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NEMA Issues 60-Day Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Compliance Notice

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- EPR is a policy approach based on the polluter-pays principle which requires that all producers bear mandatory responsibility for the post-consumer stage in their products' lifecycle, prioritizing re-use, increasing recycling rates for technical material, and safe disposal in a temporary, controlled landfill.
- The Act defines a producer as an entity that introduces goods, products and packaging into the country using authorized means by manufacturing, importing, converting, filling, refilling, repackaging or rebranding.



The National Environment Management Agency (NEMA) has announced a 60-day notice to all producers in Kenya to comply with the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations.

A statement to newsrooms indicates that in a public notice dated 30th August 2023, NEMA noted that the Sustainable Waste Management Act became effective on 22nd July 2022.

Section 13 of the Act requires every producer to bear mandatory extended producer obligations to reduce pollution and environmental impacts of the products they introduce into the Kenyan market and waste arising therefrom.

"Producers are expected to submit their EPR plan to the Authority within two months after publication of this notice to enable commencement of inspection and enforcement action to weed out joy-

riders," emphasized NEMA, adding that, "The Authority has commenced inspection and enforcement on compliance to this Act."

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The Act defines a producer as an entity that introduces goods, products and packaging into the country using authorized means by manufacturing, importing, converting, filling, refilling, repackaging or rebranding.

"Allow me also to clarify that the EPR is a two-edged sword and Kenya has set in motion a process whereby all produc-

ers have been given an opportunity to demonstrate that they trade in products that do not degrade the environment. In the unlikely event that the product continues to cause pollution, this will trigger the need for NEMA and the producers to engage in a discussion with an intention to ban that product or packaging. Therefore, EPR requires you to rethink the products you introduce into the Kenyan market to ensure they are safe," said NEMA Director General Dr Mamo B. Mamo in a recent meeting with producers on EPR implementation.

According to the Sustainable Waste Management Policy 2021, every Kenyan generates about 0.5 kilograms of waste every day amounting to 25,000 tonnes per day for a population of 50 million Kenyans. This waste by composition is 60 percent organic, 30 percent recy-

cles and 10 percent others.

"This proactive measure seeks to minimize the environmental footprint of products from inception to disposal. By holding producers accountable for their products' end-of-life management, the EPR aims to foster innovation in eco-friendly design, recycling, and waste management. Therefore, this notice underscores our commitment to promoting responsible production, reducing environmental impact, and ensuring a cleaner and greener future for future generations," says Ebenezer Amadi, Program Manager at Sustainable Inclusive Business, under the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA).

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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Tetu MP Launches Inua Jamii Programme In His Constituency

By: Our Correspondent
@themkenyetimes

Tetu constituency Member of Parliament Geoffrey Wandeto yesterday launched the national government program that will see thousands of vulnerable residents integrated in a funding initiative.

The MP oversaw the launching at the constituency offices in Wamagana Township where dozens of beneficiaries attended.

National, County and officials from his office coordinated the exercise that will be carried in other areas in the next two weeks.

Those targeted include persons who are over 70 years old, orphaned and vulnerable children as well as persons living with severe disabilities.

Wandeto revealed that the team was expected to register about 2,000 persons who are over 70 years, 500 who

children are orphaned and vulnerable and 50 who have severe disabilities.

This number will be added to over 4,000 from the four categories who are already enrolled in the programme.

He said the money dispensed to them will assist them attend some basic needs like purchasing drugs, buying food and paying school fees.

“Most of the aged people are those that fought for our independence and have never been compensated in any way. This is one way of telling them thank you for your efforts of liberating the country,” the UDA legislator noted.

The would be beneficiaries thanked the government and their MP for the initiative saying that once they start receiving the cash, their lives will change.

“I am very happy and now hopeful that very soon, I will start receiving the money after I was left out in the other programme,” said Lucy Mwangi, after he detailed were captured.



Tetu constituency MP Geoffrey Wandeto addressing the media after launching the Inua Jamii programme at Wamagana Friday.
Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU

Three Municipal Officers Released on Bond Amidst Allegations of Chain Shovel Theft

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyetimes

Three Kisii Municipal officers, Nahashon Ongeri, Mark Bonuke, and Raphael Mangere, appeared in court today on charges of stealing a chain shovel caterpillar valued at Sh.480,000, a property of Kisii Municipality.

They were arraigned before Chief Magistrate Stella Abuya in Kisii law court.

The accused individuals faced charges under section 268(1) and section 278(A) of the penal code for theft.

Specifically, on the 22nd of last month, within Kisii fire station in Kisii Central subcounty, they allegedly stole a chain shovel caterpillar with registration number KTF614.

Nahashon Ongeri faced additional charges of conspiracy and negli-

gence, while Mangere and Bonuke faced charges of conspiracy as well.

All accused individuals pleaded not guilty to the charges and were granted bond terms of Sh.200,000 each, along with a cash bail of Sh.50,000.

The case is scheduled for mention on the 11th of this month, with the hearing set for the 28th of November this year.

However Kisii County governor Simba Arati has vowed to crack the Whip on corrupt officers in his administration.

He said the depth of graft among some of his ministers and chief officers was of appalling and sickening levels.

Arati said he is ready to kick them out in few days to come.

“There is no going back, those caught must be ready to bear the cost when the chopping begins,” Arati said.

The governor assured members of the public he is going to restore sanity in the county.



Kisii County governor Simba vows to go for corrupt county workers.

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THEME:
*Promoting Climate Smart
Agriculture and Trade Initiatives
for Sustainable Economic
Growth*

KEMRI Partners With Biotech Giant To Manufacture Vaccines

By: Jackson Msanzu
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “At KEMRI, we have been discovering vaccines, drugs, and diagnosis, but some of these have been made by companies outside Kenya. But now this is a very momentous occasion that the things we are discovering can be made locally here by our own, which is Kenya Biovax,” he said.
- Songok disclosed that they have already identified childhood vaccines, which are currently sourced from abroad, as their top priority project and put in place a working framework to start manufacturing them.
- He said that some of the vaccines from outside the country lack reliable efficacy due to environmental differences but the expertise from both parties will ensure the childhood vaccines work better.



Stakeholders during the signing of the MoU.

The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kenya's biotechnology giant Kenya Biovax Institute to partner in the processes of manufacturing vaccines, health capacity building, and creating supply security in Kenya.

KEMRI and Biovax signed the mutual deal at Kilifi KEMRI offices paving the way to new scales for collaboration to ensure health and medical research are enacted to build capacity for the production of human vaccines and other health products in the country.

In a press briefing shortly after signing the MOU, KEMRI Acting CEO

and Director General Dr. Elijah Songok revealed that the institute's great work has been used by other countries to develop useful products therefore the partnership is a key milestone to show Kenya's capability to do research and produce its biotech stuff that can be accepted and used globally. He added that the deal is a key milestone in the country's biotechnology advancement and will help in promoting local manufacturing in line with the current government manifesto.

“At KEMRI, we have been discovering vaccines, drugs, and diagnosis, but some of these have been made by companies outside Kenya. But now this is a very momentous occasion that

the things we are discovering can be made locally here by our own, which is Kenya Biovax,” he said.

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Kenya Biovax CEO Michael Lusio-la expressed his optimism saying the agreement will open a great opportunity

for the company to tap into the research and discoveries made by KEMRI to the next level of implementation, production, and commercialization of products.

He added that they will work hand in hand to make Kenya a reliable biotechnology hub in the production of vaccines and other products that will be used globally.

“We learned a lot from the pandemic, we struggled in terms of high cost of health commodities during the covid 19 pandemic. Kenya struggled to secure vaccines for our people so this is a huge opportunity for us to develop self-efficiency in terms of vaccines for our people,” he said.

According to the Kenya Biovax Institute Chairman Mugo Kibati, Kenya's efforts to produce vaccines are about to bear fruits since the infrastructure, manpower, and expertise are in place.

“We at Biovax are just in the final stages of putting up a facility to manufacture vaccines and we look forward to benefit from the research done by KEMRI,” he said.

Kenya Biovax Institute is Kenya's biotech giant that is mandated to innovate, develop, manufacture, and commercialize vaccines and other specialized health technologies to improve access to quality health care in Kenya.

The collaboration between the two medical experts will play a critical role in shaping the future of the biotechnological development of the Country while contributing to the global response to pandemics in the future.

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News In Brief



Farmers in four Embu coffee co-operative societies have received Sh75.9 million from the World Bank-funded National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARGP) to improve factory infrastructure and increase productivity. Area Governor Cecily Mbarire called for factory management to install surveillance cameras and alarm systems to curb theft. She also advocated for the restoration of the County Mill to consolidate the milling and marketing of Embu coffee, addressing a debt of Sh90 million.



Immigration and Citizen Services Principal Secretary Amb. Julius Bitok has assured Kenyans that they will be receiving their passports within three to seven days. The backlog at Nyayo House has reduced from 100,000 to 45,000, and there will be no backlog in the next two weeks. The government has ordered new passport printers and enough booklets, and security vetting will allow travel documents to be received on time. Services like Express Service will ensure efficient passport processing



Nakuru County is focusing on improving drainage systems in anticipation of El-Nino rains, as announced by the metrological department. Metrological Officer Julius Kilemba clarified that El-Niño doesn’t have a relationship with heavy rainfall, but it contributes to the high possibility of overwhelming or above-average rainfall. Farmers are encouraged to plant short-term crops like beans and pasture to enhance food security. County engineer Michael Kamau assured residents of the Kaptembwo informal settlement area of faster drainage system rehabilitation to avoid flooding.



Nyeri County’s darts and squash teams were awarded for their stellar performances during the KICOSCA games held in Meru County. The darts team finished 2nd, the squash team 3rd, and the scrabble team 6th. The badminton team qualified for the quarterfinals and emerged 6th out of 18, a significant improvement from last year. Nyeri County’s diverse team of 276 staff represented the county in various disciplines, including ball games, netball, badminton, racket games, athletics, tug of war, darts, pool, squash, chess, table tennis, scrabble, and cultural dance. The theme for this year’s games was “Celebrating Devolution through Sports and Culture.”

The National Research Fund (NRF) has funded the Sahiwal Cattle Genetics Project for the Lol-gorian community in Transmara, Narok County. The project aims to improve cattle genetics and modern reproductive technologies for smallholder farmers in Kenya. The project, initiated by the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), aims to meet the growing demand for animal-source foods and modern livestock practices. The Sahiwal breed of livestock is known for its resilience and adaptability to arid and semi-arid conditions. The project aims to advance Kenya’s development agenda on productivity and food sufficiency, highlighting the importance of research and modern technologies in meeting food demands.



Ruto: Govt Investing In Monetization Of Talents To Spur Growth

By: Muraya Kamunde



Worth Noting:

- President Ruto said the Government is committed to providing the necessary infrastructure to foster the development of sports in the country.
- He said the Government is upgrading the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani, Nyayo National Stadium and the Kipchoge Keino Stadium, in Eldoret.
- “These works will boost our bid to co-host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) with Uganda and Tanzania,” he said.
- President Ruto announced today the launch of the Presidential Innovation Challenge, aimed at fostering innovation and supporting startups.
- He said this initiative is set to begin this month and will reach its climax during the Commonwealth Innovation Week, where outstanding innovations and top startups will be recognized.



President William Ruto with World 1,500 metres and 5,000 metres champion Faith Kipyegon (left) and World 800 metres gold medallist Mary Moraa at Talanta Plaza in Nairobi on September 1, 2023 during the opening of the building.

President William Ruto has said the Government is investing in the monetization of talents to bolster entrepreneurship, innovation and economic growth.

The President said the Government is keen on the conversion of passions into livelihoods, creating an empowered and self-reliant generation.

He cited the Talanta Hela which seeks to encourage youth to pursue their artistic and sporting goals.

“The Talanta Hela Initiative is a true Bottom-Up program; focused on empowerment, the creation of opportunities and the transformation of sports, young affairs and the arts,” he said.

The President made the remarks during the official opening of the Talanta Plaza in Nairobi in the company of Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba.

The building will be the new home of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports.

“This project reflects our commitment to sports, youth and the arts and is now the nerve center of the Talanta Hela Initiative, our flagship program to monetize talent in our country,” he said.

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He called on Affirmative Action Funds: Hustler Fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), Uwezo Fund and National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) to develop tailor-made facilities targeting youth in the Blue,

Green and Orange economy spaces.

“This will help in the alleviation of key challenges that face youth in the country including high levels of inactivity, unemployment and underemployment, early and unintended pregnancies, crime, alcoholism, drugs use and substance abuse among others,” he said.

Mr Ababu recognised the Kenyan athletics team that represented Kenya in the World Athletics Championships in Budapest.

He said the Government has revamped the cash reward for athletes who win medals representing the country.

“We have also settled all outstanding dues owed to our athletes going back over 10 years,” he said.

Earlier, President Ruto attended the Africa Youth Climate Assembly 2023 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi ahead of next week’s Africa Climate Summit.

The President asked African youth to play a leading role in climate change action.

He said the youth are the greatest stakeholders in climate change action saying they are the custodians of the future.

He noted that sidelining the youth would be an exercise in futility.

“I ask you, young people from our continent to take action, let us initiate this transformative shift together,” he said.

The President stated that Africa is taking a leadership role in climate change action by transitioning from a victim to a solution provider.

“We are going to change our approach. We are going to be armed with proposals, ideas and assets and find our way to the table,” he said.

President Ruto called on African states to take advantage of climate action to create opportunities for the youth.

The President noted that Africa’s abundance of resources in renewable energy positions the continent to benefit from climate action.

He explained these renewable energy resources will create opportunities for job creation, investment and innovation.

“Africa has the capacity to expand its economy and prosperity while avoiding worsening the climate situation and offering climate-smart solutions,” he said



Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba during the official opening of the Talanta Plaza

DPP Appeals Babu’s Acquittal In Shooting Case Citing Overwhelming Evidence

By: Capital Correspondent

The Public Prosecutor on Friday appealed the decision by a Magistrate Court to drop a shooting case against controversial Embakasi East MP Babu Owino citing an citing overwhelming weight of evidence.

Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) contested the trial court’s finding that the prosecution lacked compelling to link Owino to the shooting of DJ Evolve at a club in Nairobi’s Kilimimani area in 2020.

DPP also faulted Magistrate Bernard Ochoi’s finding that found the investigation by the police wanting.

“Having evaluated the evidence, I find that the prosecution has failed to prove a case beyond reasonable doubt,” Ochoi ruled.

“Why did the investigating officer not avail the person who recovered the bullet head and cartridge to testify?” he posed.

Ochoi also cited the prosecution’s failure to produce medical evidence to prove the he victim was injured by a gun.

The court held that a ballistic report did not conclusively find Babu’s fire-arm was used in the shooting.

Owino (left) is accused of shooting of DJ Evolve (right) at a club in Nairobi’s Kilimimani area in 2020/FILE.



Rai Ordered To Pay Butali Sh507mn In Damages Over Unlawful Interference

By: Capital Correspondent

The Commercial Court has ordered sugar baron Jaswant Rai to pay Kakamega-based Butali Sugar Limited Sh507 million in damages over unlawful interference in the mill’s business.

In a verdict rendered on Friday, Justice Alfred Mabeya agreed that Rai’s West Kenya Sugar Company disregarded a zoning plan in a suit that also roped in the Kenya Sugar Board.

“Accordingly, on the totality of the evidence on record, the plaintiff has proved its case on a balance of probability. Judgement is entered for the plaintiff against the 1st defendant for Ksh.507,799,612. The 1st defendant is entitled to indemnity against the 2nd defendant to the tune of 30 per cent on the damages,”Justice Mabeya ruled.

Butali had asked the court to award it Sh590 million being losses it incurred from West Kenya’s unfair practices.

Justice Mabeya said the amount awarded will attract a 12 per cent interest rate per annum.

“The sum of Ksh.507,799,612 shall attract interest at the rate of 12 per cent per annum from the date of the suit until payment in full. The plaintiff will have the costs of the suit.”

The decision came days after Rai dropped an appeal challenging the leasing of Mumias Sugar, a State-Owned Enterprise, whose wars have been blamed on a sugar cartel linked to the businessman.

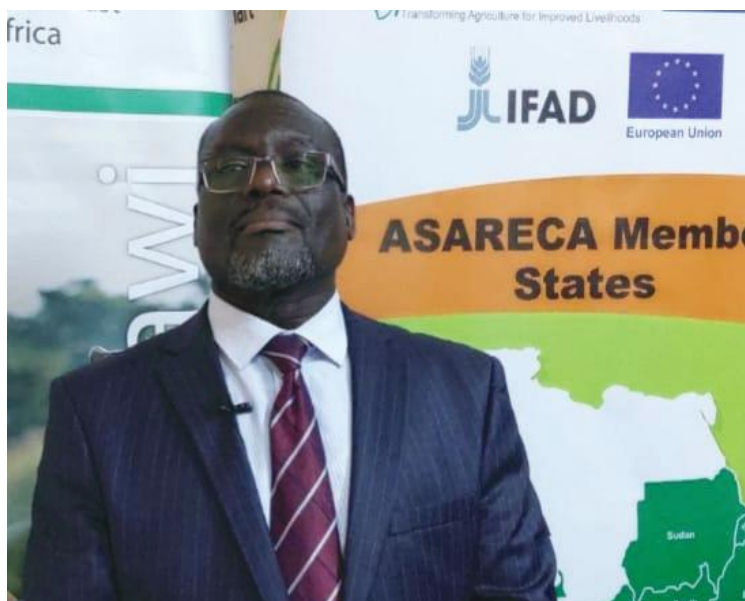
Justice Alfred Mabeya agreed that Rai’s West Kenya Sugar Company disregarded a zoning plan in a suit that also roped in the Kenya Sugar Board/FILE.



Regional Caucus Promotes Climate Policy Formulation

By: Wangari Ndirangu

@themkenyentimes



Dr. Enock Warinda, ASARECA Executive Director.

Worth Noting:

- Dr. Warinda said the research organizations in the 15 member countries have developed some of the best technologies that can even allow farmers to plant even during the drought and still get good harvest but sometimes policies are a hindrance.
- National development plans are prioritized, farmers can adopt the climate relevant technologies along the various food systems and majorly the food value chains which we have already identified, then they are able to increase their productivity. When they increase the productivity of their major priority commodities then they'll be able even to have surplus," he added.
- He continued to say that with surplus, there will be increased trade since there are enough markets within the region.

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is working towards enhancing capacity for its 15 member countries in their climate responsiveness in policy formulation and implementation.

According to experts, climate change remains a major challenge to agricultural production in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA) especially through prolonged droughts, delayed onset of rains, floods and emergence of new pests and diseases.

Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies and innovations is therefore critical in adapting to climate change.

Dr. Enock Warinda, ASARECA Executive Director said farmers especially the women and youth are not accessing climate smart agriculture technologies to the same extent as men and their adoption remains low.

Speaking during a regional meeting organized for member countries in Kenya on promoting climate responsiveness in Agriculture policy formulation, Dr. Warinda said the meeting was looking at the food system, especially in the 15 countries, how to address it and some of the gaps that would ensure there is enough instead of dependency of outside countries.

"ASARECA is supporting member countries to improve implementation of agricultural policies through looking at regional policy gaps and weaknesses in the climate-resilient transformation of maize-mixed agri-food systems, value chain development, and trade in Eastern Africa", he said

He noted that most national policies in the region have emphasized the significance of sustainable maize-mixed systems intensification and diversification for climate adaptation and improved rural prosperity, however, challenges persist in coherence, harmonization, and implementation of these policies at the national and regional levels.

He said the 15 member countries comprising of Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Cameroun, Central African Republic,

Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and the Federal Republic of Somalia which joined in May this year are all facing major major climate-related challenges and diseases

"The policy makers from all these 15 countries in these meeting want to look at how can we make our farmers resilient to climatic changes, the climatic shocks and how we can address this and be able to make farmers access climate smart agriculture technologies," he said

Dr. Warinda said the research organizations in the 15 member countries have developed some of the best technologies that can even allow farmers to plant even during the drought and still get good harvest but sometimes policies are a hindrance.

National development plans are prioritized, farmers can adopt the climate relevant technologies along the various food systems and majorly the food value chains which we have already identified, then they are able to increase their productivity. When they increase the productivity of their major priority

commodities then they'll be able even to have surplus," he added.

He continued to say that with surplus, there will be increased trade since there are enough markets within the region.

"We are as 15 countries (1/3) a third of the continent in terms of size, but in terms of the food productivity, the food sufficiency, we are the basket and so we can have enough for even the trade in the region"

Governments, he noted have already identified some of the major commodities they want to work on, and the only thing is to come up with a platform where discussions on the cross border trade are discuss and when these are done, Dr. Warinda said that some of the barriers that even hinder the movement of goods and the movement of food will be easy.

With the advancement in technology, the ED also said that they want to encourage the development of more youths to use the e-platform to even trade more and more.

"When we look at policies that help us in dealing with the climate change, it is a very important document and a very important component that we are now trying to think on how we can develop a good document which we can share with all our 15 ministers, also at the parliaments of East African Community, Parliament of IGAD, Parliament of Commercial and also the Economic Community of Central African States," he said.

In these meetings we want to look at how our governments can really come up with a treaty that will stop these border troubles. So that movement of certified food can be done, certified products can be done, exchange of technologies can be done among countries without a problem.

Dr. Warinda said there is a lot of data that is available from each member country that can be shared as a document that shows which country has got what kind of deficit, which one has a surplus making trade among the member countries flow seamlessly.

Dr. Warinda however noted that these

can only be done if there are policies that focus on food resilience and resilience against the climatic changes and climatic shocks.

Julian Barungi, Program Officer in charge of policy at ASARECA said that one of the major areas that they are addressing in the policy dialogue is to validate a policy index tool that they are developing to support policy analysis within the member countries.

The index tool, she added, will also track the formulation and implementation of the different policies that affect agricultural research for development, be able to periodically collect data, analyze diverse policies and take stock of changes.

"These are policies that really affect the smallholder farmers at the last mile and that we are all working towards improving their livelihoods. Policies like the National Seed Policies, the National Fertilizer Policies and also the National Agriculture Policies" Barungi said

ASARECA wants to be able to analyze both the national policies and the regional policies and assess the adequacy of formulation of these policies as well as implementation.

"We have seen that usually the problem is with the implementation. So we want to make a contribution towards improving the implementation of agriculture policies," she said.

Barungi emphasized that the ASARECA Agricultural Policy Index tool is to help in assessing the extent to which the agricultural research for development policies are impacting on smallholder farmers and whether they are translating into improved productivity at the farmer level.

The four day meeting is to discuss findings of policy studies undertaken by ASARECA in the recent past looking at the status of policies, laws, regulations, standards and guidelines supported by ASARECA and the status of the GMOs in the countries.



Julian Barungi, Program Officer in charge of policy at ASARECA.

What Is Foster Parenting



By: Wanjohi P. Mugambi
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- Many children and adolescents in foster care have experienced little parenting continuity, and some have been moved from home to home repeatedly. Many foster children have significant behavioral or emotional problems, are medically fragile, or have physical or developmental disabilities.
- The principal difference between foster parenting and other forms of parenting is that the foster parent-foster child relationship is expected to be temporary. Foster parents are expected to be warm and nurturing and to form a growth-promoting relationship with their foster children, but not to be too warm and nurturing or to create a relationship that is so close that it makes it difficult for the children to return to their birth parents.

Foster parents provide care to children who cannot remain with their families by bringing these children into their homes. Although this care is meant to be short term and temporary, many children remain with their foster parents for several years and become important members of their foster families. Foster parents are recruited, trained, and supervised by public departments of social services or by private agencies that contract with departments of social services to provide foster care.

The characteristics of foster parents in the United States tend to reflect the characteristics of parents throughout the United States. Fifty to sixty years ago, foster parents were primarily middle-income couples, with a mother who often did not work outside the home. Today, foster families are much more structurally and culturally diverse.

Although most foster parents today are married, many single women and some single men are foster parents. Foster families come from a wide range of cultural groups and incomes. Many have both birth children and foster children in their families, although others have become foster parents in order to have children in their home. Adults interested in becoming foster parents usually get in contact with local agencies or may respond to recruiting drives. They often must receive legally mandated training, and their backgrounds, current living situations, and parenting practices are investigated.

Agencies then decide whom to accept as foster parents, although, as subsequently described, the current shortage of foster homes encourages many agencies to accept all those who are qualified. Foster parents receive stipends to defray the costs of providing foster care, but these stipends often do not cover the costs of raising a child and many foster parents must subsidize the cost of providing care to the foster children in their home. Foster parenting is a unique and, even as we write, changing form of parenting. Foster parents provide parenting to very challenging children. They parent infants with drug addictions or AIDS and children and adolescents who have been severely abused or neglected.

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The principal difference between



foster parenting and other forms of parenting is that the foster parent-foster child relationship is expected to be temporary. Foster parents are expected to be warm and nurturing and to form a growth-promoting relationship with their foster children, but not to be too warm and nurturing or to create a relationship that is so close that it makes it difficult for the children to return to their birth parents.

Another difference is that foster families are open to supervision by child-welfare agencies and possibly to involvement with the birth parents. Thus a primary right of parents in the United States—to rear children without interference from the state—is missing for foster parents. Negotiating the extent to which foster families, child welfare agencies, and birth families are to work together while parenting a foster child can be difficult. Despite the challenges faced by foster parents, most express satisfaction with their roles. We explore the experiences of foster parents. We start with a description of the foster care system—exploring the system's history and its current state and describing what we know about the characteristics of foster parents today. We then explore the issues that make foster parenting unique. We do this by exploring three types of relationships that foster parents must negotiate: relationships with the placement agency, with the foster child's birth parents, and with the foster child. We pay particular attention to the role of attachment in the relationship between the foster parent and foster child. We then explore issues related to factors that promote successful foster parenting.

Unfortunately, the research on foster parenting is minimal. Although research on the experiences of foster children has increased over the

past two decades, a similar increase of research on foster parents has not occurred. Some existing research involves reviews of agency records, and these records are often incomplete and may contain little specific information about the foster parents.

Much of the other research involves surveys mailed to foster parents, with the typical low response rates associated with mailed surveys and subsequent concerns about the representativeness of the data. Consequently, although we do know something about the experiences of foster parents, additional research will need to be conducted before we have more than a rudimentary knowledge about them and their families.

Until the 1970s or so, foster parents were seen largely as caregivers. They were expected to provide a healthy home life and a good parenting example for children who were generally stable, but whose parents were temporarily unable to care for them. If specific educational or psychological services were needed by a child, they were supplied by other professionals. Children with significant medical, behavioral, or emotional problems were often cared for in an institution. Over the past three decades, the role of many foster parents has changed to that of an active member of the team delivering services to the foster child and to the child's birth family. Foster parents are expected to be knowledgeable participants in behavioral therapy or psychotherapy received by the child, to actively participate in remedial or other educational programs in which the child is enrolled, to help the child's birth parents create a home environment to which the child can be returned, and to facilitate the continuation or improvement of the relationship between the child and the birth parents. Of primary im-

portance, foster parents are now often seen as partners when decisions about the child are made. These new roles create conflicts between the interests of the agencies and the foster parents in some cases. For example, the agency is charged with supervising the foster placement and removing children from inadequate foster homes, yet the agency depends on the families that it must supervise to provide needed (and sometimes, desperately needed) homes.

Consequently agencies may modify what they believe would be best for a child in order to avoid angering the foster parents and thus risking disruption of the placement. For example, some caseworkers have felt pressure to reduce contact between the child and the child's birth family because the foster family found the contact to be troubling.

Another potential conflict occurs when foster parents are asked to work as partners with the placement agency in promoting the development of the child's birth family and in making decisions about the child and the child's placement, because the foster parents' positive or negative feelings about the child may influence these decisions.

Some foster parents who have developed a warm relationship with their child may be hesitant to recommend reunification with the child's birth parents, and foster parents who have developed a conflicted relationship with a child may be eager to have the child returned to the birth parents before it is appropriate to do so.

Negotiating these conflicts can be tricky, and when they are not confronted in a forthright manner, they can have a significantly negative influence on the care given to a child.

Pastor Dorcas Opens Medical Camp For Drug Addicts At Miritini Rehab Centre

By: SoDP

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has opened a medical camp at the Miritini Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Mombasa County.

The camp targets those addicted to alcohol, drugs and substance abuse at the coastal town.

Speaking during the opening of the camp Pastor Dorcas called on the community to be involved in rehabilitation of the addicts and integrate them back once they are treated.

“We must help them (Addicts) to break free of the bondage and make deliberate actions so that we can get on the right path,” she said.

During the event Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) donated one million shillings towards the boy child program under the office of the spouse of the Deputy President.

Coast General Hospital Acting CEO, Dr Wanjiru-Korir also pledged

to partner in the initiative.

Many of the addicts have lauded the program which they termed as their turning points.

On Wednesday, Pastor Dorcas opened a 2-days medical camp targeting the addicts at the Railways Dispensary in Shimanzi area of Mombasa County.

NACADA Director of compliance James Koskei pledged the support of the authority towards the program not just at the coast region but across the country.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi with Tudor Secondary School students



Africa Climate Summit And Africa Climate Week 2023 Hosted In Nairobi, Kenya



By: Mary K Ngethe
@themkenyetimes

Central Kenya Development Network, (CKDN), a national NGO operating in Central Kenya and beyond, continues to provide leadership in Health, Economic Growth and Climate Change agenda in Kenya with a special focus on the Central region. We aim to entrench health in climate adaptation discussions.

The 2023 Africa Climate Summit and Africa Climate Week will be held in Nairobi from 4th to 6th September. The theme of the Summit is “Finance Solutions for Africa and The World” CKDN seeks to continue pushing

the agenda of increased discussions on health and climate, and we hope that through this locally hosted event, CEREB will take a common position on matters health and climate change as the CEREB Blue Print is developed. Such a common position will ensure development of health-care systems that are resilient to the impacts of climate change as well as development of health systems that are sustainable with low carbon emissions in Africa including Kenya and the central region. CKDN further seeks to use other forums to promote a lobby for common CEREB position on Domestic Resource Mobilization for healthcare as we transition from Low level to Middle level Economy. This transition is surely coming, and Central Kenya and indeed all other Economic Blocs will do well in holding concrete discussions on how to transition. Wanjiku needs to know this scenario of transitioning from donor support for health towards self-sus-



tained domestic funding. Finally, to all those coming to Nairobi from other African nations and beyond, CKDN says “Karibuni Sana”. Mary K Ngethe, Director, Health and Allied Social Sectors Central Kenya Development Network (CKDN)

Love And Goodness



When friendship is created by love,
The Sun of goodness laughs.
They are familiar with loyalty,
Don't be indifferent to both.

People will be happy with a prayer
The value of love is priceless.
The earth turns green with rain,

With a joy we live in goodness.

Ancestors inherited us the gift,
Which is called love to the motherland.
We feel happy with the sense of it
Love, loyalty and goodness are great.

They are those who don't fade the Sun,
In the bountiful land we have holiday.
No one cries or sheds tears like rain,
Everyone is happy, everyone is happy.

Nematullayeva Fayoz, Nusratullayevna is a writer, poet, reviewer, editor and translator. She was born in 2004 in Termez state, Surkhondaryo region. Currently, she is studying at Termez state university. Fayoz is a second-year student of the Termez state university of Uzbekistan. Future Practical Psychologist. She writes in English, Uzbek and Tadjik languages

The Lamp Of Life



Life is a path full of difficulties and hardships. It is difficult to live well in this life, to go through difficulties with patience. From the moment we are born, our parents are always working for us. They themselves suffer so that we do not see difficulties. And our first teachers in this life will be our parents.

After our parents, we have the second teacher in our life. For every person, the second teacher is as valuable as her parents. Because from that person she gets great knowledge and life sciences. I have such a person in my life.

LATOFAT ISMATOVA! This person is very valuable and dear to me. My kind teacher who has been able to give me the world's worth of knowledge for my life. When I went to school for the first time, she took me by the hand and brought me into the classroom, patted my head and taught me all the knowledge she had. I now understand that sometimes the reprimands she gave me were actually the most kind. Latofat Ismatova is a person who can be an example not only for people in school but also for the whole republic. This is a very necessary and valuable person for life. This person, who seems to everyone to be an ordinary teacher, is actually the most mature, invaluable person who teaches and educates great people. Sometimes I wonder:

In the future, can I be the most necessary and valuable for society like this person? we can learn all knowledge from this person, not only reading and writing. A person who can teach and taught wonderful things such as patience, standing up when we fall, sometimes being silent, sometimes not being silent at all, and of course respecting all people. I am a kind teacher who loves all her students as her own children, is very happy when they succeed, and sad when they encounter some kind of difficulty. Some things cannot be described in words. There are no words to describe your love and for you. You are a necessary and always valuable person for us, for society, for the whole world. In other words, you are the light of your students' lives. we admire you very much and will always love you dear teacher. You are one of the best teachers in my life ISMATOVA!

Author:

MEKHRANGIZ KIBRIYEVA OLIMJONOVNA was born 1 January, 2006 in Sariosia district, Surkhondaryo region. She is studying at secondary school number 12 from 10 class. Currently her poems and articles has been publish in international collecting such as "Kenya times", "Kavya kishor", "Synchronized", "Raven cage" and Moldova, Kenya, USA, Great Britain, India and other countries. She has been taking pride of place in the subject "Informatics and information technologies" at the science Olympiads of republic. She is also member of the international organization "All India council for Technical Skill Development". She is interested in programming, writing articles and learning languages.

When I Die



I perpetually struggle to apprehend the impending moment of my demise,
Contemplating the fate of my inert vessel,
Shall it undergo ablution akin to the rites of my inception?
Interrogations pervade my thoughts, from the anterior to the posterior,
Shall I be perfumed, shall I be adorned?
Will the mortician dare to intrude upon my private domain,
And comment upon the proportions with an air of amusement?
Shall the refrigeration unit in the morgue fulfill its function?
I ponder whether the mortician shall extend to me due reverence.

How shall my interment transpire, shall I be subjected to cremation?
With each diurnal occurrence, inquiries burgeon, eluding my comprehension,
Death, an ensnaring enigma, befalls us all,
Shall my passing evoke sorrow or celebration,
Cooks shall assuredly be engaged, preparing

delicacies,
While I once reveled in the company of espressos,
how woeful,
This implies that in my demise, Njeri alone shall grieve my loss,
I cannot envision my mother, enshrouded in her traditional garb, lamenting with swollen eyes,
For she has lost a wordsmith, a son, a paternal mentor,
The immediate impact upon all eludes my grasp,
My progeny shall remain oblivious to the transpiring events, shielded from the tumult,
For I inculcated in him the ideals of manhood, nay, gentility.

There, the coffin, enfolding my inanimate form,
Clad in a resplendent Kaunda suit, bereft of footwear, I am,
The most opulent casket the world has borne witness to, bearing my visage,
Captured in my adolescence, bedecked in spectacles,
Youthful and unwavering, alongside a profound backdrop,
An anthology of wandering verses, poems recounting my odyssey,
Legacy established or unfulfilled dreams, it matters not, I am deceased,
Trapped within a lifeless vessel, my spirit yearns to be unshackled,
That it may encounter another wordsmith, another gifted soul.

KABIRUMURAYA
kibirumuraya254@gmail.com

"Dad"



Daddy bless me ,
Only wish fortune to tiny lass.
Worldly, every moment passes,
I carry on with your shadow as heroine.

Daddy , it has an existence in my poetry,
World, World is also universe.
There is joy , there is missing , without pain,
May your hearts be filled with my idylles.

Dilshoda Urakbayeva , Pupil of creativity school named after "Khamid Olimjon and Zulfia"

Urakbayeva Dilshoda Husnidin's daughter was born on April 16, 2009 in Zafarabad district of Jizzakh region. She went to school for the first time in 2016. Currently, she is studying at the creative school name after Hamid Olimjon and Zulfia. Her dream is to become an economist and a mature poet in the future.

Dad, show my poems to the field
Don't leave any pains in my soul
Cross the road in your mettle
Goodness comes true , it has in verses

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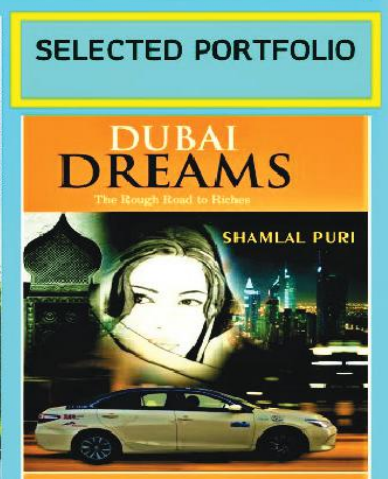
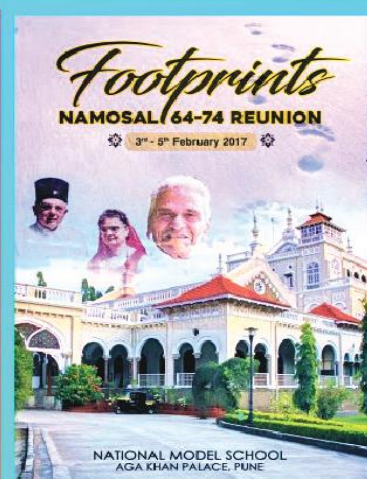
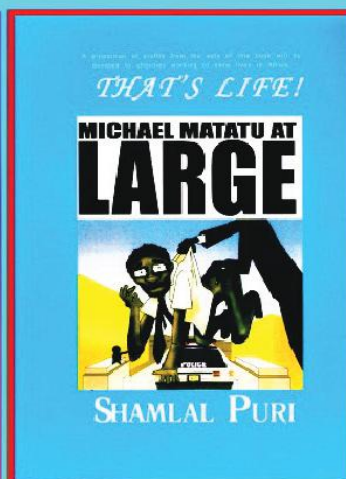
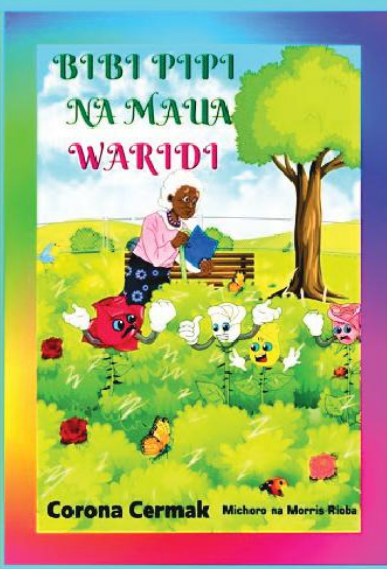
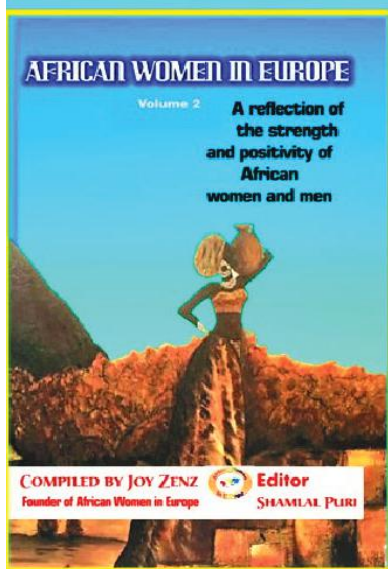
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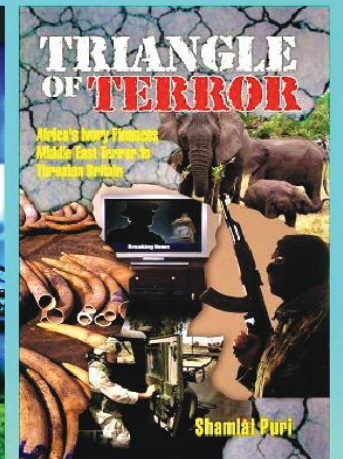
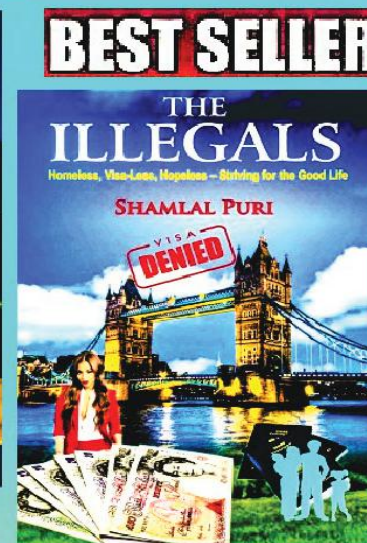
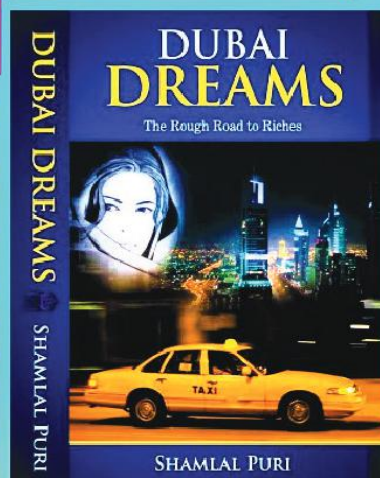
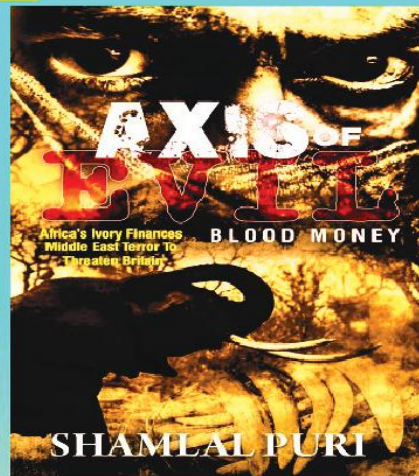
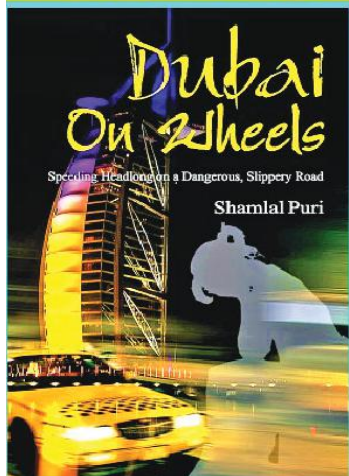
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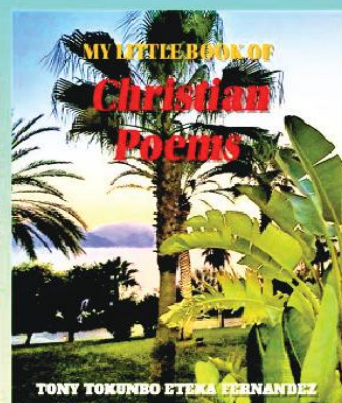
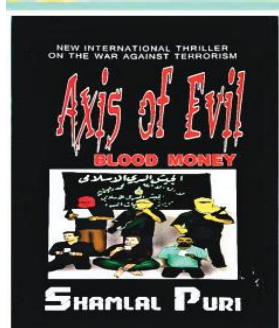
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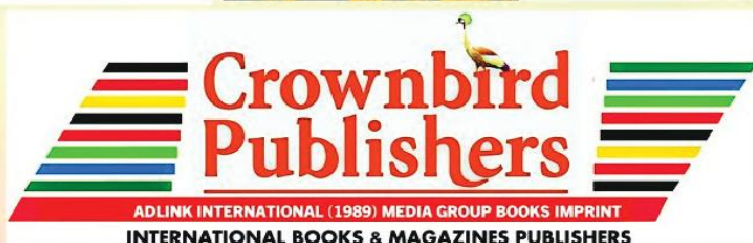


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Paradigm Initiative Unveils Its 2023 Digital Rights And Inclusion Learning Lab Fellows

By: Waithaka Kariuki

@themtkenyentimes

Leading pan-African organisation, Paradigm Initiative (PIN) has announced the three winners of its 2023 Digital Rights and Inclusion Learning Lab (DRILL) Fellowship.

The outstanding candidates, Mr. Wahome Wilson from Kenya, Ms. Ameni Saidani from Tunisia, and Ms. Sibongile Mokapane from Lesotho, emerged tops from a pool of 1,265 applicants drawn from across the continent.

The program, which takes place between August and December 2023, will allow the fellows to be embedded in the digital rights and inclusion ecosystem. Through the fellowship, PIN seeks to host innovative learning around digital rights and inclu-

sion in Africa and serve as a space for enhanced capacity and networking.

Wilson is a Research and Consulting Lead at Lawyers Hub Kenya, Saidani is a Project Assistant at the Ibsar Association, and Mokapane is an Advocacy Specialist at Politics4Her.

Wilson is an advocate specialising in the areas of technology and intellectual property. He has a background in a variety of cross-cutting issues that touch on telecommunications law, media law, data protection and privacy. At the Lawyers Hub-Kenya, he works closely with startups and other clients and advises them on issues touching on intellectual property, data protection, telecommunications law and other contractual issues.

Saidani is a dedicated advocate with a primary focus on digital rights, particularly for individuals

with disabilities. With a comprehensive background spanning over four years in civil society engagement, Ameni has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to digital inclusivity and equity. Holding dual Master's degrees in "Disability and Rehabilitation" and "Sign Language Interpretation," she blends academic prowess with hands-on experience. Mokapane is a passionate human rights lawyer specialising in wom-

en's and children's rights, digital rights, and gender issues. With an LLB and an LLM degree, she is an advocate admitted to practice and is currently working as an advocacy specialist at Politics4Her, focusing on the Women's Leadership and Political Participation portfolio.

Their credentials reflect PIN's commitment to fostering digital rights and inclusion. "We are excited to welcome Ameni, Sibongile, and

Wahome to the DRILL Fellowship. Their dedication to digital rights and their respective areas of expertise make them valuable additions to our community. We look forward to the positive impact they will create," said Ms Bridgette Ndlovu, the Partnerships and Engagements Officer at Paradigm Initiative.



PARADIGM INITIATIVE

STIHL EA to Introduce Battery-Operated Technology In The Eastern Africa Region

By: Our Reporter

@themtkenyentimes

STIHL East Africa has announced plans to introduce battery powered products in the East African Market as the firm celebrates its one year anniversary in the region.

STIHL East Africa Managing Director Francois Marais said the move is necessitated by the demand for sustainable energy sources amidst global climate change challenges.

"We are very excited to be introducing Battery-operated tools in the East African Market, the tools are more sustainable, and they do not rely on fossil fuel. They also do not produce carbon emissions and are less noisy. Battery-operated tools also require less maintenance because they do not have as many parts to service," Marais said during the company's first year anniversary celebrations.

Some of the powered battery tools to be available in the East African market include chainsaws, brushcutters, hedge trimmers, lawn mowers, sprayers and blowers among others.

"As a company, sustainability is a key aspect of our brand, the battery powered products will have a

positive impact on the environment, reducing carbon emissions," Marais added.

The STIHL Group success story with battery-operated tools began in 2009 with the launch of STIHL's first battery-operated products: the STIHL HSA 65 and STIHL HSA 85 hedge trimmers. STIHL – which produces the tools and also the corresponding battery packs and chargers – has been continuously developing its battery technology for optimal output, performance, and weight. Now, the STIHL product range includes more than 50 battery-operated tools for private consumers and professionals.

"We will also be launching innovative battery technology in the Eastern African Market. This technology has always been at the cutting edge of development. The latest innovations from STIHL include the STIHL MSA 300 professional chainsaw, the most powerful battery-operated chainsaw currently available on the market. STIHL developed the AP 500 S battery pack especially for this tool. The pack offers outstanding performance at a low weight, as well as double the number of possible charging cycles, which significantly increases battery life span compared to conventional lithium-ion batter-



ies," said Lucia Ayanda, STIHL East Africa Product Manager.

In September last year, The STIHL Group announced that it is stepping up its battery strategy, with new plans to manufacture battery-operated tools for professional users at its headquarters in Waiblingen, Germany.

The mother company announced that a new production facility will be set up at STIHL Plant 2 in Waiblingen-Neustadt and is set to begin operations in 2024.

"Almost 20 percent of all STIHL

tools sold worldwide are battery-operated," said Michael Traub, Chairman of the STIHL Executive Board. "Battery is our fastest-growing market segment and is an area of development that we continue to invest in significantly. By establishing a new battery-operated tool production facility, we are laying the groundwork to remain a leading player in the battery market."

STIHL Group entered the East African Market in August 2022, with the launch of its East Africa sales subsidiary, STIHL East Africa.

"Since we launched, we have secured over 30 dealers in the Eastern Africa Region; we are currently represented through a dealer network in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. Plans are underway to increase the Point of Sales /POS in Tanzania, Uganda and other Eastern Africa markets that includes and is not limited to South Sudan, Burundi, Ethiopia and Eritrea," added John Wachira, STIHL East Africa Sales Manager.



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UoN VC Prof Kiama Returns To Office Ending Contested 6-Month Sabbatical

By: Capital Correspondent

University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Kiama returned to office on Friday cutting short a six-month sabbatical announced by the University Council in August.

Prof. Kiama's return came hours after UoN's teaching staff demanded his immediate reinstatement following a puzzling departure on August 1.

A source confirmed that he was back in office days after he attended the inauguration of UoN's Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies.

Prof Kiama's office later confirmed his return in a tweet.

Kiama's surprise leave that started in early August 2023 sparked a major controversy at the university where the students union and some lecturers raised concerns.

The University of Nairobi Students Association (UNSA) protested the



University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Kiama/FILE.

decision by the University council to send the Vice-Chancellor on leave.

The association's President Monica Malith said in a statement that no sufficient information was given

to the students or their leaders concerning the said leave and urged the council to recall the VC.

"The deliberate course of action taken up by the University Coun-

cil led by the Chair Dr. Amukowa Anangwe:- to whose effect Prof Kiama's application request for leave was approved was wrong and untimely," she said.

She said the Vice Chancellor's absence was likely to compromise some of the key activities lined up at the university.

"The University is readying itself for two graduation ceremonies, resumption from recess, admission of the first year class of 2023, and the implementation of the New Universities Funding Model, and hence the leave the VC took was untimely," she added.

Some lecturers too voiced their concerns, saying there was the need for a proper explanation of why Prof Kiama was being forced on leave.

"We have not been told why and that raises a lot of questions, we need Professor Kiama back," a lecturer said.

During Professor Kiama's absence, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o who is the DVC in charge of Academic Affairs was named in an acting capacity. s DVC Academic Affairs.

To Whom It May Concern Am Not Wagathanwa As Alleged

By: James Wakahi
@themkenyatiimes

Am Samuel Mwangi Kamau, an innocent Kenyan & law abiding citizen. I hereby share my sworn affidavit in order to clear my name after I was arrested & charged in court at Kenol following an incident of mistaken identity by law enforcement officers where I was being implicated with cases of insecurity & paraded as Wagathanwa.

The incident badly damaged my name to even loosing my job. To dear Kenyans, I seek clarification following the incident & humbly request that if you get this information, help me to share information to others in order to clear my name.

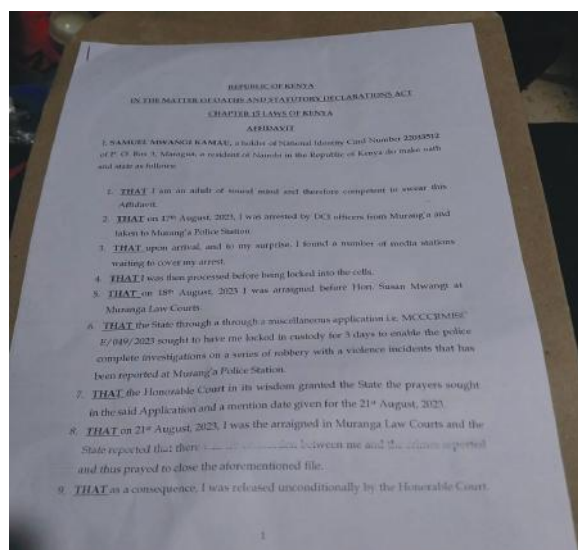
I lost everything after being posted in majority of media platforms, newspapers & media networks. Police alleged me as Wagathanwa but after Muranga DCI who requested



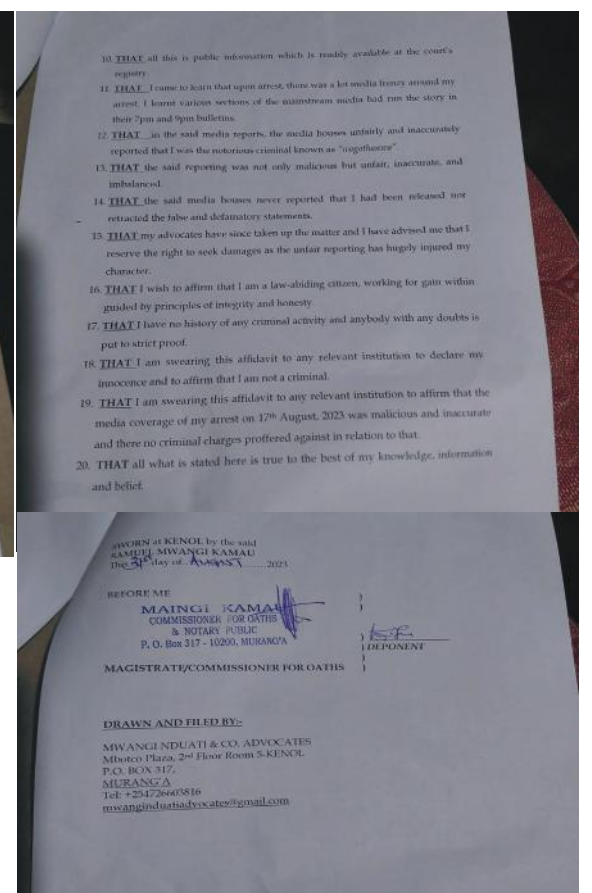
Samuel Mwangi Kamau in handcuffs

that I should be detained for 3 days for them to do investigations, the Muranga Court found me being innocent.

Unfortunately, I lost my job & nobody knows my other side of the story, since no media networks highlighted about my release. Am speechless to learn that the missing Wagathanwa who was on the run was yesterday reported to have finally been arrested by detectives. God bless you.



Samuel Mwangi Kamau's affidavits



NPCC Kicks Off Productivity Mainstreaming Programs IN MDAs

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In Kenya, productivity growth is envisioned in Kenya’s Constitution as a precursor of attainment of inherent rights of the citizens and the pursuit of productivity growth speaks directly to the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- On the same vein, *the*principal Secretary in the state department of labor and skills development The Hon PS Geoffrey Kaituko noted,
- “Our challenge as a country has been on matters productivity and competitiveness in which we are working in tandem with line departments including Cabinet Affairs, Performance management & delivery and the state department of public service.



Chair of the National Steering committee on Productivity and competitiveness Geoffrey Kaituko.

The National Productivity and Competitiveness Centre (NPCC) in the State Department for Labour and Skills Development, Ministry of Labour and Social protection has kicked off Productivity mainstreaming program across all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the country.

The event marks the beginning of implementation of the first activity in the productivity mainstreaming program in the public service which is one of the performance targets set for all MDAs in the 20th cycle of public sector performance contracting 2023/24 FY.

Speaking during the sensitization workshops held in the Central and Upper Eastern regions of the country, the Secretary Productivity Dr. Nahashon L. Moitaleel noted that raising productivity levels of the country is one of the key factors identified in realising the aspirations of the current Government’s Bottom up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The Secretary also highlighted that his office is ready to offer any support to ensure productivity mainstreaming in the public service is undertaken successively for the overall good of this Nation.

He urged MDAs to undertake the following steps in order to achieve the goal of productivity mainstreaming: Nominate and sensitize productivity management committee on productivity; Develop productivity measurement metrics under the guidance of NPCC; Collect the necessary productivity measurement data based on the metrics developed; Compute a productivity index for their organization; and develop productivity improvement strategy and start implementing it.

Since the development of Productivity Measurement Framework by NPCC, the Centre has trained 122 MDAs on productivity management. Twenty-two (22) of these MDAs have been supported by NPCC in the development of productivity metrics, data collection and computation of a Productivity Index.

In Kenya, productivity growth is envisioned in Kenya’s Constitution as a precursor of attainment of inherent rights of the citizens and the pursuit of productivity growth speaks directly to the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

On the same vein, *the*principal Secretary in the state department of labor and skills development The Hon PS Geoffrey Kaituko noted, “Our challenge as a country has been on matters productivity and competitiveness in which we are working in tandem with line departments including Cabinet Affairs, Performance management & delivery and the state department of public service.

This is the first time such an initiative is being introduced in Kenya. We are also working closely with the Kenya school of Government in a bid to ensure the aspects of productivity and competitiveness are introduced in the curriculum where public servants can learn those pertinent skills,” the Chair of the National Steering committee on Productivity and competitiveness Geoffrey Kaituko noted. Geoffrey Kaituko is also the principal Secretary in the State Department of Labour and Skills Development

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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

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

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Zambians Are Taking Spoken Word Poetry To Another Level



By: Abigirl Phiri
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- According to Poet Ndungu, he started writing in grade ten though he attested to the fact that his work wasn't that good at that time. Up to now, writing brings him solace. To be frank, he highlighted that writing is like an oasis that he can drown in to find sustenance. All in all, one thing led to the other until he found himself performing that is since eight years back. If you do your maths right, you can see that the poet has traversed a long and winding road up to now.
- As a result of his stellar effort, Poet Ndungu has published an e-book called Poetic Voices from Zambezi though he feels it still needs to be worked on the loose ends that it has.



Mojack Chitebe pen name Poet Ndungu

It had been my greatest wish to work with poets from Zambia since it is Zimbabwe's neighboring country. Fortunately enough, I struck a friendship with Mojack Chitebe pen name Poet Ndungu, who is such an affable fellow. However albeit that he is not a published author yet, he time and again engages in doing spoken word poetry. Accordingly, when on stage he alternates from performing in Chichewa or Ila which are some of Zambia's indigenous dialects. From my experience, a very few poets are versatile to the point that they are both good in their mother tongue as well as English our second language for most African countries. Having said that, it hasn't been long that we were celebrating international mother tongue day that is on the 21st of February this year. Consequently, Poet Ndungu was born on the 4th of May in the year of 1990. Thus, he started his grade one in 1997 at Lusaka school and later finished his twelvth grade at Kabulonga boys high in 2010. In this respect, he proceeded on doing Environmental Education at the University of Zambia. Interestingly, most poets are educated and therefore this has a direct impact of them penning down rich rhythmic poetry. With that in mind, Poet Ndungu graduated in 2016 when he was conferred with his hard earned degree.

According to Poet Ndungu, he started writing in grade ten though he attested to the fact that his work wasn't that good at that time. Up to now, writing brings him solace. To be frank, he highlighted that writing is like an oasis that he can drown in to find sustenance. All in all, one thing led to the other until he found himself performing that is since eight years back. If you do your maths right, you can see that the poet

has traversed a long and winding road up to now. Similarly, he has performed at Lusaka National Museum in a memorable event that made him proud of his African heritage especially given he was doing so in his mother tongue Ila then Chichewa. Also, he performed at a youth hub called Global Platform

for quite some time before he called it quits due to work related commitments. Equally, other events he has performed at are at the French organization the Alliance Francaise. On all intents and purposes, this latter organization is entailed in promoting oral and visual arts. Likewise, Poet Ndungu is inspired by other acts from other artistic individuals like himself. Nevertheless, he confided in me that his first source of inspiration is himself. After that then comes Nikolas Kawinga a published poet who also is a master at performing for he never fails to light up the stage. Again, he won't leave the great Okot P'Bitek in the mix of those people he looks up to.

As a result of his stellar effort, Poet Ndungu has published an e-book called Poetic Voices from Zambezi though he feels it still needs to be worked on the loose ends that it has. More so, he sees himself as a famous award winning poet in the near foreseeable future. In addition, he would like to form strong links with other poets across the globe for it is rightfully put that the more the merrier not to forget two heads are better than one. The most pertinent fact is that Poet Ndungu is a happily married man to his wife who has Zimbabwean origins and they share three beautiful kids. With regards to anthologies, he hasn't participated in one as yet although he wishes to rectify that very soon. The growth of a poet is seen by the number of anthologies they partake in plus their ability to collaborate whilst working with others. He is really grateful of

the advent of technology that has made lives not only for poets easy since we can easily do so much without working a sweat on different social media platforms. That said, he honestly feels there is need of a paradigm shift in the way people regard poetry. This comes about for many if not most people view poetry as a waste of one's breath and time. Yet it is instrumental in propelling the societal transformation for the greater good. Pressing the same argument, Poet Ndungu highlighted that poetry needs to be inculcated in the younger generation so that they get to see the bigger picture. Undoubtedly Poet Ndungu stated, "Poetry is one beautiful art that makes us use our brain faculties properly." Following this same line of thinking, poetry is life that one needs to hold on dearly to putting in mind that without it you are a dead corpse. Notably, the youths should be made to value poetry that it is a beautiful craft that deals away with idleness effectively for your mind is ever active trying to broach up another whole kind of creativity. Henceforth, this is what the seasoned spoken word poet had to say on this interview. Worth noting is that, in this life you should pursue activities that positively impact the society whilst bringing joy to you at the same time. Poetry does qualify in that respect for it is an art for serious minded individuals who would like to see change in the world. Peace, rugare, thayuu and shalom to all of you our treasured readers.



Mojack Chitebe pen name Poet Ndungu

Sports >> *The English Premier League trophy tour of Kenya kicked off Friday morning in Nairobi.

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EPL Trophy Tour Begins In Nairobi



The English Premier League trophy tour of Kenya kicked off Friday morning in Nairobi.

The viewing journey is expected to give fans an exclusive opportunity to witness the Premier League Trophy and connect them more closely with the League.

The highlight of the event will be its grand showcase tomorrow at the Carnivore Grounds.

Legendary former Nigerian footballer and Super Eagles captain Jay Jay Okocha is accompanying the trophy.

Kenya has hosted the Premier League trophy tour in previous years with supporters allowed to view and take photos with it as part of popularizing the English top flight whose teams such as Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool, Chelsea, and Manchester City have a big following in the country.

Meanwhile Lucky participants in the promotion being spear-

headed by the tour sponsors RUBiS Kenya will have the chance to clinch the ultimate prize: an all-inclusive trip to witness a top tier Premier League game in London.

The reward will include behind-the-scenes tour of the Stadium, with a chance to see the Club dressing rooms, player's tunnel, pitch side and much more.

Speaking at the launch, RUBiS Energy Kenya Group MD, Mr. Jean-Christian Bergeron commented,

"The launch of this campaign is RUBiS Energy Kenya's commitment to bring exceptional experiences to our loyal customers. Castrol's world-class innovative products provide oils, fluids and lubricants for every driver, every rider, and every industry. Customers will be able to access the Castrol products through over 280 RUBiS retail stations. By marrying the thrill of football



Legendary former Nigerian footballer and Super Eagles captain Jay Jay Okocha.

with the trust of the RUBiS and Castrol brands, we are setting a new benchmark in consumer promotions."

The campaign stretching to 12 weeks runs from 1st September to 24th November 2023.

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *World 3000m steeplechase silver medalist Beatrice Chepkoech says it was easier to compete at Thursday night's Zurich Diamond League compared to the just-ended World Championships in Budapest, Hungary

World Silver Medalist Chepkoech Admits Zurich Diamond League Was ‘Easy-Peasy’



Beatrice Chepkoech of Kenya (Left) Kenyan-born Winfred Yavi of Bahrain (center) and Kenya's Faith Cherotich (Right) at the 2023 World Athletics Championships medal ceremony. Photo/GETTY IMAGES.

World 3000m steeplechase silver medalist Beatrice Chepkoech says it was easier to compete at Thursday night's Zurich Diamond League compared to the just-ended World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

Chepkoech noted that most competitors were reluctant to exert themselves in the race in the aftermath of a gruelling schedule in Budapest where the global showpiece began on August 19.

"I think today it was so easy because we did not want to push hard after the World Championships in Budapest. You know, in Budapest we went out hard, and I felt that my body was shutting down, but after running that global final my body started to coming back up again," the 2019 World Champion said.

Chepkoech clocked 9:03.70 to finish second, behind winner and World Champion Winfred Yavi of Bahrain who stopped the timer at 9:03.19.

Another Kenyan, world bronze medalist Faith Cherotich claimed the final podium place in 9:07.59 to complete a reincarnation of the top three places at the World Championships.

The world record holder for the women's 3000m steeplechase revealed she had been getting a lot of rest and sleep ahead of the Diamond League meet.

She also saluted the crowd for a rapturous atmosphere that propelled her to the finish line.

"In the last few days I just focused on some easy running, resting and getting a lot of sleep. Of course running out here in front of

such an amazing crowd, it really motivates me. All this cheering makes my happy. It is a full stadium," she said.

Speaking at the same time, Kenyan-born Yavi said the race was an opportunity for her to confirm that her first world title in the Hungarian capital was no fluke.

"I have dreamed about this for a long time and it makes me feel that I have to believe in myself and to keep on believing. I am very excited – today, it felt almost like the same race as in Budapest so I wanted to confirm my victory," Yavi said.

The Asian 5000m champion still has a busy schedule ahead including the remaining legs of the Diamond League as well as the Asian Games but the 23-year-old remains unperturbed by the huge

expectations on her shoulders.

"I have been working hard and training hard to be a world champion. And to win the Diamond League in Zurich – that was my next dream. My program is still full – I have the final in Eugene and then the Asian Games. Still long season to go but I feel strong. I am enjoying my victory today as the crowd is cheering so much and the stadium is full – it is an honour to be here. Now, this is giving me a big motivation and I know I can be better than this," she said.

The next leg of the Diamond League series will be in Xiamen, China on Saturday.

Capital Sport

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Backpage



Magdalene Mwebi aka St. Jude: A story of Resilience, Hardwork and Success

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- St. Jude tried her hand in business and without giving up or looking back, she embodied courage, dedication, commitment and strong will.
- “In those days life was not easy. But one day an opponent came knocking and through the former Minister Simeon Nyachae, I secured an appointment with the then President Daniel Moi. Quickly asking me what I wanted, I told him to allow me to be buying sugar directly from Sony and Mumias Sugar Companies and supplying it to other wholesalers and distributors.
- The rest is history as they say. I made good money then which I invested,” the kind-hearted, composed and intelligent St. Jude shares her story.

Just get to Kisii town and get welcomed by the pleasant tropical climate that diffuses swiftly from the ridges on the horizon. It's indeed a land of bounty.

Blessed with plenty of rain and sunshine Kisii is indeed a healthy place to be.

And one woman, Magdalena Mwebi fondly known in Kisii as St. Jude, is so popular that virtually everyone in this town is familiar with her. But why?

Magdalena Mwebi, who in this article I'll just call her St. Jude is an astute business lady, a family pillar and a role model to many people who simply call her “Mother.” She is also the founder of an Non-Governmental Organisation still based in Kisii called Mwanyagetinge NGO.

But how did she start?

St. Jude tried her hand in business and without giving up or looking back, she embodied courage, dedication, commitment and strong will.

“In those days life was not easy. But one day an opponent came knocking and through the former Minister Simeon Nyachae, I secured an appointment with the then President Daniel Moi. Quickly asking me what I wanted, I told him to allow me to be buying sugar directly from Sony and Mumias Sugar Companies and supplying it to other wholesalers and distributors. The rest is history as they say. I made good money then which I invested,” the kind-hearted, composed and intelligent St. Jude shares her story.

As a word of encouragement, St Jude urged fellow women to start small and not to despise their humble beginnings.

“If at the moment you can secure a loan of Ksh 100,000 to either start or grow your business, so be it. Start from there and with dedication and focus, you will make it,” St Jude advised a business meeting convened in Kisii recently.

St. Jude, now a widow, finds gratification and contentment in farming.

“I have kept dairy cows and I also farm the indigenous vegetables in my farm.

These cater for my daily upkeep whilst I also plough back some of the proceeds to community service. For exams I have an NGO and our recent



Magdalene Mwebi

project was on creating awareness about the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.

With support from development partners, the project was a success and we were able to create a positive impact in our society.”

Watching her farmhands go about their daily chores, St Jude presents a family pillar to her three children.

To tap more blessings, St Jude provides also for orphan's catering for all their comprehensive needs including education, food, shelter and clothing.

Having a conversation with St Jude is indeed an eye opener. It's also a fulfilment of the popular saying that hardwork pays. And that we all should never give up. And that nothing

comes easily. No gain without pain.

She recently won a National Heroine Award as Ambassador from I. C. N. (I Change Nations) Global Award.

From our desk at the Mt Kenya Times E-paper we wish Magdalena Mwebi (St. Jude) God's immeasurable blessings and good health