Nakuru Streamlines Revenue Collection Streams

Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika, has disclosed that she is working with the County Assembly to formulate mechanisms to improve locally collected revenues as part of a strategy to expand the devolved unit's revenue streams and seal loopholes that resulted in the loss of some of the funds collected.

Page 18

The MT. KENYA TIMES

Creative Rewards

Daily ePAPER

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 No. 00874 www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

themtkenyatimes

News>>The High Grand Falls Multipurpose Dam Project Will Reduce Over Dependence On Rain Fed Agriculture And Improve Food Security

P. 8. The project that also incorporates hydro power generation and domestic water supply to the local communities, will reduce over dependence on rain fed agriculture for food security.

News>>Kisii University School of Business and Economics Hosts Inaugural International Conference on 'Building Resilience and Sustainability Amidst Uncertainty in a Changing Business Environment

P. 12. The primary objective of this conference was to enhance the research skills of post-graduate students and promote dialogue among participants who share similar interests.

Government Seeks Export Markets For Local Produce

Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Mithika Linturi yesterday said that the reforms target institutional reforms and implementation of targeted programmes to initiate and consolidate proven approaches bases on best practices in Agriculture.

Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi

STORY ON PAGE 9

Respect Kenyans As You Address Challenges, DP Gachagua Urges Public Servants

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has urged public servants to respect Kenyans as they address challenges facing the country.

Speaking on Tuesday after addressing the 36th General Conference of the International Scientific Council of the Trypanosomiasis Research and Control at PrideInn Hotel in Mombasa, the Deputy President said Kenyans deserve to be treated with respect and listened to all the time, more so during difficult times.

"All of us given the privilege to serve should do so with humility. We should have empathy with the people you are taking care of, respect those under you, address them with respect and decorum. It costs you nothing," urged the DP.

He said those employed in public service should always be keen on how they address citizens.

"If you serve the people of Kenya, those are your bosses, they are your employers. You should dignify them by the way you address them," he added.

The DP said leaders must always remain focused and steady when addressing challenges.

"Even when there are challenges, remain calm and steady and address problems in a humane and humble way, so that those who are victims of that challenge can feel understood and empathised. That is the hallmark of leadership" he stated.

At the same time, the Deputy President has said the Government is ready to respond to related challenges linked to the Elnino rains expected in the country towards the end of the month.

He said the he will convene a meeting with all relevant agencies to tighten their preparedness.

"In the coming week, I will chair the national emergency response committee with all our development partners, county governments, various ministries and all other stakeholders to ascertain their preparedness," he said.

Worth Noting:

- "All of us given the privilege to serve should do so with humility. We should have empathy with the people you are taking care of, respect those under you, address them with respect and decorum. It costs you nothing," urged the DP.
- He said those employed in public service should always be keen on how they address citizens.
- "If you serve the people of Kenya, those are your bosses, they are your employers. You should dignify them by the way you address them," he added.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua .

Editor's Desk

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.

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web**: www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenyatimes, **Instagram:** instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/ , **Twitter**: twitter.com/themtkenyatimes
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/

NEWS IN BRIEF

The government and stakeholders are advocating for stricter rules and regulations to improve online security and trust. The National Computer and Cybercrime Coordination Committee (NC4) Taskforce Chairman, Mark Matunga, highlighted the need for a holistic approach to governing the digital space. They are working with legal teams to develop regulations that streamline public data handling. Co-chair Evans Ombati called for research, consultation, and comparative analysis to create regulations that address the evolving world of technology. Members of the public also emphasised the need for data backups and a focus on mobile money payments.

Farmers in Nakuru County are being encouraged to grow more beans during the anticipated El-Nino rains, as they are a universal remedy for climate change due to their genetic diversity. Beans rank second to maize in Kenya's importance as a food crop, but are cultivated almost exclusively by 1.5 million smallholder farmers on a million hectares with yields of an estimated 0.6 million tons. They are an important part of the local diet for both adults and children and have numerous benefits for the soil, including improving fertility and controlling weeds and pests. However, bean farmers face challenges such as the tedious shelling process and lack of market information, which makes it easier for middlemen to exploit them.

The Kenya Defence Forces, Kenya Meat Commission, and Turkana County leadership met to discuss the revival of the Lomidat Slaughterhouse in Lokichoggio Sub-County. The meeting was a follow-up to a Peace Caravan recommendation aimed at improving the lives of communities around Lomidat, streamlining the livestock value chain, and promoting peaceful coexistence. Brig James Githaga, Managing Commissioner for the Kenya Meat Commission, highlighted the importance of the revival of the facility for peacebuilding between Kenya and neighbouring countries and improving livelihoods for pastoralists. The meeting also highlighted the need for a memorandum of understanding to formalise the partnership.

Joseph Odongo, an 80-year-old man who went missing for 50 years, returned home after tracing his roots. Odongo left home after disagreeing with his deceased brother in 1972. He claimed to be going to Sikri Beach but moved to Mombasa instead. After years of searching, his family ruled that he might have died. He has been living in Likoni, where he found life enjoyable and easy-going. However, a few years ago, his employer went back to Europe, leaving him vulnerable and feeling abandoned. Odongo returned to Homa Bay, where he was greeted by the local chief and his family. He expressed concern about alleged encroachment on his property and did not wish to return to Mombasa but only wanted to have his property back.

The government has highlighted the significant impact of mental health conditions on the country's GDP, stating that in 2020, the country lost Sh62.2 billion due to these issues. Absenteeism and presentism were the largest contributors, accounting for 49 per cent and 30 per cent of the annual cost, respectively. The number of civil servants diagnosed with mental illness has increased from 5,000 to 13,000 due to economic conditions. The State Department is implementing preventative and promotive measures to promote mental health and wellbeing, including strengthening counselling services, developing counselling skills programmes, and establishing a public service counselling helpline.

Kenya is hosting the 36th General Conference of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) in Mombasa to develop strategies to tackle African trypanosomiasis. The conference brings together over 300 disease control workers, scientists, and researchers from 38 tsetse-infested African Union countries to share information and best practices on eradicating the disease. Trypanosomiasis affects human and livestock health, limits land use, causes poverty, and perpetuates underdevelopment. Kenya has prioritised eradication in over 36 counties, with no reported cases since 2009. The disease is endemic and transmitted by the tsetse fly vector, affecting over 10 million sq km in 38 countries.


SKIP THE QUEUES
Embrace the Fast Lane by purchasing your Park entry ticket in advance via eCitizen Payments platform!
eCitizen
Fast.Secure.Convenient
Log on to kws.ecitizen.go.ke or Scan the qr code provided
For assistance reach us on: 0800597000
customerservice@kws.go.ke
WhatsApp No: 0726610509
KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

LANCET Series Releases Prevention Report Of Small Vulnerable Newborns And Stillbirths In Kenya And Sub-Saharan Africa

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Lancet Series on small vulnerable newborns calls for standardisation of data, technology, and quality pre-natal information as national preventive measures to curb the high rate of new-borns born too small or too soon that currently stands at highest rate at 20% in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Globally, one in every four babies in the world is either 'born too small' or 'born too soon' accounting for 1.9 million stillbirths and 1.4 million newborn deaths annually. The small vulnerable newborn survivors are vulnerable to health problems throughout their life course, affecting human capital, economic productivity, and healthcare costs. Furthermore, while the situation is the most challenging in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, rates of data availability are also the lowest in these regions, making it difficult for decision makers to meaningfully address this issue.

The Series, created through an international collaboration of a group of scientists, presents a new conceptual framework that brings preterm birth, small for gestational age (SGA), and low birth weight (LBW) together under the umbrella term "small vulnerable newborns" (SVN). This new terminology and framework gives global and local actors a shared terminology and framing of the issue, allowing them to work together to implement change.

The Series estimates that 566,000 stillbirths and 5.2 million preterm or underweight births could be prevented each year by implementing eight accessible and cost-effective pregnancy interventions in low-and-middle-income countries. and the estimated cost of implementing these measures stands at $1.1 billion by the year 2030.

Director of Aga Khan University's Centre of Excellence in Women & Child Health EA Prof. Marleen Temmerman, Champion Mother Stella Mwikali & Ministry of Health Acting Head, Division of Health Informatics Dr. Job Nyangena during the regional launch of the Lancet report on national preventive measures to curb the high rate of new-borns born too small or too soon..

The Series provides low-cost, evidence-based pregnancy interventions for the prevention of small vulnerable newborns and stillbirths. These interventions include multiple micronutrient supplements, treatment of syphilis, and treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria (a bacterial infection of the urine) for all women. The targeted interventions provided include low-dose aspirin, balanced protein energy supplements, prevention of malaria in pregnancy, progesterone provided vaginally, and smoking cessation. In addition, implementing girls' and women's reproductive rights is key to preventing pregnancy complications and poor pregnancy outcomes.

Speaking during the launch of the lancet series in Kenya, Ministry of Health Acting Head, Division of Health Informatics Dr. Job Nyangena reiterated the government's commitment to implementing these preventive measures.

"As a government and especially with the devolution of health services, we are developing technological specifications to ensure standardization of operating procedures and training manuals," he said.

Although addressing the issue of small vulnerable newborns has been on the global agenda for years, global trends show that the situation has not improved. This indicates a pressing need for national actors, along with global partners, to commit to providing high quality of care for all women during pregnancy and at birth. This includes implementing the World Health Organization (WHO) antenatal care guidelines that include a screening ultrasound for all pregnant women.

Prof Marleen Temmerman, Director of Aga Khan University's Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, East Africa (CoEWCH EA) says, "One out of 4 babies is born too early, too small, or stillborn. It is our moral duty to invest in prevention of small vulnerable newborns through early and high quality antenatal and childbirth care and through girls and women reproductive rights."

As part of the advocacy efforts to prevent small vulnerable newborns, Aga Khan University's Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, East Africa (CoEWCH EA) in collaboration with the Small Vulnerable Newborn Consortium is hosting the regional launch of the Lancet Series on Small Vulnerable Newborns in Nairobi. The launch will bring together academics, healthcare professionals, policy experts, and parents of SVNs to share findings from the Lancet small vulnerable newborns series, advocate for small vulnerable newborns prevention, and discuss local opportunities and priorities to catalyse a movement for change.

The launch calls for relevant actors to urgently prioritise action, advocate for, and invest in the prevention of small vulnerable newborns to reverse the current trend, reduce small vulnerable newborns outcomes, and ultimately save the lives of millions of babies. "20% of babies born in Sub-Saharan Africa are small vulnerable newborns, yet prevention is possible. This is the challenge we all need to tackle, the Nairobi launch aims to help us do this," says Dr Abdu Mohiddin, Physician Scientist and Assistant Professor at the Aga Khan University.

The five-paper Series and the regional launches were funded by Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and involves experts from the Aga Khan University, Tampere University, Johns Hopkins University, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University College London, and University of Botswana.


WAMBUTHI ENGINEERING
SERVICES
your happiness is our satisfaction
Wambuthia Engineering Services
Dealers in
Repair and servicing of all Hydraulic systems, pumps, gears, generators and consulting of all engineering systems in cement industries
CAT
CHAMP MIG 400
ADOR
CRUXWELD
Telephone: 0710 401 628
Email: 14mainajulius@gmail.com

MultiChoice Kenya Launches Two Brand New Local Shows, Zari & Ka-Siri, on Maisha Magic Plus

By: Waithaka Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

MultiChoice Kenya, the country's leading pay tv and entertainment provider, has today launched two brand new local shows for television enthusiasts in Kenya. The two shows will be accessible on Maisha Magic Plus which is now available on DStv Access and GOtv Plus and up in a campaign dubbed "Tumefungulia Magic"

"Ka-Siri", a telenovela explores the proverbial theme of "the rich also cry". The gripping story unfolds around an extremely wealthy man, Zula, who is killed in a home invasion, leaving behind a home that is wrapped in passion, lies, discoveries, secrets and shocking revelations. Viewers will embark on a rollercoaster of drama to uncover who ultimately claims victory in the end. Ka-Siri" boasts an impressive lineup of over 100 episodes, promising a long-lasting and captivating journey for its audience. Episodes will air every Monday to Wednesday at 19:30 EAT from Monday 9 October 2023,".

Zari is a modern Cinderella story which follows the story of Nina, a young woman whose rightful family – and fortune are hidden from her. Will Nina and her true biological father, Dylan ever be reunited and will her adopted family pay for their duplicity? Zari premieres on Monday 23 October 2023,and will air every Monday to Friday at 20:30 EAT.

Key casts that will feature in Zari include renowned local actors like Brenda Wairimu and Sara Hassan while Ka-Siri will feature Janet Torome, Saada Fateh and Philip Munyau.

"The launch of these new local shows underscores MultiChoice unwavering commitment to delivering family-friendly exceptional entertainment experiences to its viewers with content that resonates with them," noted Nzola Miranda, Managing Director, MultiChoice Kenya, revealing that, "Through our Tumefungulia Magic campaign, these and more shows will be available to customers subscribed to the bouquets from DStv Access and GOtv Plus and above. By this, we are fulfilling our promise to be Kenya's most-loved storyteller, giving access to this premium local content to our broader audience of viewers."

"In all we do, we remain committed to leveraging our resources, partnerships and talent collaborations, to bring our customers the best-in-content. The two new local shows will be a game-changer in local film production and consumption and will give the whole family more reasons to stay glued on their televisions," noted Mr. Miranda.

The producer of both shows, Rashid Abdullah expressed his appreciation to MultiChoice Kenya for the support to local productions in Kenya. "Film production is very expensive and as filmmakers, investing and putting money behind productions is not easy, access to finance and capital too has many barriers," he revealed.

"As industry players, we are delighted to have partners like MultiChoice who allow Kenyans tell their own stories that are authentic are speak to the cultural and societal nuances that are alive in them while creating jobs for actors, actresses, chefs, transporters, real estate owners, make-up artists, video editors, sound producers, camera crew, set designers among others in the film ecosystem."

MultiChoice Kenya Launches Two Brand New Local Shows, Zari & Ka-Siri, on Maisha Magic Plus

Speaking to MultiChoice Kenya's investment, in local content, Timothy Okwaro, Channel Director East and Southern Africa remarked, "With an annual investment of over $5m in content production and licensing, translating into well over 5,600 hours of content annually, we have lined up some of the biggest, most exciting shows that will give our viewers more choice and more entertainment."

"Since 2015, we have brought to our customers over 89 shows (35 commissioned and 52 licensed), with up to 15 shows expected between April this year and March 2024, in other words, Tumefungulia Magic" Okwaro concluded.

The High Grand Falls Multipurpose Dam Project Will Reduce Over Dependence On Rain Fed Agriculture And Improve Food Security

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Irrigation Principal Secretary Kimotho has said that the High Grand Fall multipurpose dam project is one of the huge projects amongst others that the government will leverage on to improve irrigated agriculture by increasing area under irrigation to approximately 160,000 Ha.

The project that also incorporates hydro power generation and domestic water supply to the local communities, will reduce over dependence on rain fed agriculture for food security.

The Irrigation PS spoke yesterday at the Ministry Headquarters, while discussing the progress of the High Grand falls Multipurpose dam which is at its Development stage.

The meeting also discussed the forthcoming visit by the United Kingdom Trade envoy to Kenya Theo Clark where signing of the High Grand Falls Dam Project Development Agreement (PDA) will be discussed.

The PDA will facilitate the private party to embark on all technical studies, including feasibility and community mobilization.

The discussion with Alexander Milner, Kirsti Johnson (Clean Green Infrastructure advisor-UK) and Trade and Investment Advisor (British High Commission) Fridah Cherono, extensively explored the approaches to successively implement the Project .

Irrigation Principal Secretary Kimotho speaking yesterday at the Ministry Headquarters.

Government Seeks Export Markets For Local Produce

By: Wangari Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

An officer undertaking an inspection of produce for export

Worth Noting:

- "In the last decade Kenya has recorded high cases of notifications due exceeding maximum residual levels caused by pesticides applied and the country has had problems on issues of regulation guiding what they call application of residues, chemicals on some of the fresh produce like fruits and vegetables" Harsama said.
- He however reiterated that due to collaboration between the Government and export destinations, the problem has reduced drastically. "I can assure export destinations that local fresh produce players have adhered to the global standards and thus consignments being shipped every day are free of foreign materials and high levels of pesticides", Harsama said

The government continues to undertake policy reforms in the Agriculture sector to ensure producers in crops, livestock and fisheries subsectors progressively access quality agricultural inputs.

Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Mithika Linturi yesterday said that the reforms target institutional reforms and implementation of targeted programmes to initiate and consolidate proven approaches bases on best practices in Agriculture.

In a speech read on his behalf by the State Department of Crops Principal Secretary Kellow Harsama the CS told the 4th International Phytosanitary conference that challenges posed by pest and diseases across the regional boundaries occasioned by the effects of climate change negatively affected the food security situation in the country.

"What this means is that even as African continent grows food it needs to know how to mitigate against the challenges of pests and diseases which have been identified to cause up to 40 percent reduction in yield", he added

Linturi said that the Kenyan Government has a constitutional and civic duty to achieve the right to food for all Kenyans as required under Article 43 of the laws and strives to ensure that food was available, affordable and safe for consumption.

The CS further said that increasing agricultural productivity, providing safe, nutritious food for the population and increasing international markets for Kenyan produce is among the factors that inspired Kenya's new government to launch its Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Plan (BETA)

Speaking on the sidelines of the conference, PS Harsama said that the government will ensure fresh produce exports to Europe and other export destinations have met the standards to avoid rejection and high cost of doing business.

He noted that due to strictness by export destinations, local fresh produce have either been banned or retested in the laboratories thus leading to high cost of doing business.

"In the last decade Kenya has recorded high cases of notifications due exceeding maximum residual levels caused by pesticides applied and the country has had problems on issues of regulation guiding what they call application of residues, chemicals on some of the fresh produce like fruits and vegetables" Harsama said.

He however reiterated that due to collaboration between the Government and export destinations, the problem has reduced drastically. "I can assure export destinations that local fresh produce players have adhered to the global standards and thus consignments being shipped every day are free of foreign materials and high levels of pesticides", Harsama said

The PS further said that the Government has also invested heavily in key regulatory agencies and putting in place key structures to help in lengthening the longevity of the produce such as the food safety bill , a critical tool to guide food standards and food safety in the country and which is currently in parliament and is going to be debated and be out very soon.

Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) Managing Director Prof. Theophilus Mutui said that the risk of introduction of pests to Kenya during trade is compounded by globalization and trade liberalization which have led to increased movement of goods and people across the world increasing the probability of introduction of plant pests

'KEPHIS is building capacity of the region through the Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence (COPE) by training plant health and agricultural practitioners on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) including the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary international provisions and modern diagnostics methods", he said

He added that KEPHIS has also put in place systems for certification of seed so that the public have access to high quality climate resilient and high-yielding seeds and propagating materials for enhanced productivity.

"The presence of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) certified laboratory in KEPHIS Nakuru supports not only Kenya but the region in providing certified seed for various crops," said the MD.

Prof Mutui added," We commit to continue the bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations towards opening new markets and expanding the existing ones. We implore all stakeholders to play their parts in the value chains of various plant, plant products and regulated articles towards compliance to the set market requirements to avoid interceptions that dent the country`s market rating."

KEPHIS Board Chairman Joseph M'eruaki M'uthari said that the institution has heavily invested in Pest Risk Analysis, border surveillance and inspection, quarantine and diagnostic systems, analytical testing capacity that support import and export of plants and plant produce.

"The Kenyan fresh produce is globally acclaimed and KEPHIS, as the gate-keeper on matters phytosanitary, has played a key role to ensure that we meet the market requirements and earn Kenya the high foreign exchange it continues to earn", he said.

M'uthari explained that KEPHIS has invested in automation of procedures and integration with other existing Government systems to streamline trading activities and reduce the cost of doing business and equally accreditation of laboratories to meet current international standards have placed Kenya on the world map for providing reliable results to support trade and regulatory decision making.

The three day conference which has brought together private, public, national, regional and international stakeholders in the plant health sector intends to deliberate on ways to strengthen capacity for implementation of phytosanitary measures to facilitate trade and compliance to market requirements.

Each Of Us Has An Eternally Designed Work Assignment

By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Each of us has an eternally designed work assignment which includes the task, the ability, and a place to serve. Whatever the task to which He has called you, you will be equipped for it as surely as a bird is made for flight. And in doing the works He has called you to do, you will be both more and more His workmanship and more and more your true self. The practical implications of this are stupendous. There is no secular/sacred distinction, for all honest work done for the Lord is sacred.

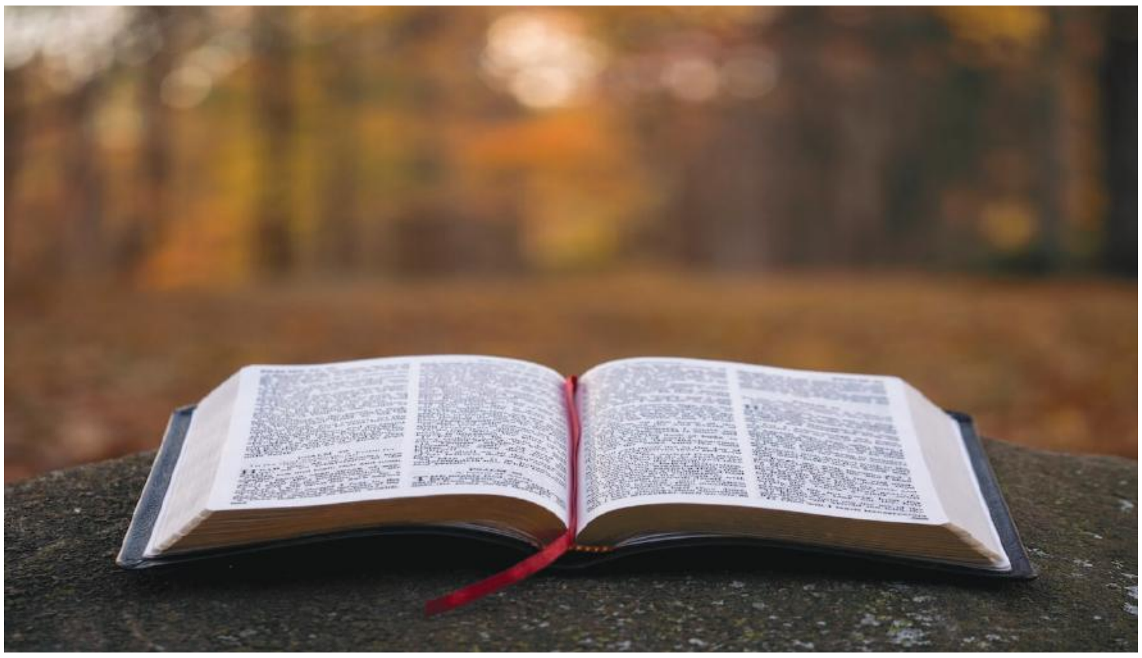
Historians agree that Luther's understanding of this revolutionized his life, and indeed the world of his day. He wrote: "Your work is a very sacred matter. God delights in it, and through it He wants to bestow His blessings on you. This praise of work should be inscribed on all tools, on the forehead and the faces that sweat from toiling." There are no first-class and second-class Christians because of their varying jobs. All work is sacramental in nature, be it checking groceries, selling futures, cleaning teeth, driving a street sweeper, teaching, or painting trim. Everything we do ought to be done to the glory of God. Listen to God's call to serve Him:

ü So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. (1 Corinthians 10:31).

ü And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:17)

ü Whatever you do, WORK AT IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AS WORKING FOR THE LORD, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23, 24)

You may feel you are in a "nothing job." Because of the Curse, your job may involve painful toil and yield little job satisfaction. But you can glorify God where you are by your heart attitude. You may feel your occupation is not holy, but it is if you see it so and do it for God's glory. You are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God planned in advance for you. Men, everything about your work must be directed toward Him — your attitudes, your integrity, your intensity, and your skill.



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

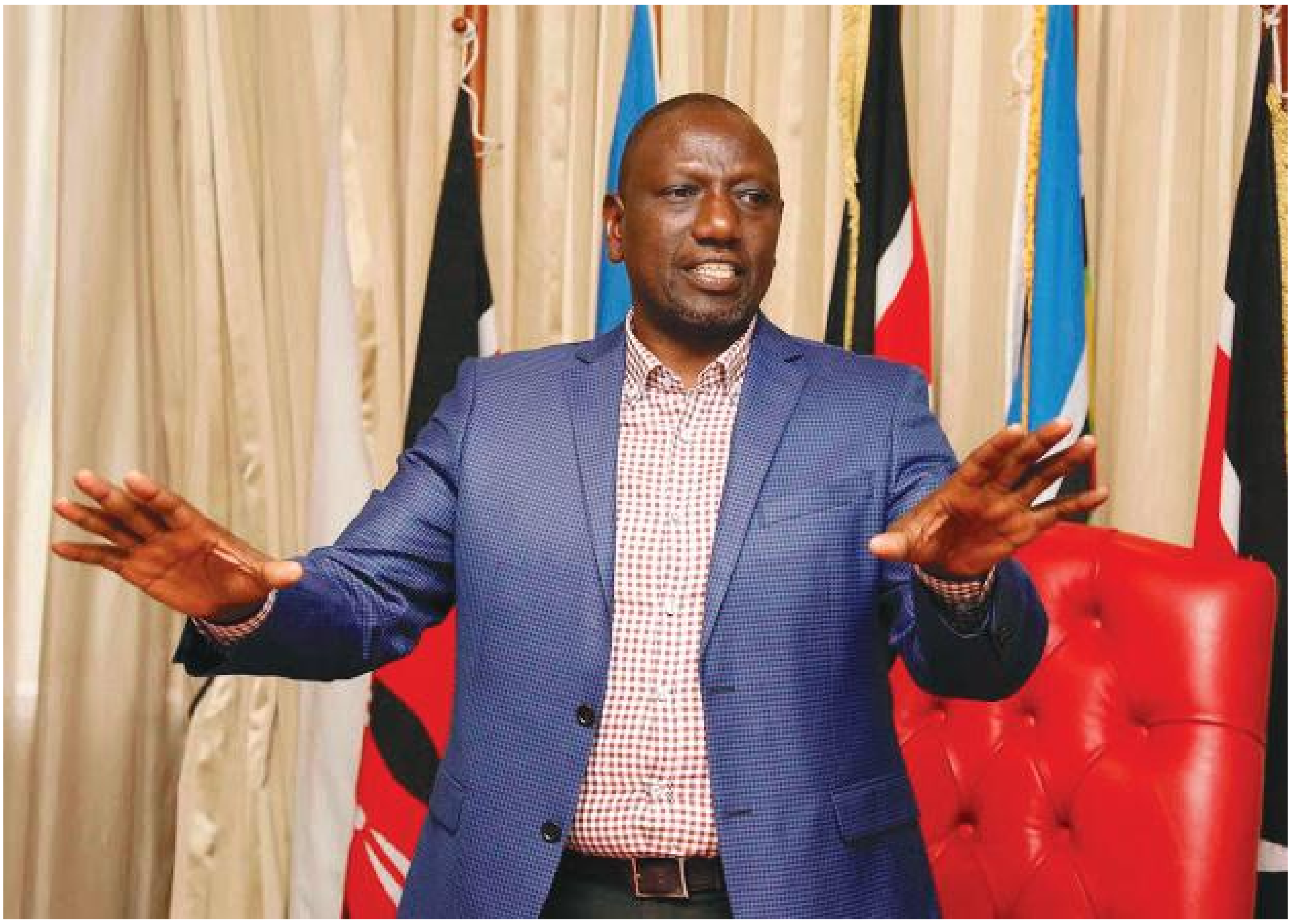
Evangelist Eric Musa:
(My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 (Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God Loves you and I unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHALOM

Azimio's Rating Of Ruto By Giving Him 'D-' Was Politically Motivated

By: **Joseph Mutua Ndonga**
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- **President Ruto has been walking the talk. Besides working very hard to ensure that Kenya leads as a technological hub in EAC, Africa and Globe, he has made key strides in terms of fulfilling other pre-election manifesto promises anchored on Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.**
- **The other day President Ruto marked one year since he assumed office.**
- **Given the nature of my work, I got an opportunity to talk to a cross section of Kenyans.**
- **They would give him the rating of C+. By now, the President could have done much better but we know why he was behind schedule in terms of meeting some of the timelines.**



President William Ruto .

President William Ruto is currently on a working tour in the United States of America.

Kenya is set to reap from this trip. He has so far met and held talks with a number of investors and Chief Executives of Techies companies, including Microsoft, Google, Apple and Intel.

He also met the President of the world's leading Internet Company.

The discussions were fruitful and culminated to signing of a number of agreements.

Besides sharing their experiences with Kenyan tech experts and innovators, the tech companies agreed to review and reduce the cost of the services they offered Kenya.

As we know, the world has enormously gone digital. The developed and advanced democracies had made major strides in these endeavours.

This is because they knew technology stands out as the main catalyst for faster economic growth.

Dr William Ruto, had promised Kenyans during the campaigns that Kenya will not be left behind.

President Ruto has been walking the talk. Besides working very hard to ensure that Kenya leads as a technological hub in EAC, Africa and Globe, he has made key strides in terms of fulfilling other pre-election manifesto promises anchored on Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.

The other day President Ruto marked one year since he assumed office.

Given the nature of my work, I got an opportunity to talk to a cross section of Kenyans.

They would give him the rating of C+. By now, the President could have done much better but we know why he was behind schedule in terms of meeting some of the timelines.

Again, no government of Kenya has ever fulfilled all promises on time. These include former President Mwai Kibaki, credited as the best President Kenya has ever had.

For President Ruto, he took over at the time when the country was facing four main challenges.

The ravaging drought rated as the worst in 40 years, dilapidated economy, hefty foreign debts totaling to Sh9 trillion, Russia-Ukraine war and when the country was recovering from devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

But the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga and his brigade would totally disagree.

In one year, there is nothing to cerebrate. President Ruto has totally failed.

While describing his leadership as extremely 'disastrous', Raila would give him grade of 'D-'.

This would not come as a surprise. We know the Azimio leader has never forgiven Dr Ruto. This is because he trounced him with ease at the ballot.

Raila had high expectations that he would win the 2022 presidential elections.

This is because the outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta, the deep state and system supported his candidature.

He however forgot one thing. His main competitor Dr William Ruto enjoyed God's favor and support of the majority of Kenyans.

Since then, Raila has been playing all manner of political cards to discredit the President.

He had previously used these tricks to discredit the leadership of President Mwai Kibaki and his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta.

He however changed the tune and started showering them with praises and accolades. This after they agreed to accommodate him in thier respective Government.

This time, it has dawned on him that the going is tough. President Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua were not pushover. They were hard nut to crack.

Tinga, you had been using the card of blackmail and intimidation to arm-twist the previous Presidents.

This does not augur for nascent democracy. It portrays you as a power hungry leader hellbent on riding on your gullible supporters to achieve your personal and selfish interests.

So, we reiterates that there was no room for a 'nusu mkate' (half bread) government or a 'handshake' government.

The truth of the matter is that we defeated you at the ballot.

Stick to your lane. Your role as an opposition leader is well defined. You are free to criticize us from morning to evening. We shall pick the positive criticism.

The duo would further remind him. You had rejected our victory. You moved to the Supreme Court and lost the case.

This is because your petition had been built on loose sand, shaky and wobbling ground. It was nothing but a concoction of outright lies, gossips and raw propaganda.

The local and international observers had also given the poll a clean bill of health.

President Ruto and his deputy parting shot. Give us time to fulfill what we promised Kenyans.

The next general elections will be held in 2027. Let us meet there if you will run. We shall once again show you the dust.

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

Kisii University School of Business and Economics Hosts Inaugural International Conference on 'Building Resilience and Sustainability Amidst Uncertainty in a Changing Business Environment

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Kisii University School of Business and Economics has hosted its inaugural international conference with the theme "Building Resilience and Sustainability Amidst Uncertainty in the Changing Business Environment."

The primary objective of this conference was to enhance the research skills of postgraduate students and promote dialogue among participants who share similar interests.

It also served as an opportunity for attendees to connect with scholars and academics from various regions.

The conference was designed to address several key aspects of research, including ethics in research, qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, and the review of literature.

In a press statement, Kisii University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Nathan Ogechi, emphasized the growing importance of sustainable and resilient practices within business organizations.

He stated that pragmatic organizations should adapt their models and strategies to align with the evolving demands of the business ecosystem.

Professor Ogechi noted that even small and medium-sized enterprises could engage in sustainability and resilience planning and implementation.

However, he highlighted that navigating a dynamic business environment required collaboration among the business community, policymakers, and academia, with higher education institutions playing a crucial role.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized that a business conference was a vital platform for disseminating research information, aligning with the university's three key mandates: teaching, research, and community outreach.

He cited examples of successful entrepreneurs who had demonstrated that building resilience and sustainability in uncertain times was not only possible but also profitable.

"These entrepreneurs had achieved this by staying true to their values and embracing change as an opportunity for growth," Prof Ogechi said.

Professor Ogechi challenged scholars to engage in extensive research and seek opportunities where they could gather data and conduct analyses.

He stressed the importance of networking with colleagues from other countries to enhance the quality and impact of research.

Additionally, he encouraged entrepreneurs to foster innovation to remain relevant and adaptable in a rapidly changing world.

He noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses with adaptable and soft skills had a better chance of survival.

Given global events such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the Vice Chancellor emphasized the importance of investing in soft skills and integrating them into the university curriculum.

Kisii University Vice Chancellor Prof Nathan Ogechi addressing the press during the inauguration of International conference on building resilience and sustainability amidst uncertainty in a changing business environment photo/Elizabeth Angira.

The overarching goal of the conference was to facilitate interdisciplinary communication among researchers, policymakers, decision-makers, and consultants.

It aimed to display research outcomes and provide a platform for collaboration between academia and business leadership.

The conference sought to strengthen the linkage between universities and industries, contributing to the enhancement of sustainable practices in the business world.

Petition On Fraudulent Dealings At Diageo PLC, EABL, Kenya Breweries And UDV (Kenya) Ltd

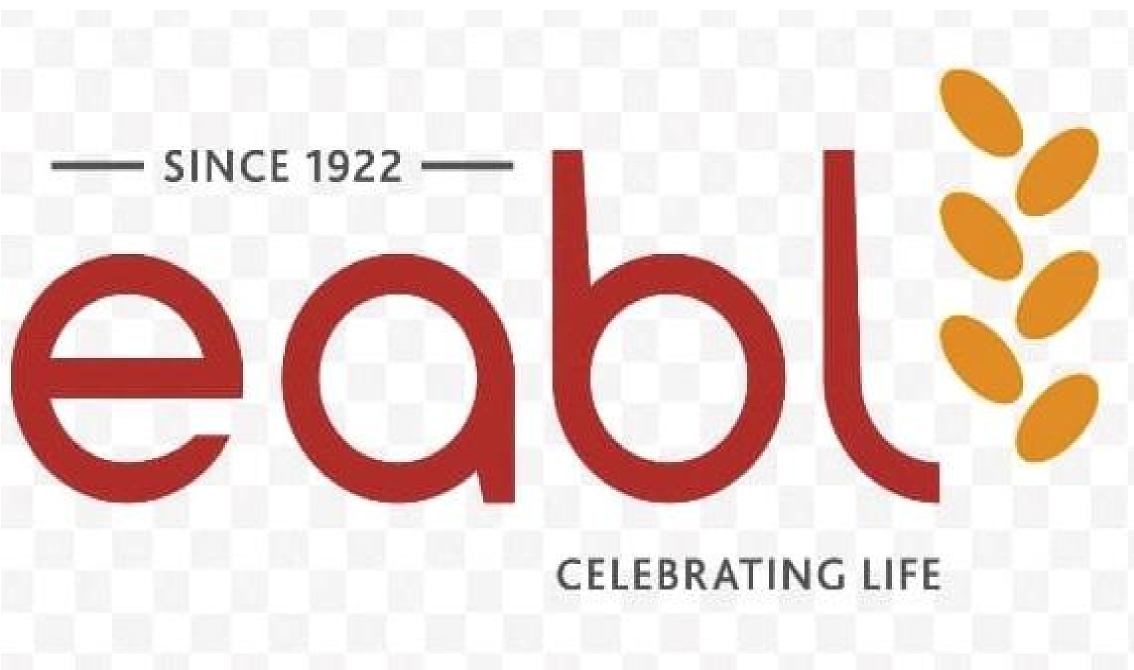
By: PSCU

The Senate committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism yesterday held a hybrid meeting to consider a Petition by Mr. Nicholas Rono on fraudulent dealings at Diageo PLC, EABL, Kenya Breweries and UDV (Kenya) Ltd.

In its pursuit to have the matters raised in the Petition resolved, the committee chaired by Kajiado Senator Lenku Ole Kanar Seki has in the recent past held meetings with the Petitioner, the CEO of Capital Markets Authority and the Group MD of East Africa Breweries Limited.

The committee is planning to meet with the Competition Authority of Kenya to appraise the Senators on the allegations of controversial acquisition of majority shareholding at EABL by Diageo Kenya; the Kenya Revenue Authority to respond to allegations of tax evasion by Diageo Kenya during the transaction and allegation of bribery of KRA and National Treasury Officials; and lastly the Nairobi Stock Exchange before concluding on the Petition.

Senators Esther Okenyuri the Committee Vice - Chairperson and Andrew Omtatah were physically present in the meeting while their colleagues; Crystal Asige, Betty Montet and Jackson Mandago joined the meeting online.



Naivas Supermarket Didn’t Report The Alleged Data Breach Within 72 Hours, Senate ICT Committee Is Told

By: PSCU

The Office of the Data Commissioner informed a Senate committee that Naivas Supermarket failed to report the alleged breach of personal data at the supermarket chain within the statutory 72 hours.

This came after Nandi Senator Samson Cherarkey sought a statement from the ICT Committee concerning reported cases of breach of sensitive personal data at the Naivas Supermarket Chains that occurred in March 2023.

While appearing before the committee on Information, Communication and Technology yesterday, the Data Commissioner, Ms Immaculate Kassait, informed the Senators that Naivas Supermarket hadn’t put in place adequate measures to safeguard customer data whilst in storage adding that her office has initiated a post-breach audit to confirm the current safety of customer, supplier and employee data and is awaiting the final forensic report.

“My Office has initiated a post-breach audit to fully understand the circumstances of the data breach. If the organization is found culpable, we’ll take the necessary actions in accordance with Section 43 of the Data Protection Act, 2019, and the relevant regulations,” Ms. Kassait said.

The Members of the Senator Allan Chesang-led committee put the Data Commissioner to task on the measures her office has put in place to safeguard Kenyans’ data from hacking and urged her to expedite the audit process so that they can assist in the recovery and securing of the compromised data.

Senate ICT Committee during yesterday’s session.

“In this day and age, data has become a currency. It is scary that someone can hack into a system and get all your details. As an Office, you need to put in place effective safeguards to protect this data from cybercriminals,” nominated Senator Shakila Abdalla said.

The Senate ICT Committee resolved to invite the Chief Executive Officer of the Naivas Supermarket Chain to listen to their side of the story before preparing its report to the House on the matter.

Push To Fight GBV In Totality In Nairobi

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

In Kenya, just as in most African countries, GBV disproportionately affects more women than men. Indeed, government statistics from the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) indicate that over 40 percent of women have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

Speaking particularly about Nairobi, the County’s Woman Representative Esther Passaris underscored some of the efforts already put in place to fight this demeaning vice.

Hon Esther Passaris says:

“As Nairobi Woman Rep, when I became the member of parliament, it came to my realisation that we talk about the gender desk, and the police we have to commend them for coming up with police units where you can go and file your report in privacy, but there was not enough facilities in our stations so one of the first things that we did as Nairobi is to get a project going for seventeen police stations to have SGBV units and we are actually ready to commission nine of them. We also decided to put up safe spaces, the safe house. Now the safe house had a lot of challenges we kept on saving our money we knew it was something we have put in the capital city as a model for the entire country as well as the continent as a whole because sexual gender based violence is not just unique to one county, or one. country, we are looking globally with the vision our President has not just for Kenya but for the continent as a whole.

So I’m happy to report that we have partnered with Nairobi County, under the leadership of Ann Kananu when she was Governor we were able to secure a parcel of land and in that land we are putting up the first Nairobi’s first Government owned GBV safe space and we shall hopefully launch that in the next six months or so.”

Nairobi County Woman Representative Esther Passaris.

NINAMSIFIA DADA

Naona vyema kusema, kupitia uandishi
Nikamsifu waama, dadangu aso uzushi
Mpate niyayosema, katika hini aushi
Ninamsifia dada, dada wa toka nitoke

Dada wa toka nitoke, katika la mama tumbo
Yake leo yasikike, niyafumbue mafumbo
Sifa niweze mtwike, huyu mjuzi wa mambo
Ninamsifia dada, kwa mengi alonitenda

Kwa mengi amenitenda, leo sifa ninampa
Kwa moyo akanipenda, kote pili kuongopa
Hakuacha kunitenda, na yalo mazuri kunipa
Ninamsifia dada, dadangu yule mmoja

Dadangu yule mmoja, ni mengi alijinyima
Shuleni kwazo vioja, alinilinda waama
Upande wangu pamoja, aliweza kusimama
Ninamsifia dada, sijaona kama yeye

Sijaona kama yeye, tulipokuwa twakua
Hatukujuwa badaye, tungalipiga hatua
Sasa mhasibu yeye, amefikia satua
Ninamsifia dada, pamwe tumeshinda mengi

Pamwe tumeshinda mengi, 'kinipa uvumilivu
Na amejinyima mengi, anione nina nguvu
Hakuninyima shilingi, 'litaka niwe angavu
Ninamsifia dada, yeye ni wangu shujaa

Yeye ni wangu shujaa, leo nimfurahia
Ameondoa balaa, kwenye yetu familia
Ameleta manufaa, kote mkayasikia
Ninamsifia dada, , kote akafahamike

Kote akafahamike, ni binti yake Wanjohi
Wa pekee mwanamke, afanyaye tufurahi
Na hata watoto wake, kuwaacha hatuwahi
Ninamsifia dada, si kilemba cha ukoka

Si kilemba cha ukoka, hadi tamati nafika
Haya yakafahamika, na dadangu msifika
Hakuna tena hakika, mwingine kwa huyu fika
Ninamsifia dada, hadi mwisho wa dahari

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Malenga Kitunguu Machoni

Yesterday I Cried

(My Verses Of Liberation).
I cried for love,
For the women who broke my heart
Because I failed to keep them happy.

I cried for my mother,
For giving me birth,
I cried for my aunt,
For showing me life,
A life you live when you lose a loved one.
Aunt Rest In Eternal Freedom.

I cried for Poets,
Poets who can't write about change.

I cried for Slam poets,
Poets who write poems to create change.
I cried for other poets,
Poets who write poems that choke them.

I cried for my Future Wife,
Because she will birth me children,
Children who will suffer paying debts they didn't
eat their money.

I cried for my unborn children,
Because their mother
Will birth them without a warning of how hard
Uganda is.

I cried for Ugandans,
Ugandans in Uganda and
Those in Abu Dhabi, China, Russia and South
Africa.

I cried for Ugandans,
Ugandans in debt,
Ugandans who are living but dead,
Dead because they can't afford a meal.

I cried for students,
Students who studying overpriced degrees
forgetting that Ugandan jobs are for Chinese and
Musevenists.

I cried for the forces,
For torturing writers,
Writers who write what's bothering the nation.

Then I cried again for everything that I cried for.

© George William Ochago.
@George The Tired Poet.
2023.

To My Childhood

Memories of my distant village,
Streets,
A world covered with the noices,
for a moment, the feelings are dull,
Happiness accompanies me,
In my throat I have a stuck.
I missed the rope jump,
I remembered for a moment, Childhood ...
You taught me, even how to greet.
But you never greeted with me.
I play a childhood song,
Brother, tell me the note,
Or should we go to childhood?
Ask for tickets, brother, go to find!
"No more,
Such a ticket "
I feel a great trembling in my heart,
Do it now!
The ear is startled.
... "What do you need?"
You say to me suddenly,
My body was speechless, silent,
Slowly listening to my heart,
Speaks: "Give me a ticket, for my
childhood ..."

Saparbayeva Ziyoda

Does Technology Make Us Lazy?

Never time will wait for us. "Technology is the age of technology"- we hear a lot of words. In a way, technology has become a part of our lives. Suppose, back a hundred from this, the technologies are not so advanced, smartphones, not to mention the computer. The reason why my interest is journalism, I can say, is that without technology, the foot of the media industry, the hand is tied without a thread. True, even before, maatbaism was much more developed. There were correspondence, telegraphs. Pigeons were intermediaries in the delivery of letters. Now this task is performed by a Antichrist device-smartphones. Technology is making us light on our weight. .

Sometimes I wonder if we should declare 3 days in our middle as "a day without the internet, without technology" when there is no bôl?!. Such days are marked. However, these days are not strictly celebrated. On this day, when everyone writes letters to each other ...

Last year, there was a platform urf named "Tik-Tok".Almost 3 million people became members. There were even opinions that" Google " left the company behind. Many young people have also become famous by posting various videos, Vains. "Before, before" - we say-it was a little difficult for him to be famous for the holidays. There is also a problem of the material side."Tik-Tok" was a way to show youth their talent. Some have used it and some have.. This platform is now blocked. So the benefits of technology also have harm.

It is true that technology has made us lazy. The reason is that the work in our ordinary household is carried out by household appliances-yu robots. Technologies, techniques are needed for our Leki to progress. There is a great need for technology, especially in the Media sector. Last year, a modern monitor studio was installed in the building of one of the private channels "excellent tv". This is much more convenient for journalists. For me, the development of technology is good. There will be no problem if the human being himself uses technology wisely.

Ruxshona Qurbonova

BUSINESS

George Wachiuri School Of Mentorship

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

George Wachiuri School of Mentorship graduation.

Worth Noting:

- **Wachiuri passionately urged individuals to register and participate in this invaluable mentorship opportunity, emphasizing that it holds the potential to boost businesses, fuel economic growth, generate jobs, and contribute more tax revenue to our nation.**
- **The mentor also issued a challenge to fellow CEOs to consider establishing mentorship programs to guide employees and entrepreneurs alike. Notably, this mentorship program remains open and free for anyone in the business industry or pursuing any career path.**
- **"In today's graduation, we witnessed the diverse success stories of our mentees. Among the graduates were three doctors, a professor, and even a class 6 dropout who now successfully manages a thriving company. Our mentorship is open to all, as long as you aspire to make a difference," Wachiuri explained.**

Hundreds of business professionals and aspiring entrepreneurs have successfully completed a transformative mentorship program aimed at honing their management and profit-making skills within the business industry.

Courtesy of the George Wachiuri School of Mentorship, hundreds of young startup owners from across the nation seized the opportunity to engage in a comprehensive 6-month mentorship program, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to navigate the challenges of the business world.

The latest cohort, referred to as Cohort 4, celebrated their graduation at GMC Place Kitengela. George Wachiuri, the visionary behind this mentorship initiative, emphasized that the program is meticulously designed to not only advance careers but also foster the growth of startups into prosperous enterprises.

Wachiuri passionately urged individuals to register and participate in this invaluable mentorship opportunity, emphasizing that it holds the potential to boost businesses, fuel economic growth, generate jobs, and contribute more tax revenue to our nation.

The mentor also issued a challenge to fellow CEOs to consider establishing mentorship programs to guide employees and entrepreneurs alike. Notably, this mentorship program remains open and free for anyone in the business industry or pursuing any career path.

"In today's graduation, we witnessed the diverse success stories of our mentees. Among the graduates were three doctors, a professor, and even a class 6 dropout who now successfully manages a thriving company. Our mentorship is open to all, as long as you aspire to make a difference," Wachiuri explained.

The George Wachiuri School of Mentorship has already conducted four successful mentorship programs, with previous cohorts demonstrating remarkable success, according to Mr. Wachiuri.

"As George Wachiuri, my aim is to share the strategies that have made Optiven Group the epitome of success. In Kenya, with approximately 1.7 million formal companies and 5.3 million informal ones, we aspire to elevate these informal businesses to formal status, enabling them to flourish and contribute to our nation's growth and job creation," the mentor elucidated.

This mentorship program caters to young professionals seeking guidance on launching and managing startups. It imparts fundamental knowledge for turning business ideas into reality and facilitates networking opportunities with accomplished individuals within the mentorship community.

"I want to encourage startups to embrace mentorship. It accelerates business growth and allows you to bypass the pitfalls and challenges I faced. A mentor is someone who has walked the path before you, learned from their experiences, and avoided their mistakes. Why replicate the same errors when you can seek guidance

from mentors like George Wachiuri?" advised Wachiuri.

Both career-oriented individuals and aspiring entrepreneurs are encouraged to join this year's program, as registrations remain open. The mentorship program is available in both online and physical formats.

Dr. Lucy Mackenzie expressed her pride in completing the mentorship, emphasizing the invaluable lessons she has learned and her determination to apply them in her career.

"Mr. Wachiuri has been my mentor for the past 6 months, and I can attest to the immense knowledge I've gained, which I'm already applying in my daily work. Mentorship allows you to learn from someone else's experience, and we can witness the positive impact of Optiven's approach. We are profoundly grateful for this opportunity," shared Francis Wambua, Director and Chief Solutions Officer at Enterprise IT Solutions.

Nakuru Streamlines Revenue Collection Streams

By: Anne Mwale
@themtkenyatimes

Vice-Chancellor of the National Defense University-Kenya (NDU-K) Major General Said Mohammed Farah being welcomed by Nakuru County governor Susan Kihika in her office.

Worth Noting:

- **A tax gap impact report by the Commission of Revenue Allocation (CRA) and the World Bank estimates that Nakuru misses out on an estimated Sh1.985 billion annually of its internal revenue potential.**
- **Counties run on cash transfers from the national government and own-source revenue (OSR) in the form of taxes, charges, fees, loans, and grants. Between 2013 and 2022, counties' OSR was extremely low, accounting for less than 15 per cent of their budgets, implying over-dependence on transfers from the national government.**
- **The 47 devolved units spend about Sh175 billion on employees' pay. This explains why county workers go for two or three months without pay whenever cash transfers from the National Treasury are delayed, as happens most of the time.**

Nakuru Governor Susan Kihika, has disclosed that she is working with the County Assembly to formulate mechanisms to improve locally collected revenues as part of a strategy to expand the devolved unit's revenue streams and seal loopholes that resulted in the loss of some of the funds collected.

Kihika indicated that her administration was implementing strategies to improve revenue collection and was rolling out a cashless system of payment to weed out pilferage of funds.

The devolved unit plans to raise over Sh1.5 billion in the current financial year.

The governor was speaking yesterday after a consultative meeting with Vice-Chancellor of the National Defense University-Kenya (NDU-K) Major General Said Mohammed Farah at the county headquarters in Nakuru.

She disclosed that her government would increase efficiency and called on the business people who evaded paying taxes to pay to enhance service delivery in the devolved unit.

According to the governor, the decision to expand tax brackets, implement an enhanced revenue collection framework, and increase human resources has been a massive game-changer.

Kihika said her administration is committed to strengthening accountability and fiscal discipline in the use of devolved resources to deliver better services and enhance equitable economic development.

While hailing NDU-K for developing a curriculum for training revenue collection officers, the governor disclosed that her administration is enhancing Own Source Revenue (OSR) streams through the adoption of a cashless mode of payment, the installation of CCTVs at key revenue collection points, and deploying a vibrant and dynamic workforce.

While noting that these measures have minimised revenue leakages and thus enhanced performance, Kihika further reiterated her administration's resolve to seal all the loopholes that interfere with the optimal use of revenue generated.

She highlighted some of the revenue streams being enhanced, such as property tax, building permits, business licenses, liquor licenses, vehicle parking fees, and outdoor advertising.

"The Nakuru County Finance Bill 2023 is critical to the generation of Own Source Revenue (OSR). The county has not passed a Finance Bill since 2019. The Bill concentrates not on increasing levies but on expanding the tax base. Counties are collecting less revenue than their potential, and this is because of poor systems and leakages," Kihika stated.

A tax gap impact report by the Commission of Revenue Allocation (CRA) and the World Bank estimates that Nakuru misses out on an estimated Sh1.985 billion annually of its internal revenue potential.

Counties run on cash transfers from the national government and own-source revenue (OSR) in the form of taxes, charges, fees, loans, and grants. Between 2013 and 2022, counties' OSR was extremely low, accounting for less than 15 per cent of their budgets, implying over-dependence on transfers from the national government.

The 47 devolved units spend about Sh175 billion on employees' pay. This explains why county workers go for two or three months without pay whenever cash transfers from the National Treasury are delayed, as happens most of the time.

County revenue potential in most counties OSR relative to Gross County Product (GCP) has been below 2 per cent, which is far below the best practice for sub-Saharan African countries, revenue to GDP level, which is about 25 per cent.

According to the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) in FY 2021-2022, the average revenue generated by all counties from their own sources was about one-third of their potential, which points to vast unexploited county revenue.

Kihika affirmed that the county government was determined to ensure transparency in all of the county's financial dealings. "As much as counties agitate for increased funding, accountability should be compulsory. I advise my counterparts in 46 counties that we cannot run away from accountability," she said.

She observed that one of the main purposes of devolution was to bring public finances closer to citizens in a manner that would allow them to have a say on how county budgets were planned for and used.

She added, "We are committed to complying with the Constitution and the 2012 Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), which require each of Kenya's 47 counties to publish information during the formulation, approval, implementation, and audit stages of the budget cycle. Nakuru County has competent and well-staffed financial management staff and systems."

Kihika said that she will ensure the timely generation of both budget estimates and implementation documents so that citizens can hold the county

Contd page 19

Govt Keen To End Domestic Violence

By: Waithaka Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The government yesterday marked a significant milestone in the collective effort to combat domestic violence in Kenya by launching the Rules that were made under the Protection against Domestic Violence Act of 2015. Preparation of the said Rules involved a collaborative effort between the Rules Committee of the Judiciary, the Department of Gender and other key stakeholders. They were gazetted by the Chief Justice as Legal Notice N0. 200 of 2020.

The event was graced by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of public service, gender and Affirmative action Aisha Jumwa, Principal Secretary Veronica Nduva Nairobi Woman Representative Esther Passaris, Hon. Moses Wanjala of the Rules Committee…..Rose Wachuka Chief Staff in the office of the Chief Justice…..It was testamentary that the government is taking decisive steps to address domestic violence and to guarantee the rights and well-being of Children and survivors of all forms of abuse and aggression by intimate partners.

Honorable Moses Wanjala Secretary to Rules Committee of the Judiciary

To achieve this, the government intends to disseminate and sensitize citizens on the said Rules as a way of creating an environment that can protect those who are vulnerable and prevent the occurrence of instances of domestic violence. Speaking during the event, Honorable Moses Wanjala who is the Secretary to Rules Committee of the Judiciary said that the preparation of the Rules had adhered to the laid down procedure and that these Rules were geared towards providing the necessary legal and procedural framework that will operationalize the provisions of the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act. He however decried the fact that sensitization of the public on the Rules after their gazettement has been low.

Hon Wanjala said that the mandate of the Rules Committee and the Chief Justice was to prepare the Rules and have them gazetted but that much needed to be done to publicize and sensitize the right holders and the duty bearers on the contents. He challenged those present to ensure that the simplified forms under the Rules are made freely available at no cost as per the requirements of the Rules.

He further pointed out that training of the duty bearers was necessary to achieve the goals set out in the Rules. 'I am a judicial officer. I can tell you that since these Rules were gazetted in 2020, I have only had the chance to consider two applications filed under Rules. They were both filed by advocates on behalf of their clients. The first application was withdrawn by the parties and did not reach its logical conclusion. The second one is still pending but was unfortunately wrongly drafted" he said. Hon. Wanjala reiterated the need for stakeholders as well as non-State actors to be involved in the sensitization and training process.

Nakuru Streamlines Revenue Collection Streams

Contd from page 18

government financially accountable, adding that making documentation against which accountability can be gauged is a right of Kenyans.

"Although the lack of information does not automatically mean funds are being embezzled, the lack of budget reporting encourages embezzlement. We will ensure that we account for every penny spent, as per the Public Finance Management Act. There will be no leeway for unauthorised spending," assured the county boss.

The devolved units overrely on transfers of an equitable share of the revenue from the national government to pay staff salaries and other daily costs that have come at the expense of development projects.

Delays in the release of equitable share, money shared between national and county governments, have in the past nearly crippled critical services at the counties, such as hospitals, while in other cases, county staff went for months without salaries.

She stated that the county government was working on an integrated county revenue management system, including digitising land and property records.

"Digitising land and property records and updating valuation rolls also remain critical and integral components in enabling our county to optimise its revenue potential. We are also setting revenue targets per quarter," said Kihika.

Major General Farah challenged the County Government to leverage on the expertise of the university to surmount some of the challenges as it seeks to improve service delivery.

He announced that a team from the county government and NDU-K will hold deliberations to concretize on areas of collaboration.

Cuts in fiscal transfers to counties combined with population growth time value of money imply that county per capita spending will decline over the next two to three years unless counties OSR performance is significantly enhanced to close the resource gap.

A report by CRA for the year ending June 2022 shows that a majority of counties flouted the budgetary allocation limits. They also missed the target for own-source revenue (OSR) collections, collectively netting Sh35.9 billion against the target of Sh60.4 billion for the fiscal year.

Only four county governments (Turkana, Migori, Lamu, and Vihiga) were able to collect more than one hundred per cent of their annual OSR target in the fiscal year," said the National Treasury in disclosures contained in the 2023 draft Budget Policy Document.

These missed milestones, experts say, point to revenue mobilisation weaknesses that are borne out of the fact that many counties do not have an economic base that can generate taxes, and yet they have to provide a wide range of services to their residents.

A June 2022 study by the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) estimated the revenue potential of county governments at Sh215.6 billion, which is six times the actual collection in the past fiscal year.

The scope of taxes they can levy is also limited, coupled with leakages that the CRA reckons can be cured by the adoption of automatic and cashless payment systems and the streamlining of taxation and fee structure by the counties.

Out of the 47 devolved units, 36 surpassed the 35 per cent cap on wages and benefits spent in relation to revenue. Of the 11 that met the wage cap threshold, the top performers were Tana River, Mandera, and Isiolo, at 28 per cent of revenue.

Meanwhile, Machakos, Garissa, and Kisii counties spent the highest share of revenue paying workers at 62 per cent, 60 per cent and 58 per cent respectfully. The Treasury data shows a strong correlation between containment of wage expenditure and improved spending on development in counties.

Only 12 out of the 47 counties spent more than 30 per cent of their annual outlay on development programmes. Half of these 12 counties were also on the list of the 11 that kept their wage expenditure below the required limit.

The worst offenders were Nairobi, Garissa, and Narok counties, which directed just 10.7 per cent, 12.5 per cent and 12.6 per cent of their budgets respectively to non-recurrent expenditure in the period.

On the other end, Marsabit (41.8 per cent), Uasin Gishu (37.1 per cent) and Nakuru (35.3 per cent) spent the largest share of their budgets in development projects, with the latter two investing significantly in urban infrastructure as they chased city status for their largest towns.

In the approved budgets laid down at the beginning of the fiscal year, all but two counties (Nairobi and Kiambu) had allocated 30 per cent of expected expenditure to development, pointing to changes in expenditure priority during the year due to funding shortfalls.

One of the ways being mooted to address the recurrent development budget imbalance is for counties to make better use of the debt market, where they can issue bonds to support development projects.

The meeting was graced by Deputy Governor Mr. David Kones, County Executive Committee Member in Charge of Education Ms. Zipporah Ngugi, Chief of Staff Mr. Peter Ketyenya, and Education Chief Officer John Koech.

Others were NDU-K Director, Centre for Security and Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Brigadier Oscar Kizito Muleyi, Head of Corporate Communications, Colonel Paul Njuguna, Director for Applied Research and Strategic Policy, Col. Ronald Makori, and Coordinator of Training, Col. Bernard Mwaniki.

..

Cameroon Is Carving Its Mark In The Music And Poetry World

By: **Abigirl Phiri**
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **My name is Abungwi Eric Tangwang. My poetry started through pain, I was in the midst of a great "pruning" period in my life.**
- **I'd like to say there's a place for everyone in the world of arts because poetry inclusive. Consistency is a valuable asset. It's always gonna beat skill anytime of the day, focus on bettering yourself and try to match your progress with consistency.**
- **I'm a music lover, so one day I was listening to music to try and console myself, then I heard this Nasty C (a South African artist) line which he said " I ain't saying it was flawless, cuz at times I get it wrong I had nobody to talk to so I said in a song."**

Jose.

Recently Libianca made waves with her hit song People which won her a Bet award for the best new international act. This is proving every African country is full of talented individuals. When it comes to poetry we have Jose. His way of writing is unique. It's a testament of what he has gone through and how much of a survivor he is. At our darkest moments that is when we can be able to realise some innate talents that we have. That said, Jose as we affectionately call him also has a knack for music since the two cannot be separated. Below is what he said in greater detail.

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

My name is Abungwi Eric Tangwang. My poetry started through pain, I was in the midst of a great "pruning" period in my life. I was traumatized, emotionally downcast, because I had lost a sibling to death and my lover left me for my "bro" like friend.

I'm a music lover, so one day I was listening to music to try and console myself, then I heard this Nasty C (a South African artist) line which he said " I ain't saying it was flawless, cuz at times I get it wrong I had nobody to talk to so I said in a song." I could relate to it, so I started writing.

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

For now, I've not won any accolades.
Not yet .
I'm not yet a published poet.

Who is your inspiration?

It's weird, but I don't really know many poets.
I can say my inspiration is Nasty C and pain.

Where do you see yourself in the near future?

Honestly, I've not been consistent and also, I'm not a prophet.
I just go on with life and stuffs.

What problems have you faced as a poet?

Sometimes, I have a feeling, but just don't know how to express it.
Like after writing, I feel like I'm not yet empty, something is left that I can't figure out how to pen it.

Share with us one of your best poetry piece

One of my best poetry piece is titled DEAD AND GONE.

DEAD AND GONE

Last night I fell asleep
Little did I know it was so deep
I tried to wake up
But I felt like I was tied up
Only for me to see two of me in the room
Like the bride and the groom
One was laying helpless
And the other was standing confused.
Going out of the room, people were sitting bemused
My moma was crying and wailing
I tried to comfort her but I wasn't prevailing
I tried to cry but it was like the tears were flowing inward
I was confused, so I screamed "this is awkward"

I closed my eyes in despair
Hoping when I open them, I'll see things clear
But surprisingly, I found myself elsewhere
No sun, no rain, no day, no night
I didn't know what didn't go right
Till someone told me "YOU'RE DEAD AND GONE"
I screamed and cried "NO, i'm not yet done"
But no one could hear me
I was left with just memories
They were now like fairytales and stories
No one to relate with
My smart phone was far from me
I understood it was all over.

Kindly share your social media handles

Facebook @ José San Érico
Instagram @ J San Érico
YouTube @ José San Érico official

Any word of advice to other individuals who would want to venture into poetry

I'd like to say there's a place for everyone in the world of arts because poetry inclusive. Consistency is a valuable asset. It's always gonna beat skill anytime of the day, focus on bettering yourself and try to match your progress with consistency.

Sports >> *Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag is starting to feel the heat from frustrated fans of the Red Devils after a disastrous start to the season has left hopes of Premier League glory already looking forlorn.

Pressure Mounts On Man Utd Boss Ten Hag As Bayern Clash Looms

By AFP

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag looks on during a training session at the WACA stadium in Perth on July 21, 2022, ahead of the tour match between Manchester United and Aston Villa. (Photo by Trevor Collens / AFP).

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag is starting to feel the heat from frustrated fans of the Red Devils after a disastrous start to the season has left hopes of Premier League glory already looking forlorn.

For the first time in the Premier League era United have lost three of their opening five games and face a daunting task to open their Champions League campaign away to Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Ten Hag had been sheltered from criticism in the early weeks of the campaign as supporters concentrated their anger towards a series of off-field issues.

Despite the fans' desire to see them gone, the Glazer family appear to have put a process to sell the club on hold.

Brazilian winger Antony has been given a leave of absence to fight domestic abuse allegations made by his ex-girlfriend.

Meanwhile, United decided Mason Greenwood had no future at Old Trafford last month despite abuse charges against the 21-year-old being dropped.

Ten Hag was credited for returning United to the Champions League by finishing third in the Premier League last season and ending the club's six-year trophy drought by winning the League Cup.

However, he was the target for a chorus of boos when he substituted new signing Rasmus Hojlund midway through the second-half of Saturday's 3-1 home defeat to Brighton.

The Dutch coach tried to spin that moment into a positive show of support for Hojlund, who was making his home debut after a £64 million ($79 million) move from Atalanta.

The Dane has only recently returned to fitness and Ten Hag could ill afford to lose another key player by forcing him to play 90 minutes too soon.

But United's bet on the 20-year coming good in the long run could face a backlash should they be undone by Harry Kane in Germany.

Despite their need for a striker, United never tested Tottenham's resolve for the England captain, who instead joined Bayern in a 100 million euro ($110 million, £86 million) deal.

Kane has hit the ground running with four goals in as many starts, while Hojlund is yet to find the net for United.

Sancho disciplined

To add to United's woes going forward, winger Jadon Sancho is also absent from first-team action due to a spat with his manager.

Sancho, who cost £73 million from Borussia Dortmund just two years ago, has been ordered to train on his own after claiming he was a "scapegoat" when Ten Hag criticised his poor performances in training.

Ten Hag's disciplinarian streak was heralded as part of his success in his first season as even Cristiano Ronaldo and Marcus Rashford were not afforded special treatment.

The United boss is yet to face much fan fury for his latest stance as Sancho has failed to live up to his price tag.

But that decision has upped the pressure on Ten Hag to lift the mood around the club with an upturn in results on the pitch.

With United already trailing local rivals Manchester City by nine points in the Premier League, making an impact on the Champions League is even more vital to the success or failure of Ten Hag's second season.

"It's about character," said Ten Hag, ahead of his return to Munich, where he coached the Bayern B team between 2013 and 2015.

"Now we have to see how strong we are, how the team sticks together and which players are standing up and showing the character and leading the team."

Sports >> *The Kasarani, Nyayo and Kip Keino stadiums have been closed for renovations as Kenya races to be ready to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Nyayo, Kasarani Stadiums Closed For Renovations As Gov't Races To Beat CAF AFCON Deadline

Fans outside Moi Sports Center Kasarani stadium on June 02, 2012. (Photo/Sportpicha)

By **Stephen Awino**

The Kasarani, Nyayo and Kip Keino stadiums have been closed for renovations as Kenya races to be ready to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Kenya, alongside Uganda and Tanzania made a joint bid to host the biennial championship and the three countries are racing against time to get the organiser's nod to host the 2027 event.

As such, on Tuesday, Sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba announced the closure of the facilities, to pave way for renovations, to be undertaken by the Kenya Defence Forces.

Nyayo and Kasarani have been in the past closed down for similar works but the end results have, in most cases, left a lot to be desired.

Equally, this is not the first time that the Ministry of Defence has been tasked with renovations, as they were tasked with the refurbishment of Moi Stadium in Embu for Madaraka Day celebrations back in March.

Namwamba defended the move to have the sister ministry take charge of the four projects citing strict deadlines to be met and the need for discipline during the undertaking.

"We are doing this because of time, we are extremely pressed for time. We must beat very strict deadlines in delivery. We are also doing this because we want discipline and efficiency, top tier discipline and efficiency. We want precision and we believe that the ministry of defence ticks all those boxes," he said.

During the handing over ceremony Tuesday morning, Namwamba expressed that the renovations were partly motivated by Kenya's bid to co-host the 2027 African Cup of Nations with neighbours Tanzania and Uganda.

"We want to send a message to the Confederation of African Football that the East Africa Pamoja bid is a strong bid. Tanzania is ready, Uganda is ready and Kenya is ready. In terms of readiness we have given a deadline of 2025 to complete these facilities."

The East African nations expressed interest to bring the continental showpiece to the region after the Kenyan government approved the cabinet proposal back in December 2022.

The closure however complicates matters for national teams Harambee Stars and Harambee Starlets, who could be forced to play World Cup and Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers outside the country with Nyayo and Kasarani closed.

SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

The MT. KENYA TIMES
The Mt Kenya Times
375778 201602

Onneile Richard

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyatimes


Onneile Richard.

Worth Noting:

- My Spiritual Parents's visionforthis year 2023. The need to spread the good news about Jesus Christ, that many will be snatched out of oppression into liberty and eternity.
- To disect divine revelations into simpler understanding.
- A giant in the kingdom mistries, unshakable and undefeatable.

Who are you?
I am The Jesus Nation, and author.

Name: Onneile

Surname: Richard

Where were you born?
I was born in Molepolole, Botswana

Who inspired you into writing?
My Spiritual Parents's visionforthis year 2023. The need to spread the good news about Jesus Christ, that many will be snatched out of oppression into liberty and eternity.

What are your challenges you faced writing your book?
To disect divine revelations into simpler understanding.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
A giant in the kingdom mistries, unshakable and undefeatable.

Do Africans love your craft?
Yes! The reception has been massive!

What are your inspiration?
The ability to juggle two citizenships at a go.
I may be existing on this earth but I don't belong here (which makes me to can't wait for my eternity)
So am like wind, you can't understand where I come from or where am going.

How do you deal with fans?
I have the love for everyone, at any point in time.

Your word of advice for upcoming writers
There is always something you genuinely want to share.
You can't even sleep of that, you bubbles inside whenever you think of that, so go for it!

Last words
Nothing is impossible with God.

Published at Shashil Court Westlands & Printed at Mombasa Road, Nairobi by Exponential International Limited. P.O. Box 101675 - 00101 Nairobi.
Email: editorial@mtkenyatimes.co.ke | To place Adverts: Email: ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke Tel: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262, 0781 894 777. www.mtkenyatimes.com