



National Broadcaster Management Appears Before PIC-SSAA Committee Over Audit Review

The Acting Managing Director of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Samuel Maina was yesterday questioned by the National Assembly's Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture over issues raised in the Auditor-General's Report

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News>>NCBA Group Set To Fully Aquire AIG Kenya Insurance Company Limited

P. 8. The Group Announced That The Board Of Directors Has Authorized The Commencement Of Discussions To Own The Insurance Entity Subject To Regulatory Approvals



News>>Kiambu Farmers Seek National Government Intervention On Sh 100m WB Funding

P. 12. Farmers in Kiambu are calling upon the National government to intervene as they are set to lose Sh 100 million from the World Bank meant to fund the buying of an Ultra Heated Treated (UHT) milk processing machine.

General Mathenge's Wife Calls On The Gov't To Assist Trace Her Husband

⚡ When my husband fled to Ethiopia before we gained independence, I had visited him three times where he was doing some manual jobs but I can't remember the exact location in that country," Miriam said at her bedside where she is receiving nursing care at Mweiga in Nyeri County.



Miriam Mathenge during the interview. Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU

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KALRO Rolls Out Programme To Enhance Access To Certified Seeds

By: Chris Mahandara
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The seed varieties, developed through extensive research, she said, have been certified by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and were fit for planting in the specific regions where they are stocked adding that more work was being done to develop additional seeds and varieties to meet the demand.
- “Seed production is very expensive. Therefore, as we continue to see the demand we shall expand production,” she said.



KALRO Deputy Director General Crops, Felister Makini making a point.

The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) has rolled out an elaborate programme to scale up availability of certified seeds across the country.

Through an initiative dubbed Mkulima Shop, the state agency plans to open 16 outlets across the country for farmers to access quality certified seeds.

KALRO Deputy Director General Crops, Felister Makini said the move targets to bridge the shortage of certified seeds in the country and at the same time support farmers plant the right varieties within their respective regions to boost food security.

Makini said KALRO has developed high quality seeds and crop varieties adding that through the Mkulima Shop initiative, the technologies would be made accessible and available to farmers across the country to boost production.

Speaking during the opening of a Mkulima Shop at KALRO Kibos centre in

Kisumu, Makini said the move was necessitated by the rising demand for quality seeds from the research body.

“We have continued to witness a demand for quality seeds from KALRO. Farmers now have an assurance that if they come to this shop at any time they will find quality KALRO varieties,” she said.

The seed varieties, developed through extensive research, she said, have been certified by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and were fit for planting in the specific regions where they are stocked adding that more work was being done to develop additional seeds and varieties to meet the demand.

“Seed production is very expensive. Therefore, as we continue to see the demand we shall expand production,” she said.

The seeds available at the shops, she said include maize, rice, cow peas, soya beans, sunflower, cotton, sorghum and

green grams.

The current shortage of certified seeds, she said, has seen unscrupulous businessmen flood the market with substandard seeds, threatening to derail the gains made in the sector asking farmers to take advantage of the initiative and procure certified seeds from KALRO.

“It is paramount to ensure that farmers get the right seeds. This is because uncertified seeds come along with the challenge of pests, diseases and other constraints which is disadvantageous to the farmers,” she said.

KALRO, she added, was working closely with Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and other state agencies to crackdown on outlets selling uncertified seeds.

“We are now telling our competitors that KALRO is here and we have the capacity to produce enough seeds for our farmers,” she said.

Robert Musyoki, Director KALRO

SEEDS said measures have been put in place to scale up production to ensure farmers have access to quality certified seeds across the country.

Production, he said was at different stages at KALRO farms across the country adding that the seeds will be made available at the Mkulima shops and selected agrovet.

The Kisumu shop, he said is the second to be opened in the country after Mtwapa adding that additional shops were set to be opened to bring KALRO seeds closer to farmers.

The 16 shops, he said, shall be linked for proper stock taking and coordination to ensure steady supply of the seeds throughout the year.

“The Director General will be able to see from Nairobi how the shops are performing and institute measures whenever necessary,” he said.



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya National Library Services (KNLS) in Nakuru will benefit from wireless connectivity through the Last Mile County Connectivity Project (LMCCP). The facility, which accommodates hundreds of learners daily, will also enable online job seekers to increase their daily earnings. The project will provide up to 900 Mbps of wireless connectivity and backup batteries, allowing eight hours of connectivity long after power outages. The installation will take three weeks to complete. The Belgium government-funded programme aims to cover 23 counties and roll out Phase V to reach more counties and sub-counties.



Uasin Gishu county government will dedicate a street in Eldoret town in Eliud Kipchoge’s name in honor of the world’s greatest marathoner. Kipchoge won the Berlin Marathon for the fifth time, clocking 2:03:42. The county is proud of Kipchoge’s achievement and the hundreds of spectators who watched the race. The county appreciates the spirit of sportsmanship and the large numbers of Kenyans who cheered the Kenyan victors at the Berlin Marathon 2023.

Kenya, US Security Partnership To Build Sustainable Peace

By: Muraya Kamunde

The partnership between Kenya and the United States will help build sustainable peace within the continent, President William Ruto has said.

Speaking after holding discussions with the US Secretary for Defence Lloyd Austin at State House, Nairobi, the Head of State said the firm support from the global community, like the United States, has been invaluable in securing the region. “Kenya takes pride in its frontline effort to combating radicalisation, terrorism and the associated criminality in the Horn of Africa. We will keep working jointly to rebuild and make Africa more stable and prosperous,” said President Ruto.

On his part, US Secretary for Defence Lloyd Austin said that Kenya is a valued strategic partner in tackling mutual threats and bolstering regional security

“The history of military cooperation between Kenya and the US spans 50 years. Kenya is a valued strategic partner in tackling mutual threats and bolstering regional security.” He said

He said the United States will continue to enhance defense cooperation with Kenya to advance their shared vision of peace and prosperity in East Africa.

Earlier, Lloyd Austin together with his Kenyan counterpart Aden Duale signed a joint Defence Cooperation Framework. The Framework signed shall enable the two countries enhance interoperability in an increasingly complex and inter-connected world.

The Framework that shall be effective between 2023-2028 shall help Kenya and the US expand their cooperation in the fields of defence technology and innovation, counter-terrorism and counter-violent extremism, joint training and maritime security that shall enable the two militaries respond effectively to the ever-evolving security challenges.



Stakeholders in Africa are advocating for the reinvention of learning models in educational institutions to produce quality graduates for the ever-changing labor markets. They believe graduates can solve Africa’s challenges and create opportunities. The discussions align with Kenya’s Ministry of Education reforms of the Competence Based Curriculum.



National Council of Churches of Kenya Official Samson Chege has urged the media to challenge negative cultural norms and promote women’s leadership in peace processes. He addressed journalists during a training on gender-sensitive reporting, urging them to avoid gender stereotypes, discrimination, and respect the dignity of victims of gender-based violence.



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Kevit Desai Wins Africa Concours d'Elegance 51st Edition

He outshone Peers For The Top Slot For Cars On The Ramp As Dominique Antoine Rode Off With The Trophy In Motor Cycles Category

By: Our Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

The spirited contest for the grand title underscores the intensity of the work, time and attention to detail that competitors put in to present their superbly finished machines to an impressed crowd of car enthusiasts who, on their part, turned up in stunning outfits that matched the elegance of the event.

The award for the most elegant looking car at the Concours went to first time entrant John Milia Ntoipo with his gleaming 1974 Daimler Sovereign, a clear favourite of the spectators, while Emmanuel Lari Odera's 2002 Honda VTX 1800C was the judges choice for the most elegant motorcycle.

Kevit Desai is the overall car winner of this year's edition of the quintessential Africa Concours d'Elegance that was held at the Ngong Racecourse on Sunday. Desai, a former Principal Secretary in the Ministry of East Africa Community and Regional Development, straddled the judges' course in his 1968 Jaguar 420.

He stunned the zealously cheering crown of vintage car enthusiasts who turned up for the biggest motor pageant in Kenya.

Veteran participant Gayling May came in close tow with his meticulously spruced up 1976 Alfa Romeo Sprint, while Vitafoam's 1966 MGB came third.

It was the 51st edition of the annual event organized by the Alfa Romeo Club Owners of Kenya.

In the motorcycles category, Dominique Antoine rode off with the trophy atop his 1925 Triumph 550 SD, the oldest bike in the Concours with 183 points after fending off a spirited challenge from Russell Hughes with his Ducati 65T only one point behind. Russell rode about 140 kms from Njoro Nakuru to take part in the event.

David Odhuno's 1989 Yamaha Super Tenere came in third place with 173 points.

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year's Concours d'Elegance..

his gleaming 1974 Daimler Sovereign, a clear favourite of the spectators, while Emmanuel Lari Odera's 2002 Honda VTX 1800C was the judges choice for the most elegant motorcycle.

The Pearl Bikers Association from Uganda, added a glamorous twist to the event with their attention-grabbing machines that roared past the cheering crowd of admiring spectators. Gianfranco Masetto's 2018 BMW R1200 GSA led the pearly pack of seven entrants and he proudly took home the Pete Maas Memorial Trophy for the best bike from Uganda.

Leslie Carvell, a regular car competitor from Uganda won second place in her class after driving her 1976 Volkswagen Beetle from Jinja to the Nairobi Racecourse to participate in the event.

Mercedes Benz enthusiast Patrick Mweheire who had entered four cars from Uganda won a prize for his 1959 Mercedes Benz W180 (Ponton) and the 1970 Mercedes Benz 250D.

Among the rare vehicles paraded at this year's Concours was the 1990 Lancia Delta Intergrale rally car of Tanzania enthusiast Naavraj Singh Hans and Dominique Antoine's 1976

Bultaco Sherpa T250.

Tumaini Muthiga carried the day in the fancy dress category. The enthusiastic car collector had entered four vintage cars and two motor cycles in different categories which he paired with well prepared costumes.

He won the car costume award while Prateek Singh Gulati carried home the motorcycle prize with his costume themed "Punjab Nightrider".

First time entrant Major Kelvin Sani-ngo in his "Maasai Invasion" costume also won a prize.

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NCBA Group Set To Fully Aquire AIG Kenya Insurance Company Limited

The Group Announced That The Board Of Directors Has Authorized The Commencement Of Discussions To Own The Insurance Entity Subject To Regulatory Approvals

By: Our Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

NCBA Group yesterday announced its intention to acquire 100 per cent of AIG Kenya Insurance Company Limited.

If concluded, the acquisition of the over 50 year old insurance business, which has a heralded market reputation for offering a sophisticated general insurance proposition to Corporates, SMEs and individuals would be a landmark transaction.

NCBA which was formed out of a merger between NIC Group and CBA Group in 2019 has over the last four years grown to become the 3rd largest banking Group in East Africa serving over 63 million customers and with a network of 107 branches.

Speaking on the rationale for the transaction, NCBA Group Managing Director John Gachora said, “Insur-

ance is increasingly becoming a basic financial need for the type of customer that NCBA serves. We believe that by bringing together NCBA’s physical and digital distribution platforms and AIG Kenya’s insurance capabilities we will accelerate towards our ambition to become a universal bank that addresses a full set of our customers’ financial needs”.

AIG Kenya serves customers across the East Africa region. NCBA serves customers across 4 countries in East Africa – Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.

As a regional banking Group, NCBA is poised to take advantage of AIG Kenya’s breadth and scale to further entrench itself in the markets in which it operates.

He added, “We have held a minority shareholding in AIG Kenya for over 18 years and have been impressed by the steady revenue growth of the business, the expertise of the management team and the customer centric spirit

that is at the heart of its long-standing customer relationships.”

Stella Njunge, CEO of AIG Kenya commented, “The announcement of intent by NCBA and AIG is an exciting development as it represents an opportunity to continue to build on AIG Kenya’s solid platform. Through a combination of NCBA’s customer centric product offering and their cutting-edge technology solutions, customers will be able to access a variety of insurance products and services, seamlessly.”

The execution of the transaction is subject to necessary due diligence, approvals from the Boards of NCBA, AIG Kenya, AIG Group and the requisite banking, insurance and other regulatory authorities.

In conclusion John Gachora said, “We are excited to bring the full muscle of NCBA’s capabilities to continue inspiring the growth of our customers while protecting their dreams. Through our legacy of innovation we



NCBA Group Managing Director John Gachora.

are well positioned to catalyze the deeper market penetration of insurance in Kenya and the region.”

Water PS Tours Projects In Garissa County, Calls Out Cartels In The Area

By: Our Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

The Principal Secretary in charge of Water and Sanitation has hit out at individuals derailing supply of the essential commodity in Garissa County.

Dr Paul Ronoh said cartels running Water vending businesses in the county, particularly Garissa town were working round the clock to ensure all efforts to have adequate supply of water in the area failed.

Yesterday, Dr Ronoh toured various projects in the area where he noted that various Initiatives on water connection had failed as private vendors businesses thrived.

“You must ask yourselves why this area has more water browsers than matatus. Something is not right and we must address it now for the benefit of the local residents,” Dr Ronoh said during a press briefing outside the area governor’s office.

The press briefing was preceded by two meetings, the first one at the County Commissioner’s office and the other at the governor’s board-

room.

Nearly all the elected leaders in the county, led by Governor Nathif Jama Adam were in the second meeting and later accompanied the Principal Secretary and his team in touring various projects in Garissa Township, Mbalambala and Lagdera constituencies.

Although the PS blamed the water on cartels, the local leaders heaped the shortcoming on lack of proper engineering in the entire water supply works.

Led by the governor, the leaders blamed the engineers who designed the Garissa town water system for failure to have adequate water supply.

The PS wondered why out of 141,000 households in the area, only 21,000 which is about 15 per cent had water connections.

Without seeking an answer from the locals, the PS noted that the beneficiaries were those who own water vending lorries.

To resolve the matter, it was agreed that a technical team from the Ministry headquarters and county government should work together to come out with the best solution.



Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation Dr Paul Ronoh together with Garissa County governor Nathif Jama Adam addressing the media in Garissa town yesterday. They are flanked by water agencies CEO’s and other leaders from the county

The PS disclosed that the government was working out plans of rolling out an initiative that will see water and sanitation matters addressed from the constituency level.

The initiative, dubbed; Maji Mashinani will ensure that constituencies are served with their individual needs.

To address water use without paying and wastage of the same, the PS commissioned a Water Police Unit for the county.

Among the projects that he visited were Iftin Girls Secondary, Iftin Mosque and Iftin homesteads which was jointly overseen by Tana and Northern Kenya Water Works

Development Agencies which he commissioned.

Others were inspection of Garissa Sewerage projects site, launch of Abdisamad Primary School and proposed Modogashe dam.

The PS also witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Non-Revenue Water.

General Mathenge’s Wife Calls On The Gov’t To Assist Trace Her Husband

By: WILLIAM MUCHIRI
@themtkenyatimes

The widow to Mau Mau freedom fighter General Stanley Mathenge now wants the government of Kenya to assist her in finding the whereabouts of her husband who went missing nearly 70 years ago. According to Miriam Muthoni Mathenge, her husband fled to Ethiopia during the colonial war. Muthoni, who is now approaching a century according to doctors, says her last wish is to reconnect with her husband, hopefully, if he is still alive. “When my husband fled to Ethiopia before we gained independence, I had visited him three times where he was doing some manual jobs but I can’t remember the exact location in that country,” Miriam said at her bedside where she is receiving nursing care at Mweiga in Nyeri County. She was recently discharged from Nairobi West hospital where she was

admitted for a couple of days days. “During that time, Ethiopians were very wise people and they were moving around Africa scouting for people that would work with. My husband was wise too and I highly doubt whether that is the reason why they took my husband. Probably they retained him there so that they could tap his vast knowledge of mining,” Miriam continued. The veteran says that during the struggle for independence, she frequently attended the late President Jomo Kenyatta’s meetings. She claims Kenyatta used to call her ‘Mrs Mathenge’ in all the presidential functions that she attended. According to her, that’s the moment she realized that her husband, Mathenge, was at the Frontline in the struggle. “Personally, I appreciate President William Ruto for honouring Mau Mau veterans. I am humbly requesting him to assist me to get water connectivity at my home. I am also ill but the government has been catering for my medical expenses. I want



Miriam Mathenge during the interview. Photo/PAUL MWANGI WANJIRU

the President to scout for jobs for my generation,” she said. As she narrated her plights on what she underwent through during the struggle for Kenya’s independence, she called for the State to consider all veterans who fought for the country’s liberation from colonialism.

Waiguru Urges PWDs To Register To Benefit From Government Programmes

By: Mutai Kipngetchi
@themtkenyatimes

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru has urged People Living with Disabilities (PWDs) to enroll for the government social assistance programmes so as to fully benefit from the initiatives. The governor stressed the need of having PWDs registered with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Inua Jamii programmes so that the government has accurate data to guide planning and resource allocation for projects and programmes for them. Speaking at Kamiigua Polytechnic grounds while issuing assorted assistive devices and other essential commodities to 306 people with different disabilities, she added the county government is undertaking assessment and registration for PWDs and appealed to those who are yet to be assessed to visit the Kerugoya Level Five County Referral Hospital and Kianyaga hospitals for assessment. “We are committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusivity to ensure no part of the society is left



Kirinyaga County governor Ann Waiguru attending to a person living with disabilities.

behind in the realisation of the county’s socio-economic development goals. We will soon be rolling out the assessment programme in every sub-county hospital,” the governor said. She noted that persons living with disabilities are disproportionately excluded in many areas and the county government was making every effort to empower them for meaningful participation in the county’s development. During the event she gave out 90 wheelchairs, 37 being pediatric and 53 for adults, 16 crutches, and 16 white canes. Four people were fitted with prosthetics and another 5 fitted with hearing aids. To empower them in business the governor said her administration has removed payment of single business permits for persons living with disabilities as an incentive to support their business ventures. “This waiver is expected to act as an incentive to narrowing and eventually closing the disparities that exist between people living with disabilities and the general commu-

nity when it comes to opportunities in areas such as education, economic empowerment and political representation,” she said. The county also has established a one-stop service desk- a replica of Huduma Center at county government level- on the ground floor at the headquarters to ensure that people living with disabilities are efficiently and effectively served. “To supplement the empowerment programme, we are also establishing a County Empowerment and Development Fund to assist the vulnerable, PWDs, Women and Youth, and other common interest groups,” she said. George Macharia, 55, one of the four people fitted with prosthetics said he was happy to walk again. “After a road accident in 2016, my leg was amputated, I visited private hospitals but it was too expensive for me to afford a functional replacement for the missing limb. Governor Waiguru donated the prosthetics that I am using, and am still learning how to use it to get along with my life again,” Macharia said.

Excellence In Work



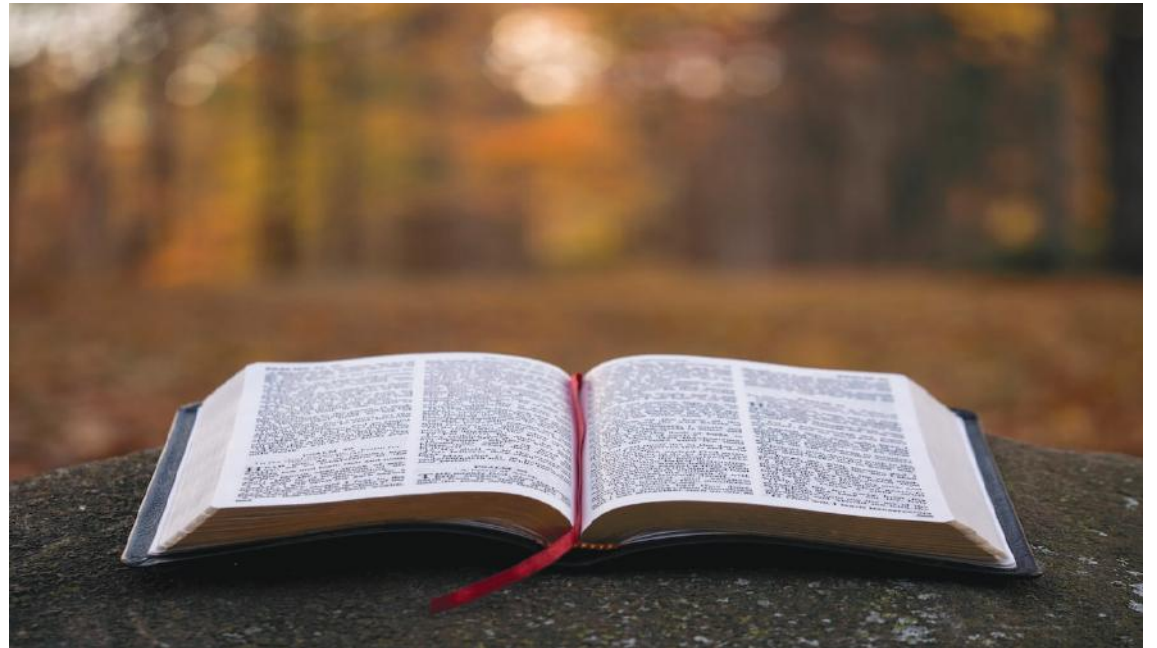
By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Lastly, our work must be done with an eye to excellence. Dorothy Sayers said that the Church in our time has forgotten that the secular vocation is sacred. Forgotten that a building must be good architecture before it can be a good church; that a painting must be well painted before it can be a good sacred picture; that work must be good work before it can call itself God's work. Work that is truly Christian is work well done.

Genesis 1 logs God's commitment to excellence when it says, "God saw all that HE had made, and it was very good" (v. 31). Christians should always do good work. Christians ought to be the best workers wherever they are. They ought to have the BEST ATTITUDE, THE BEST INTEGRITY, AND BE THE BEST IN DEPENDABILITY. If what the pollsters tell us

is true — that there is little difference in the work ethics of Christians and non-Christians — we have cause for alarm. If there is no difference, then large numbers of God's children have succumbed to the extremes of laziness and overwork which characterize today's work force. It also means that vast numbers of Christian lives are spiritually dysfunctional, for it is impossible to dedicate over half of one's waking hours (some 80- to 100,000 hours in an average lifetime) to a sub-Biblical work ethic and not suffer immense spiritual trauma.

We must recover the TRUTH — the Reformation truth — that our vocation(in our Upcountry Home, Murang'a, Kenya, we have this saying: "Wira ni Wira; Murang'a nù wira: meaning, work is work, and in Murang'a our business is work"), be it ever so humble, is a divine calling and thus be liberated to do it for the glory of God. This alone will take the Church out into the world. Men, if you sense you are deficient, you need to do three things. First, take an honest assessment of your life, using the Scriptures(Ephesians 6:5-8, Romans 12:11, Matthew 25:24-26, 2 Thessalonians 3:6 +++) as a standard as you



answer the questions: Do I do my work for the glory of God?

- Do I honestly work hard?
- Do I work with enthusiasm?
- Do I work wholeheartedly?
- Do I do excellent work?

Second, after honest evaluation confess your sins. And, thirdly, COMMIT YOUR WORK LIFE TO THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE : AMEN, AND AMEN.

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, TO-DAY 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



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Gachagua's Critics Latest Bid To Discredit Him By Revisiting 'Stakeholder Remark' Doomed To Fail Again



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
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Worth Noting:

- The people of Kenya spoke at the ballot. He cannot change this. He should stick to his lane as an opposition leader.
- It is worth noting that Raila and his brigade are currently taking advantage of the recent comments made by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Trade, Investment and Industry Moses Kuria.
- The two Kenya Kwanza leaders were quoted as saying that all Kenyans were stakeholders in a company called Kenya.
- I never heard any one of them mentioning the name of DP Gachagua. How the critics did know that they were targeting him?
- To me, Gachagua has been speaking the same language as Mudavadi and Kuria. The only difference is how each package and communicates this message.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

I have lately been listening to the narrative of the political opponents of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

We know Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga and a section of his brigade have been leading the onslaught against him.

This is because the DP has remained firm and steadfast in his defense and support of President William Ruto. This has showed that he understood his job very well. Constitutionally, he is the principal assistant to the President.

During the Raila led anti- government demonstrations, Gachagua played a key role of pouring cold water on protests and forcing Raila to surrender.

He kept reiterating that they knew the agenda of Raila Odinga. He was out to blackmail and intimidate President Ruto to share the government with him.

We know he succeeded to arm-twist President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta.

Raila would be accommodated after he had led destructive, chaotic and bloody demonstrations. Each would do this to avoid loss of more lives.

Raila would want this to be seen as major breakthrough in ending a 'major political crisis' that was engulfing our country. We now have a deal. We have signed a ceasefire.

Gachagua would reiterate. We want to tell him that President Ruto and myself are not a pushover. We are a hard nut to crack.

This Mzee developed a bad habit. Every time he loses the election he demands a 'nusu mkate'. We want to tell him this business is now over.

Raila should accept that we defeated him in broad day light. Our victory was reaffirmed and upheld by the Supreme Court of Kenya.

The people of Kenya spoke at the bal-

lot. He cannot change this. He should stick to his lane as an opposition leader.

It is worth noting that Raila and his brigade are currently taking advantage of the recent comments made by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Trade, Investment and Industry Moses Kuria.

The two Kenya Kwanza leaders were quoted as saying that all Kenyans were stakeholders in a company called Kenya.

I never heard any one of them mentioning the name of DP Gachagua. How the critics did know that they were targeting him?

To me, Gachagua has been speaking the same language as Mudavadi and Kuria. The only difference is how each package and communicates this message.

We have been listening to the tone and remarks of leaders of the Mulembe nation whenever they host President William Ruto in their region.

Led by Mudavadi, they would mince no word reminding him about the votes he got there and the pre-election pledges he made.

As a Luhya community, we believe we have a bigger stake in your government.

The point is clear when you talk about a big stake. You are saying you have many shares and hence consider yourselves as major shareholder.

In his recent visit, Senator Bonny Khalwale stated that they lobbied the President to consider passing the baton of power to a candidate from the Mulembe nation when he concludes his two- five year term in 2032.

The President avoided this issue and instead called on Western leaders to focus on fulfilling the pledges they made to electorates during the campaigns.

By virtues of being the second in com-

mand, DP Gachagua have a head start in the race to succeed President Ruto. The other advantage is that the DP is a son of the most popular community and biggest voting bloc in Kenya.

For Kuria, he has been projecting his community of Kikuyu as a major shareholder.

I'm sure many Kenyans would recall why he fell out with President Uhuru Kenyatta. It is because he believed that Kikuyus were only being used as a voting machines during the elections.

When it comes to the sharing of the national cake, they would not get their share. The cake would instead be shared by people from other regions who had not voted for President Kenyatta.

Reportedly, Gachagua made the 'stakeholder remark' at a time when he was engaging some media houses in no-hold-barred attacks.

In apparent reference to Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Odinga, he would say. "We know some of you in media circles are championing the agenda of this Mzee. Stop wasting your time. Tell him the truth. We defeated him. He cannot change the will of the People".

One year since President William Ruto and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua assumed office, the Azimio leader, his running Martha Karua and some of the coalition's hardliners were yet to come to terms with this loss.

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

The outcome met the threshold of free, credible and verifiable presidential polls. We commend the IEBC for doing a good job, some stated in their reports.

The US government, European Union and African Union are among the com-

munity of nations that had sent their observers.

The Azimio leader would not wait for the dust to settle. He would hit out at observers claiming their respective reports did not reflect the will of Kenyan people.

The President-elect had compromised and pocketed them, the same way he has done to the judges of Supreme Court and IEBC chairman. He would make the claims without providing an iota of truth.

In the after of 2007, 2013 and 2017 presidential elections, Raila had made similar unsubstantiated and highly libelous claims.

Since then, Raila's bid is a two-pronged. First, put Gachagua into a collision course with Kenyans. Kenyans are not stupid. They know how to read between the lines.

The other one is to create a rift between him and his boss, President William Ruto.

This explains why to date he considers Gachagua's 'stakeholder' comment as a strong political bonga point.

With time, he thinks that President Ruto might be persuaded to believe that Gachagua was rocking the boat from within. This is a wishful thinking.

Dr Ruto is a well-schooled political genius and so you would not expect him to fall prey to Raila tricks.

To me, this is the message he sent to him during the burial of freedom fighter Makami Kimathi.

The President told him. I know you very well. Even as for the demonstrations, I know why you are holding them and what you want.

At this juncture, allow me to say this.

A precedent set in our country is that the communities that support the candidate who wins the presidential elections get a lion share of government positions.

This is the script that the successive governments of independent Kenya would read.

Raila should have been the last person to attack Gachagua. Why? When he served as a Prime Minister in Grand Coalition Government, majority of those who worked in his office were drawn from his community of Luo.

At the time, I used to work with a Nairobi based Youth NGO. As an organization, there is an issue we were following up there. So I made several visits to this office.

Earlier, the story was the same when he served as a minister for Public Works.

The other day I heard a group of people saying. Raila has not changed. If you want to know this, just visit his Capitol Hill Office and ODM Secretariat. You will realize he is still a tribal kingpin.

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

Kiambu Farmers Seek National Government Intervention On Sh 100m WB Funding

By: Grace Naishoo
@themkenyatimes

Farmers in Kiambu are calling upon the National government to intervene as they are set to lose Sh 100 million from the World Bank meant to fund the buying of an Ultra Heat-treated (UHT) milk processing machine.

This comes after the World Bank threatened to withdraw its pledged of Sh 100 million to partially fund the purchase the milk processing machine that is estimated to cost a total of Sh 145 million

The remaining Sh 45 million was to be raised by the farmers and the Kiambu County Government.

The Kiambu dairy farmers have since collectively contributed Sh 15 million towards the project.

The county government however is yet to provide the remaining Sh 30 million necessary to complete the project.

The project has now stalled and farmers fear that further delay may



prompt the World Bank to withdraw its Sh100 million grant.

According to Bedan Kamau, the manager for Limuru Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society, the World Bank had given the facility management a deadline of December last year to have complied with the terms of the agreement

"The machine costs Sh 145 million and the WB had already committed

to granting us Sh100 million and the farmers have also put aside Sh 15 million, it is only the county government that is yet to honour its pledge of Sh 30 million thereby jeopardising the project," said Kamau

He added that the local leaders had sought an extension of the deadline to give the county government more time to honour its pledge.

"We went to the Governor's office

and we agreed that he would take up the matter which had been agreed upon in 2019 during governor James Nyoro's reign, and he assuredly told my team that all will be well but the delay we are noticing is worrisome," he said.

The farmers from Limuru, Kikuyu, Lari and Kabete sub-counties are pleading with President William Ruto to intervene since the World

Bank funding was through the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive project which is under the National Government

"We are calling upon President Ruto to help ensure the success of this project since it will save us from the middle man who buy our milk at a very low price since the dairy cooperation has no capacity to take all our milk," Enoch Waciuri, a dairy farmer in Limuru, said.

Kiragu Chege, the MP of Limuru noted that the delay is worrisome as he confirmed that the World Bank will withdraw its support and kill the project thereby exposing farmers to poverty.

"Dairy farming is the backbone of our people's economy and the installation of the UHT machine can add value to our farmers' milk and increase productivity," he said.

The project would have boosted the fortunes of the Limuru dairy farmers cooperative which is wholly owned by smallholder farmers who make up about 80% of all milk producers in the country.

Nakuru To Use Automated Drug Management System, To Enhance Accountability

By: Esther Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Nakuru County Government is in the process of installing an automated drug management system to curb cases of drugs theft in public hospitals across the County.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for health Jacqueline Osoro assured that the County was implementing strategies to enhance healthcare services that will help curb shortage of medical drugs in public hospitals and health centres.

Speaking yesterday during an impromptu visit to Nakuru Teaching and Referral Hospital, the CECM said that issuance and receiving of drugs at the health facilities will be done through the automated system to seal any kind of leakages and ensure availability of all drugs at the facilities.

Ms Osoro said that the County was prioritizing automation of the drugs

management system which she added will enable her department to monitor the drugs and seal all the loopholes that make it possible for individuals to smuggle out some of the drugs for private marketing.

She revealed that the county had put elaborate measures in place to ensure that services in public hospitals are not disrupted and that Kenyans were receiving dignified healthcare services.

"No Kenyan seeking medical services in the county hospitals should be forced to buy drugs. We have taken measures to ensure quality service is delivered in our hospitals," Osoro said.

Osoro noted that paper-based drug management model left room for a lot of tampering that could go unnoticed.

She said they were designing the system that will also enable them to track essential drugs requirements, therefore enabling them to duly replenish stocks at specific health facilities where stocks have gone low.

The CECM said in some public health facilities countrywide, cases



of patients being forced to buy even the essential drugs in what has been read as collusion between medical practitioners and chemists and pharmacists have been reported.

Osoro warned that anyone found in possession of stolen drugs or discovered to be colluding with unscrupulous elements to steal the medicines risked being prosecuted and losing their jobs.

"We are very passionate about the

health of our people and anyone found diverting drugs from their intended destination will not be tolerated," said the CECM.

She noted that Governor Susan Kihika's government was upgrading public health facilities across the county to decongest the Referral Hospital.

She said that they were conducting regular supervision of hospitals, clinics and dispensaries to identify

and rectify issues within healthcare facilities, leading to better patient care and outcomes whilst addressing operational bottlenecks and holding healthcare providers accountable for their responsibilities.

To enhance the efficiency of services, the CECM said the health department had operationalized the patient queue management system, ensuring a smoother patient flow.

War And Despair To Those Emmiting Waste On Kajiado Rivers

By:Eric Wanjala
@themtkenyatimes

As the world today commemorate this year’s World Rivers Day under the theme of “Rights of Rivers”. Kajiado North residents yesterday year marked the occasion by cleaning Kandisi River which is at the heart of the thicket of Ololua forest.

This year’s theme designates rivers as the treasure of the world as they provide water for living. However the 7km Kandisi Rivers is not only being on the verge of being extinct but also faces high level of toxicity where by waste from homesteads and industries have been directed at the river and putting a risk to mankind, animal life, and flora and fauna who in the 80’s were depending on the river for lively hood sources.

Mark Angwenyi Kajiado county director in charge of Neema has issued a stand warning to the people of Ngong, where the source of Kandisi river is and that flows to Athi river ,asking the community whose hous-



An Air force officer cleaning up River Kandisi..

es are emitting sewerage to the river to face legal action from the enforcement team of Neema and also from the newly formed environment unit by Kajiado county government called Mazingira Unit.

“I am warning all investors in Kajiado North Sub County who are using illegal plastic papers that were banned recently nationally that we are soon getting hold of them through all legal means so that we can be able to safeguard the little resources that we have been left with so far” says director Angwenyi.

The Community and number of river enthusiasts gathered in partnership with the Kenya Air force Moi Airbase to organize the river Kandisi cleanup which according to scientist and environmentalist the river poses more risk and harm due to the high level of toxicity the river has. The farmers

downstream who feed Kajiado residents and the large Nairobi Metropolis depend on the river on growing vegetables and other farm produces.

Speaking to the journalist Gideon Sekento Tipaya chairman of Ngong hills,Mbagathi water Users Association has termed the clean up as a mitigation measure towards ensuring that as the awaited El nino rains are expected to pour the stream will contain less harmful impurities on the rivers and also reduce the amount of solid waste that are going to the National Park affecting the flora and faunas.

“In line with the presidential directives on nurturing and growing of trees,today we are embarking on this journey of safeguarding our natural resources by ensuring that Ololua Forest which is 90 % indigenous is greatly conserved by we the community together with all government stakeholders ,were are urging land-lords and private home owners to ensure their sewer waste is taken careof. Utters Mr Gideon.

Serve Wanjikû First, Nonsensical Political Feuds Shakes The Mountain: Betty Maina To Mt. Kenya Politburo



By: Reported by Gitau wa Kung’u
(profgitauwakungu@gmail.com)

“Remain true to the people, serve the people before politics erupt more chaos on Wanjikû, please I beg you,” Hon Betty N. Maina addressed Mt. Kenya region leaders.

The Murang’a County Rep unequivocally spelt her statement in response to the thriving Ministry of Water and Irrigation’s drama episode. The PS and CS Hon Alice Wahome over corruption in Athi Water Works Agency are involved in the center stage.

‘Betty Ee Sawa,’ as she’s locally known, maintained that Mt. Kenya region leaders must stick together or perish altogether. “The leadership



Murang’a Women Rep Hon Betty N Maina handing over NGAAF cheques to Women Groups. On the right, Kigumo MCA Hon Caroline Njoroge (in blue) holds high the cheque. Photo credits: Kazio..

fissures establishing in the mount must be sealed up before they widen, and the volcano erupts chaotically to the detriment of not only the residents but also those deceived castigators of political manhunt,” Betty added.

She was speaking from Githima shopping centre, in Kigumo Ward, Kigumo Constituency. The Women Rep, was presiding over a NGAAF project event attended by almost 1,000 above elderly patriots and hundreds of locals.

The County 021 Rep distributed blankets and unga to the elderly, NGAAF cheques to 5 self-help groups, and water tanks to 5 local primary schools and one to Mathareini Baptist Church.

The locals were educated on

NGAAF application process, in a bid to reimburse trust and socio-economic development participation by other qualifying registered social groups.

On development projects in the county, Betty assured residents that there’s a plan to distribute improved coffee seedling varieties, and ensure coffee cooperatives take to modern technology to promote coffee development.

Other leaders present included Murang’a County assembly’s Agriculture Committee chairperson, who’s also the Kigumo Ward MCA Hon Caroline Njoroge and others.

Kigumo MCA encouraged youths to form groups, come up with tangible projects, particularly in agribusiness, register and apply for NGAAF financing. She also vowed to push for the lowering of the tripled water tariff, and better service delivery by Murang’a South Water and Sanitation Company (MUSWASCO). She also urged the Deputy President Hon Rigathi Gachagua to help coffee farmers whose coffee payments have been delayed.

LOVE ON AIR

Yes I want to forget you,
but my soul want to love.
My Mind says leave,
but My heart says stop.

Whenever I look back a year memory,
My heart still stuck there.
When we holden hands of each other,
guys used to say look at those beautiful
pair.

Still I have the flowers you gave me,
The lovely fresh Roses you
always bought for me.
but the petals are withered,
and now the days are rotated.

But also my heart want to say:-

Maybe the time we shared together,
When love was on the air.

By: Lucky Sahu (INDIA)



KINDNESS



Do not frame
Do not gossip
Do not be heartless
You have already hurt my soul countless
Enough I cannot bare more
Tell me please
How much is expiry date of your kindness?

Do not forget you will pay off for your sins,
If you don't like us, you can pleasurely go by these
streets
Maybe it is your job to break hearts
Tell me please
How much is expiry date of your kindness?

It will be late when you express your regrets
Be afraid of God, Do not tear at hearts
You, do not mess with souls
Have you ever thought?
How much is expiry date of your kindness?

Nilufar Khalimova
Uzbekistan

Nilufar Khalimova was born on June 27, 2005 in Bukhara District, Uzbekistan. Currently, she is student of Bukhara State University. She successfully graduated from Bukhara School of Young Journalists.

Nilufar Khalimova is author of "My sun is my mother" (2018), "My shiny Homeland" (2019), "Adventure's of Aral"(2020) books and the translator of called "Telechild" which was written by uzbek children's writer Khudayberdi Tukhtaboyev.

She is participant and winner of more than 100 contests, official participant, delegate of more than 50 conferences, debates and Forums organized in Uzbek and English at the international and national level, youth ambassador, member of a number of international organizations. More than 30 poems and scientific articles were published in regional, republican, international magazines and newspapers.

She is youngest Ambassador of more than 10 international organizations. She is the founder of the "Talanted Youth" project organized on the scale of the Republic Uzbekistan.

I'm Dreaming

I'm dreaming to lay my head on your lap
as pearls lay in the ocean
I'm dreaming of combing your luscious
hair with my hands
As the water combs the running waves
I'm yearning to get closer to you in such
a way that our heartbeats collide

I'm yearning to hug you tight so that I
sense you, I absorb all of your warmth
I'm craving to sense the texture of your
skin
I'm craving to kiss your delicate lips that
are more mouthwatering than wine
I am willing to talk to you all day and
night as the sun talks to morning

I crave to watch you all night while
sleeping as the moon watches the sky
sleeping
I'm yearning to drown in the depth of
your heart through the ocean of your
eyes
I love you, I love you as the rain loves
rainbow

I love you as the blooming roses love the
scent



I'm incomplete without you as the
morning can't proceed without the sun

Library Is Lighthouse



It is known that libraries have been a center of spirituality and enlightenment since ancient times, and the human race has always lived in search of books. It is only thanks to libraries that one can know what black and white acquaintance, learning, and goodness are. Therefore, the children's library of Namangan region has been inviting children and everyone who wants to learn science for many years. The doors opened at sunrise do not close until nightfall. Children can come here and read various books, participate in the group activities they want, and spend the whole day here. There are also mental arithmetic, literacy, English, and Russian language courses, and the teachers do not get tired of educating children in this regard.

Namangan regional children's library named after Muhammadsharif Sofizoda was founded on December 3, 1933. At that time, it

started its activity with 300 copies of books and 25-30 readers. Today, the spiritual scope of the library is very wide. The total book fund is about 100,000. And the readers are many.

A literature night was held in the library yesterday. 25 students participated in the event and enjoyed the works of great writers and poets. Also, dances and songs performed at the end of the event gave everyone a good mood. This event, held in a high spirit, was enjoyed by everyone. The children's library of Namangan Region is always open for readers.

Mumtozbegin Jamoliddinova was born on April 20, 2002 in Uychi district of Namangan region. Currently, she is a 3rd-year student of the Uzbek language department at the Faculty of Philology of Namangan State University. Her poems are covered in the press from time to time. She's the author of a collection of poems called "Because of you".



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BUSINESS

Urithi Issues Title Deeds, Completes Some Projects As Recovery Plans Continue

By: James Wakahiu
@themtkenytimes

Worth Noting:

The housing society has been battling negative publicity that befell the organization beginning 2019 when financial problems set in and creditors, including banks, started hovering over its estimated Sh6 billion worth of assets. Once a formidable force in the real estate sector, Urithi started facing financial woes that culminated into a meeting with the project investors in April 2019.

Urithi was among the worst hit after the Covid pandemic, with investors withholding monthly contributions and members of the cooperative demanding refunds or the fulfillment of their investments. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 worsened the situation, with a series of lockdowns and curfews strangling all economic activities and bringing the Kenyan economy to a halt.



Members of Panorama Gardens housing project in Gatanga constituency register to verify their documents during the issuance of title deeds at a Thika hotel on Saturday.

Urithi Housing Cooperative Society Limited over the weekend issued 86 title deeds to members of its flagship Panorama Gardens gated community project located in Thika as efforts to revive stalled projects take shape.

The 86 are part of 200 title deeds that are currently being processed by the society through the Ministry of Lands, Urithi chairman, Samuel Maina told investors during the handover ceremony on Saturday. These are part of the about 540 parcels on the serene, 104-acre land located along Gatanga Road, 6km from Blue Post Hotel next to Bahati Ridges and Golden Pearl Estate.

The issuance of title deeds follows a collaboration between the members of the project, the Cooperative Society and Family Bank after the bank threatened to auction the land in 2019 over a Sh315 million debt. The mother title for the land was the security on the loan facility.

Maina said the exercise was a culmination of a lot of hard work. "We want to assure our members that Urithi is coming back in a big way. We have already resuscitated many of our stalled projects. We have every intention of reviving all our stalled projects so that in the next few years, we will be bigger and better company," he said.

Members of the buyers' welfare association named Panorama Gardens Residents Association (PGRA) formed by a section of investors who have been working to pay off the negotiated top-up fees to save their plots from auction, were a

happy lot. "This is a day of triumph, fulfillment and most importantly, a day of collective achievement. We gather here not as individuals but as a community that has weathered storms, crossed deserts, and climbed mountains. And now, we stand on the pinnacle of success, holding in our hands not just titles but tangible proof of our resilience, unity, and vision," said Hilary Maingi Mbute, the Chairman of the association.

Quoting Winston Churchill, Mbute said; "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." We have come a long way, but the journey is far from over. Let's continue to work together, ask questions, and support the process. Let's remain united in our quest for a better tomorrow".

Maina said in the last two years, Urithi has revived and completed nearly 40 projects from the Covid-19 crisis up to date. Another 36 projects are set to be completed in the next one year. "It has been a journey well fought and a good ending. We want to thank those who have supported us; our customers, lawyers, service providers

The chairman regretted that before the financial crisis, they used to work on too many projects at the same time, which required too much human and financial resources, so the Society was thinly spread on the ground. "We decided to be biting small; we reduced staff and are now concentrating resources on a few projects at a time. This time, we have scaled down our operations so that we can focus on

just a few projects at a time to ensure that they are well and speedily completed," he added.

The housing society has been battling negative publicity that befell the organization beginning 2019 when financial problems set in and creditors, including banks, started hovering over its estimated Sh6 billion worth of assets. Once a formidable force in the real estate sector, Urithi started facing financial woes that culminated into a meeting with the project investors in April 2019.

Urithi was among the worst hit after the Covid pandemic, with investors withholding monthly contributions and members of the cooperative demanding refunds or the fulfillment of their investments. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 worsened the situation, with a series of lockdowns and curfews strangling all economic activities and bringing the Kenyan economy to a halt.

As the real estate sector came to a standstill in 2020, the High Court authorized Family Bank to auction the 104 acres piece of land owned by the cooperative to recover Sh315.1 million owed to it by the housing cooperative.

All this could now be water under the bridge. According to Hilary Mbute, the matter was eventually negotiated out of court and the Society is now working to revive its projects. "We have been in discussions with Family Bank – to sort the dispute with the members over the matter, the mother title has been subdivided into individual titles and began transfers to members' names. Today, we are not just celebrating partial discharge; we are celebrating the beginning of full ownership. And while I may not have my title today due to delays from the registry office, the joy of handing out 86 titles to you, our esteemed members, is immeasurable," he said.

Mbute said when they moved the money to Family Bank's lawyer's account, they faced suspicion and doubt. "We were questioned, criticized, and even insulted for our collaboration with Urithi. There were moments of internal strife, moments when key committee members exited, setting us back. But we did not waver; we did not relent. We found strength in adversity, and we found allies in each other," he added.

Maina said Panorama Gardens project has been a labour of love, a vision embarked upon together with buyers

to create a remarkable gated community. "Along the way, we encountered unexpected challenges and unforeseen hurdles that extended the timeline and, regrettably, required additional contributions from our valued members. Your willingness to stand by us, both in spirit and in action, has been nothing short of remarkable," he told the investors.

Last year, Maina reported that Family Bank had granted Urithi Housing their request for a partial discharge on the Panorama project which has more than 500 plots. "Panorama was one of the projects giving us problems, but we have reached an agreement between the members, the bank and my office. Panorama members will now be allowed to discharge their plots from the bank, a major breakthrough in the revival journey of Urithi ... those who have finalised their payments will get their plots back,".

Family Bank, through their representatives at the event, also offered to assist any members who needed a facility to complete payments for their parcels as well as those with title deeds and wish to develop their newly-owned properties and urged them to visit any of their nearly 100 branches across the country for individual appraisal of their loan requests. The treasurer of Anchor Premier Sacco also extended the Sacco's loan facilities to members who wish to develop their land parcels.

"The court cases and injunctions have been withdrawn. Other members of various projects will soon be called into separate meetings to get an update and adopt the same member operated model on their projects," he said.

Thanking the bank and investors in the project, Maina said the Society will soon reach out to all the investors of other projects. "We have applied the model to some of our housing projects e.g. Utange houses in Mombasa, Juja Plains Annex, Rongai and others and members are now occupying their homes in some of these projects," he said.

"Those whose projects have not resumed, we are calling for the patience. There is the will, support and assurance from my office; I am confident that those who invested in Urithi will get the benefits of the projects that they invested in," he added.



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NAIROBI SERENA
HOTEL

National Broadcaster Management Appears Before PIC-SSAA Committee Over Audit Review

By: PSCU

Worth Noting:

- In his response, Maina told the committee that there was disciplinary action taken against two officers suspected to have executed the theft.
- “Hon. Chairman and Hon. Members of this committee, we lost the money between September 1997 and December 2001 through the use of deficient payroll computer software. Disciplinary action was initiated by the Board and the staff involved were dismissed. The issue was further taken to court through external lawyers. We have however invested in new software that has enhanced security that provides scrutiny and history of all transactions”, said Maina.



KBC boss Samuel Maina making a point when he appeared before the parliamentary committee yesterday.

The Acting Managing Director of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) Samuel Maina was yesterday questioned by the National Assembly’s Public Investments Committee on Social Services Administration and Agriculture over issues raised in the Auditor-General’s Report on Corporate Governance of the National Broadcaster for the financial years covering the period between 2001 to 2013.

The committee chaired by the Emmanuel Wangwe (Navakholo) in their report scrutiny, pointed out a number of financial mismanagement incidents committed through various activities carried out by the Corporation.

For instance, during the year ended 30th June 2001, the Corporation recorded a net loss of Sh500 million, and recorded an accumulated deficit of Sh6,461,219,503 as of the same date.

During the same financial year, the committee questioned a salary loss of Sh 22.5 million through electronic money transfer fraud.

In his response, Maina told the committee that there was disciplinary action taken against two officers suspected to have executed the theft.

“Hon. Chairman and Hon. Members of this committee, we lost the money between September 1997 and December 2001 through the use of deficient payroll computer software. Disciplinary action was initiated by the Board and the staff involved were dismissed. The issue was further tak-

en to court through external lawyers. We have however invested in new software that has enhanced security that provides scrutiny and history of all transactions”, said Maina.

Further, committee Members Peter Masara (Suna West) and Jackson Kosgey (Nominated) also questioned a loan of Sh7,543,422,121 obtained from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF) Japan in 1989,

which the government through the Treasury has serviced over the years on behalf of the Corporation.

The members heard that KBC has been unable to repay to Treasury Sh2,819,035,380 paid on their behalf. In addition, KBC has been unable to remit to Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) a valued added tax obligation totalling Sh189,412,509. The legislators were told the corporation was

found to be in breach of the law and may have to incur penalties.

Members however read mischief from the deal and sought to know how the matter had turned out to its present status.

“From records chair, KBC takes a loan in the late 80’s to purchase machines they have never used. Within 5 years of taking the loan, the loan is big and machines are lying idle, can the MD explain all this?, asked Masara.

“Chair, it looks like the developed world used KBC as a dumping site. I can’t exactly tell at the moment whether there was a board or how it was purchased. I request that the Committee allows me dig further into the issue to be able to respond from an informed position”, the Managing Director pleaded.

The other issues that the committee sought answers on revolved around procurement procedures, budgetary control and inaccuracies in financial statements.

Maina is now expected to submit before the Committee a number of documents to support suspected transactions as raised in the auditor’s report.

The committee is also scheduled to hold more sittings with KBC management to finalise all audit queries covering the period between 2001 to 2023.



Some of the committee members during yesterday’s session.

Upholding The Integrity Of Kenyan Examinations: A Collective Duty

By: Dr. Paul K. Wanjohi
@themtkenyatimes

Examinations are the backbone of any education system, and Kenya is no exception. They serve as the benchmark against which we measure the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our students. However, the credibility of these examinations is under constant scrutiny. In this column, I want to emphasize the urgent need to preserve the integrity of examinations in Kenya, highlighting that this responsibility is shared by all Kenyans, irrespective of their age or economic status.

Why does the credibility of examinations matter so much?

First and foremost, credible examinations ensure fairness and equal opportunities. Every student, regardless of their background or circumstances, should have an equal chance to succeed. When examinations are compromised, it undermines the trust in the education system and perpetuates inequality. Those with resources or connections may gain an unfair advantage, creating a deeply unjust playing field. Furthermore, credible examinations motivate students to strive for academic excellence. The pursuit of knowledge and skills is at the heart of education, and credible exams are vital in recognizing and rewarding genuine efforts. When students know that their hard work will be recognized and that cheating won't go unpunished, it drives them to reach their full potential. Moreover, credible examinations are essential for national development. They serve as a yardstick for the quality of education in Kenya. A credible education system produces skilled and knowledgeable citizens, which is crucial for national growth, economic development, and global competitiveness.

What are the threats to examination credibility?

Examination cheating and malpractice, including leakages, impersonation, and bribery, are significant threats to the credibility of examinations in Kenya. These activities erode the meritocratic principles upon which our education system is built. Corruption within the examination process, involving officials responsible for setting and administering exams, is another severe threat. It compromises the integrity of the entire education system and erodes public trust.



Dr. Paul K. Wanjohi .

Advancements in technology have also introduced new avenues for examination fraud, such as online cheating and hacking. These challenges require continuous vigilance and adaptation in examination security measures.

How can we ensure credible examinations?

- Ensuring credible examinations is a collective responsibility:
1. Education Institutions: Schools, colleges, and universities must prioritize maintaining high standards of academic integrity. This includes implementing strict anti-cheating measures, conducting thorough investigations into any allegations of malpractice, and fostering a culture of honesty and responsibility among students.
 2. Government and Regulatory Bodies: Government agencies and regulatory bodies, such as the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), must take proactive steps to prevent examination malpractice. This includes investing in secure examination logistics, implementing technology-based security measures, and prosecuting those involved in cheating and corruption.
 3. Parents and Guardians: Parents and guardians play a crucial role in instilling values of honesty and responsibility in their children. They should also discourage any involvement in cheating or unethical practices related to examinations.
 4. Civil Society and the Media: Civil society organizations and the media have a vital role in holding institutions accountable and raising awareness about the importance of credible examinations. Their watchdog function can help expose corruption and malpractice.
 5. Students and the Youth: Students must understand that cheating not only undermines their own future but also jeopardizes the future of the nation. They should be encouraged to report any instances of malpractice they encounter.

In conclusion, the credibility of examinations in Kenya is a matter of national importance. It is a responsibility that falls upon all Kenyans, regardless of age or economic status. Upholding the integrity of examinations is essential for ensuring fairness, academic excellence, and national development. Let us unite to combat examination malpractice and corruption, safeguarding the future of our education system and our beloved nation.

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Should Our Leaders Take A Psychological Evaluation?



By: Daseta Gray

MA. Certified Infant/Toddler Specialist

As I scroll through my Facebook, Tick-Tock, Instagram, and my WhatsApp that has been flooded with information from the different groups that I either joined or were placed in. Let's not forget YouTube that has a numerous small TV channels. For the past couple months all these mediums have been focused on the motherland but West Africa in particular. The information is being presented from an African perspective which is great. They are focused on leadership or the lack thereof.

It has been raining for the past two days and I decided to stay inside. As I sat here, I reflected on the different opinions, events and facts that my brain has been exposed to via these mediums. I asked myself what appears to be the real reason for some of the vacuum in leadership on our continent? I think it is the style, personality and lack of empathy by too many of the leaders.

In this article I will start a conversation. I will share the definition of leadership. I will discuss two leadership styles and personality traits of leaders. The long term impact of early relationships and leadership.

Etymology dictionary: 1821, "position of a leader, command," from leader + -ship. Sense extended by late 19c. to "characteristics necessary to be a leader, capacity to lead." also from 1821

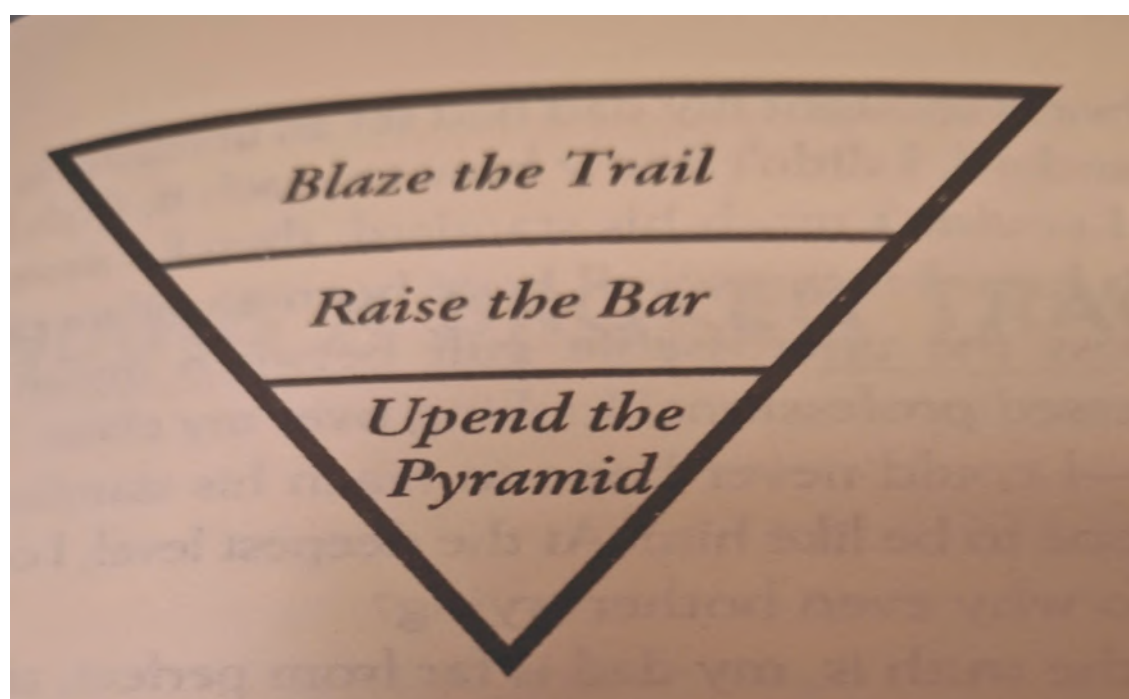
Transformational- transactional leadership

According to Bernard M. Bass (1997) they conducted research and they gathered information from all continents except Antarctica. They have concluded that leaders who are transformational are usually action orientated and they move followers ahead and do not focus on their self-interest instead they focus on the group's interest, organization or the society. This conclusion can be extended to leadership in all categories starting at home. Bernard calls this the new leadership style. He states that this new leadership style doesn't replace the exchanges of enforcements by leaders that are contingent to followers. Transformational leadership, elevates followers, motivates them, gives them a sense of self-worth and transformation leaders extend empathy.

One usually hears this question: are leaders born or can they be made? The idea that heredity has to do with leadership has been researched (rose,1995). They studies 100 sets of monozygotic and dizygotic twins and have concluded that monozygotic twins were much more alike than dizygotic twins.

The next observation is that knowledge of work will dominate the 21st century. This will require leadership that is visionary, enabling, empowering others. This calls for leadership that is open minded, do not keep malice. This kind of leadership must be mature and must be able to rise above a reward and punishment relationship with opposing views.

Transformational Bass (1997) suggested that when leaders practice transformational-transactional leadership



The serving leader upend the triangle.

"they engage in moral uplifting of followers". In a transaction philosophy people squabble for position, however in a transformational practice people share common goals, rules and regulations are practiced and adaptability is a major characteristic of the organization (Avolio & Bass).

Bass (1997) states that since 1980, most of the research that has been done has shown that the best styles of leadership are transactional and transformational. Although they both can be affected by contingencies, however it will be small

Personality traits in transformational-transactional leadership

Research was done that looked at the personality traits of transformational leadership and transactional styles. They looked at the behaviors and how they are able to influence their followers. The trait theory does not assume that traits will ensure leadership success. It focuses on qualities that differentiate leaders from their followers (Bateman & Snell, 1999).

The research on personality traits that is associated with these two type of leaders supports the conceptualization of leadership style in terms of behavior and the nature of the influencing process, the latter consisting of visionary and an interpersonal component. A focus on organizational change, a greater degree of risk taking, a tendency to be proactive, the use of more planning (futuristic) and innovative characteristic problem solving (Rene van Eeden, 200) problem solving compatible.

The serving leader

Serving leaders upend the pyramid and reach down and help to bring people up. Serving leaders manage his or her ego. The best project is done through team work because there is no "I" in team. The leader turns the pyramid on its head to serve others (Ken Jennings John

Stahl-Wert (2003). When one is able to manage their personal ego in check self-esteem you will be able to help others to build their self-esteem and self-confidence then you will be able to unbank their fire. When people are comfortable with their leader they perform better on your team. Serving leaders raise the expectations of their team members by having confidence in them. Serving leaders build teaching organizations to create excellence at every level. Leaders who teach become consistent in their own performance: leaders learn to introspect, to articulate their knowledge and improve their consistency. Serving leaders remove obstacle so others can succeed. (Ken Jennings & John Stahl-Wert (2003). Serving leaders blaze trails. Just like a teacher, the serving leader builds on individual strength

Early relationships are the key to adult interactions and how they see the world and themselves in it. For many of our leaders in the motherland one wonders what kind of early relationships they experienced. Early experience is the food for building the brain: it directly influences the architecture of the brain. There is a ton of knowledge and evidence that shows much of what gets in the way of functioning successful later in life can be traced back to the very early years of missed lessons, under developed skills and all the experience that shapes the brain (J. Roland Lally (2013).

You may be wondering why I am adding early childhood years to a leadership discussion? The early experiences shape your brain development, your social mirror, how you treat others, how you see yourself in the world and the type of adult that you will become. Leaders' early years impact their leadership style also.

Research shows that the first 2000 days (0-5yrs) of experience stays with you for life. By the age of three the

brain is 85% developed and fully developed by age 5 it recalls all experiences. When infants become adults their brain operates on the foundations structured during those early years. Even later in life, when an adult brain is called upon to process sophisticated information in a high functioning manner it will depend on the foundational structures developed in childhood to process the information. (J. Ronald Lally 2003)

The most distinguishing trait of visionary leaders is that they believe in a goal that benefits not just themselves, but the whole group. Visionary leaders feel that they have a personal calling to make changes that are larger than themselves. These leaders strive to do their best. Visionary leaders help people to develop themselves in so doing the community benefits. Visionary leaders have a calling to build a better world. (Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi 2003)

I do believe that Leaders should be chosen based on their leadership style and their personality. We also need to investigate their experiences during their early childhood years. Too many leaders behave like bullies on the playground where they only look out for themselves and their immediate circle. They disassociate themselves, they show no empathy for their society. They plunder the resources as if it belongs to them.

Is it possible that these leaders may have experienced negative attachment with their caregivers during infancy early childhood years? Have they developed a narcissistic personality based on these experiences? Could it be that their frontal lobe is not developed? If you find the answers, drop the editor a line. Let's continue to expand this conversation.

You can also send me an email: SabreeEdgambia@gmail.com

Worth Noting:

- According to Bernard M. Bass (1997) they conducted research and they gathered information from all continents except Antarctica. They have concluded that leaders who are transformational are usually action orientated and they move followers ahead and do not focus on their self-interest instead they focus on the group's interest, organization or the society.
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SPORTS
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Sports >> *Worldmarathon record holder Eliud Kipchoge has now shifted his focus to next yearsOlympics Games in Paris, France after winning his fifth Berlin Marathon onSunday.

Kipchoge Shifts Focus To Paris Olympics After Another Historic Feat In Berlin



Athletics - Berlin Marathon - Berlin, Germany - September 25, 2022 Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge celebrates as he wins the Berlin Marathon and breaks the World Record REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch.

By **John Kyanda**

Worldmarathon record holder Eliud Kipchoge has now shifted his focus to next yearsOlympics Games in Paris, France after winning his fifth Berlin Marathon onSunday.

Kipchogeclocked 2:02:42 to retain his title, extending his Berlin Marathon wins and surpassing-legendary Haile Gebrselassie's

record of four titles at the Berlin capital andnow he has set his sight for a record third consecutive Olympic gold medal.

For now I amgoing back to get some rest before I start preparing for the Olympics which Iam really looking forward to, said Kipchoge.

The two-timeOlympic champion was also impressed with the performances of compatriots-

Vincent Kipkemoi who finished second on his marathon debut and Ronald Korir who placed fourth.

It means wehave very good athletes in Kenya and with this great pool of talent all we needto do is nurture them and make sure they succeed in future, added Kipchoge.

The 38-year-oldalso thanked Kenyan fans who turned out in

large numbers in the streets of-Berlin and different parts of the country to cheer them saying that spiritreally keeps them going.

They showedus some real patriotism and we all know how sports has united and helped the-country so it was a nice gesture and we are truly humbled, he stated.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Mauricio Pochettino has pleaded for more time as he scrambles for solutions to Chelsea's mounting crisis. But how patient will the owners be?

Chelsea Crisis: Is Time Already Running Out For Pochettino?



Chelsea's Argentinian head coach Mauricio Pochettino looks on during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge in London on September 24, 2023. (Photo by Ian Kington / AFP).

By AFP

Mauricio Pochettino has pleaded for more time as he scrambles for solutions to Chelsea's mounting crisis. But how patient will the owners be?

The Blues, European champions only two years ago, are a lowly 14th in the Premier League table, just four points above the relegation zone, after one win in their first six matches.

Their latest setback was a 1-0 defeat against Aston Villa on Sunday, with Ollie Watkins scoring the winner after the dismissal of Chelsea defender Malo Gusto.

Last year, Chelsea mustered their lowest points tally of the Premier League era but they have made an even more dire start to the current campaign.

"Give me time," Pochettino pleaded after Sunday's match, urging the club's American owners to back him.

"They (the owners) are disappointed, they arrived at the club and are so excited to build a project.

"Of course they feel disappointed

but at the same time they need to support the plan."

Pochettino was confirmed as the new man in the Stamford Bridge hot seat in May -- becoming the third permanent boss since Todd Boehly's consortium bought the west London club from Roman Abramovich in 2022.

Chelsea hailed the Argentine as a "winning coach, who has worked at the highest levels".

Boehly backed his manager by bankrolling another huge spending spree during the summer transfer window, taking Chelsea's outlay on new players in just over a year beyond £1 billion (\$1.2 billion).

But the return on their investment has been pitiful during a period of churn and upheaval on and off the pitch.

- Goal-shy Chelsea -

Chelsea have mustered just five goals in their first six league matches -- and three of those came in the 3-0 win against newly promoted Luton.

They have failed to score in 13 Premier League matches in 2023 -- more than any other side.

The frustrated Pochettino bemoaned his team's lack of luck in the Villa defeat, saying the only thing missing was goals.

"We need to be aware about what is going on but in some way we need to be calm because the team is creating, the team is alive, the team is fighting every single action," he said.

Pochettino can point to a lengthy injury list as a partial explanation for Chelsea's blunt attack.

He lost France forward Christopher Nkunku to a serious knee injury in a pre-season friendly, but others including Mykhailo Mudryk, Nicolas Jackson, Raheem Sterling and Cole Palmer have failed to deliver.

The former Tottenham and Paris Saint-Germain boss will be painfully aware that Chelsea are not a patient club -- the hire-and-fire culture of the Abramovich era persists under Boehly's leadership.

Chelsea sacked Thomas Tuchel in the early weeks of last season, and Graham Potter suffered the same fate in April, axed after less than seven months in charge when the club were 11th in the table.

Pochettino enhanced his reputation during his five-year stint at Tottenham, subsequently taking charge at PSG, where he won the Ligue 1 title.

However, he failed to meet PSG's primary goal of winning the Champions League, leaving his managerial CV still relatively light on silverware compared with some of his Premier League counterparts.

Next up for Chelsea are in-form Brighton, who travel to Stamford Bridge on Wednesday for a League Cup third round tie.

They then face local rivals Fulham in the Premier League, with matches looming against Arsenal, Tottenham and champions Manchester City.

The Villa fans delighted in the discomfort of the Chelsea boss at the weekend, chanting that he would be "sacked in the morning".

There are no signs that the club hierarchy are preparing to pull the trigger yet, but they may feel compelled to act soon unless there is a dramatic improvement.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

Backpage



The Queens Of Our Happiness Castle

By: Suvonova Rukhsora

@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Every person always has beautiful verses and heart strings dedicated to his mother. Only they are hidden deep in the heart. Of course, not all of us are brave enough to show it. But we don't even know why. For example, we are ashamed to tell our mother what we feel.
- There are thousands of poets and writers, and the subject of their most popular masterpieces is also mothers. The theme of the masterpieces that are read with thousands of tears is also about mothers. Many movies that are watched with tears in the eyes are made about mothers.
- The reason for this is that we have only seen some of the things done by those who love them.



Suvonova Rukhsora .

Beautiful things in life will be unique. The value of unique things cannot be measured in gold. If it were measured, the world's wealth would not be enough. Life has gifted a person with such a unique gift called mother. We talk a lot about mothers, we say a lot of lines. But one thing, only one thing, it still hurts that we can't show the love in the depths of our hearts with words. If only we could explain these feelings to our mother. Sometimes there is no need to explain. Are not our mothers who understand us through our eyes?

They are our loving ones who never think about themselves, who only think about us since we were born. They are also our angels who comfort our hearts even if we cry. They are the ones in Shakhreizoda who never get tired of telling fairy tales "One Thousand and One Nights" without having to fly like a propeller in our head if we talk without sleep. No matter what happens in their lives, they are our treasure that we have given to our world. Our true happiness is our mothers, who hide

the pains that they could not understand as children under the words "it seems like dust has entered my eyes".

Every person always has beautiful verses and heart strings dedicated to his mother. Only they are hidden deep in the heart. Of course, not all of us are brave enough to show it. But we don't even know why. For example, we are ashamed to tell our mother what we feel. There are thousands of poets and writers, and the subject of their most popular masterpieces is also mothers. The theme of the masterpieces that are read with thousands of tears is also about mothers. Many movies that are watched with tears in the eyes are made about mothers. The reason for this is that we have only seen some of the things done by those who love them. When what we see or hear is one of the millions of kindnesses done to us. However, even then, the millions of remaining parts of their courage that are only visible to us scratch our insides. I wish we could reveal these feats. I wish we could fulfill all the desires of our mothers

to please them. Wish...

Even if our loved ones remind us of the good deeds they have done, our heavenly mothers do not even remember a sleepless night. Even if his hands are tired from work, he will never let us get tired of work. Even if his ears don't see a gold earring, he brings up our children without any trouble. If we cough, they will cry again in a thousand and one pains. Even if they forget their dreams, they will be a dream for our dreams and a ladder for our goals. Maybe that's why they say that only mothers' love is ungrateful. They are unable to fit into the world with the small achievement of their child. They rejoice as if they have received a world of happiness even for our insignificant gift. Sometimes, something breaks our hearts. Everyone was able to appreciate the value of this kindness. Has Bedor been paid for his past nights? We understand that we hurt our mother a lot due to our carelessness and cheerfulness. However, some of us have managed to receive the prayers of our devotees. We are busy with the riches and endless worries of this world, and have we not forgotten that we are the cause of all the gray hairs. They say fate leads everyone everywhere. Someone is content with this world, and someone is a claimant to heaven. But will we truly be able to receive the prayers of our mother, the true queen of our paradise, our presence in life, the white and black of our eyes, the castle of happiness, and live under her love? We pay a lot of attention to make our life heaven, but are we aware of the condition of our mother, who has heaven under her feet? We may still have time to investigate.

We don't know that mothers are always ready to sacrifice their lives for their children. Sometimes we are so overwhelmed that we forget about the tasks that we need to do. We are left with chores to do, and we live deceived by worldly riches. After all, our mothers died for us, didn't they? Aren't our mothers who join us in tears when we cry? Unfortunately, we will never realize that heaven is not under the feet of mothers. Even if we understand, we understand too late. We are regretting when they are not with us. In fact, it would not be enough if we build a thousand and

one Tajmahal for our mothers, who want to be followed by angels, who have the power to amaze the world with their intelligence and potential, and whose courage is unmatched like Tumaris?

No matter how old we are, even if we are the grandparents of many children and grandchildren, we are still the owners of those tiny little girls who have not yet learned how to tie a bow tie for our mother. When we fell down from the street and covered our knees with blood, when we heard a call from our father, our mother was our shield ready to protect us. Mothers are always willing to do anything for their children. The softness and calmness of the spring flowers may have been modeled on the warmth of their hearts. Even the palaces decorated with gold seem to be shining like silver from the mother's taffeta like the sun. The beauty of nature is like an example of the time when they are shying away to meet the day. Perhaps the glitter of the rainbow is also a reflection of mothers' love. It's as if the rushing waters of the river hurt our mothers' quiet hearts. Perhaps, Allah created the beauty of nature by comparing it to the hearts of mothers. The greatness of the mountains is as great as the cloth of our mothers, perhaps. Yes, the real paradise is always with us.

As a conclusion of our speech, we should say that if words had the ability to speak, would your child have told you what was going on from her heart? After all, only you, mother, are the mirror of our hearts. Your children, who make excuses for reasons without reason, will only enjoy the shadow of your love. Your warm face brings comfort to our dark hearts. Your words are equal to gold, and your greatness is higher than the worlds. Heaven is under your feet, so that we, your children, may be the soil under your feet. If you want, let us put the worlds at your feet. If you want, let's build a castle between day and night. But our only wish is that you will always be our bird of happiness above our heads, MOM.

Suvonova Rukhsora is a Student at UrSU