

KEMSA To Digitize Services To Increase Efficiency

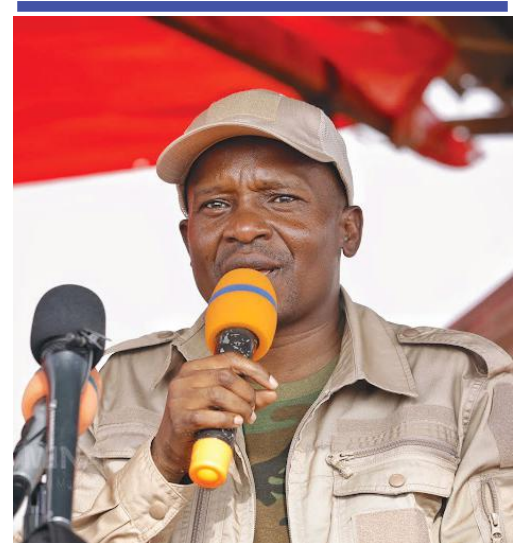


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KEMSA Chairman Irungu Nyakera



Political Opinion: Coffee Farmers Set To Reap Big From Gachagua's Tour Of Colombia **P.11**



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World Patient Safety Day Marked Amid Calls To Reduce Patient Harm

By: Nicholas Kigundu

Worth Noting:

- Speaking in Geneva during the 2023 patient safety global conference, health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha said building trust between patients and healthcare providers is vital to promote a conducive environment where patients feel empowered to participate actively in their care.
- “The evidence is clear.....when patients are engaged as partners in their care, significant gains are realized in safety, efficiency in healthcare systems, overall patient satisfaction, reduction of costs and improved health outcomes.” She told the forum.



Kenya joined the rest of the world in marking this year's world patient safety day amid calls to improve patient safety.

During the celebrations on Friday morning, Public Health and Professional Standards Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni kick started the day by holding a walk at Afya House. She underscored the government's commitment to prioritize patient involvement in policy, governance, safety strategies, and their own care.

She said statistics from WHO indicate that around 1 in every 10 patients is harmed during health care and over 3 million deaths recorded annually due to unsafe care with the situation worse in low-to-middle income countries, where

as many as 4 in 100 people die from unsafe care.

“A critical aspect of patient safety is the active engagement of patients in their own care. Inadequate communication between healthcare providers, patients, and their families can lead to misunderstandings, missed information, and ultimately errors in diagnosis and treatment. When patients and/or their families are well-informed and involved in decision-making, they become partners in their healthcare journey.” She observed.

Speaking in Geneva during the 2023 patient safety global conference, health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha said building trust between patients and

healthcare providers is vital to promote a conducive environment where patients feel empowered to participate actively in their care.

“The evidence is clear.....when patients are engaged as partners in their care, significant gains are realized in safety, efficiency in healthcare systems, overall patient satisfaction, reduction of costs and improved health outcomes.” She told the forum.

She said Kenya has made significant strides in patient safety through institutionalization of patient safety within the Ministry of Health as well as formulating policies on infection prevention and control and antimicrobial resistance to

safeguard patient well-being.

World Patient Safety Day calls for global solidarity and concerted action by all countries and international partners to improve patient safety. The day brings together patients, families, caregivers, communities, health workers, health care leaders and policy-makers to show their commitment to patient safety.

The resolution WHA 72.6 ‘Global action on patient safety’ recognizes patient safety as a global health priority and endorses the establishment of world patient safety day to be observed annually on 17 September.



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System Voltage Dips Caused Recent Nationwide black-out, CS Chirchir Tells Energy Committee



Some of the committee members during yesterday's session.



Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir when he appeared before the committee yesterday

By: PSCU

Energy Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Davis Chirchir has attributed the cause of recent nationwide power outage that disrupted critical services to a system voltage dip.

In a bid to assist traders seek compensation for the losses accrued during the black-out, the Energy Committee led by Vincent Musyoka (Mwala) had directed the CS during the last meeting to carry out an extensive analysis of the sequence of events and data profiles at various installation points with a view to establish to establish the persons responsible for the grid collapse. Appearing before the National Assembly Committee on Energy, Chirchir maintained that it's not possible to apportion culpability of the cause of the country wide black-out to a person nor entity. "LTWP subsequently tripped leading to a loss of 270MW. This power swings and cascade trips of other

generators thus the black out," said Chirchir. The members of Energy committee expressed dissatisfaction with the responses given by the CS and his team. "You cannot say that no individual nor entity is culpable for the power black-out," said Muskoka. The legislators further directed the CS to carry out a satisfactory survey on staff morale at Kenya Power to clear the allegations of possible sabotage. Regarding the increased fuel prices, the members of the committee advised the CS to create an early warning mechanism to enable citizens to prepare for fuel increase.

We Will Not Relent In The Fight Against Homosexuality, Mombasa Activists Vow

By: Capital Correspondent

A mega anti-gay demonstration took place in the streets of Mombasa after the Friday 1pm (Dhuhur) Muslim prayers. Hundreds of people; Mombasa residents, politicians, religious leaders and lobby organizations drawn from all the six sub counties of Mombasa participated in the demonstration. They strongly opposed the Tuesday's Supreme Court decision that gave a green light that the lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and queers and intersex (LGBTQI) community to associate. In its controversial decision, the Supreme Court upheld the right of the National Gay and Lesbian Rights Commission to register as a nongovernmental organization (NGO). In Mombasa, the anti-LGBTQ movement said they have been receiving threats from the NGOs that

support gay rights in the country. Salim Karama, the Mombasa anti-LGBTQ movement chairperson, said they have been accused of inciting the public against the homosexuals. "We have now been branded 'terrorists' and being accused of planning to kill the homosexuals by inciting the public against them. These numerous letters and threats by NGOs will not stop us from fighting against this vice. We will not relent," said Karama. He said their movement is made up of rights activists, religious leaders, women and youth leader and the region's residents. "Do you see any terrorists here?" he posed. Mombasa elected politicians, majority who are Muslims, did not participate in the demonstrations. Nyali MP Mohammed Ali and a few Members of County Assembly (MCAs) participated. Ali asked why the issue of LGBTQ is being propagated so much in the country.



He questioned the rationale the Supreme Court judges used to allow the LGBTQ community to associate, whereas Kenyan constitution is against homosexuality. "We will respect the foreign policy between Kenyan and other countries, but we will not allow them to push their agenda (of LGBTQ)," said Ali. He called out his fellow legislators and Mombasa politicians to come out and declare their stand on the matter. 'If you are a Christian follow your Christian teachings, if you are Muslim, then follow Islamic teachings. We must protect our city and country,' he said.

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President Ruto: We Have A Conducive Climate For Foreign Investment

By: KBC Digital

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto said Kenya had upgraded its data protection regulations in line with the Global Cross-Border Private Rules framework, was secure, home to green energy and good infrastructure.
- "We have also eliminated VAT on exported services and abolished tax on stock-based compensation for employees of start-ups." He said
- He assured global firms of Kenya's ample supply of energetic, gifted and skilled human capital "who are responsible for driving the country's tech sector".



President William Ruto has said Kenya is committed to attracting quality foreign investments in the country. He noted that the Government is pursuing ambitious reforms that will turn Kenya into a regional business hub. The Head of State cited the installation of a pro-business tax regime as one of the means through which the Government aims to court foreign investments. "A more investor-friendly environment will allow businesses to inno-

vate, thrive, and create more economic opportunities for the people," he said. He made the remarks on Friday during an investment forum and engagement at the Silicon Valley in San Francisco, United States. President Ruto said Kenya had upgraded its data protection regulations in line with the Global Cross-Border Private Rules framework, was secure, home to green energy and good infrastructure. "We have also eliminated VAT on

exported services and abolished tax on stock-based compensation for employees of start-ups." He said He assured global firms of Kenya's ample supply of energetic, gifted and skilled human capital "who are responsible for driving the country's tech sector". "We continue to develop a workforce fit for the changing world." The Head of State pointed out that Kenya is also supporting entrepreneurs through the creation of a digital

hub in every ward. "This will offer learning and innovation to more than one million talents. This incredible talent pool will serve your businesses." US Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman, British Robinson, Coordinator Prosper Africa, several investors, and captains of industry attended the forum.

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National Guidelines On Workplace Mental Wellness Launched

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyetimes



Ministry of Health has unveiled National Guidelines on Workplace Mental Wellness.

Worth Noting:

- “Mental health challenges significantly affect the productivity and performance of the working population. The average adult spends an average of 35 hours per week at work, which adds up to 1,795 hours per year and over 84,365 hours in a lifetime,” explained the CS.
- She highlighted that evidence indicates that an estimated 15% of working population lives with at least one mental health condition.
- “In the Kenyan context, about 24.9 million people are working, which translates to approximately 3.7 million Kenyans living with a mental health condition. The most common mental health conditions in Kenya include anxiety, depression, substance use disorder, schizophrenia, and bipolar mood disorder,” said Nakhumicha.

The Ministry of Health has unveiled National Guidelines on Workplace Mental Wellness as it seeks to fulfil the constitutional mandate, which stipulates the highest standard of health as a right for all Kenyans.

Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha said that the government recognises mental health as a serious public health and development concern and has recently implemented several reforms aimed at strengthening the country’s mental health system, as envisaged in the Universal Health Coverage Policy (UHC 2020–2030).

“The Ministry developed the Kenya Mental Health Policy 2015-2030, which is evidence-based and aligned with national and international standards,” said Nakhumicha.

In a speech read on her behalf by Director General of Health Dr. Patrick Amoth at the Mathari Teaching and Referral Hospital during the launch, Nakhumicha said that Kenya is among the few countries in the region with a Mental Health Action Plan.

She explained that the action plan provided a framework for the implementation of the Mental Health Policy and Taskforce on Mental Health Report, adding that this aligns with the bottom-up economic transformative agenda of the government as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

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formance of the working population. The average adult spends an average of 35 hours per week at work, which adds up to 1,795 hours per year and over 84,365 hours in a lifetime,” explained the CS.

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“In the Kenyan context, about 24.9 million people are working, which translates to approximately 3.7 million Kenyans living with a mental health condition. The most common mental health conditions in Kenya include anxiety, depression, substance use disorder, schizophrenia, and bipolar mood disorder,” said Nakhumicha.

The CS noted that work is a social determinant of mental health. “Meaningful work is protective for mental health, contributing to a sense of accomplishment, financial independence, confidence, recovery, and inclusion of persons living with mental health conditions. However, a harmful or negative work environment can significantly contribute to physical and mental health problems, harmful use of alcohol and substances and exacerbate existing mental illnesses,” she said.

The CS said that according to the Kenya Mental Health Investment Case 2021, the estimated economic burden on account of mental health conditions on the Kenyan economy

was Sh62.2 billion (US\$571.8 million), an equivalent loss of 0.6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2020.

“About 91% of this annual cost was attributed to premature mortality, absenteeism and presenteeism while health care expenditure accounted for only 9%. This study also found interventions for depression, anxiety and alcohol use disorder have significant return on investment over 10 to 20 years. This clearly demonstrates that it is prudent to invest in mental health at the workplaces as the benefits transcend beyond health to increased productivity and socioeconomic development,” said Nakhumicha.

She explained that it is with this recognition of the role of workplaces in shaping the mental health of the population that the Ministry of Health has developed the Workplace Mental Wellness Guidelines. The aim of these guidelines is to promote mental wellness at the workplaces through three main strategic interventions: promotion, prevention, care and support.

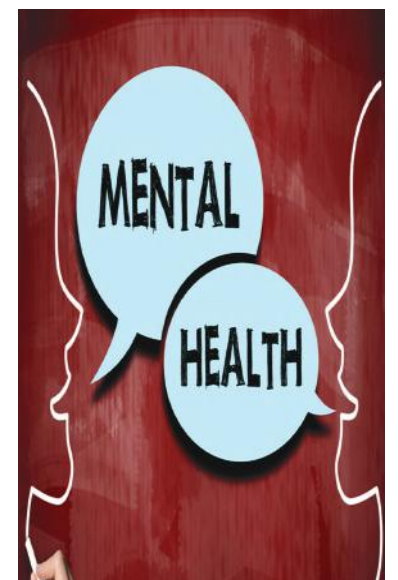
“In these guidelines, we lay emphasis on the need for everyone to be included. There is a role for all members of the organization which include the individuals, the managers, and supervisors, as well as at the highest level of organisational leadership,” she said.

The CS highlighted that at individual level, employees will be required to

prioritize their own mental wellness through engaging in self-care, developing coping skills, having a social support system and seeking mental health care when needed.

“The managers and supervisors’ role includes creating supportive working environment that recognises abilities and matches tasks with abilities, and identifying those who are at risk and linking them with necessary support. The organization leadership has the duty to provide a conducive work environment by setting up wellness programmes and providing the required resources,” said Nakhumicha.

She emphasized that these guidelines are applicable for all workplaces in Kenya including private, public, formal and informal contexts.



KEMSA To Digitize Services To Increase Efficiency

By: Chari Suche
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The CEO said the rolling out of the digitization process will be done by October which will start from KEMSA, working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and linking up to the Integrated Health management System to the country.
- Mulwa said that the authority has had challenges in the past but has now changed for the better following improved efficient service delivery to the public.
- He noted that as the CEO, he is determined to change KEMSA to be free from scandal and be a transparent organization, breaking its walls for the public to know its position.



KEMSA CEO Dr. Andrew Mulwa

The Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) plans to digitize its services by October 20th this year to enable efficient stock monitoring.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Andrew Mulwa said that the authority is not just working on automation but developing an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system that will be able to digitize the health products and technologies ecosystem.

Mulwa said the system will enable patients and clients at home to have an interface through which they can check their nearest dispensary whether it has drugs or not, and the nurse at the hospital to check the drugs and stock level from their gadgets.

“As KEMSA we can be able to see what is available at facility level and county level so that we may know a certain county has gone low on stock level of a drug and start planning for their stock,” he said during editors retreat in Mombasa.

He added that the authority will also be able to trace every commodity that reaches a patient and look at disease trends and do surveillance on uptake of a certain drug to find

out what is happening.

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He noted that as the CEO, he is determined to change KEMSA to be free from scandal and be a transparent organization, breaking its walls for the public to know its position.

He added that the procurement process at the authority will always be open for the public to know when a tender was advertised and how it was awarded thus the need to digitize the whole process.

He invited the media to witness and report on the procurement process to build trust and accountability.

“I am looking for more engagement with members of the fourth estate and I have allowed my team to be open and always speak to you as there are no bureaucracies involved where it is the CEO or Chairperson

who can speak,” he said.

He urged counties to allocate sufficient budgets for medical supplies saying it is a challenge in some counties as the budget cannot sustain even a sub-county.

“I recognize the value that counties have for KEMSA to deliver in its mandate, if the counties will be able to focus and quantify the drugs and other health products that they require, we will be able to serve them well,” he said.

He noted that disease trends have now changed but with increased interventions, some diseases have become seasonal endemic in some counties.

He said KEMSA must continue to change with the dynamic in the disease pattern, for them not to stock what is obsolete.

“Due to advancement of technology some first line HIV drugs referred as Tenofovir Lamivudine Efavirenz (TLE) were being used before 2019/2020. There was scientific evidence that we need to switch to Tenofovir, Lamivudine, and Dolutegravir (TLD) drugs which are more efficacious and less toxic to the patient,” added Mulwa.

He said the country had just bought

a consignment of Sh.1.6 billion to cover the country for 18 months but the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended for transition and had to switch.

According to Mulwa, the MOH planned a transition and said that they will start buying the new molecule which is safer and will be issued to the people who come to clinics.

“When the patient groups realized the other drug is safer and less toxic all of them demanded for it, thus the ministry guided by WHO decided to change from faced switch to a complete switch which necessitated to the TNE that had arrived in the country and at KEMSA stores to be rendered useless,” he said.

The CEO noted that KEMSA has had a bloated workforce of 962 by last year adding that they have now been able to rationalize that to about 550.

He said they are now working with the human resource instruments to ensure that we get the optimal number and have staff that can perform well.

Kisii Woman Representative Calls On Government To Ease Tax Burden For Struggling Citizens Amidst Poverty Challenges

Kisii Woman Representative, Dorice Donya, has urged the government to alleviate the tax burden on citizens



By: Elizabeth Angira

who are grappling with poverty.

This appeal comes in response to the announcement made by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) on September 14, revealing significant increases in fuel prices, with super petrol rising by 16.96, diesel by Ksh 21.32, and kerosene seeing the steepest increase at Ksh 33.13 per liter.

During a press conference held at the Donya Charity Foundation event in Igonga, within the Bonchari constituency, Donya emphasized the need for the government to show consideration in its taxation policies to prevent overburdening ordinary citizens, many of whom are struggling in poverty.

glings in poverty.

Donya pointed out that the high cost of living has had a detrimental impact on mental health, as a majority of the population is grappling to meet their basic needs.

She stated, "Prices continue to rise every day, leaving people in a state of suffering with no relief in sight."

Furthermore, Donya highlighted that the escalating cost of living has led to increased tension and conflict within communities, sometimes resulting in individuals resorting to violence as a means to cope with or release their frustration.

She attributed the surge in gender-based violence within the community to the high cost of living, which is rooted in power imbalances and economic disparities.

Donya emphasized that women, in particular, are more vulnerable to abuse when they have limited financial resources.

She urged the government to take decisive action to address the rising cost of living as a way to combat the growing mental health issues, emphasizing the need for practical solutions.

Donya humorously remarked that, it seems the government is taxing



Kisii County Woman Rep Dorice Donya Aburi addressing the press at Igonga Bonchari Constituency, has urged the government to alleviate the tax burden on citizens who are grappling with poverty.

everything, except the air people breathe, underscoring the need for relief from the financial burden placed on citizens.

Additionally, Donya criticized the government for not prioritizing the provision of affordable housing projects,

despite witnessing the suffering of its citizens.

Onsombi Tirisa, the Bomariba Ward Representative, echoed Donya's sentiments, pointing out that the high cost of living has led to a significant number of suicidal cases.

He explained that cultural norms and expectations often dictate that men should be the primary breadwinners, which can make it challenging for them to fulfill their roles and contribute to household violence.



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Coffee Farmers Set To Reap Big From Gachagua's Tour Of Colombia



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- He has so far convened several conferences and meetings that brought together farmers' representatives, leaders, scholars and agriculture experts. The views and memoranda collected would form the basis of legal framework that has seen several changes being introduced.
- Gachagua's critics had initially created the impression that his role had been confined to Mount Kenya region. This reeked of malice, hypocrisy and bad faith. By this time, the DP had already shown in deed and action that he was committed to address the plight of the farmers in all parts of the country.
- Kericho is one of the counties where he had convened a conference for tea farmers. He stayed there for four days.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua represented Kenya in the just concluded Global Coffee Producers and Roasters Forum in Bogota, Colombia.

The high profile meeting brought together the world's leading coffee producing countries, the buyers and Chief Executives of the companies specializing in value addition processes.

In his speech, Gachagua, who was among those listed to make keynote addresses, minced no words in articulating the interests of the Kenyan coffee farmers.

In Kenya, we grow and produce coffee in large scale; it is tasty and of high quality.

I'm happy to meet the world big buyers here. We welcome you to buy the Kenyan coffee. Some of you were already buying our coffee. We encourage you to buy more.

At the sidelines, Gachagua met some of the key players and signed a number of agreements with them.

Kenya is set to reap big. He managed to convince a good number of the international buyers to increase the volume of imports.

The renowned players in value addition also agreed to visit our country and share their experiences with Kenyan counterparts.

These commitments could not have been made if Gachagua lacked the skills of diplomacy, business and international relations.

So, he once again proved wrong his critics.

In allaying fears of those who had raised concerns about the business environment in Kenya, the DP noted.

The government of Kenya under the leadership of President William Ruto has made great strides in terms of undertaking major reforms to streamline the agricultural sector.

In coffee sector, we have made key changes aimed at protecting the interests of the farmers and you the buyers.

The farmer wants to eat his or her sweat by putting money in the pocket. For you, you are in business. You want to make profits. We have factored all these.

It is worth noting reforming coffee sub sector is one of the assignments President William Ruto gave his deputy. This after he realized that Gachagua's commitment to turning the fortunes of the Kenyan farmers was beyond reproach. Besides coffee, he assigned him the job of addressing the woes facing tea, milk farmers.

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committed to address the plight of the farmers in all parts of the country.

Kericho is one of the counties where he had convened a conference for tea farmers. He stayed there for four days.

This is what I want to tell DP critics. Gachagua is not a tribalist. He is a democrat and nationalist.

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know why you have been casting him in bad light.

It is simply because he was a chief campaigner of Kenya Kwanza presidential candidate William Ruto and played a key role to ensure he has won the elections.

Ever since, Gachagua has stood his ground that President Ruto won the elections in a free and fair contest.

This is the truth and Raila Odinga have no option other than to accept it, he has been reiterating

The DP would rule out Ruto caving in to Raila's political machinations to share the government with him. The Old man, you lost the elections. Stick to your lane as an opposition leader.

We must begin somewhere. He would tell his critics.

I know some of you were born to politicize everything under the sun.

Raila's main intention is to sabotage the development agenda of Ruto government.

But Kenyans have come a long way and have become clever.

When you oppose us, they interpret this as a sign of endorsement of good work that we are doing.

My focus is to address the woes of all the farmers in Kenya including those earning a living from fishing, sugar cane growers, maize, potato farmers among others.

Take this from me. If DP is a tribal kingpin I'm sure President Ruto could not assigned him the role of reform-

ing the agricultural sector which is the backbone of Kenya's economy.

During a Coffee conference held in Meru county, some farmers recalled: There was a time Kenyan coffee used to be called black gold. The farmers used to rake in good profits and smile all way to the bank.

Our Coffee was the most admired and sought by people in all parts of the world.

What went wrong? Where did the rain start to beat us?

This started when the past regimes allowed the brokers and cartels to infiltrate and capture this sector.

These people did not grow coffee and even some did not know how it was grown and yet they were the biggest beneficiaries.

After we toil in our farms, they would line up their pockets with our hard-earned sweat.

Besides, the cartels would not put much emphasis on cushioning this sector from unfair competition. This is by

failing to seek the retention of the old markets and look for new markets.

In a response, the DP stated. I have heard you and the resolutions that you have passed.

I want to assure you that I have clear instructions from President Ruto.

The Government of His Excellency will ensure these resolutions are passed to the letter and spirit.

We know who owned the companies operated by these cartels and brokers.

We are immediately going to dismantle them and farmers will start to put monies into their pockets.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary (CS) Mithika Linturi was present. He reaffirmed this position.

During the campaigns, Dr Ruto assured Kenyans that he will do things differently. He has been walking the talk. The DP is a key fulcrum to ensure that he has succeeded.

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



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua holding coffee, and Agricultural CS Mithika Linturi coffee during Global Coffee Producers and Roasters Forum in Bogota, Colombia.

Drug Abuse: Pastor Dorcas Visits Those In Rehabilitation Centres

By: Muraya Kamunde

.....

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi Thursday evening went to check on the welfare of some under the boy child program under her office who are enrolled for inpatient rehabilitation in Limuru.

Pastor Dorcas intertwines such personalized visits to the boy child program to encourage those who seek freedom from alcohol, drug and substance abuse.

During the visit to a rehabilitation centre in Limuru, she found the cohort engrossed in breakout sessions on different aspects of deaddiction led by counsellors and psychologists.

She actively engaged in the classes, asking questions and engaging in hearty conversations with beneficiaries of the boy child program.

She also encouraged all beneficiaries, and those taking part in the great work of fighting addictions.

“Some of you are husbands and fa-

thers, and I do not want you to die before your time. I want you to live long and bring up your families,” she told those in the program.

She also told of her quest to learn how to speak the ‘sheng language’ to better communicate with the boys and men in the streets.

“Sheng is not our mother tongue but ‘our tongue’. I am teaching myself sheng to better communicate with my boy children, and we can understand each other,” said Pastor Dorcas.

She encouraged the beneficiaries that the first step into getting healed from addiction, which is a disease, is accepting, then the healing process begins.

She was warmly received by the founder of the rehabilitation centre, Mr Omollo.

Pastor Dorcas visited the Limuru rehabilitation centre enroute from Nakuru where she had attended a pastors conference and open air crusade.

The office of the Deputy President is running preventive and curative



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi in blue suit

.....

rehabilitation programs against alcohol, drug and substance abuse. The preventive program is carried out in schools in collaboration with NACADA to inform students on the dangers of alcohol, drug and substance abuse.

Newly Enlisted Persons For Inua Jamii Programme Nears 1 Million

By: Eric Biegon

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With two weeks remaining before the closing of the current registration period, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection reported on Friday that the number of Kenyans to be enlisted for the Inua Jamii programme is getting close to one million.

Issuing an update on the ongoing registration after conducting a spot check in Bureti Constituency, Kericho County, Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary Florence Bore disclosed that the number of those newly enrolled for the cash transfer programme since the process began now stands at 974,079.

The latest figures represent an addition of 504,260 persons this week alone given that the Ministry had registered a total of 469,819 by Friday last week. If the current trend continues when the exercise resumes

Monday, then the government is on course to surpass the target of 1.3 million new persons to be included in the programme which currently benefits 1.2 million vulnerable Kenyans.

“Persons with Disabilities who turn up at the stations will be listed in the ongoing Registration Process for the Inua Jamii,” noted the CS in Kericho.

According to Bore, another phase of verification and household checks will be done to determine the severe disability cases and the most deserving.

What’s more, the Cabinet Secretary indicated that she was pushing through legislation that will provide an avenue for Kenya’s development partners to channel their support to the kitty.

“I am also committed to ensuring that the Social Assistance Bill goes to Parliament for deliberations to enable Partners to support the Cash transfer program in order ensure scale-up of the programme,” she said



Labour and Social Protection CS Florence Bore interacts with persons who turned up for registration in Bureti, Kericho County. PHOTO/COURTESY.

This, according to the CS, will help “cushion needy and vulnerable households and improve their livelihoods,”

The latest process of onboarding the new members to the programme commenced early in September and is set to conclude at the end of the month.

Bore was in the company of Kericho County Woman Representative Beatrice Kemei and a host of MCA’s during the tour.

Kindiki: Govt To Permanently End Cattle Rustling, Banditry

By: Khalid Abdullahi
@themkenyatimes

An anti-Stock theft unit has been set up at Mulango, Isiolo North Sub-County as the government intensifies efforts to clamp down on banditry.

Speaking in Isiolo during the launch of the camp, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki emphasized the government will not relent in ending banditry attacks.

“The Government is committed and determined to end permanently, the menace of livestock theft and banditry. While significant ground has been covered in tracking and neutralizing armed criminals who for ages have terrorized innocent citizens and impoverished them economically, the Government will continuously arm our security officers with modern equipment and technology to combat emerging and complex security issues,” he said.

Additionally, he said they will con-

tinue to arm security officers with modern equipment and technology to combat emerging and complex security issues.

Plans are also underway to establish more security camps, deploy specialized security officers and commission administrative units to bring services closer to the people.



Interior CS Kithure Kindiki was in Isiolo to launch an anti-Stock theft unit

Stakeholders Welcome Downscaling of CBC

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

Stakeholders in the education sector have welcomed recommendations of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms that breathed a sigh of relief to pupils and students in the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC).

Following recommendations of the taskforce, the education chain will now have less workload.

Welcoming this important move, the Chairman of the Kenya society for Deaf Children Mr Francis Nganga opined that this has been long overdue.

“As a key stakeholder in this sector I welcome the move to package the CBC as a user-friendly tool that will augur well with parents, teachers and students as well, because at

the end of the day, it’s not just about quantity but rather quality of the education we are disseminating.”

The report has slashed the subjects taught in Junior Schools from 14 to nine, alongside the dropping of the name ‘secondary’ from junior and senior levels of education for the basic level of education.

The changes also introduce mandatory community service for students transitioning from Senior School to universities and TVET institutions, and as they graduate from tertiary institutions.



Chairman of the Kenya society for Deaf Children Mr Francis Nganga

Zuxra: Delayed Happiness



By: Jurayeve Jasmina Jakhonovna

A 5-year-old girl is looking for something in the garbage on the street, her clothes are worn out, in the hot weather, and she is doing the same thing from morning to night among the garbage in the street to eat half-eaten food, her father died when she was 3 years old. Now she lives alone with her mother and her sister, who is one year younger than them. He searches for food for her mother and little sister from morning till night. Once finds half-eaten food, she is very happy.

At that time, she always wanted to eat the food she found, but she was a young girl who had a full sense of responsibility, and she brought the food she found to her mother and sister with a heart full of joy. She had only one concern every day to feed her mother and sister. Do you think that when a young girl is playing and laughing, she doesn't want to dust the streets like other children, wear beautiful dresses, eat to her heart's content, what she thinks inside when she sees other girls? Her little heart cries when she sees the same girls.

Do you think that she does not ask herself why my life is like this, why life is so cruel, whether there is happiness in this world? She thinks about it every day, every second, she imagines happiness in her mind, she wakes up every day with the hope that I will be happy one day, she greets the morning, she sometimes cries, but the worries of life are on her, she thinks that she will find food for her mother and sister, and in her heart.

She always tells herself that I must be strong by comforting her. In her eyes

there was an image that embodied the misery of the whole world; her eyes were so beautiful that they were like an ocean filled with tears, the proof of his endurance was so strong. Actually, she was tired, she was very tired, now she woke up with hope, she didn't live with hope, she didn't even dream of happy days. On the day she passed away. They say that a person can live 3 days without bread and 1 day without water, but they cannot live for 3 seconds without hope. An example of this wrong thinking can be seen in this little girl, she is strong, we have to admire her will, she lived without hope for 3 days, and then.... Life is like that, are you 5 years old or 15 years old or whether you are 30 or 60 years old, you still feel the pain, because this is life.

Like that 5-year-old girl, there was hope in everyone's heart. As long as that hope never fades, hope can exist in this life at the end of the day, we can wonder what the purpose of life was for that little girl, there is only one answer to all of this: This is Life. We can live only with hope and beautiful dreams about the future, after all, without dreams, the heart rusts. The important thing is that the light in our eyes never fades; we should not forget that life has blessings for all of us; it only requires Patience from us. Let's never stop dreaming. If the little girl lived only one more day, maybe happiness would come looking for her?! After all, the best part of the night is an hour before dawn.....!

My full name is Jurayeve Jasmina Jakhonovna. I am 17 years old. I live in the town of Gijduvan, in Bukhara. I study in the 11th class in a specialized school.

My Father Is My Pride



By: Ismailova Nigora Mirzoaliyevna

Parents – this word seems warm and pleasant to everyone. Parents are the greatest happiness for us. We cannot imagine a day without our parents. Even the nicest things don't taste good. We should definitely appreciate and respect them. How much they have raised, brought up, and fed us until now. When a child gets sick, parents lose their health. We probably won't live long enough to repay their kindness. Let it be so. Despite this, let's do everything we can for them right now. Because parents are our greatest wealth in life!

A father is a person who can feel the great influence in the family not only in his youth, but also after growing up. Happy is the person who can call his father a loving, caring, demanding, just person. A father is a strong support for a child, honor, dreams and hopes for the future, the guardian of truth and justice. With social and work activities, with good morals and behavior, Ornak is a teacher, mentor, school of generosity and kindness in every good work.

Grandfather Aqil says: "My boys and girls, appreciate your parents from a young age, respect them, respect them, and do not deviate from what they say. Because parents never say bad boy. On the contrary, it is as if he is sacrificing himself so that my child may die in the water, grow up and start a big life. They

will make sacrifices for your happiness and future."

Our nation, which knows that "the father is the sun, the mother is the moon", it is the conscientious duty of every man and woman to appreciate, honor, raise them, to justify the salt of the abusive father, and the milk of the loving parent.

Ismailova Nigora Mirzoaliyevna was born on June 7, 2006 in Sariosia district of Surkhandarya region. Currently, she is a student of the 11th grade of the 12th general secondary school in the district. Now she teaches English to the children of her circle in her educational center called "Wisdom educate". Creative works were published in USA, Russia, Kenya, Spain, Germany, Moldova, India magazines. Member of the international organization "All India Council for Development of Technical Skills" of India. Ambassador on behalf of Uzbekistan in several world organizations.

Specifically: "SPSC" (Sustainable Developers and Sustainable Partners). Global Education Ambassador.

Active member of "JUNTOS POR LAS LETRAS" Songwriters and Artists Working Group.

Young volunteer of "OLTIN KANOT" organization

Her works have been published in Kazakh, Argentinian and Uzbek anthologies.

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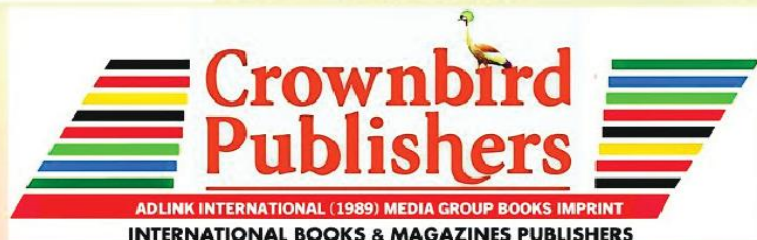
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BUSINESS

Kenya Ready For Regional Tourism Expo

By: Carol Mawia and
Shamim Kambi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “The annual Magical Kenya Travel Expo continues to be the region’s flagship travel trade fair that brings together domestic, regional, and international tour operators, tour agents, destination agents, and various other players in the tourism trade to network and facilitate tourism business,” said Malonza as she launched the Expo preparations.
- The CS explained that the 13th edition of the MKTE is another great opportunity for tourism stakeholders to connect and market their various products, noting that the expo has exponentially grown to attain continental status and that its aim is to move to the next level and become global.



Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, Peninah Malonza.

The Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, Peninah Malonza, presided over the launch of the 3rd East Africa Regional Tourism Expo (EARTE) and the Magical Kenya Tourism Expo, which are set to take place in Nairobi from November 20th to 22nd, 2023, at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC).

The EARTE is an event that is held annually on a rotational basis among member states of the East African Community (EAC), including Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC.

The Regional Tourism Expo was first hosted by Tanzania in October 2021 in Arusha, while the second edition was hosted by Burundi in September 2022 in Bujumbura.

Kenya Tourism Board (KTB), together with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage, unveiled the event in order to celebrate the region of East Africa, whose partner states have come together to embrace uni-

ty and go far together economically, socially, and specifically in the area of tourism.

“The annual Magical Kenya Travel Expo continues to be the region’s flagship travel trade fair that brings together domestic, regional, and international tour operators, tour agents, destination agents, and various other players in the tourism trade to network and facilitate tourism business,” said Malonza as she launched the Expo preparations.

The CS explained that the 13th edition of the MKTE is another great opportunity for tourism stakeholders to connect and market their various products, noting that the expo has exponentially grown to attain continental status and that its aim is to move to the next level and become global.

According to the EAC Tourist Marketing Strategy 2021–2025, tourism contributed to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the EAC partner states at an average of 9.5 per cent in 2019. The percentage contribution

was higher in Tanzania (17.2 percent) and Kenya (9.7 percent).

Furthermore, the sector contributed an average of 17 per cent to EAC total export with 25 per cent in Tanzania. In terms of employment, tourism contributed an average of 7.1 per cent to the total employment in the EAC translating to over 4 million jobs.

Also speaking at the event, State Department for EAC Affairs Principal Secretary (PS), Mr. Abdi Dubat, said that partner states have not fully ripped the benefits of the sector to their full potential due to various challenges that include limited product diversification, weak regional policy and institutional framework, limited multi-destination tourism product offerings, limited awareness of regional tourism destinations, inadequate funding of tourism promotional activities, and weak coordination mechanisms.

Therefore, the PS added, the partner states came up with measures to tackle these challenges, such as joint mar-

keting of the region in international forums, developing criteria for classification of tourist accommodation, establishments, and restaurants in the region, developing an EAC tourism marketing strategy, a strategy to combat poaching, illegal trade, and trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products, and establishing a single tourist visa regime, which is in progress at the regional level.

“I thank the media for highlighting and conveying the invitation to the rest of the world to join us in November as we celebrate our rich diversity and showcase the numerous tourism-related investment opportunities available in Kenya and the rest of the EAC,” remarked Dubat.



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Head Of Public Service Issues Stern Warning To Public Officers

By: Adan Ibrahim

.....

Public servants implicated in graft will be shown the door, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei has said.

Koskei said the era of transferring government officers who engage in corrupt practices is gone and persons found culpable will be dismissed and charged in court.

He spoke Friday morning after meeting top government officials from the Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission, Regional commissioners, County Commissioners, and Sub-county Commissioners for a consultative meeting at the Kenya School of Government.

The meeting aimed at tightening loopholes that allow corruption to thrive in government.

At the same time, he pledged to crack the whip on corrupt individuals hiding behind the notion of job security in government.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo.

On his part, Immigration and Citizen Services principal secretary Julius Bitok revealed so far 87,000 passports have been printed as the government addresses the backlog.

Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission Deputy CEO Abdi Mohamud lauded the government for its commitment in protecting public resources.



Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei

.....

Matatu Owners Association Announce 20pc Increase In Fares

By: Zainab said

.....

Kenyans will have to dig deeper into their pockets after the Matatu Owners Association announced a Ksh 20 to Ksh 50 fare hike effective immediately.

The announcement of the new fares barely hours after the Energy Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) reviewed upwards the fuel prices has elicited mixed reactions among Kenyans with a majority expressing concerns the cost of living will become unbearable.

In the new rates announced by PSV operators fares will increase during peak and off-peak hours around Nairobi and its environs.

This is the second time in a span of three months that PSV operators have announced changes in fare prices attributing it to the increase in the price of fuel.



Agriculture, Business Key In Turning Round Kenya's Economy

By: Beth Nyaga

.....

Investments in agriculture and business remain key to Kenya's transformation agenda, First Lady Rachel Ruto has said.

Speaking at a business banquet in Eldoret town, Uasin Gishu County, Mrs Ruto said the sectors are key in turning round the country's economy.

Mrs Ruto said the country's stability has offered numerous opportunities to the business community.

"Let's support our President on issues that he promised in the housing, digital superhighway, creative economy, universal health care, agriculture and climate action," she said.

She urged the business community to complement the Government's plans to uplift those at the bottom of the ladder.

"Our President is committed to ensuring commitments made to Kenyans are fulfilled, especially the bottom-up economic agenda," she said.

The meeting explored areas of collaboration aimed at national growth and wealth creation.

"Let us also pray for our farmers to

continue doing the good work so that we can have food in this nation," she said.

Among the leaders present were Senator Veronica Maina; and Selina Bii, spouse to the Governor, Uasin Gishu Governor Chelilim Bii.

Willy Kenei, Chairman of the Eldoret Business Community; Felix Kiili, Chairman of the Farmers Association; Philip Muigai, Speaker of Uasin Gishu County Assembly; members of the Uasin Gishu County Assembly; and leaders of faith-based organizations were also present.

Mrs Maina said Kenya Kwanza's performance in the agricultural sector is well demonstrated in Uasin Gishu County, which is expecting bumper harvests as a result of serious farming activities.

"It is one year since President William Ruto took the realm of power. Let the hustlers know that things are getting better, and Kenya will be a great nation," said Mrs Maina

Willy Kenei, Uasin Gishu chairman of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the county offers numerous opportunities in terms of investments.

He urged the government to offer support in terms of technology and links to international partners.



First Lady Rachel Ruto.

.....

CS Miano Shines At KPC At 50

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes

.....

East Africa Community, ASALs and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano, MBS Friday morning shone when given a chance to address a gathering at Kenya Pipeline Corporation was celebrating 50 years.

The Hon CS Rebecca Miano MBS was alongside her Energy Counterpart Davis Chirchir.

The Hon CS Rebecca Miano MBS noted:

"With the objective of the energy sector development under the EAC Vision 2050; sustainable, adequate, affordable, competitive, secure and reliable supply of energy to meet regional needs at the least cost. We



CS energy Davis Chirchir and her EAC Counterpart Rebecca Miano



pride in the strides we've made so far. Congrats Kenya Pipeline on your 50th birthday."

"The CS further added, "while we acknowledge the Non-Tariff Barriers that derail the uptake of our Petroleum products in some Countries of our region, we commit to continuously engage relevant Agencies with a view to eliminate the same and enhance ease of doing business in EAC. Our uptake will greatly increase with initiatives like the Kisumu Oil Jetty-a multimodal transportation of petroleum products across the region.

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Survey Rates Governors Mbarire, Kang’ata Top Performers

By: Margaret Kalekye/Abdiaziz Hashim

.....

Embu governor Cecily Mbarire has been ranked the best-performing county boss with a score of 65.4 percent in the latest survey conducted by Insight Strategists Solutions Africa.

ISS Africa Friday unveiled the results of the poll conducted in all 47 counties between 24th and 26th of August 2023 focusing on the governors’ development and approval ratings.

Murang’a governor Irungu Kang’ata and his Isiolo counterpart Guyo Abdi emerged second and third scoring 62.8pc and 60.2pc respectively.

The list of top 10 Governors’ Development Ratings provided an aggregate of feedback provided by respondents on a scale of 1-5 based on their perception of the performance of respective Governors in regard to all devolved functions including agriculture, water, health and fiscal management among other factors.

On approval ratings, Makueni county chief Mutula Kilonzo Jr leads with 73.8pc, followed by Homa Bay’s Gladys Wanga (70.5pc) and Mbarire (70.2pc). The ratings sought feedback from respondents on the possibility of re-electing the current Governor in the event elections were called during the period of the poll.

According to ISS Africa lead consultant Ben Mulwa, women governors emerged as the best performing both on Development and Approval Rating, with 4 out of the 7 making it to the top 10 in both categories.

This he said translates to an impressive 57pc of all elected women governors compared to only 15pc of their male counterparts.

Overall, second-term governors performed better in both categories, and this is attributed to continuity as their first-term colleagues spent more time finding their footing in devolution.

Regionally, Eastern emerged with the highest scores in both categories, while Nairobi trailed the eight regions.

Nairobi governor Johnson Sakaja is on the list of worst performing with a 33.7pc rating.

Interestingly, a significant number of the second-term governors who performed very well in our last survey have deteriorated in performance, an indicator that they have relaxed after securing their re-election last year.

“In keeping with the findings of our previous studies, there is no particular correlation between individual Governor’s development and approval rating. Lastly, it is important to note that the national averages for both development and approval rating are below 50pc, implying that all Governors have their work clearly cut out for them” said Mulwa.

The survey was released exactly one year after all Governors were sworn into office, save for Mombasa and Kakamega Counties.



GOVERNORS RANKING NATIONWIDE – DEVELOPMENT (NO.1-25)			
NO.	COUNTY	GOVERNOR	RATING %
1	EMBU	CECILY MBARIRE	65.4
2	MURANG’A	IRUNGU KANG’ATA	62.8
3	ISIOLO	ABDI HASSAN GUYO	60.2
4	HOMA BAY	GLADYS WANGA	60.0
5	NAKURU	SUSAN KIIHIKA	59.8
6	KITUI	JULIUS MALOMBE	59.5
7	NAROK	PATRICK OLE NTUTU	59.1
8	KIRINYAGA	ANNE WAIGURU	58.7
9	KISUMU	ANYANG’ NYONG’O	54.9
10	THARAKA	MUTHOMI NJUKI	53.2
11	LAIKIPIA	JOSHUA IRUNGU	52.6
12	MANDERA	MOHAMED ADAN KHALIF	52.4
13	NYANDARUA	MOSES BADILISHA KIARIE	52.4
14	ELGEYO-MARAKWET	WESLEY ROTICH	51.6
15	BUNGOMA	KEN LUSAKA	51.5
16	KISII	SIMBA ARATI	51.4
17	KILIFI	GIDEON MUNG’ARO	50.8
18	MOMBASA	ABDULSWAMAD NASSIR	50.3
19	MAKUENI	MUTULA KILONZO	50.3
20	BARINGO	BENJAMIN CHEBOI	50.2
21	MERU	KAWIRA MWANGAZA	50.1
22	TANA RIVER	DHADHO GODHANA	50.0
23	WEST POKOT	SIMON KACHAPIN	49.4
24	BUSIA	PAUL OTUOMA	48.6
25	SAMBURU	JONATHAN LATI LELELIIT	47.4

GOVERNORS RANKING NATIONWIDE – APPROVAL (NO.1-25)			
NO.	COUNTY	GOVERNOR	RATING %
1	MAKUENI	MUTULA KILONZO	73.8
2	HOMA BAY	GLADYS WANGA	70.5
3	EMBU	CECILY MBARIRE	70.2
4	NAROK	PATRICK OLE NTUTU	70.0
5	MURANG’A	IRUNGU KANG’ATA	69.8
6	KITUI	JULIUS MALOMBE	68.4
7	NAKURU	SUSAN KIIHIKA	68.2
8	ISIOLO	ABDI HASSAN GUYO	67.3
9	MANDERA	MOHAMED ADAN KHALIF	61.2
10	KIRINYAGA	ANNE WAIGURU	60.2
11	ELGEYO-MARAKWET	WESLEY ROTICH	60.2
12	NYANDARUA	MOSES BADILISHA KIARIE	59.9
13	KILIFI	GIDEON MUNG’ARO	58.4
14	MERU	KAWIRA MWANGAZA	58.3
15	BUNGOMA	KEN LUSAKA	58.2
16	KISII	SIMBA ARATI	54.4
17	BARINGO	BENJAMIN CHEBOI	53.7
18	TANA RIVER	DHADHO GODHANA	51.2
19	WEST POKOT	SIMON KACHAPIN	51.2
20	KISUMU	ANYANG’ NYONG’O	51.2
21	BUSIA	PAUL OTUOMA	50.2
22	MIGORI	OCHILLO AYACKO	50.2
23	KWALE	FATUMA ACHANI	50.1
24	SAMBURU	JONATHAN LATI LELELIIT	50.1
25	MOMBASA	ABDULSWAMAD NASSIR	49.4



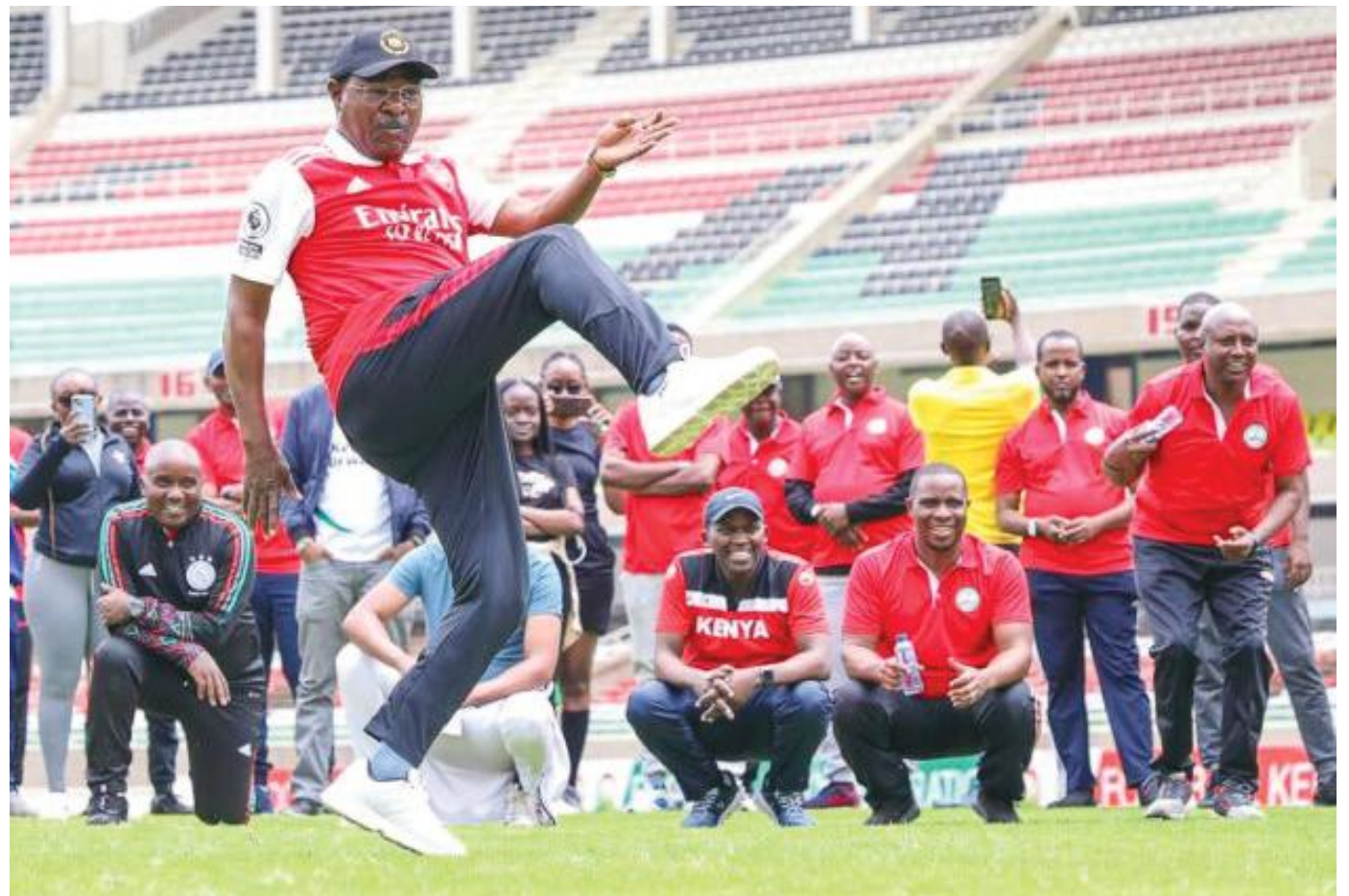
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- This he said translates to an impressive 57pc of all elected women governors compared to only 15pc of their male counterparts.

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Sports >> *National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula has emphasised the importance of unity and physical fitness among parliamentary staff.

Wetangula Shows His Sporty Side, Engages In Sports With Parliamentary Staff



Capital Correspondent

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula has emphasised the importance of unity and physical fitness among parliamentary staff.

Speaking during the National Assembly Sports Day at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, Wetangula noted that Sports Parliament has given priority to sports as a measure aimed at uniting the workforce and keep them fit.

"Sports is one of the areas that Parliament gives priority to and I urge staff to embrace sports," Wetangula stated.

"I commend the youthful workforce that I have seen here today and encourage them to stay fit through sports for optimum performance," he added.

He humorously noted, "You all

look very fit apart from a few who have excess weight and should shed it off to work effectively."

Underlining the significance of the Sports Day, Wetangula urged all staff members to actively participate in the games, highlighting that the alertness of their minds depended on their physical fitness.

He also emphasized that the Members of Parliament depended on the staff for the effective execution of their mandates, regardless of the department they worked in.

"Whichever department and corner you work, you are very important in Parliament. All of us who work in any office contribute greatly to the success of the 13th Parliament," he affirmed.

The Speaker reflected on the

progress of Parliament since he joined the house in 1993.

He recounted the challenges faced by the staff in the past, such as abrupt transfers to different ministries without notice.

However, he assured them that under his administration, he aimed to make all staff permanent, with exceptions for those who lacked the necessary qualifications.

"I salute the catering department that did an excellent job to ensure MPs voted for me as their Speaker," Wetangula added, acknowledging the efforts of various departments in Parliament.

He encouraged the staff to give their best in sports, drawing inspiration from his own sports background, particularly soccer during his time at Kamusinga School.

He also praised the recent

achievements of Kenyan athletes, like Faith Kipyegon and Nancy Moraa, who have brought honor to the nation.

Speaker Wetangula concluded by emphasizing unity among the parliamentary staff, noting that they played a crucial role in overseeing the Judiciary and Executive as an arm of the government.

He urged everyone to "play well and succeed as one with unity."

The National Assembly Sports Day saw enthusiastic participation from the staff, fostering a sense of camaraderie and fitness among its members, all in alignment with Speaker Wetangula's vision for a more vibrant and efficient parliamentary workforce.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag says he inherited a club with “no good culture” after Jadon Sancho was told to train away from the first team.

Erik Ten Hag Says He Inherited Manchester United With ‘No Good Culture’



Erik ten Hag. Photo/TEAMTALK MEDIA.

By: TEAMtalk Media

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag says he inherited a club with “no good culture” after Jadon Sancho was told to train away from the first team.

Sancho is being disciplined after claiming on social media that he had been made a “scapegoat” following his omission from the Arsenal defeat before the international break.

Ten Hag declined several opportunities to discuss the winger when he was asked ahead of Saturday’s Premier League clash with Brighton at Old Trafford.

Sancho’s misstep is the latest in a long line of off-field disciplinary issues that the Dutchman has had to deal with since his appointment

last summer and he said part of his brief was to instil better discipline at the club.

Ten Hag said: “Strict lines is what the club asked me because there was no good culture before I entered last season, so to set good standards, that is what I did and it is my job to control the standards.

“Of course, it is never someone only makes one mistake, it is a whole process before you come to a certain outcome about strict lines.

“If staff or players or whoever, there is a structure to cross lines so you have to be strong.”

Despite Sancho’s long-term future at the club appearing to be up in the air and Antony currently away from the club while he deals with allegations of being violent

towards women, Ten Hag claims the United squad is in good fettle.

“I think everything is said. So the squad is strong, the squad is in good spirits and good mood going into the game,” he said.

“You have sometimes setbacks in seasons, players are injured or for other reasons are not available, so you construct a squad and the squad is very good and the players who are available are very motivated to give a good performance.”

Asked whether he knew how long Antony would be away, he replied: “I have no idea. Of course he is disappointed, but he is OK.”

Ten Hag has also leapt to the defence of defender Harry Maguire, who was on the end of abuse from Scotland fans during England’s

midweek friendly win.

Maguire, who could have left United in the summer, described it as “banter” but his mother came out in support of him on social media.

And Ten Hag added: “I have said many times, it is disrespectful, he doesn’t deserve it, he is a great player, gives great performances. It’s crazy but it’s how it works and Harry has to block this by performances.

“It’s unjustified when you see his career, it’s a great career and it has a lot to come but he has to block it by good performances.”

Ten Hag revealed Lisandro Martinez and Victor Lindelof are fit to face the Seagulls, but Luke Shaw, Mason Mount and Raphael Varane are still injured.

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Zimbabwean Poetess Blaze



By: Abigirl Phiri
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Worth Noting:

- I am Nobuhle Mandy Moyo known as Blaze. I started writing poems at the age of nineteen however because of the lack of support from family and friends I ended up being a closet poetess. Poetry helped me recover from teenage depression.
- I wouldn't like to say problems because to me they are challenges which will pass by with time only if dedication is persistent.
- Poetry is that land of milk and honey that our African mothers have always talked about. It's a world filled with hope and purity, meant to educate and hold humanity intact. For all that it's worthy live in this world and invest goodness and strength.

Those who appreciate poetry know that it has a healing effect. In fact, it soothes the soul making one to scale to greater heights in whatever you would have set your mind to. Its beauty cannot be denied and disputed. This is exactly how poetry played out in Blaze's life. One of the youngest and confident poets to be birthed in Zimbabwe. Her words on paper are a raging inferno as rightfully as her stage name. Indeed, Blaze is a force to be reckoned with as she speaks out in a bid to eradicate the social injustices faced by too many people in the world.

Please tell us your name and how your journey started in poetry?

I am Nobuhle Mandy Moyo known as Blaze. I started writing poems at the age of nineteen however because of the lack of support from family and friends I ended up being a closet poetess. Poetry helped me recover from teenage depression. Since I did not know much about poetry therefore I went to the Zimbabwe National Arts Council to get assistance and from then I started performing in local gigs and schools. My main motive behind poetry writing is to expose social injustices and inhumane things that disturb peace at societal level as well as the individual level. Yet at the same time comforting victims of such.

Have you won any major accolades for yourself in poetry? Are you a published poet?

No I haven't won any accolades nor am I a published poet.

Who is your inspiration?

My inspiration is Shakespeare and William Blake. I loved their works especially during high school.

Where do you see yourself in the near future?

I see myself being an improved, relevant and popular poetess and my works in magazines, newspapers, published books and on the internet.

What problems have you faced as a poet?

I wouldn't like to say problems because to me they are challenges which will pass by with time only if dedication is persistent.



Nobuhle Mandy Moyo known as Blaze

Therefore the challenges I have faced mostly it's acceptance if your family feels like it's a waste of time or maybe I am crazy, it's discouraging.

Secondly the biggest challenge is the finance part of this journey, there are now few gigs for poets and the money you can make there is very little especially for a new poet, with no support from family and friends and publishing books is expensive. This challenges me honestly to make poetry a part time thing rather than a source of living.

Share with us one of your best poetry piece

I consider the following poem my best piece as it briefly gives a glimpse of a world I am living, a world influencing my ideology and opinions and a world I was born in. (Performed in 2022 in Gwanda)

Peace?

Do you even know the meaning of peace?

Ssssh keep quiet, I am angry at you and you, all of you, I am angry at the world for defining peace and failing to live up to it.

I have been given no tranquility for the world has taken from me more than it has given.

My mornings are filled with the smell of life and death. Hahaha The mortuaries are getting richer than the pharmacies.

The antiseptic smell that seems to linger in the air all day, a normal perfume worn by oxygen these days.

Viruses are on a trend, with a mission of wiping away all human kinds.

Who knows maybe there are solutions to bring peace. Wouldn't there be peace when there are no wars, witchcraft, hate, poverty and jealousy?

Only the soothing music of the happy chirping birds remained.

Peace? Do we have such Why would the world define a word that became extinct with the introduction of human kind?

Can he who has tasted this stew called peace explain what its like?

I hide in the page of a book and paint myself with the ink of a pen for I am poetry

With the hope to bring peace to life.

Although I know I am just grasping at straws. For you love your brother's liquor more than that you have. You love the sound of wailing more than those of giggles.

You love the sound of the shovel hitting the ground at a grave yard. Fists and bone cracking sounds makes up your days.

Peace? What is peace? Where is peace? Where did we hide it?

Kindly share your social media handles

LinkedIn Nobuhle M Moyo
Facebook: Justice League

Any word of advice to others who would want to venture into poetry

Poetry is that land of milk and honey that our African mothers have always talked about. It's a world filled with hope and purity, meant to educate and hold humanity intact. For all that it's worthy live in this world and invest goodness and strength.

Thanks