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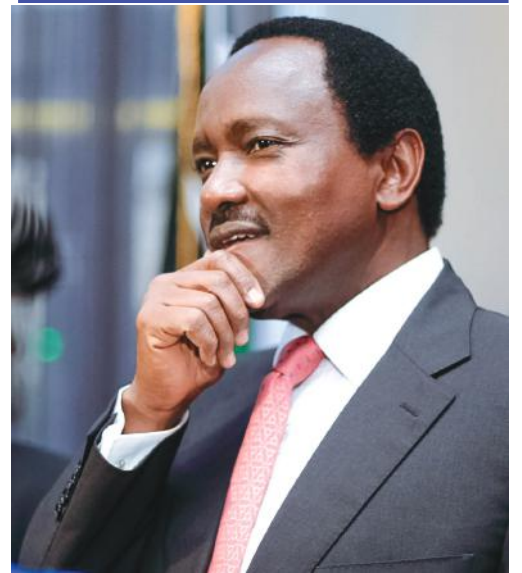


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LSK Moves To Court To Challenge Finance Act 2023

By: Capital Correspondent



Worth Noting:

- LSK also argued that the constitution explicitly provides that “every state organ including Parliament and the Executive shall perform its functions only in accordance with the Constitution.”

“Similarly, any law enacted by any legislative body which is inconsistent with or in contravention of the Constitution is null and void.”

- It stated that the power to tax is very delicate, vulnerable to abuse by those in authority; therefore, the Constitution imputes safeguards to protect against such abuse.



Milimani Law Courts/FILE

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has moved to court to stop the implementation of the Finance Act 2023.

In its suit papers, the body is further seeking orders compelling the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) from collecting the Housing Levy.

Through its advocate Noel Okwach, LSK contends that the Act is unreasonable as it introduces a “mandatory affordable housing levy pursuant to Section 84 of the Finance Act 2023.”

It stated that its implementation threatens the social economic interests of Kenyans against the principle of social justice.

LSK also argued that the constitution explicitly provides that “every state organ including Parliament and the Executive shall perform its functions only in accordance with the Constitution.”

“Similarly, any law enacted by any legislative body which is inconsistent with or in contravention of the Constitution is null and void.”

It stated that the power to tax is very delicate, vulnerable to abuse by those in authority; therefore, the Constitution imputes safeguards to protect against such abuse.

“The process of enactment of the impugned legislation was fraught with blatant procedural and substantive illegalities. The Respondents intentionally made a mockery of the process of public participation which led to the enactment of an unfair, unsustainable and illicit legislation.”

The Court of Appeal lifted a conserva-

tory order on the Finance Act, paving the way for its implementation.

This was a major reprieve for President William Ruto whose government was facing challenges on spending since the new financial year started this month.

Justices Mohamed Warsame, Kathurima M’noti and Hedwig Omondi observed that there will be irreversible economic consequences if the order is not lifted.

“The upshot of our decision is that the application has merit and the same is allowed as prayed with the effect that the order made on 10th July 2023 suspending the Finance Act 2023, and the order prohibiting the implementation of the Finance Act 2023, be and is hereby lifted pending the hearing and determination of the appeal,” the judges ruled Friday.

The judges, however, allowed the appeal by Treasury Cabinet Secretary Njuguna

Ndungu who said the suspension of the Act was affecting government operations.

The judges have ruled that the act cannot be suspended indefinitely given the effects it will have on taxation and government spending that is already crippled.

In their ruling, the judges, however, said all the parties shall abide by the final outcome of the appeal.

The order suspending the Finance Act was obtained by activist Okiya Omtatah who filed a case in the High Court, describing it as punitive on Kenyans since it seeks to raise taxes that will raise the cost of living.

The Mt. Kenya Times



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Kenya-Israel To Explore More Opportunities In Food Production, Blue Economy

By: Muraya Kamunde

President William Ruto has said that Kenya and Israel will explore opportunities for partnership in food production and irrigation, blue economy, border control and health areas.

The Head of State spoke Friday after he met the Israel Ambassador to Kenya Michael Lotem at State House, Nairobi County.

President Ruto asserted that the Kenya and Israel ties over the years have grown from strength to strength because of cooperation in education, trade, agriculture and security.

The two countries mark the 60th anniversary of bilateral ties.

“Now in the 60th year of our relationship, we are looking to explore more opportunities for partnership in food production and irrigation, blue economy, border control and health,” President Ruto said.

On his part, Ambassador to Kenya

Michael Lotem said Israel is happy to work with the Government of Kenya and the private sector to build strong people to people relations to positively impact their livelihoods.

President William Ruto and Israel Ambassador to Kenya Michael Lotem at State House, Nairobi.



KRADirects Employers To Deduct Affordable Housing Levy Contributions From Staff Pay

By: Capital Correspondent

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has directed employers to deduct the Affordable Housing Levy contributions from employees salaries.

In a public notice, the Authority wants employers to remit it's 1.5 percent contribution alongside a similar rate for their employees as well.

The move by KRA follow the announcement by the Lands Ministry backdating the mandatory contributions as proposed in the Finance Act, 2023.

“With effect from 1st July, 2023, all employers are required to deduct the AHL from the employee’s gross salary and remit together with the employer’s contribution,” the authority’s Commissioner for Domestic Taxes said in a statement on Friday.

“KRA wishes to further clarify that

all employers are required to declare the AHL under sheet ‘M’ of the PAYE return on itax and generate a payment slip under the tax head ‘agency revenue’ and tax sub-head ‘Housing Levy’ and make payments at KRA agent banks or mobile money.” the authority stated in a notice.

KRA further indicated that employers who fail to remit the deductions shall be liable to payment of a penalty equivalent to two per cent of the unpaid funds for every month until they comply with the law.

The government backdated the payments after the Appellate Court last week temporarily lifted conservatory orders barring the implementation of the contentious Finance A.



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NACADA MoU: Accelerating Fight Against Alcohol, Drugs, Substances At Grassroots

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- NACADA has in the past signed working MoUs with the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM), the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), the Catholic Church, and the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA).
- “Nacada will share technical expertise with APECK and train clergy, Sunday school teachers, and counselors on the detection and control of substance abuse, and also support community-based and education programs targeting persons with alcohol and drug abuse disorders among stakeholders,” said Nacada CEO Prof. Muteti.
- Prof Muteti emphasized the need for community-based rehabilitation, saying formal rehabilitations were very expensive and would not be sufficient for the many who need rehabilitation.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi delivers her speech after the signing of the MoU between Nacada and APECK.



The fight against alcohol, drug, and substance abuse was on Friday accelerated through a renewed commitment between NACADA and faith-based organisations in the country.

This was following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NACADA and APECK, the Association of Pentecostal and Evangelical Clergy of Kenya, at the official residence of the Deputy President in Karen, Nairobi County.

The MoU was signed by NACADA CEO Prof. John Muteti and APECK CEO Dr. Geoffrey Gichuki and witnessed by the spouse of the Deputy President, Pastor Dorcas Rigathi, who is the Patron of APECK.

“Those addicted to drugs are our children, and we must work hard to make sure that the dreams of our children are revalidated. Let us open the doors of our mosques, churches, and temples and make our places of worship safe havens for the vulnerable,” said Pastor Dorcas.

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Prof Muteti emphasized the need for community-based rehabilitation, saying formal rehabilitations were very expensive and would not be sufficient for the many who need rehabilitation.

“We can replicate home-based and community-based rehabilitation across the country. Taking someone to a formal rehab is very expensive, to the tune of Ksh 100, 000 for the three-month duration, and this is the cheapest rate. There is a community based model of rehabilitation working in Githunguri, Kiambu County, that we would like to replicate in other parts of the country and even share with the world. These are homegrown solutions that work through the use of local technology,” said Prof Muteti.

In addition, APECK would lead the campaign against alcohol and drug abuse through advocacy, rehabilitation, and mobilization at the grassroots. The association would also help in suppressing the supply of illicit brews and drugs through reporting and joint campaigns with Nacada.

APECK CEO, Dr. Gichuki, said, “We are leveraging the capabilities of our competitive advantages so we can achieve more than the sum total of our individual efforts.”

Archbishop Gerry Kibarabara urged the church to support the great cause of restoring a generation.

Later, the Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua joined the meeting and appreciated the church for the continued prayers and support for the nation.

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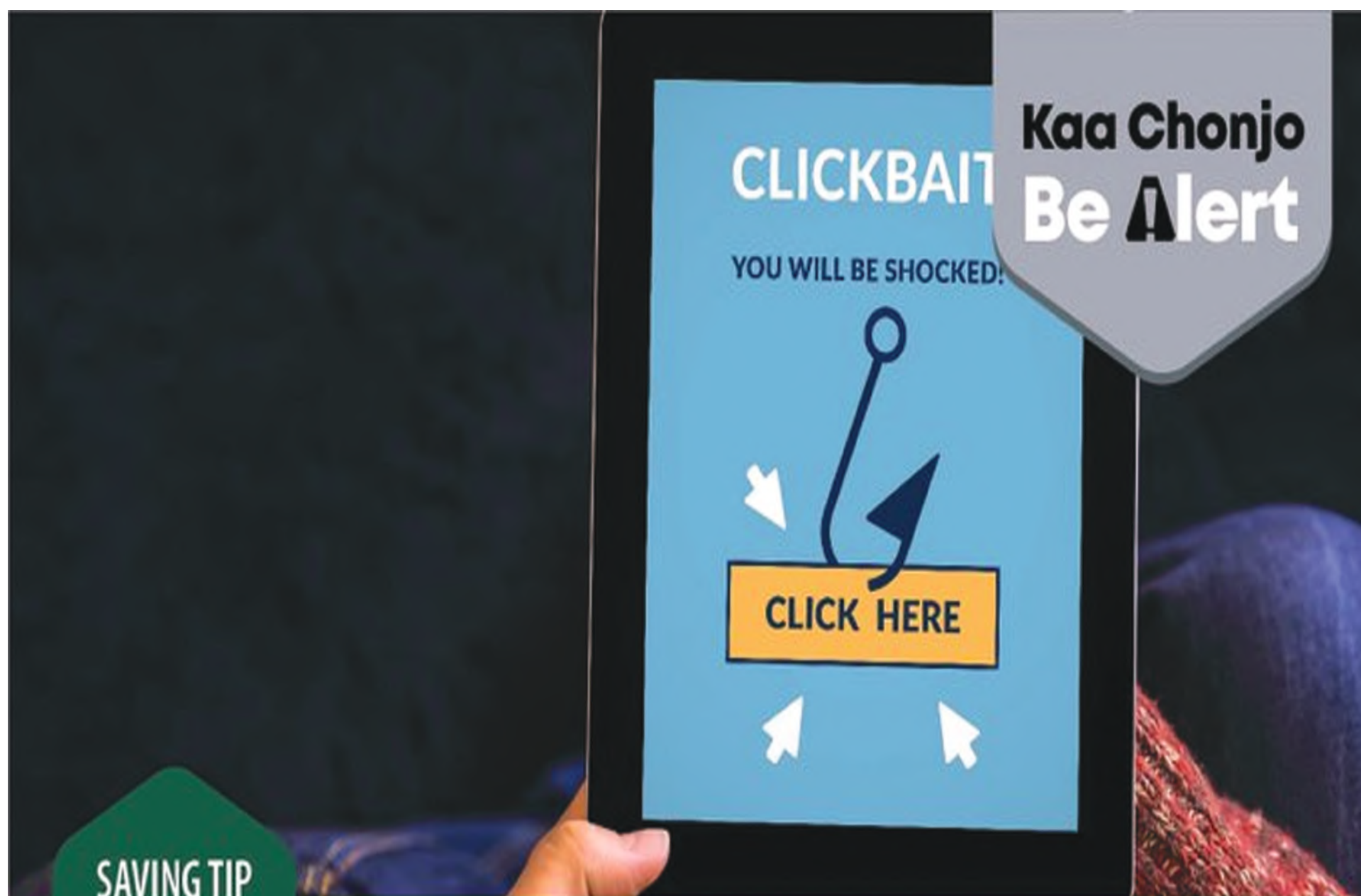
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Lawyers, Bankers And Surveyors Enter Into Agreement With Govt Over Sectional Property Titles

By: Capital Correspondent



Worth Noting:

- Early this year as the new Administration was settling into office, the Law Society of Kenya brought a petition to the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development.
- The petition, which was received by Cabinet Secretary Zachariah Njeru and the PS for Lands and Physical Planning Generali Nixon Korir, wanted the State to address the issue as well as other challenges faced by users of Ardhisasa, the new online system created for processing land transactions.
- The CS and the PS have been convening meetings over the past three months, sometimes on weekly basis, bringing together the State Department and Land Sector Actors including the LSK, bankers and the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya.



Lawyers, bankers and surveyors have signed a pact with the State that gives a six months moratorium to investors who own apartments to obtain titles for their properties.

The agreement however requires the sectional property owners to show proof that they have initiated the process of geo referencing their apartments before qualifying for the titles.

The agreement is aimed at unlocking the difficulty experienced in registering and getting long-term leases for sectional properties over the last three years.

In December 2020, a new law on sectional title deeds was enacted.

The law was passed with the purpose of enabling individuals who owned apartments to get their individual titles.

The implementation of the law was however slowed down by other challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic and sectional property owners could not comply with the requirement to get their flats georeferenced.

As a result of the challenge, individuals who wanted to buy or sale flats through bank financing could not succeed.

According to the Kenya Bankers

Association, the value of the transactions that were stuck in banks because of this challenge ranged between Sh100 billion and Sh200 billion.

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The CS and the PS have been convening meetings over the past three months, sometimes on weekly basis, bringing together the State Department and Land Sector Actors including the LSK, bankers and the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya.

The Department and the land sector actors formed technical working groups to suggest improvements to the Ardhisasa platform and work closely with the developers to rectify system errors.

The team also reached an agreement to give apartment owners a new window so that they can comply with the law and to unlock financial transactions involving sectional properties.

The agreement was signed at Ardhi House yesterday by CS Njeru, LSK President Eric Theuri and Raimond Molenje who is the Head of Legal at the Kenya Bankers Association. Officials of ISK, currently attending a conference in Mombasa, gave consent for the event to proceed.

CS Njeru said the agreement gives developers six months to georeference their properties while the State Department begins progressing the title.

The CS besides addressing Ardhisasa challenges, the teamwork with the land sector actors was also used to address other bottlenecks to enhance the efficiency of services.

PS Korir thanked the bankers, lawyers and surveyors for working closely with the department in addressing challenges.

The PS said the State Department will soon roll out a sensitization campaign to educate the public on how to use Ardhisasa.

The LSK President said they had

extensive collaboration with the Ministry and he was happy that most of the challenges that existed have been resolved.

The LSK President and Mr Molenje, who spoke during the joint press conference at Ardhi House, praised CS Njeru and PS Korir for their dedication and honesty that has seen stakeholders cooperating to resolve challenges.

“We are delighted that the three months consultations we’ve had has born fruits and we are happy for the significant progress made and the challenges solved so far,” said Theuri.

Molenje said the pending transactions related to sectional properties will soon be cleared following the signing of the MOU.

“I appreciate the Ministry for being transparent. Since the new government came on place we have seen tremendous changes in bank transactions. We had 104 billion pending transactions at the banking industry, as at June this year we were at 55 billion,” said Molenje.

LSK Vice President Faith Odhiambo was among those who attended the event.

What Mt Kenya Region Expects From President Ruto’s Visit

By: Willam Muchiri
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “On Wednesday the president launched the second phase of the subsidised fertilizer programme ahead of the short rain season, a bag of fertilizer now retails at a price of Sh2500 from Sh7000 and has distributed over 3.5 million bags across the country,” he said.
- He added that the president will witness the groundbreaking of affordable housing programme in Gichugu, Kirinyaga County which is part of the 200 units per constituency programme.
- “This project entails the construction of 140 house units and in Thika, he will also witness another groundbreaking which will provide 975 units with 20 per cent reserved for civil servants,” he said.

Agriculture, infrastructure, health, and education, among other sectors, are expected to dominate during the president William Ruto tour in Mt Kenya.

The Head of State is set to visit Nyeri County to launch various development projects during his 5 day visit in the region which starts today.

Speaking to the press at the Sagana State Lodge in Mathira, Nyeri County, State House Spokesperson Hussein Mohamed said during the tour, President Ruto will launch projects inline with the government’s bottom up transformation agenda.

“In his 5 day tour the president will address issues on lowering the high cost of living, creation of jobs, expanding tax pays, eradicating hunger and improving the livelihood of the Kenyans,” he said.

He added that the water projects the President will launch are in line with the government’s water storage programme which aims to construct 100 mega dams that will connect

water to over 6 million new households to clean water.

“The government aims to construct 100 mega dams and 400 small dams to connect Kenyans to clean and safe water,” he said.

In Agriculture, he said the government has distributed 454,168 bags of fertilizer in Mt. Kenya region at a cost of Sh1.5 billion covering various value chains.

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“This project entails the construction of 140 house units and in Thika,



State House Spokesman Hussein Mohammed at Sagana State Lodge, Nyeri yesterday.
Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU



Nyeri County Commissioner Pius Murugu (Left), Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina and Tana Water Works Development Agency Chairman Wanyaga Gathaka at Karege Sewerage Treatment Works in Othaya yesterday. Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU

he will also witness another groundbreaking which will provide 975 units with 20 per cent reserved for civil servants,” he said.

The five-day tour will begin this morning with a road trip from Nairobi, marked by stop-overs in Githurai and Kenol.

At Kagio Trading Centre, the President is expected to open a water project before interacting with residents at Baricho in Kirinyaga County.

In Karatina, he will commission the Marua-State Lodge Road that will ease the movement of goods and services and spur growth in the area.

Tomorrow, the Head of State will be at the State Lodge Sagana for an interdenominational prayer service.

On Monday, the president will commission the construction of a road in Mukurweini and the launch of water projects in Tetu and Othaya.

At Nyeri Town, the President will open a bus park that is poised to ease congestion and create a friendly transport environment.

On Tuesday, he will open a new Kenya Co-operative Creameries facility in Kiganjo.

Thereafter, he will host Mt Kenya leaders at the Sagana State Lodge.

On Wednesday, the President will open the three-storeyed, 175-bed capacity Naromoru Level IV Hospital

in Kieni constituency.

He will later launch affordable housing project in Gichugu before landing in Thika where he will commission the Karimenu Dam Water Supply Project and also launch affordable housing.

Nyeri leaders led by Governor Mutahi Kahiga and Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina welcomed the President’s visit saying it would offer an opportunity for the locals to raise issues they want addressed by the Kenya Kwanza government.

Speaking in Othaya after touring Karege Sewerage Treatment Works near Othaya town which the president is expected to commission on Monday, the Othaya MP said leaders will raise their concern on matters they expect the government to work on during this financial year.

“We welcome the President in our County. We hope to take the opportunity to tell him what we expect from his government,” Wainaina who was in the company of among others, Tana Water Works Development Agency Chairman Wanyaga Gathaka said.

The project was facilitated by the Tana agency with the chairman saying scores of various projects are lined up in the Mountain region.

Kirinyaga County Move To Control Invasive Snail Ravaging Mwea Rice Farms

By: Christine Muchira



Rice field

Worth Noting:

- “These items have been delivered to the County headquarters and we have started distribution to the farmers for spraying during this trans-planting season,” Waiguru said.
- The governor said the pilot programme will be undertaken in selected farms using the organic pesticide.
- “There will be six units in which the chemical will be utilized. These are in Tebere, Curukia, Thiba, Mwea, Karaba and Wamumu,” the governor added.
- Waiguru said the transplanting seasons is the most critical period for controlling the new migratory rice pest which has invaded farms for the last four years and therefore the delivery of the pesticide is timely.

Kirinyaga County government has launched a three-week pilot programme to control a new migratory rice pest, that has been ravaging rice crop at the Mwea irrigation scheme in Kirinyaga.

The programme being undertaken by the County government with the assistance of the national government aims at stopping spread of an invasive snail commonly known as “Golden Apple Snail”.

Governor Anne Waiguru says a joint action plan led by County Agriculture extension services team and the National government officers which is giving technical back stopping has been formed to deal with the snail menace.

Waiguru said through her intervention, the Ministry of Agriculture through the Pest Control Products Board (PCBP) has provided 2000 liters of Biograde 300 SL adequate to cover 8,000 acres of rice paddy on the three-cycle spray.

This is in addition to 40 sprayers, 40 PPEs full kit to support the pilot control exercise in Mwea.

“These items have been delivered to the County headquarters and we have started distribution to the farmers for spraying during this trans-planting season,” Waiguru said.

The governor said the pilot programme will be undertaken in selected farms using the organic pesticide.

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Waiguru said the transplanting seasons is the most critical period for controlling the new migratory rice pest which has invaded farms for the last four years and therefore the delivery of the pesticide is timely.

“Farmers have started transplanting crop to the farms and over 90 percent of the transplanting exercise will be completed by end of this week and out technical team has embarked on the exercise in selected farms that had not done transplanting,” the governor added.

The COG chair added that rice production at the Mwea Rice Irrigation Scheme is a national strategic food security exercise that must be protected and efforts to eradicate the invasive snail is of great importance.

“The snail is a threat to food security in the country as it destroys crop at the early seedling stage. Therefore, controlling the Golden Apple Snail is of paramount importance to

both National and County governments,” she noted.

She said successful implementation of the pilot programme will prepare for possible upscaling of exercise in the whole scheme during the ratoon and double crop seasons.

Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture’s says that the snails mainly damage direct wet-seeded rice and transplanted rice up to 30 days old. Thus, for effective control pesticide is applied immediately after transplanting, with repeats applications at 7 and 14 days.

Rose Kamau from the Plant Protection and Food Safety Directorate says Biograde 300 SL is a biodegradable pesticide that is friendly to environment and has no pre-harvest harm.

“The product is working through corrosion of digestive system of the snail, hence killing it within short period after consumption. The pesticide has been approved for use in apple snail control and its efficacy has been tested,” she said.

Rice farmers have lauded the initiative by the county government saying the snail has spread in the entire irrigation scheme.

Mwea Unit Five Chairman Samson Njuguna said that last season, the snails destroyed seedlings at the

nurseries forcing farmers to do a repeat germination.

Njuguna said for the last four years, the number of snails has multiplied and efforts by farmers to handpick them and crush the egg masses has not borne fruit in eradicating them.

“Snails have been destroying our rice crops in our farms right from the nursery stage, they follow the seedlings to the farm after transplanting. They lay eggs and multiply very fast. We have incurred huge losses since the invasion by the snail,” he said.

Apple snail is listed among ‘100 of the world’s worst invasive invertebrates of waterways and irrigation systems.

Scientists from Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) says that if not controlled or eradicated, the snail could become a serious agricultural and ecological pest, causing significant economic losses in wetland rice cultivation and threatening biodiversity.

They say that raising awareness, outreach and capacity building at all levels of the farming system will be a key factor in stopping the spread of the snail.

Kalonzo's Letter To Kenya Kwanza Team Did Not Augur Well



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- Kalonzo is a renowned mediator and negotiator. During the tenures of Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta, he represented Kenya in peace building processes aimed at resolving political crisis rocking our neighboring countries and the region.
- His efforts would bore fruits. He helped to restore peace and stability in many troubled countries.
- Bearing this in mind, there is no doubt that Kalonzo is fully aware of the pitfalls that must be avoided in order to have successful negotiations and hammering a deal to end crisis.
- He, therefore, knows one of the key steps is to ensure the parties were involved in all the deliberations that commences with crafting of the rules of engagements and matters of house-keeping.

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka, who is leading the Azimio La Umoja-OKA coalition team of negotiators, has written a letter to the Kenya Kwanza team leader Kimani Ichungwah, who is also the majority leader in the National Assembly.

While stating that time was of essence, he avers that Azimio wants the talks aimed at resolving the political crisis that had engulfed the country to commence on Monday next week.

Going by the timelines they have crafted, he said the opposition Coalition also wants the negotiations to be concluded in one month.

This, in my view, was yet another indication that the coalition did not believe in dialogue and it was out to throw the spanners in the work.

The endgame was to see the talks collapsing in the initial stages. Was Raila behind this? He was known for changing goal posts. Time will tell.

Kalonzo is a renowned mediator and negotiator. During the tenures of Presidents Daniel Arap Moi, Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta, he represented Kenya in peace building processes aimed at resolving political crisis rocking our neighboring countries and the region.

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Bearing this in mind, there is no doubt that Kalonzo is fully aware of the pitfalls that must be avoided in order to have successful negotiations and hammering a deal to end crisis.

He, therefore, knows one of the key steps is to ensure the parties were involved in all the deliberations that commences with crafting of the rules of engagements and matters of house-keeping.

This would erase the fears of suspicions and mistrust.

Kalonzo's move sharply contradicted this spirit.

Azimio and Kenya Kwanza members had not met to deliberate on the two issues and make a decision.

For this reason, I'm sure Kalonzo knew the latter is unlikely to accept that decision.

Media reports have indicated that some political players in Azimio were opposed to the talks and hence they were burning midnight oil to sabotage the dialogue.

Is Wiper leader pushing thier agenda?

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know those opposed were not doing this because they cared for public.

This has nothing to do with resolving the myriad of challenges that 'Wanjiku' face.

They were doing this because they felt their selfish and personal interests had been threatened.

It is worth nothing that one of the key issues that Azimio has lined up is that of inclusivity in Government. What does this tell you? Raila and a few of his diehard allies were out to lay ground of joining the government through the backdoor.



Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka.

The fear is that Raila is done with them and he longer needs them.

Remember these are his diehards who used to wear Sufuria on thier heads during the bloody, destructive demonstrations. They were ready to pay the ultimate price while defending Baba Raila.

To me, these people do not learn or maybe they have very short memories.

The history of Raila is replete with betrayals that would among others leave the victims of his bloody confrontations in tears and suffering alone.

Some would be left maimed and confined to their hospital beds nursing life-threatening injuries.

The hearts of the families who had lost their loved ones would remain hurt for the rest of their life.

This strategy worked very well for Raila in the aftermath of 2007 and 2017 general elections, respectively.

Many people lost their lives. For how long will Raila dine and wine on fresh graves of victims as he wormed his way to join the government?

As they say, it is hard to teach an old dog the new tricks. So, one would not expect him to change?

Kenya is a democratic country governed by the rule of law. This means that the power belongs to the people.

A general election to elect the leaders is held after every five years.

The tenure of the President and that of the County governor is capped to a two terms of five year each.

For the rest of the elective seats, there is no term-limit.

Last year on August 9, Kenyans of all walks of life turned up at respective polling stations to elect leaders of their

choice.

Dr William Ruto was elected as the fifth President of the Republic of Kenya.

Raila immediately contested the outcome.

This did not come as a surprise. He had done it before, challenging the results of the four elections he had unsuccessfully contested.

This time again his petition was dismissed.

In a unanimous decision, the judges of the Supreme Court of Kenya ruled that the petition contained no iota of truth.

Dr William Ruto's victory won this election and consequently we reaffirm and uphold his victory.

The local and international observers including those drawn from America and European Union (EU) had also released their separate final reports.

They shared one common thread. The elections met the requirements of the relevant laws. We congratulate the national electoral body, the IEBC, for doing a good work. The outcome reflected the popular will of Kenyans who cast thier ballot.

Back to Kalonzo, I want to tell him. The history will judge you very harshly if you allow yourself to be used by those hellbent on sabotaging the talks.

If you do so, this will erode the gains you have made over the years.

Remember the international community respects and recognizes you as peace diplomat.

The other day the diplomats drawn from Western EU and US visited your Karen Home in Nairobi where you hosted them.

Sources indicated the agenda was to

discuss the ways of ending the political crisis that was triggered by Raila Odinga's refusal to accept the outcome of the polls.

This was a rare occurrence. I have never seen diplomats visiting the residence of a leader to discuss official matters.

So, the foreign envoys did this out of respect for you.

The agenda of the Azimio's hardliners opposed to the talks is to return thier supporters back the street.

The talk that they were out to prepare the ground that would culminate in overthrowing President Ruto from power was just meant to mobilize gullible Kenyans.

They knew this will not happen because Ruto was popularly and democratically elected.

For them, the aim is to misuse Kenyans in pursuant of their selfish interests. The deaths of innocent Kenyans and destruction of people's businesses and properties won't matter.

Kalonzo has since confirmed that Raila lost the elections to Dr Ruto. Speaking during Saba Saba demonstrations, he however stated that the gap was too narrow.

President Ruto defeated our leader Raila with a small margin of 60,000 votes. This is why the country is divided. As such, dialogue is the way to go.

Both sides should soften and drop thier hardline stances. The country is more important than an individual.

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

Teenage Pregnancies In The World



By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- In Latin America, Europe and Asia only 42–68% of adolescents who are married or in partnerships use contraceptives. In Africa the rate ranges from 3–49%. There is a lack of sexuality education in many countries. A global coverage measure related to sexuality education estimates that only 36% of young men and 24% of young women aged 15–24 in low and middle-income countries have comprehensive and correct knowledge of how to prevent HIV.
- In some situations, adolescent girls may be unable to refuse sex. Sexual violence is widespread and particularly affects adolescent girls. More than one third of girls in some countries report that their first sexual encounter was coerced.



About 16 million girls aged 15 to 19 years and two million girls under the age of 15 give birth every year. Worldwide, one in five girls has given birth by the age of 18. In the poorest regions of the world, this figure rises to over one in three girls.

Almost all adolescent births – about 95% – occur in low- and middle-income countries. Within countries, adolescent births are more likely to occur among poor, less educated and rural populations. Several factors contribute to adolescent births.

In many societies, girls may be under pressure to marry and bear children early, or they may have limited educational and employment prospects. In low- and middle-income countries, over 30% of girls marry before they are 18 years of age; around 14% before the age of 15. Moreover, married adolescents are likely to become pregnant and give birth in accordance with social norms.

Education, on the other hand, is a major protective factor for early pregnancy: the more years of schooling, the fewer early pregnancies. Birth rates among women with low education are higher than for those with secondary or tertiary education. Some adolescents do not know how to avoid becoming pregnant, or are unable to obtain contraceptives. However, even where contraceptives are widely available, sexually active

adolescents are less likely to use contraceptives than adults.

In Latin America, Europe and Asia only 42–68% of adolescents who are married or in partnerships use contraceptives. In Africa the rate ranges from 3–49%. There is a lack of sexuality education in many countries. A global coverage measure related to sexuality education estimates that only 36% of young men and 24% of young women aged 15–24 in low and middle-income countries have comprehensive and correct knowledge of how to prevent HIV.

In some situations, adolescent girls may be unable to refuse sex. Sexual violence is widespread and particularly affects adolescent girls. More than one third of girls in some countries report that their first sexual encounter was coerced.

Pregnant adolescents are more likely than adults to have unsafe abortions. An estimated three million unsafe abortions occur globally every year among girls aged 15–19 years. Unsafe abortions contribute substantially to lasting health problems and maternal deaths.

Having babies during adolescence has serious consequences for the health of the girl and her infant, especially in areas with weak health systems. In some countries, adolescents are less likely than adults to obtain skilled care before, during and after

childbirth. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls aged 15–19 years in many low- and middle-income countries.

Stillbirths and newborn deaths are 50% higher among infants born to adolescent mothers than among those born to mothers aged 20–29 years. Infants of adolescent mothers are also more likely to have low birth weight, which can have a long-term impact on their health and development. Global context Adolescent pregnancy is a major contributor to maternal and child mortality, and to the vicious cycle of ill-health and poverty.

The Global Strategy for Women's and Children's health, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2010, stresses the importance of addressing the health and welfare of adolescent girls in order to achieve the fifth Millennium Development Goal on maternal mortality reduction. WHO response In May 2011, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution urging Member States to accelerate actions to improve the health of young people. It included these specific measures:

- reviewing and revising policies to protect young people from early child-bearing;
- providing access to contraception and reproductive health care services; and

- Promoting access to accurate information on sexual and reproductive health.

WHO published guidelines on Preventing early pregnancy and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescents in developing countries. Prepared in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the guidelines were based on a systematic review of the existing research as well as consultation with policy-makers, programme managers and frontline health workers. They contain evidence-based recommendations on actions that countries can take, targeting six key objectives reducing marriage before the age of 18;

- creating understanding and support to reduce pregnancy before the age of 20;
- increasing the use of contraception by adolescents at risk of unintended pregnancy;
- reducing coerced sex among adolescents;
- reducing unsafe abortion among adolescents;
- Increasing the use of skilled antenatal, childbirth and postnatal care among adolescents. In addition to calling for action to prevent adolescent pregnancies, the guidelines and accompanying policy briefs call for further research and set out directions for this to take.

Govt Assets Data Capturing And Reporting Key To Economic Progress: Mudavadi

By: Capital Correspondent



Worth Noting:

- “As accounting officers, you will have tracking dashboards. To protect you against unnecessary apprehension, adequate resources for implementation have been allocated for these overdue fiscal reforms. We are ready for the reform agenda, so should you be,” said Mudavadi.
- According to Mudavadi, the current manual inventory management has inefficiencies that limit visibility and control of inventory levels, is time consuming, prone to human errors and prevents the optimal use of human resources.
- To achieve the goal of maximizing value of Government investments, he said National Treasury has initiated fiscal reforms to automate assets and inventory management in MDAs and in County Governments.



Prime Cabinet Secretary, Musalia Mudavadi.

Government Ministries, State Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have until August 15 to submit their annual asset reports to the National Treasury.

Prime Cabinet Secretary, Musalia Mudavadi has said the 19th performance reporting cycle has come to end and there will be no extension for MDAs yet to submit their reports.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Principal Secretary State Department for Performance Management and Delivery Services, Ann Wang’ombe Mudavadi stated that National Treasury is operationalizing assets module in Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS).

This is expected to provide a real-time automated platform of capturing Government assets data and reporting on assets using the prescribed templates.

He spoke when he officially opened the principal secretaries’ sensitization workshop on fiscal reforms on asset and inventory management in Government at the Kenya School of Government in Nairobi.

“As accounting officers, you will have tracking dashboards. To protect you against unnecessary apprehension, adequate resources for implementation have been allocated

for these overdue fiscal reforms. We are ready for the reform agenda, so should you be,” said Mudavadi.

According to Mudavadi, the current manual inventory management has inefficiencies that limit visibility and control of inventory levels, is time consuming, prone to human errors and prevents the optimal use of human resources.

To achieve the goal of maximizing value of Government investments, he said National Treasury has initiated fiscal reforms to automate assets and inventory management in MDAs and in County Governments.

He stated that the fiscal reforms will be pursued in line with the Governments’ Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BeTA).

” For avoidance of doubt, the reforms are in tandem with our resolve to automate all Government processes and services, key among them, the management of public assets,” he affirmed.

Mudavadi reiterated that digitilisation of public financial management processes is a key component of cost saving reforms meant to protect public resources from maleficence by increasing efficiency and enhancing service delivery.

He also said the changes provide for real-time tracking of inventory levels and enhance supply chain

management practices.

” Importantly, the changes improve decision-making through data mining and analytics. The decision to pilot these reforms in the Executive and National Treasury, before being roll-out to MDAs, shows the level of Government commitment to see this process through,” he stated.

He also affirmed to the Principal Secretaries that Government policy stance on fiscal reforms is clear and anchored under the policy on asset and liability management in the public sector. Similarly, he noted that statutory and non-statutory reports to oversight institutions on assets and inventory administration and management, should be geared towards enhancing optimization, transparency and accountability of public assets while supporting decision-making at the top management.

“I hope you do not feel overwhelmed by what is demanded of you. Implementing reforms is part of the responsibility you undertook to serve Kenyans,” he told the PSs.

He added that the fiscal reforms are a precursor to full adoption of accrual accounting in the public sector, a key pillar in ongoing public finance management reforms.

“The purpose of these fiscal reforms should be a boon to accounting officers. You will have a bird’s

eye view of all inventory and assets under your control, while facilitating optimal assets and inventory utilization. The reforms will also help you address the perennial concerns by the Auditor General about inadequate management of Government assets,” Mudavadi explained.

To ensure these fiscal reforms are given the serious stimulus required, asset management is included as one of the key performance indicators in the 20th performance reporting cycle.

Henceforth, MDAs are required to ensure proper management and disposal of Government assets under them.

Fiscal reform requires adequate asset management structures are in place to ensure prudent management of public assets, with National Treasury expected to continue prescribing to efficient and effective but automated, simple and easy-to-understand and use, public finance management systems.

He also said the National and County Assemblies’ oversight role is being enhanced and Kenyans will benefit even more from certainty in administration and management of their assets.

The Picture On The Wall



Avicenna has other ways to discover that the mind cannot be something material. Most of them are only based on grasping the intellectual knowledge in the mind but cannot contain or operate with anything related to material.

The picture on the wall that I see is stretchy to my eye. But the mind cannot feel anything else. More precisely, the mind isn't a sense organ of the human body.

Avicenna wrote about that: Man is a rational, mortal animal.

It is meant that the mind cannot be part of the body. Avicenna gave a conclusion about death: if a person's body dies, the mind isn't destroyed.

This didn't help them to think that life is enjoyable in general for Muslims because

they believe that the body and mind are revived and dispersed after death. Avicenna was attacked in the 12th century by the great theologian Al-Ghazali, who called him a heretic for the Islamic tenet of the resurrection of the dead.

But at this time, Avicenna's prescription and work were also translated into Latin and many other languages. His dualism became popular among other philosophers and theologians. Avicenna said, "The secret conversation is a direct encounter between God and the soul, abstracted from all material constraints.

Aristotle elucidated about body and mind and how they are so closely connected, and his views were absolutely accepted by other theologians between the 16th and 17th centuries. Descartes returned to a dualism that was closer to Plato's, Aristotle's, and even Avicenna's.

Avicenna and Descartes conclude that "I" and "self", are totally distinct from the body because they may be eternal.

Maxmarejabova Muqaddas Mashrab qizi

My Innocent Friend



I have a friend. We talk to him every day. His thoughts are deep and thoughtful. I don't pay much attention to his words. I used to laugh at his wise words: "Don't be so wise." One day he said: "You should appreciate your parents, I envy you." I understood all the pain in his tearful eyes.

There was an orphanage near our

school. I pass by there every day, as long as I don't pay attention. After this incident, I began to look at that place with a different look.

I saw a crying four-year-old boy. My steps led involuntarily towards the boy. As my hands gripped her tiny shoulders, I felt a surge of strength.

- Does the boy cry too, what's the matter, little one?

- I saw my father. I ran, but they left without looking...

I wiped the tears on their faces and comforted them. In the child's Byron language: the resounding word "father" - the image of "invisible fathers" raised many questions in my heart...

Gulsevar Khojamova
Uzbekistan, Student of Andijan State Pedagogical Institute

What Is Hunger?



Hunger comes to everyone's mind when they don't have enough to eat. So what is hunger? Starvation is a severe lack of energy below the level required to maintain the organism. According to the World Health Ministry, 100 million people die every year due to hunger. 5 million of these figures are children. Until 2010, the number of hungry people decreased. But after 2010, these numbers began to increase rapidly, and now this figure is 842 million people, or 12.5% of the planet. Asia has 418 million hungry people, Africa has 282 million hungry people, and the Caribbean and South America have 60 million hungry people.

So what or who is causing this? First of all, we humans are the reason for this. According to Internet data, 30% of food is simply thrown

away every year. Great Britain and the USA have the highest indicators. Every year, 50% of food is wasted in the UK and 40% in the US. 100 million tons of food is wasted in European countries, and 13 billion tons of food is wasted in the world. If at least half of these foods had reached their owners, the number of hungry people would have decreased significantly. Another reason is wars and conflicts. War and conflict have a great impact not only on that country, but also on other countries. Another reason is natural phenomena. Natural phenomena beyond the reach of mankind reveal many fields of crops.

Well, the remaining 87.5 percent of the world's population just looked at this situation. Voluntary aid is given to countries with high poverty. But this is not enough. Not all people act equally. We should not only deliver food to people who are suffering from hunger, but also think about how to get them out of this situation. For this, first of all:

- To prevent war and conflict
- Poverty must be reduced
- Further increase in food aid
- And most importantly, the expected result can be achieved by reducing economic inequality

Sheraliyeva Bahara, an 8th grade student living in Zhondor District, Bukhara Region, Republic of Uzbekistan

Indescribable Pain



Sometimes a person doesn't understand himself. For example, this happens to me a lot. You want to pour out your heart to someone, but you can't find the words to say, only the right words. But you're full of pain, pain... You think how to get rid of it, but you can't find a way. You want to cry, it's hard in your throat something is stuck.

Wait for tears to flow from your eyes. But unfortunately, you will not shed tears. You will suffer a lot. Right now you are looking for a close friend - a confidant. Unfortunately, everyone is busy with their own pain; and they take your words superficially.

They even forget after a few minutes. Because when someone tells you about the pain of a date, your heart won't break. Unfortunately, in a few minutes, you will forget the pain that Toverturned his whole

world.

Of course, pain and feelings are not interesting and important to anyone. You realize that you don't understand and put your head on the pillow with pain. Your soft pillow seems to harden with the pain. You get up and open your phone. You try not to get distracted. Unfortunately, none of this helps... Basically, these pains accumulate during the day and give you excruciating pain in the evening. Sometimes these pains accumulate for years.

At worst, I don't feel or understand what is causing this pain. Your conscience, your heart knows, but the date cannot be expressed in words.

But don't be afraid! It doesn't hurt every day.

Some are every 2 days, some are once a week, some are once a month, and some are even once a year.

That's when you fall asleep. When you wake up in the morning, you will find that everything is fine and everything is better...

Laylo Bakhtiyorova
She was born on 11.10.2000 in the Kashkadarya region of Uzbekistan. Currently, she is a graduate student of Tashkent State Pedagogical University. Currently, she is a member of the organizations of Argentina, Russia, and India. She has been helping many young people to enter the international arena.

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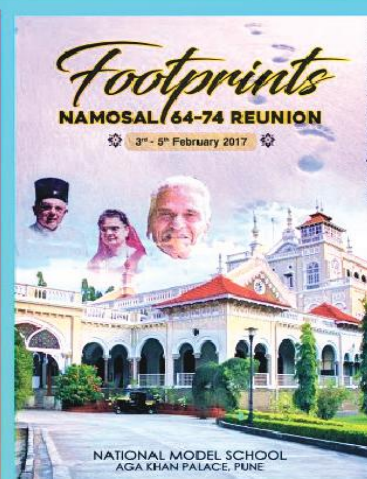
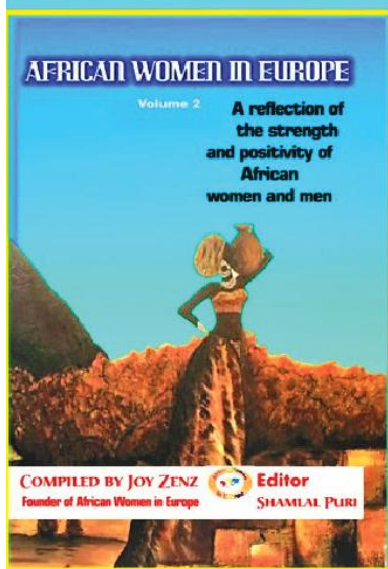
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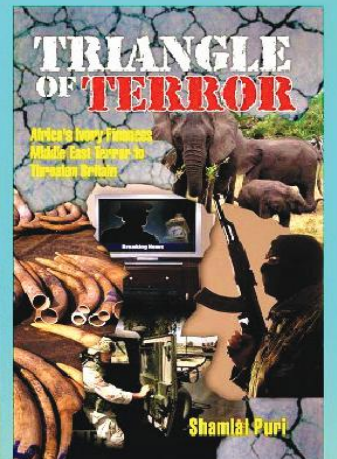
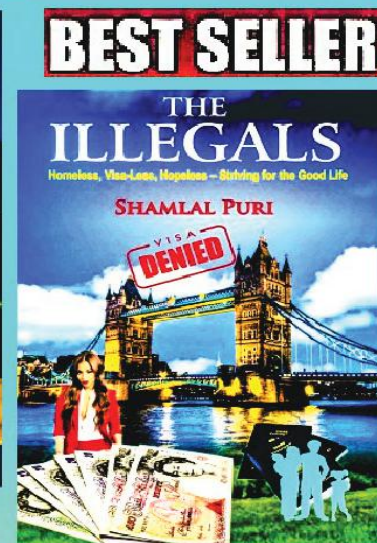
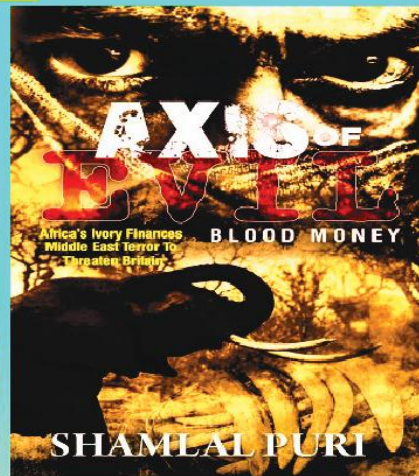
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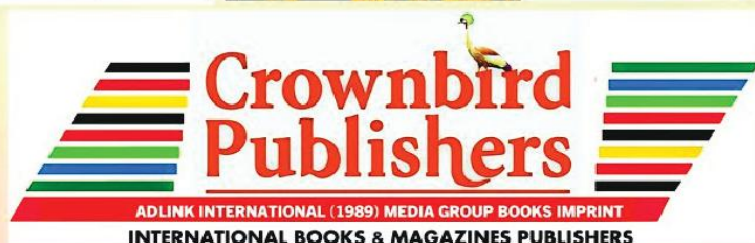
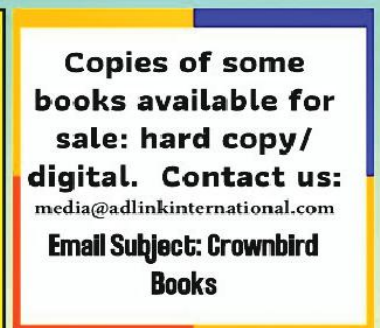
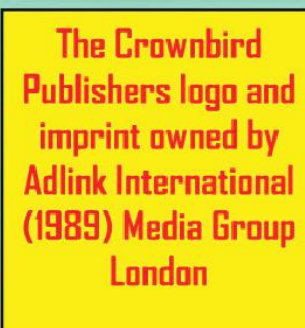
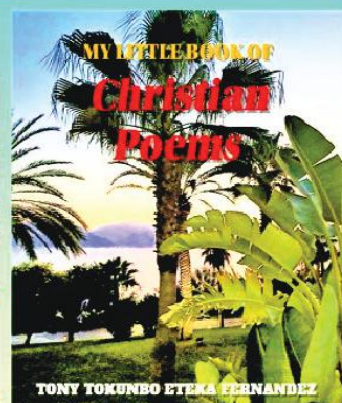
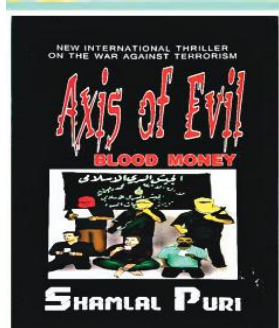
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BUSINESS

CS Tuya: We Will Streamline Charcoal Trade

By: Business Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The targets contained in the performance contracts, CS Tuya said were drawn from the ministry's recently launched 2023 to 2027 five-year strategic plan, Kenya Kwanza administration's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) as well as deliverables agreed upon during a Government retreat in Nanyuki late last year.
- "Further, I am aware that all the PCs have incorporated the Nanyuki agreed one year deliverables (by 30th June, 2024). It is on this basis that the Performance Contracts for FY 2023/2024 have met all the requirements as per the 20th Cycle Performance Contracting Guidelines and are therefore, finalized and ready for signing," she said.



Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya has said her ministry is in the process of streamlining charcoal trade in the country to ensure that it is conducted lawfully and in an environmentally sustainable manner by putting in place appropriate legal safeguards.

"We also commit to decriminalize charcoal trade, modernize and commercialize the charcoal value chain; promote youth-owned and operated briquette making enterprises and support the scaling up of clean cooking," CS Tuya said.

Speaking during the signing of 2023 to 2024 financial year performance contracts with principal secretaries and chairmen of parastatals under her ministry at the Kenya Meteorological Department complex on Thursday, CS Tuya listed promotion of agroforestry and sustainable waste management as her ministry's other top priorities this year.

"In this regard, the priority value chains for intervention include biomass energy (wood fuel), agroforestry and solid waste management.

"The objective in agroforestry is to develop a policy and regulatory framework to attract climate finance funds into the sector and establish 5 million acres of agroforestry woodlots in drylands.

"We also intend to map and organise waste collectors into cooperatives

and provide "circular economy" waste separation sites/infrastructure," the CS said.

She said the 2023 to 2024 financial year departmental performance contracts were a cascade of the ministerial targets signed between herself and President Dr William Ruto on Tuesday this week at State House, Nairobi.

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At the signing ceremony, also attended by the Principal Secretary for Performance Management and Service Delivery in the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary Ms Njoki Wang'ombe, the CS reminded officers in her ministry to strictly comply with established Government perfor-

mance management guidelines.

"As we sign these contracts today, let me remind you that you are required to strictly adhere to the performance reporting, both quarterly and annually. My office will be expecting to receive these reports promptly and at stipulated timelines.

"It is my hope that all the set targets will be achieved and you are encouraged to timely communicate to my office any challenges and constraints affecting the implementation," the CS said.

At the same time, the Cabinet Secretary underscored the importance of performance contracting in public service saying the Government uses it to enhance productivity and foster accountability.

"The Government continues to use performance contracting as a key tool for accountability and is part of the broader public sector reforms aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness in the management of the public service to improve service delivery," she said.

In their address, Principal Secretaries Eng Festus Ng'eno (Environment and Climate Change) and Mr Gitonga Mugambi (Forestry) assured CS Tuya of their commitment to see to it that the performance contracts were successfully implemented.

"We are going to take necessary measures to ensure that the delivery is done," PS Mugambi said, and

advised ministry staff to regularly document necessary performance evidence in prescribed formats for ease of reporting and evaluation.

Eng Ng'eno reiterated his forestry counterparts assurance, adding that the performance contracts were fully aligned to the ministry's 2023 to 2027 strategic plan and various source documents including Kenya Vision 2030.

"I want to give you our assurance that the performance contracts are aligned to our 2023 to 2027 strategic plan that was launched just last week, Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)...", PS Ng'eno noted.

On her part, PS Wang'ombe congratulated the ministry for being the first to sign departmental performance contracts saying it had set a positive precedence for others to emulate.

She assured of her state department's continued support to ensure that ministry's achieves its performance contracting objectives.

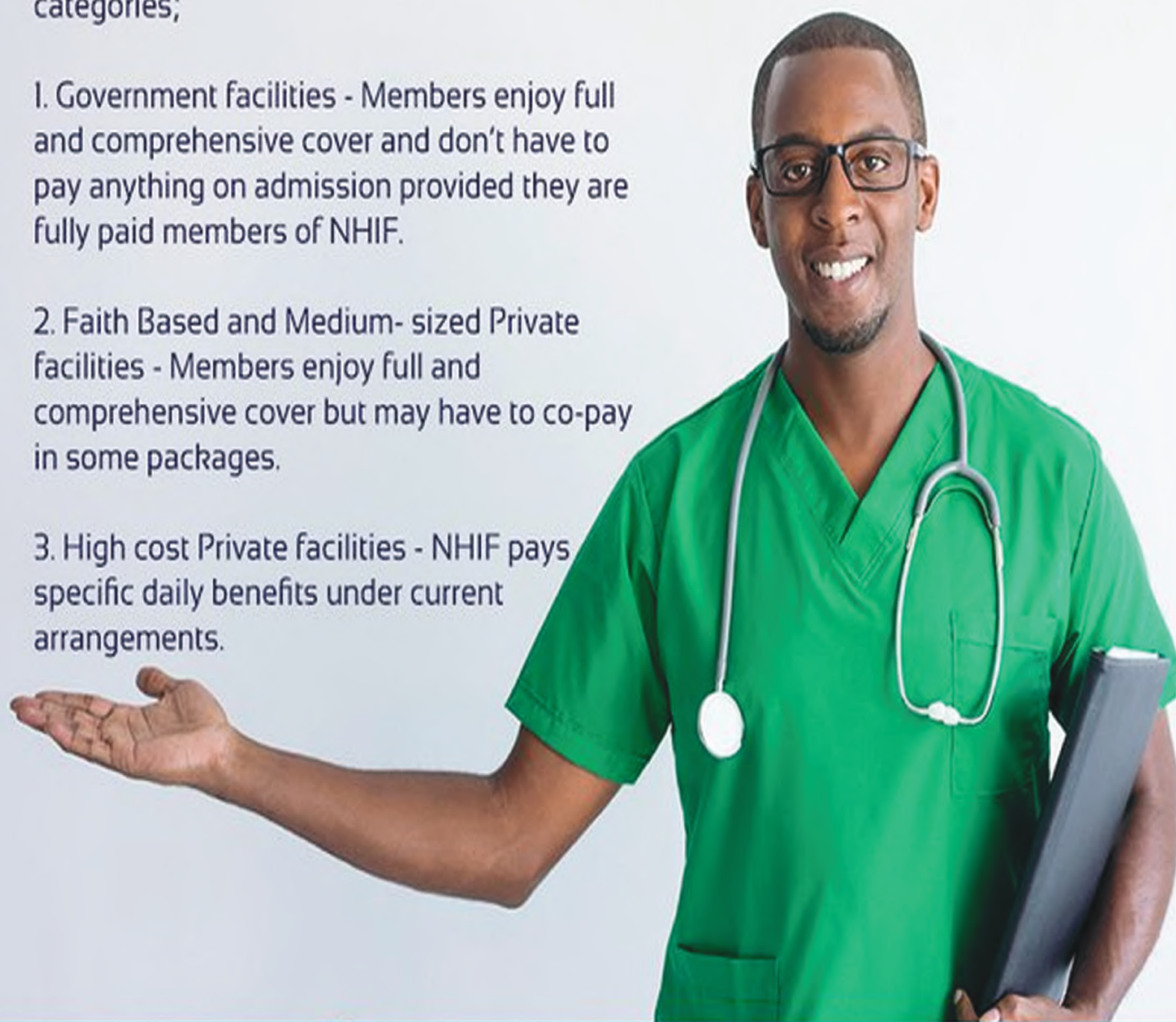
"As the Principal Secretary in charge of performance management, I commit to support your ministry throughout this process. My team and I will provide the necessary tools, frameworks, resources and facilitate effective performance measurement and evaluation," PS Wang'ombe assured CS Tuya.



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Youth Told To Seek Jobs Globally As MKU Primes Graduates For International Market

By: James Wakahiu
@themkenyentimes



Dr. Karim Khan (left), the Prosecutor at International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, in a light moment with MKU Founder and Chairman of the board, Prof Simon Gicharu, during the fete.

Worth Noting:

- The chairman said his Board has been very committed to the improvement of academic facilities and learning infrastructure in form of additional learning space for students and laboratories for research. Such efforts have been reinforced by development institutions such as Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and collaborating institutions such as Osaka City University. Recently, MKU launched a Sh300 million Centre for Malaria Elimination at Thika Main Campus with support of JICA.
- Prof Gicharu spoke as another 6,108 (3,138 are male and 2,970 female) graduated at MKU's Happy Valley grounds in Thika town yesterday.

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has stepped up efforts to prepare its students for the international job market by partnering with global organizations and foreign universities as unemployment continues to frustrate new graduates in the country.

The university's founder and chairman of the board, Prof Simon Gicharu, says whereas jobs are few in Kenya, there are many opportunities abroad. "We are training Kenyans not only for the local job market but also for the international one," he said.

The chairman congratulated the university management for establishing partnerships with organizations in Germany and Austria. "Such partnerships are providing our graduates with opportunities to work abroad. MKU will also do everything possible to attract international students to come and study here. Currently, we have 8,000 foreign students from over 40 countries. Today, we have over 400 graduates from 11 different countries," he said.

The MKU chairman advised the youth not to aim to study at universities located in their home county and still look for a job within their counties. "They should aim for international jobs," he said.

Previously, MKU used to compete with other institutions to set up campuses in Kenya. "In our endeavour to expand access to higher education, we decided to go international. We started with a campus in Rwanda, which is now a fully-fledged autonomous university called Mount Kigali University. It has employed over 100

Kenyans - highly-trained professionals who dared to look for opportunities beyond Kenya's borders," he said.

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Prof Gicharu spoke as another 6,108 (3,138 are male and 2,970 female) graduated at MKU's Happy Valley grounds in Thika town yesterday.

They included one honorary doctorate, 15 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degrees; 349 Masters Degrees 162 postgraduate Diplomas and 3,618 Bachelor's Degree recipients.

"Part of our drive towards internationalization is further evidenced by the fact that we have identified our honorary graduates from international community. Dr. Karim Khan is the Prosecutor at International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands. He is receiving an Honorary Doctor of Laws today," said Prof Gicharu.

MKU has also waived Sh80 million on outstanding student levies that include library and storage of certificate charges. "The issue of uncollected certificates was worsened by the

economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Prof. Gicharu. "Over 4,000 past students have accumulated storage fees, library arrears, and late return of graduation gowns."

The university's chancellor, Prof Struthers, praised the many cutting-edge multidisciplinary partnerships that MKU has engaged in during the last eight months, a major thrust in the internationalization of the university. MKU now trains students on German language which will give them an edge to offer their services in Germany and Austria.

Others include the state-of-the-art malaria research laboratory referred to as the Malaria Elimination Centre and the Institute of Tropical Medicine launched at the Thika Campus with the support of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The facility focuses on biomedical research in genomics and cell-biology techniques and its facilities and resources are open to other researchers from Kenya, Africa, and beyond.

Similarly, the university's African Center for Career Enhancement & Skills Support (ACCESS) project which runs from 2020 to 2024 has continued to bring together seven partner universities including as Leipzig (Germany), IGRIB (Benin), Knust (Ghana), Ibadan (Nigeria), Tunis (Tunisia), INES (Rwanda) and MKU. This centre facilitates employment creation for African universities' graduates and has so far sent two members of staff to Leipzig University in Germany for the PhDs.

Another example of interdisciplin-

ary collaboration is the collaboration with the Vincent Pol University in Poland and the support they provided to MKU especially during the 8th International Inter-Universities & Inter-disciplinary Consortium (African) Conference in 2023. "Such partnerships also extend to student and staff exchange opportunities," the chancellor said.

Prof Struthers noted that a partnership between MKU and the Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences in Germany saw eight MKU students and two staff members visit Germany in May 2023 under the Erasmus Plus programme. Earlier in February 2023, four members of Staff and two postgraduate students joined the University of Tartu network in Estonia in Northern Europe under another Erasmus Plus programme sponsored project.

"These partnerships are only a sample of similar programmes that have contributed towards enhancing the profile of our university, which since its inception has always been partnership-driven. Moreover, MKU and my home university, the University of The West of Scotland (UWS) saw no fewer than eight MKU staff members (including some of them in-person) participate in the 7th Annual Conference organized by the Centre for African Research on Enterprise and Economic Development where I serve as the Director," said the Chancellor.

Vice Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi said in order to boost possible job opportunities globally, MKU students participated in Start-up Talent Session between the Africa Berlin Network and MKU early this year. "In liaison with Becoming Inter-cultural Diversity Ambassador (BIDA) Program, eight students participated in student exchange with Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg (H-BRS) University," he said.

To align emerging trends and address the market demand, MKU has approved two new programmes; namely; Doctor of Philosophy in Biotechnology and Bachelor of Pharmacy (upgrading). "The University Senate also approved revised curriculum for: Bachelor of Laws curriculum, Diploma of Laws Curriculum, Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science, Bachelor of Science in Science Laboratory Science, and Bachelor of Science in Animal Health & Production," said the VC.

He said to make MKU programmes cost-effective in the era of technology integration, the university has

Youth Told To Seek Jobs Globally As MKU Primes Graduates For International Market

Contd from Page 18.

..... progressively upgraded its e-content modules into SCORM files digital content, which is self-paced with voice over. The digitization of content helps to have online content that is comprehensive and easy to navigate for the learner. Additionally, the university's new common units are now offered online and are accessible to all our learners in various modes of study.

Climate change

Recently, the university was awarded a Sh4 million grant by the UK's Knowledge Transfer Network (UK KTN) to pilot an Internet of Things-enabled machine that allows shopkeepers to accurately dispense as little as a few cents' worth of washing powder into reusable containers thereby increasing profit margins for store owners and reducing single-use plastic, which is a major contributor to environmental pollu-

tion and climate change. According Prof Gicharu said the climate change challenge comes with numerous opportunities for innovative and creative entrepreneurs. "These include coming up with innovative solutions for clean and green energy, tree planting, restoration of water towers, conservation, and Cloud Seeding Technology," he said. He asked the graduates to apply this innovative spirit in their areas of training and expertise. "If your field is I.C.T, you should not just be an I.C.T specialist. Be innovative and identify other opportunities in areas such as Artificial Intelligence. Use the existing e-resources to discover the emerging opportunities arising from disruptions," he said. National Assembly Speaker Dr. Moses Wetangula, who was the chief guest called for adoption of multi-faceted strategies by governments throughout the world to address the issue of climate change. He also encouraged Kenyans to support the Government of Kenya's initiative to plant 15 billion trees by year 2032.

"The rise in research on 'green-house' effects/ climate change mitigation is a vital input by universities and research organisations for bridging the glaring policy gaps in environmental education, consumer behaviour, rewarding and sanctions systems, legislation and government/ organizational support in climate change mitigation," added the Speaker. During the fete, Prof Gicharu congratulated the outgoing chairman of the MKU Council, Prof David Serem, who has served diligently for the past six years who has left after the government appointed him as chairman of the Chuka University Council. Prof. Agong' Stephen Gaya, who has more than 30 years' experience in education, training, research and science, management and leadership is the new chairman of the MKU Council. Thanking the MKU board for appointing him, Prof Gaya appreciated the support by the Board of Directors in making MKU the hub for quality university education and training. "I

commit to steer the team to ensure we offer support to the university management as the university grows to the next level. Prof Gaya said the university council has approved a Health Services Policy to ensure that students have access to the essential healthcare services, promoting their physical and mental well-being. The policy helps in addressing the common health issues and provide preventive care, early intervention and treatment options. Further, Management of Chaplaincy policy will foster an all-inclusive and supportive university environment as well as honouring the diverse religious and spiritual needs of all members of the University Community. "We now also have a policy that provides the procedure and guideline by which an academic award may be conferred posthumously to a deceased candidate who before the unfortunate death had fulfilled the requirement of the award of the degree," he said. The 23rd graduation ceremony marked the last in which students

from what was formerly MKU Kigali Campus will be travelling to Kenya. The Campus gained full autonomy in April this year and now operates under the name Mount Kigali University. In future, Mount Kigali University will be holding its own graduation ceremonies in Kigali, Rwanda. Others who attended the colourful event were Thika Town MP Alice Ng'ang'a, and her counterparts Paul Melly (Tinderet), Musa Sirma (Eldama Ravine), Ferdinand Wanyonyi (Kwanza), Getrude Mbetu (Kilifi), and Innocent Mugabe (Likuyani) among others. Others were Paul Mungai from the State Department for Higher Education and Research at the Ministry of Education, Ambassador Francis Muthaura, Chuka University Council Chair Prof. David Serem, Dr Richard Thacker of University of West Scotland and Prof. John McNulty of Loyola University, U.S.A.

CS Nakhumicha Inaugurates Maternity Wing At Mp Shah Hospital

By: Beth Nyaga

..... The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with counties and communities, is steadfast in improving maternal health coverage and equity through strategic investments in health systems, midwife training, and emergency obstetric care. A remarkable milestone in this endeavour is the government's allocation of 4.1 billion KSH to the Linda Mama Free Maternity Program. This initiative has been instrumental in offering vital antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care, benefiting nearly one million women annually. The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Nakhumicha Wafula, expressed these sentiments during the inauguration of the new Maternity Wing at MP Shah Hospital – KPJ Medical Center.

The timely launch coincided with the celebration of World Breastfeeding Week, aligning perfectly with the theme "Enabling breastfeeding: Making a difference for working parents" In her speech, CS Nakhumicha emphasized the critical significance of investing in maternal and newborn health to ensure positive outcomes after childbirth. She commended MP Shah Hospital for its commendable efforts in reducing maternal mortality and improving newborn outcomes. The newly launched Maternity Wing, along with the integrated maternal and child health services at KPJ Medical Center, aligns seamlessly with the Ministry's goals of increasing access to skilled deliveries, comprehensive antenatal care, and full immunization for children.



Cabinet Secretary for Health, Nakhumicha Wafula (left).

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



Kisumu Court of Appeal Upholds Governor Nyaribo’s Election Victory

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Thereafter, on 9th September, 2022, he filed an Amended Petition and contended that the gubernatorial election was not conducted in compliance with Articles 81 and 86 of the Constitution, the Elections Act and the Election (General) Regulations, 2012 (Regulations); and that IEBC did not conduct a transparent, impartial, neutral, efficient, accurate and verifiable election.
- The court stated that having considered the appeal on this issue, it is important to recall the limited remit of the appellate court on factual matters: Its engagement with the facts should be limited to satisfying itself.
- “Whether the conclusions of the trial judge are based on the evidence on record or whether they are so perverse that no reasonable tribunal would have arrived on them.”



Nyamira gubernatorial Amos Nyaribo.

Kisumu Court of appeal has upheld Nyamira gubernatorial Amos Nyaribo’s election victory.

Dennis Omwenga Ayiera, petitioner, challenged the declaration of the Nyaribo and James Gesami as the duly elected Governor and Deputy Governor for Nyamira County, respectively.

The petitioner was the Nyamira County Elections Manager for the United Democratic Alliance Party (UDA Party) and the Chief Agent for one of the gubernatorial candidates, Walter Osebe Nyambati .

Nyaribo was duly elected governor with 81,980 votes while Nyambati, his closest challenger, garnered 49,339 votes, as per the declared results by IEBC.

The petitioner was aggrieved by the declaration of the Nyaribo governor and his deputy governor and filed, at the High Court, a petition dated 7th

September, 2022 challenging that declaration.

The petitioner claimed that Nyaribo’s election was not conducted in accordance with the law and the IEBC did not conduct free fair and transparent election.

Thereafter, on 9th September, 2022, he filed an Amended Petition and contended that the gubernatorial election was not conducted in compliance with Articles 81 and 86 of the Constitution, the Elections Act and the Election (General) Regulations, 2012 (Regulations); and that IEBC did not conduct a transparent, impartial, neutral, efficient, accurate and verifiable election.

The court stated that having considered the appeal on this issue, it is important to recall the limited remit of the appellate court on factual matters: Its engagement with the facts should be limited to satisfying itself.

“Whether the conclusions of the trial judge are based on the evidence on record or whether they are so perverse that no reasonable tribunal would have arrived on them.”

The court further stated that they have reproduced at length the careful, thorough, detailed, and candid findings of fact by the learned judge on the allegations of irregularities and transpositional errors alleged by the petitioner.

The learned judge drew from the evidence of the pleadings, the evidence of the parties and the scrutiny report and the documentary evidence produced at trial to reach the careful conclusion that the errors and irregularities in the electoral forms were inadvertent (and certainly not intentional or reverse-engineered); in context immaterial and insubstantial; and did not, overall, affect the outcome or substance of the elections.

In particular, the learned judge worked from the original Forms 37As and 37Bs deposited in court and reached the conclusion that despite the transpositional errors when moving the figures to Form 37C, the numbers of votes garnered by each candidate as well as the number of rejected votes were, generally, accurate.

The learned judge also concluded that there was no systematic failure of process or advertent scheme to transfer votes from one candidate to another or otherwise thwart the will of the people of Nyamira County in the elections. In doing the former, the learned judge was eminently applying the quantitative test in Section 83 of the Elections Act while in doing the latter the judge was applying the qualitative test of the same section.

No crime offence

Joel Ngugi judge stated that having independently looked at the record and these documents and aware of the limited remit of this Court in reviewing the factual findings of an election court, we are simply unable to say that the analysis and conclusions of fact by the learned judge were in any way perverse and unsupported by evidence to warrant a review and reversal by this Court.

To the contrary, as stated above, we find the learned judge’s analysis and conclusions measured and judicious. The irregularities, discrepancies, and transpositional errors did not, quantitatively, affect the results of the elections.

The discrepancies were arithmetical in nature and not such as to change the results of the elections. Neither did they, qualitatively, reach the threshold where this Court can, in context, conclude that the election was conducted so badly that it was not substantially in accordance with the law as to elections.

Consequently, the grounds of appeal hinged on the argument that the elections were not conducted in substantial compliance with the law; or that the judge failed to apply a qualitative test in the disputed election fail as well.

It is obvious, from the parts of the judgment extracted above, that the learned judge considered both the quantitative and the qualitative tests as he was required by section 83 of the Elections Act. Both tests failed in the instant case, and correctly so.

The court therefore ruled that the appeal as a whole lacks merit and accordingly dismissed with costs.

In his speech Nyaribo said that the ruling by the Court of appeal is clear confirmation that we built and ran a clean popular peaceful campaign during the 2022 electioneering period.

He asked his opponents to forget about the elections and cone so that they work together to make Nyamira a better place.

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Sports >> *Young Kenyan swimmer Sarah Mose is aiming for a podium finish at the seventh edition of the Commonwealth Youth Games slated to start Friday in the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

Kenyan swimmer Sara Mose hungry for medal at Commonwealth Youth Games

By: Capital Sport

Young Kenyan swimmer Sarah Mose is aiming for a podium finish at the seventh edition of the Commonwealth Youth Games slated to start Friday in the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

The 17-year old, who is based in Poland was the first Kenyan athlete to arrive in Trinidad where she has had three training sessions already.

Sara will be joined by male swimmer Aker Mutinda who arrived Friday alongside their coach Lydia Musei.

The Commonwealth Youth Games will be her first international duty for Kenya and Sara is confident that she is equal to the task to go against the likes of Australia, England, Wales and hosts Trinidad and Tobago swimmers.

"Everything is good for me here and I'm prepared enough to face the competition ahead. The weather is good, and the pool is cool as well so, I am looking to do well and probably get a medal for Kenya," she said.

"I am happy to compete for my country. I am working hard in my training, focusing on my speed and everything will turn out well," added Sara.

"I am excited and nervous as well because everything here is new for me, so I have just been observing a lot as well and adjusted things here and there, so I believe everything is working for my good."

Sara will compete in the 50m freestyle, 50m fly, 50m breaststroke 50m backstroke 100m breaststroke.



GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Kenya's sports tourism sector has reached new heights, propelled by a series of successful international sporting events hosted in the country.

Sports Tourism in Kenya Soaring, Helped by Hosting of International Sporting Events



World Rugby Under-20 teams enjoying their stay at Pridelnn hotel. Photo/COURTESY.

Kenya's sports tourism sector has reached new heights, propelled by a series of successful international sporting events hosted in the country.

The recent World Rugby Under-20 Championship, held in Nairobi from July 15-30, was a resounding success, showcasing Kenya's ability to host world-class tournaments.

PrideInn Hotels, Resorts and Camps was the official accommodation partner of teams under the championship. The hotels under the hospitality brand that played host of the teams were PrideInn Azure, PrideInn Westlands and PrideInn Plaza Hotel and Convention Centre.

The World Rugby Under-20 Championship attracted teams from around the globe, including Kenya, USA, Scotland, Zimbabwe, Spain, and others. This event was not an isolated occurrence but part of a series of international sporting events hosted in Kenya, which also included the Kenyan leg of the iconic World Rally

Championship in June and the Absa Kip Keino Classic held at Kasarani Stadium in May.

These events have had a remarkable positive ripple effect on Kenya's tourism sector, boosting the country's reputation as a preferred sports destination.

Jackton Amutala, Director of Business Development and Operations at PrideInn Hotels, Resorts, and Camps, emphasized the rapid growth of sports tourism in Kenya, stating:

"Kenya's success in hosting international sporting events like the World Rugby Under-20 Championship has positioned us on the global sports tourism map. These events have attracted numerous international sportsmen and women, along with their families and supporters, thereby generating foreign exchange and contributing to the growth of the tourism sector."

He added that government and tourism stakeholders can further support and nurture the sports tourism sector through various

measures that include investment in infrastructure, promotion and marketing of Kenya and training and capacity building.

"When it comes to investment in infrastructure, we would like to thank the government of its continued support on ongoing upgrades done in our sports facilities and event venues.

However, we need to do more renovations to ensure that these places are up to par with the venues offered in international markets," he said.

He added that such moves would enhance Kenya's capabilities to host international sporting events of various scales, attracting a broader range of sports tournaments.

Speaking on the issue of promotion and marketing, Amutala noted that collaborative efforts between the government and tourism stakeholders to promote Kenya as a sports tourism destination would boost the country's image on the international stage and attract more sporting events and visitors.

He also noted that investing in sports-related training programs and capacity building for local athletes and coaches would enhance the country's sports talent pool, making it more attractive for sports events.

"PrideInn took great pride in hosting international sports teams during the World Rugby Under-20 Championship. Our commitment to delivering world-class accommodation and services tailored to the unique needs of athletes, their families, and supporters played a vital role in creating an unforgettable experience," he said.

He urged fellow stakeholders in the tourism industry to seize this momentum, explore collaborative opportunities, and harness the potential of sports tourism.

"Together, we can elevate Kenya's reputation as a vibrant sports destination, attracting more global sporting events and visitors to experience the unparalleled beauty and hospitality our nation offers."

SPORTS NEWS



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Backpage



To President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

By: Oringaliyeva Nurjayna
Orazgaliyevna
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

Sister Jenni loves to read books. For this reason, every evening when she returns from work, her son buys a book and brings it to Jack. Jack is very happy to read them. After reading, he tells his mother about the book. Today, sister Jenni brought Abdulla Kadiri's book "The Past". The book is very interesting. The more Jack reads about the lives of the heroes of this work, he wanted to read more. Days passed. Jack did not have time to read the end of the work because he had time to go to school. Jack thought: "I will read my book during the school break" and took the book away.

You are gone, we live in peaceful times,
The door of opportunities is open for us.
The soil is sacred in this great Motherland
We bring thanks just for you.

You are introducing the Uzbek nation to the world.
Always doing all the merits.
You are focusing on the younger generation,
We are all reading a book today.

How happy are the children today?!
A person who gives goodness to the heart.
Our people only trust you,
You are lucky to be alive.

You will not be found in any country -
He gave so many opportunities to young people.
My motherland, my people, can't even sleep,
He loved our country more than his life.

We are happy today because of you
We are growing up not knowing why war.
You are our mountain, you are a great maple.
May your face always be bright.

You make the country bloom, the garden and the garden,
A happy future awaits us.
You miss Uzbekistan every day.
Our country will become world famous.

We deserve your trust,
Our desire is only for the future.
Always seeing joy in your eyes,
The younger generation will always show their strength.

A book is an incomparable wealth

Sister Jenni loves to read books. For this reason, every evening when she returns from work, her son buys a book and brings it to Jack. Jack is very happy to read them. After reading, he tells his mother about the book. Today, sister Jenni brought

Abdulla Kadiri's book "The Past". The book is very interesting.

The more Jack reads about the lives of the heroes of this work, he wanted to read more. Days passed. Jack did not have time to read the end of the work because he had time to go to school. Jack thought: "I will read my book during the school break" and took the book away. The first lesson was mathematics. Jack went to the board and solved the examples correctly and received a grade of "5". Because he reads a lot of books, he gets excellent grades in all subjects.

It was 45 minutes before the class started and the bell rang. Jack immediately took his book and started reading. At that moment, his classmate Sarah saw the book in Jack's hand. - What kind of book is this? Sarah asked. "This is Abdulla Kadiri's novel "Gone Days", Jack answered. After that, Sarah asked him to give the book for a day. At first Jack did not agree, because he did not give his books to anyone. After Sarah asked for the book, Jack agreed to give it only for one day.

Three days passed. And Sarah has not come to school for three days. Not knowing what to do next, Jack was coming home from school when Sarah left. Jack explained that while asking Sarah for his book, his brother tore it up. Hearing this, Jack got angry and said to Sarah: "Why are you giving the book to your brother? After all, the price of this book was expensive." Jack did not know how he went home thinking about the book. When he entered the house, his mother was preparing food for him. Both Jack's faces turned red and shyly told his mother what had happened. Hearing this, his mother replied to her son: "Don't be upset, my son. The value of the book is not in its money, but in the fact that it has been read a lot." Then sister Jenni went to the bookstore and bought one more book for her son Jack.

Oringaliyeva Nurjayna Orazgaliyevna was born on November 11, 2006 in Nukus, Republic of Karakalpakstan. Currently, she is an 11th grade Russian student of school 37 in Nukus. Author of the book



Oringaliyeva Nurjayna Orazgaliyevna .

"Maktabim-fakhrim". The winner of the school, city and republic stages of the Uzbek language Olympiad. Winner of the 1st place in the contest "Young Reader" held by the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan and the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan.

Coordinator of "Kizlarjon" club. She won the 1st place in the school, city and republic stages of essay contests. "Words in the heart" and "World of new talents" were published in English by "Just Fiction Edition" publishing house in the European city of Moldava, "Çiçekler" was published in Turkish, "Flowers from the bud" were published in Uzbek, and "From the Diary of Daisies" and the international anthologies "Mir glazami jenshchiny" published by the Russian Federation "Slovo serdtsa" publishing house. The articles, poems and stories of the young artist are published in the republican "Jetkinshek", "Korakalpakstan

Tong", "Ezgulik", "Bekajon" newspapers and "Uzbekistanda Talim" magazine.

Member of the international organizations "All India Council for Technical Skill Development" and "National Human Rights and Humanitarian Federation" of India. She was awarded the "Altin Qiran" medal of the "Double Wing" Foundation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the "Talent" commemorative badge for her cooperation with the "Education in Uzbekistan" magazine and her talent and achievements in the field of artistic creativity.

Today, as a member of the "Khalk donoligi" folklore club under the Writers' Union of Karakalpakstan, and the "Young Artists" circle under the Union and the "Amudarya" magazine, she actively participates in public and propaganda work.