadium to international standards. The City Stadium was renamed Joe Kadenge by the previous ward representatives in honour of our renowned late footballer. “At the entrance of the Stadium, we are going to have a more than life-size statue of Joe Kadenge in action, we have asked his children to pick out the best photo which the sculptors are going to use,” Sakaja said. Kadenge is considered one of Kenya’s greatest players and the finest footballer ever to grace Kenyan soccer pitches.



He played as a winger for Maragoli United and scored the fastest-ever goal in the Kenyan Premier League. The late international footballer also played club football for Abaluhya United, winning the Kenyan Premier League in 1966. In addition, Kadenge was part of the Kenya national football team before going on to manage the Kenya national football team in 2002. Woodley Stadium in Kibra on the other hand is one of the oldest sports facilities in the country. It is known as the home of the Lang’ata Kiko Cup Championship. Today, the stadium’s surface is a rectangle of dust with the wooden stands at the dais having been vandalized and so are the metal gates at the main entrance overlooking the equally run-down Joseph Kangethe Hall behind the stadium.

Capital News

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“Girls” Club

By: Iroda Bakhronova
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Mokhinabonu, who started the teacher-disciple tradition, has his own students today. Their goal is to open their own centers and create jobs in the future. Recognizing women as sacred, paying special respect to her, once again recognizing her incomparable role in educating all-round mature youth who are the future of our free and prosperous country,
- Members of the “Girls” club in the projects organized in our country in order to raise a generation of competent, intelligent women, to recognize the achievements of talented young people in the development of literature, art, science and culture and to support them in every way.

Appendix 1 of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 7, 2022 No. P0-87 “On measures to further accelerate work on systematic support of families and women” in 2022-2026 In order to timely and effectively implement the tasks defined in the national program on increasing the activity of women in all aspects of the country’s economic, political and social life, the Navoi State Pedagogical Institute organized the “Girls” club at the Faculty of Uzbek Language and Literature done.

With the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle, promotion of high spirituality and national culture, compacting of weddings and ceremonies, formation of immunity against spiritual threats, promotion of reading culture. The club “Girls” is designed for all female students studying at the faculty of Uzbek language and literature, and works based on the club’s charter and work plan.

Our club, which started its activity under the motto “Don’t miss your chance”, started to show results in a short period of time. The first achievement of the girls, who aimed to pay special attention to raising the reading culture, was also in this direction. Zulfizar Giyozova, who took part in the regional stage of the “Library student republican competition” held on April 20, won the right to participate in the regional stage of the competition. Today we are pleased that Zulfizar’s achieve-



Iroda Bakhronova Shirinabonu Khotamova.

ments in various fields are increasing.

Physiological and biological processes in the body become more active if a person engages more in physical exercises, sports games, and body-training procedures in everyday life. As a result, the mood rises and the ability to work increases. Knowing this well, the members of the Girls’ Club regularly play sports in their daily life.

This is one of our sports-loving girls Nilufar Uzakbayeva won the 3rd place in the Rector’s Cup competition was another achievement of our club Development of national handicrafts, folk artistic and practi-

cal arts in our country, thereby fully preserving the rich cultural heritage and historical traditions of our nation, wide involvement of the unemployed population, especially young people, women and low-income families in handicrafts ensuring their employment is one of the main tasks of our day. Girl’s hand flower entrepreneur - artisan Mokhinabonu Ramazonova is making jewelry that is a symbol of our nationality and contributing to the dowry of our brides.

Mokhinabonu, who started the teacher-disciple tradition, has his own students today. Their goal is to open their own centers and create jobs in the future. Recognizing women as sacred, paying special respect to her, once again recognizing her incomparable role in educating all-round mature youth who are the future of our free and prosperous country,

Members of the “Girls” club in the projects organized in our country in order to raise a generation of competent, intelligent women, to recognize the achievements of talented young people in the development of literature, art, science and culture and to support them in every way are actively participating.

Today, among the members of the “Girls” club are the participants of the Zomin seminar, the winner of the 1st place in the Republican competition “Heirs of Ulugbek”, the

winners of the “Clever booklover” competition, IT experts, laureates of famous degrees, those who started entrepreneurship after their profession, language certificate holders, Aziza, Mohichehra, E’zoza, Fotima, Sabina, Nozima, Inobat and other restless talents.

The contribution of the gardener to the germination of each seedling is great. Nasiba Tursunova, Rector’s Adviser on Women’s Affairs, who guides and supports the young girls called “Girls”, is kind to girls like a mother, always aware of their shortcomings, the work of many passionate teachers and tutors such as Akhmedova Zebiniso, Rizayeva Mehriniso, who have been providing material and spiritual support, deserves special recognition. “Girls” club has found its way with the support of its teachers and is taking bold steps on this path!

Iroda Bakhronova Shirinabonu Khotamova is the chief coordinator of the “Girls” club of the Faculty of Uzbek language and literature



Iroda Bakhronova Shirinabonu Khotamova.