Gov't Hints At Possibility Of Del Monte Ceding More Land

The government has hinted at the possibility of Del Monte Company Ltd ceding more of its unused land to pave way for development projects and resettlement of victims of historical injustices by the company.

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The
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Creative Rewards

Daily ePAPER

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News>>King Charles III Starts His Kenya Visit As Calls For Colonial Apology Intensify

P. 8. "The King and Queen (Camilla) are on their way to Kenya for a four-day visit which will take in the best of the country

Motivation>>Inclusivity And Awareness To Bring Forth Hidden Persons Living With Disability In Trans Nzoia

P. 12. Persons living with disability (PWDs) have called upon the society to stop stigmatization and discrimination against the minority group in the country.

Kenya Sets Up First Smartphone Assembling Plant In East Africa

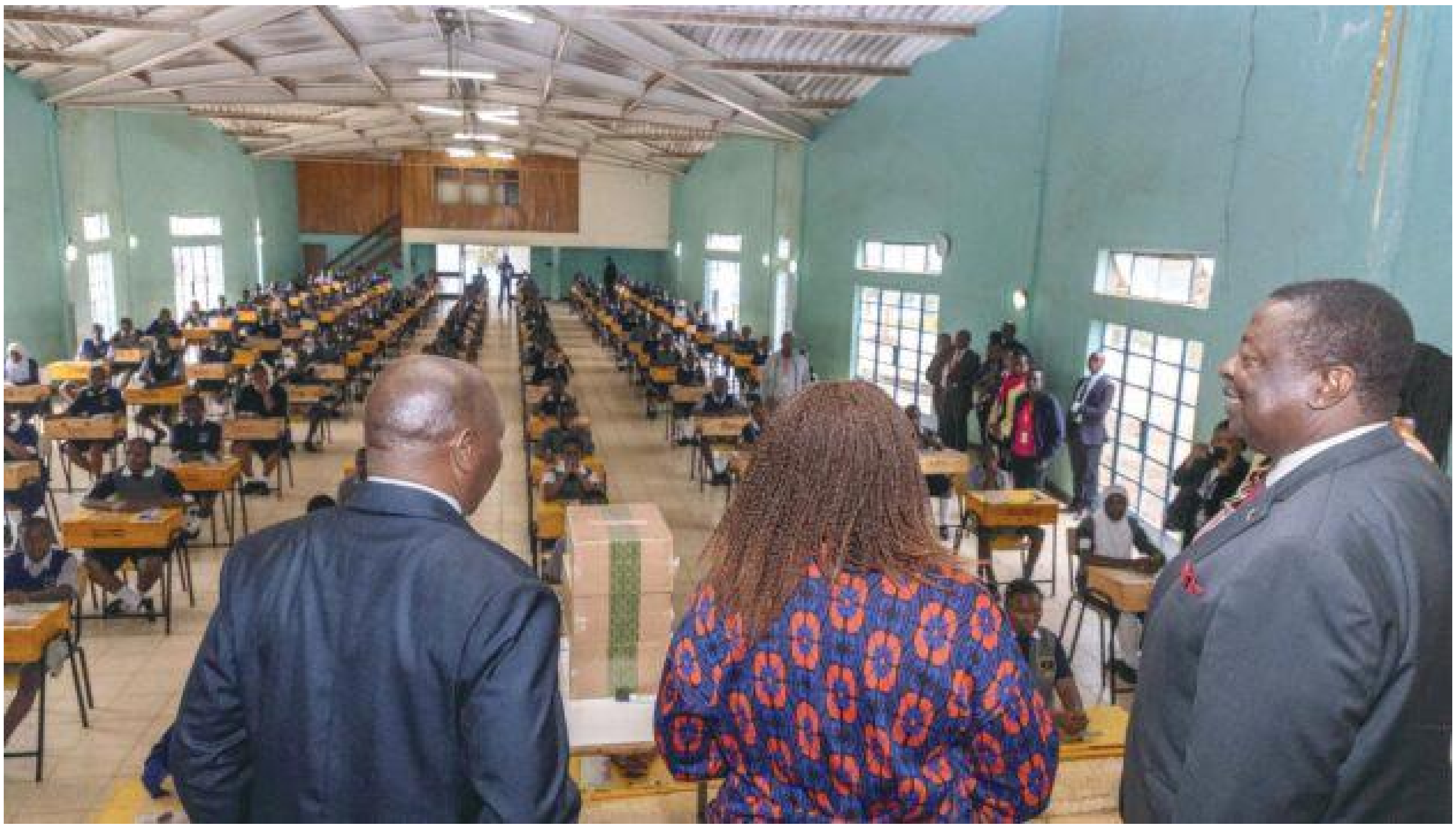
The government will prioritise the production of affordable smart devices to boost digital access. President William Ruto said the move will expose Kenyans to broader and better opportunities. He noted that going digital on a large-scale will spur the country's growth.

President William Ruto

STORY ON PAGE 9

Let Us Work Towards Striking Balance Between The Public, Private Sectors In Education, Mudavadi Says

By: Capital Correspondent



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi (Right)

Worth Noting:

- **Mudavadi who was speaking at St Georges Primary School in Nairobi County during the monitoring of KCPE and KPSEA examinations note that striking a balance between the public and private sector will help improve the standards of education in the country.**
- **"We need to look at how we can offer equal opportunities to all learners. This will help in creating an even society where every child feels accommodated." he stated.**

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi has said the government will be looking into ways of increasing public primary and secondary schools to ease the pressure being subjected to parents who cannot afford Private Schools fees.

Mudavadi says the number of public schools is far below the expected number to cater for the increasing school going population in the country.

"We need to look for ways of investing more in public schools across the country. When you look at the statistics, the public schools are very few, yet a lot of pressure is mounted on them to absorb numbers that they can't manage." he said.

"We appreciate the role being played by the private schools in the country. What we should be looking at is how to create that synergy between the public and the private sectors in education." he added.

Mudavadi who was speaking at St Georges Primary School in Nairobi County during the monitoring of KCPE and KPSEA examinations note that striking a balance between the public and private sector will help improve the standards of education in the country.

"We need to look at how we can offer equal opportunities to all learners. This will help in creating an even society where every child feels accommodated." he stated.

Lauding the education stakeholders that have been involved in the preparation and administering of the 2023 national examinations, Mudavadi said this years' exams must uphold the highest standards of integrity and the results should give a reflection that is beyond reproach.

He said the objectivity being subjected by the supervisors and the invigilators should translate to a seamless exercise across board.

"I have been briefed on the logistics that have been involved in the preparation of this years' examinations, and I want Kenyans to appreciate the level of commitment and hard work that the stakeholders in the education sector have put in to ensure the success of this exercise." he said.

"We want to acknowledge the multi-agency approach involved in this years' examinations. From the teachers, the security agents and any other institutions involved, it has shown how working together yields positive results." added Mudavadi.

Mudavadi said it is symbolic to see how the government is taking the education matters seriously saying that under President William Ruto, the education sector has received immense support from the budgetary allocation.

"The government injected up to 600 billion in the education sector in the 2023/2024 budget, being one of the highest allocation to a single sector in the recent past. This shows how serious the government is taking matters education." said Mudavadi.

This years' examinations will see only contracted professionals being allowed at the examination centres.

A total of 1,202, 574 candidates are sitting for KPSEA and 1,415,315 are sitting for KCPE.

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.
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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

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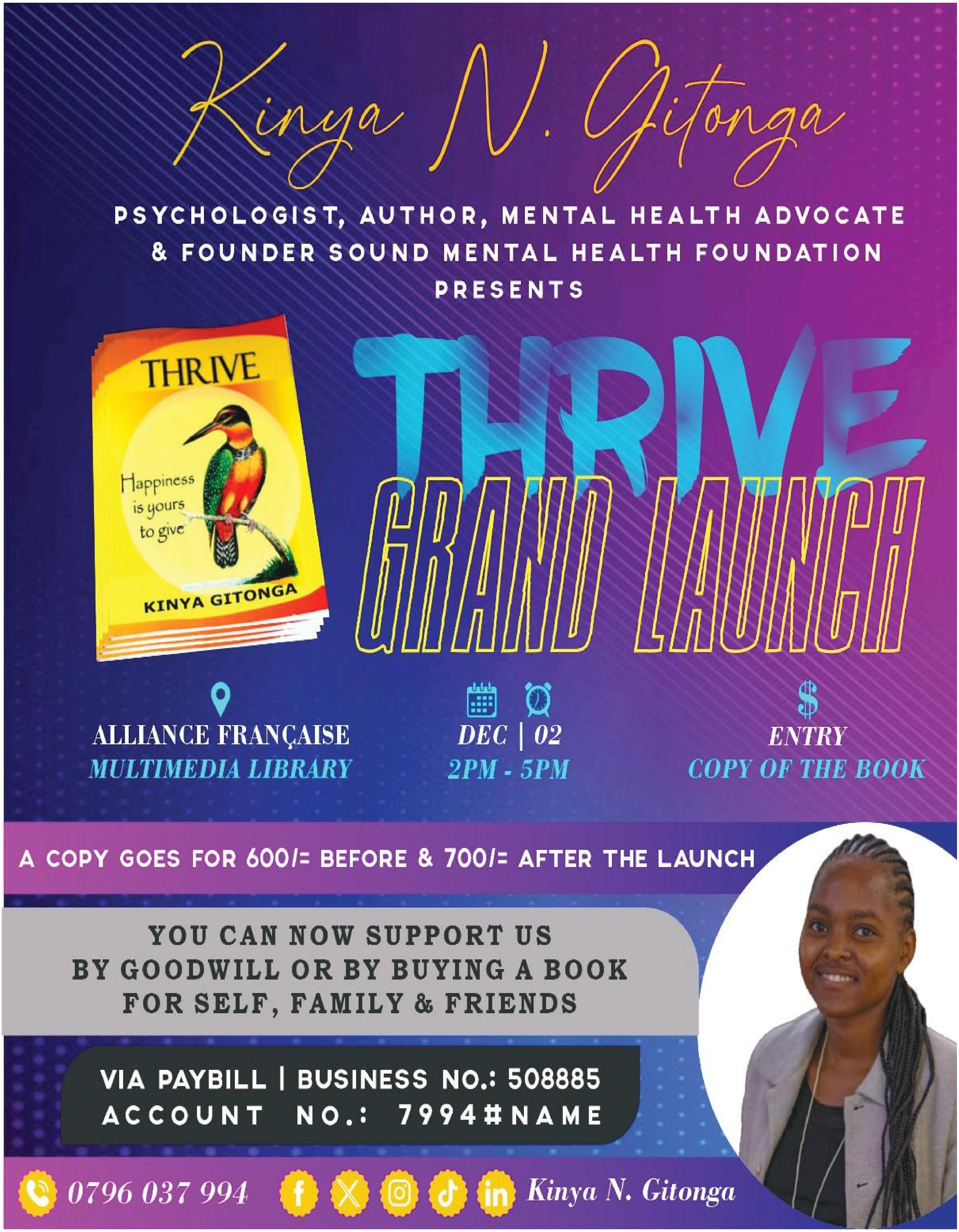
NEWS IN BRIEF

The National Gun Owners Association of Kenya (NGAO) held a ladies-only shooting competition, “The Pink Target,” to raise funds for breast cancer patients. The event, held at the NGAO shooting range in Kirigiti, Kiambu County, attracted participants from various sectors, including media, politicians, and corporations. The event included various shooting categories, including bullseye shooting with 9mm pistols, pistol carbines, and shotguns. The event aimed to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people battling breast cancer and encouraged collaboration and collective action to combat the disease. The Pink Target Guild called for future fundraisers to benefit the needy in society.

The Department of Environment and Waste Management in Kiambu County, led by Governor Kimani Wamatangi, has led a monthly cleanup exercise in Ruiru to address environmental issues. The exercise aimed to educate people, particularly the youth, on waste management and promote local action. The initiative, “My Environment My Responsibility,” was launched to train residents in environmental conservation and reclaim the environment. The clean-up programme included garbage collection, drainage unclogging, road and market cleaning, weed clearing, and planting grass, flowers, and trees. Residents expressed satisfaction with the collaborative efforts and urged the county government to provide dustbins for waste collection. The initiative aims to ensure cleanliness in all Kiambu Sub-counties.

The Catholic Diocese of Murang’a is planting 600,000 trees to mark Diocesan Environment Month. Bishop James Maria Wainaina emphasised the importance of environmental conservation due to unpredictable climatic conditions in recent years. He emphasised the benefits of trees on Earth, such as combating climate change, enhancing air quality, slowing down heavy rains, reducing flooding, preventing excessive heat, and removing carbon from the atmosphere. The bishop also urged Kenyans to join the diocese by taking advantage of the rainfall and growing more trees to ensure environmental conservation. He also challenged stakeholders on environmental matters in Kenya and globally to develop modern environmental conservation ideas to mitigate environmental degradation. The diocese’s efforts are part of a wider effort to create a peaceful, healthy, and friendly environment. The planting of 600,000 trees will be planned in all 54 parishes in Kirinyaga and Murang’a counties.

Jehovah’s Witnesses has inaugurated a new Kenyan Sign Language (KSL) translation office in Buruburu, Nairobi. The Kingdom Hall, a meeting place used by the Witnesses for years, has been refurbished with a recording booth, stable internet, and an alternate power source to address frequent blackouts. The facility offers collaborative work space and accommodation for five volunteers. The construction of the Translation Office began in March 2021 and was completed in July 2022, signalling the arrival of a team of KSL translators. Adjacent to the KSL translation area is a Kingdom Hall, where weekly Bible study meetings are held free of charge. The location of the office is strategic, as many deaf people live in the surrounding areas. The Witnesses have been translating Bible-based publications into KSL since 2010, and translation teams worldwide have produced and distributed numerous video publications in around 100 sign languages, which are available online at jw.org.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PSYCHOLOGIST, AUTHOR, MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE
& FOUNDER SOUND MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION
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Presidential Task Force Announces Ambitious Plans for the Modernization and Transformation of Government Press

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Digitization and Automation: One of the central pillars of the plan is the digitization of Government Press operations. This will streamline the production process, reduce costs, and enable faster and more efficient dissemination of information.**
- **Enhanced Commercial Viability: The Task Force aims to make the Government Press a self-sustaining entity. This includes exploring new revenue streams, such as commercial printing services, while maintaining its core role in disseminating official government information.**

In a significant step towards enhancing government communication and efficiency, the Presidential Task Force has unveiled a comprehensive plan for the modernization and transformation of the Government Press into a highly performing, commercially viable entity.

The Government Press, a critical component of government communication, has long been in need of modernization and transformation to meet the demands of the digital age and improve its commercial viability. The Presidential Task Force, has taken on the challenge of revamping this essential institution.

Key Highlights of the Plan:

1. Digitization and Automation: One of the central pillars of the plan is the digitization of Government Press operations. This will streamline the production process, reduce costs, and enable faster and more efficient dissemination of information.
2. Enhanced Commercial Viability: The Task Force aims to make the Government Press a self-sustaining entity. This includes exploring new revenue streams, such as commercial printing services, while maintaining its core role in disseminating official government information.
3. Modern Infrastructure: The plan outlines significant investments in upgrading the infrastructure of the Government Press, including state-of-the-art printing and publishing equipment.
4. Skilled Workforce: To meet the demands of modern communication, the Task Force emphasizes the importance of a skilled and adaptable workforce. Training programs will be implemented to ensure that employees are proficient in new technologies and practices.
5. Streamlined Processes: The Government Press will implement more efficient processes to reduce waste and optimize resource utilization.
6. Improved Access to Information: The Task Force plans to create user-friendly platforms for citizens to access government publications and information, furthering transparency and accountability.
7. Public-Private Partnerships: Collaboration with private sector organizations will be encouraged to harness the expertise and resources available in the commercial printing industry.

Mr Nzomu Kithuka .

The Vice chair of the organization Mr Nzomu Kithuka in expressed confidence in the Task Force's ability to carry out this crucial transformation. "The modernization of the Government Press is vital to ensuring that the government communicates effectively with the public and other stakeholders. This transformation will not only improve efficiency but also contribute to the economic development of our country."

The Presidential Task Force's plan for the modernization and transformation of the Government Press represents a significant step towards a more efficient, commercially viable, and transparent government communication system. It holds the promise of enhancing government services and strengthening the nation's economic landscape.

As the Task Force moves forward with the implementation of its plan, the public and stakeholders will be closely watching the progress and the positive impact it will have on government communication and efficiency.


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King Charles III Starts His Kenya Visit As Calls For Colonial Apology Intensify

By: AGENCIES

King Charles III .

Worth Noting:

- It was there in 1952 that Charles's mother — the late Queen Elizabeth II — learned of the death of her father, King George VI, marking the start of her historic 70-year reign.
- Charles and Camilla officially kick off the visit on Tuesday, when they will be welcomed by Kenyan President William Ruto.
- During two days in the capital Nairobi, Charles will meet entrepreneurs, young Kenyans and participate in a state banquet.
- He will also visit a new museum dedicated to the East African nation's history and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Uhuru Gardens, where Kenya declared independence in December 1963.

"The King and Queen (Camilla) are on their way to Kenya for a four-day visit which will take in the best of the country, from its young tech entrepreneurs and creatives to its beautiful forests and coastline," Buckingham Palace said on X, formerly Twitter.

However, much of the focus ahead of the trip has been on colonial rule, with the palace saying Charles is expected to tackle "the more painful aspects" of its historic relationship with Kenya.

This will include the "Emergency" of 1952-1960, when colonial authorities imposed a state of emergency in response to the Mau Mau guerrilla campaign against European settlers.

About 10,000 people — mainly from the Kikuyu tribe — were killed during the crackdown.

The royal visit comes as Kenya prepares to celebrate 60 years of independence from Britain in December.

The choice of Kenya for his first visit to a Commonwealth nation since becoming king in September last year has special resonance for the royal family.

It was there in 1952 that Charles's mother — the late Queen Elizabeth II — learned of the death of her father, King George VI, marking the start of her historic 70-year reign.

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He will also visit a new museum dedicated to the East African nation's history and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Uhuru Gardens, where Kenya declared independence in December 1963.

The king and queen will then travel to the Indian Ocean port city of Mombasa, where they will visit a nature reserve and meet representatives of various religions.

'Unequivocal apology'

Although Kenya's government has said talks will focus on environmental issues, technology, innovation and women's empowerment, demands for an apology have dominated public discourse in recent days.

On Sunday, the Kenya Human Rights Commission urged Charles to make an "unequivocal public apology" and pay reparations for abuses committed by colonial authorities.

"We call upon the King on behalf of the British government to issue an unconditional and unequivocal public apology (as opposed to the very cautious, self-preserving and protective statements of regrets) for the brutal and inhuman treatment inflicted on Kenyan citizens," it said.

According to Buckingham Palace, Charles "will take time during the visit to deepen his understanding of the wrongs suffered in this period by the people of Kenya".

Following a years-long court battle, Britain agreed in 2013 to compensate more than 5,000 Kenyans who had suffered abuse during the Mau Mau revolt, in a deal worth nearly 20 million pounds ($25 million at today's rates).

Each claimant received around 2,600 pounds after legal costs were deducted.

At the time, then foreign secretary William Hague said Britain "sincerely regrets" the abuses but stopped short of a full apology.

'Save the Commonwealth'

Another lingering source of tension is the presence of British troops in Kenya.

In August, Kenya's parliament launched an inquiry into the activities of the British army, which has a base on the outskirts of Nanyuki, a town about 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of Nairobi.

Charles will not be going to Nanyuki during this trip, his fourth to Kenya.

Britain's Daily Mail newspaper has billed Kenya as "the first stop" on Charles's "mission to save the Commonwealth".

More than a dozen nations out of the Commonwealth grouping of 56 countries still recognise the UK monarch as head of state.

But clamour to become a republic is growing among some, including Jamaica and Belize, with Barbados making the switch in 2021.

"The late Queen was very much connected to the Commonwealth," said Poppy Cullen, African history lecturer at the University of Cambridge.

"And I imagine that the British government will be keen that the king sort of does something similar to try and raise its profile or keep it together."

The royal trip comes 40 years after Elizabeth's state visit to Kenya in November 1983.

Production Of Local Smart Devices To Drive Digital Growth

By: PCS

The government will prioritise the production of affordable smart devices to boost digital access.

President William Ruto said the move will expose Kenyans to broader and better opportunities.

He noted that going digital on a large-scale will spur the country's growth.

"It will also catalyse the actualisation of our development agenda," he explained.

The President made the remarks on yesterday during the opening of the East Africa Device Assembly Kenya in Mavoko, Machakos County.

He also launched locally assembled devices.

Cabinet Secretaries Eliud Owalo (Information, Communication & Digital Economy) and Susan Nakhumicha (Health), Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa, Jamii Telecom CEO Joshua Chepkwony, Safaricom Chief Business Development & Strategy Officer Michael Mutiga were also present.

The President noted that the provision of affordable digital smart devices will no longer just be about mobile telephony and fintech penetration.

"It is also about universal access to goods and services as the driver of our transformation."

President William Ruto (sitted in White coat) being taken through the Phones production process yesterday. Among those looking is Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa (standing right).

Mining Ministry, KNCCI To Jointly Host International Mining Conference In February, 2024

By: Correspondent

Early planning has started in earnest for the preparation of the upcoming International Mining and Investments Conference to be held in Nairobi in February 2024.

Preparatory planning and hosting of the pioneer convention is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs alongside the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) amongst other line ministries and State Departments.

"KNCCI leadership is committed to ensuring the success of the International Mining and Investments Conference. The private sector plays key role to spur development in the mining sector for a meaningful contribution to the GDP of this country. KNCCI with membership in the 47 counties are aligned to grow this sector." KNCCI president Dr. Erick Rutto said shortly after holding meeting with Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya.

The CS hosted Rutto at his office in Nairobi.

The CS expressed commitment to support the private sector to spur development in the country. KNCCI is also pushing for the inclusion of the International Commission on Great Lakes (ICGLR) Private Sector Forum (PSF) in the convention comprising of 12 countries.

Currently, KNCCI is the host of International Commission on Great Lakes (ICGLR) Private Sector Forum and is seeking to capitalize on the regional opportunities to compliment the trade and market linkages in both the East African Region, Great Lakes region and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTFA).

Mining and the Blue Economy sectors have been cited as emerging under exploited sectors with immense resource for national, regional and global development.

On Friday last week, while officiating the official opening of the Voi Gemstone Value Addition and Marketing Centre, in Taita Taveta county, president William Ruto said the that the government has streamlined the mining sector to be the country's key driver of the economy, President William Ruto has said.

The president noted that the revival of the sector remains key to accelerating the processing of construction and industrial minerals, thus contributing to the economic growth of the country.

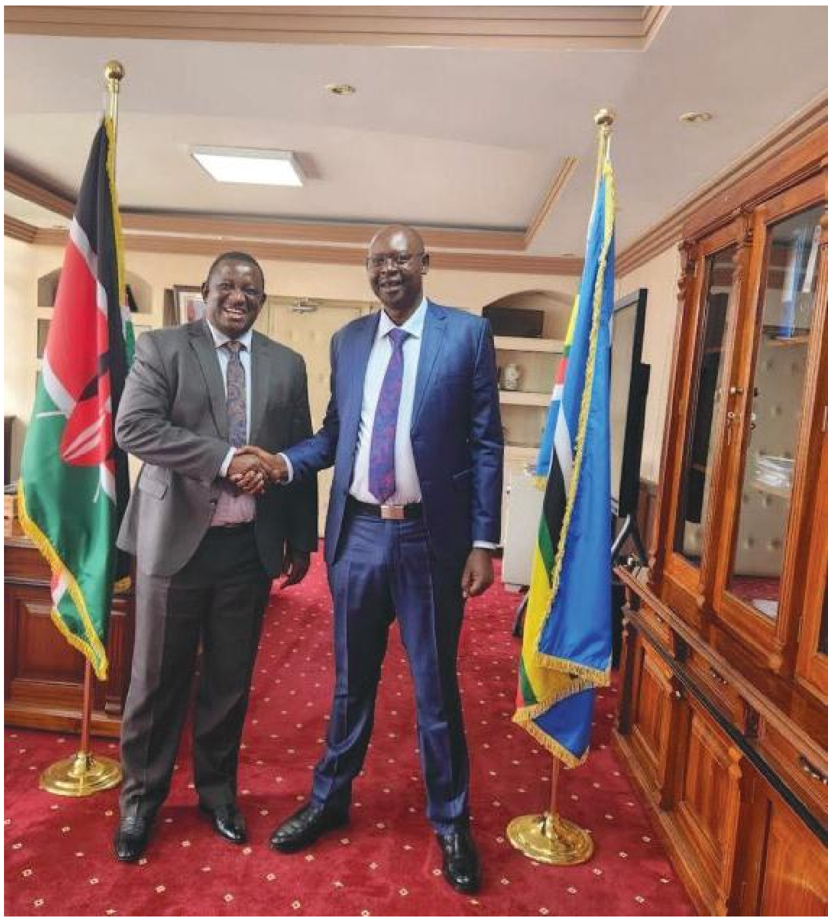
"Our ambition is to transform the contribution of the mining sector and raise it to at least 10 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by implementing a number of measures." The president noted.

He argued that the transformation of the mining and minerals was on the top gear with a view to increasing revenues from the sector.

"After establishing an accurate, transparent and secure inventory of our country's endowments, we have moved to the next step of developing a robust mineral development and value addition policy and regulatory framework." He added.

The Head of State said that in 2019, the revenues from mineral royalties were Sh1.9 billion, saying by June this year, the figure had risen to Sh3.8 billion.

He added that the revenues were expected to reach Sh15 billion by the end of the year, and Sh50billion in the medium-term.



Ministry of Mining CS Salim Mvurya and KNCCI president Dr. Erick Rutto.

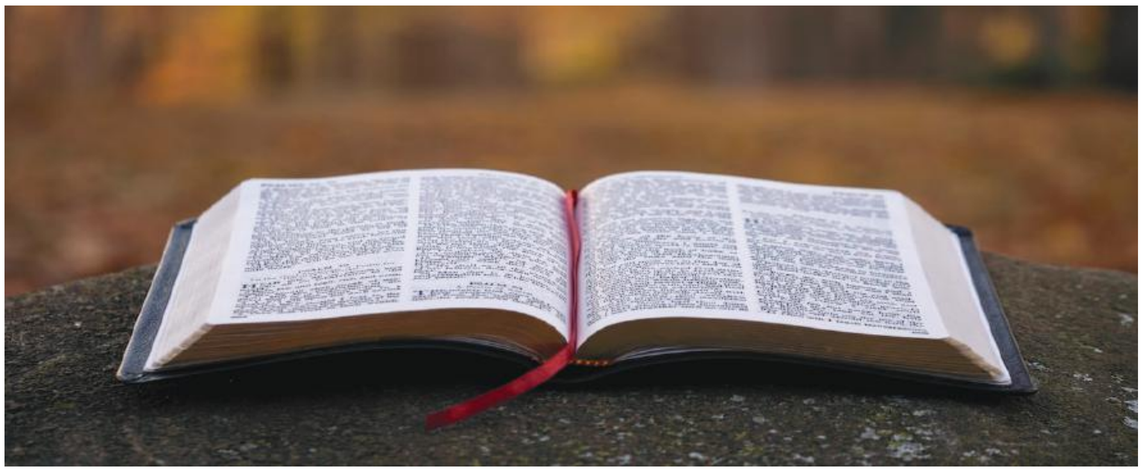
Spiritual Leaders Do Not Necessarily Go Along With The Majority Opinion

By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

We next see Joshua's name in connection with the famous incident of spying out the land in Numbers 13, 14. Moses commissioned twelve spies (one from each tribe) to reconnoiter the Promised Land as a prelude to conquest. Caleb and Joshua were representatives of their respective tribes (13:6, 8). After fortydays of covert inspection, the scouts returned. All agreed that the land was bountiful (13:23, 24).

However, ten of the spies said it could not be conquered because the cities were well-fortified and some of the people were giants (vv. 28, 29). Caleb and Joshua countered by saying almost literally that victory would be a "piece of cake." The Hebrew of 14:9 literally says, "Do not fear the people of the land, for our bread they are" — "Do not worry, it is a piece of bread!" All Israel had to do, the two men insisted, was move in (13:30; 14:9). But the rest of Israel sided with the majority report, and even tried to stone Joshua and Caleb (14:1-10). As a result the people came under God's judgment and would spend forty years wandering in the desert (one year for each of the forty days of spying out the land) until all had become corpses except.

For Joshua(Numbers 13, 14), the lesson was quite clear: the majority is not always right. In fact, it is very often wrong. The men God uses have always stood against the flow — Luther, Knox, Fox, Wilberforce, Booth, Carey, Bonhoeffer. How we need to remember this. Ours is a day when truth is determined by consensus, when justice is struck by a five-four vote, when "everybody is doing it" has become the pervasive rationale for behavior, when Jefferson's fear of the tyranny of the majority is a reality. Spiritual leaders do not necessarily go along with the majority opinion.



Joshua and Caleb stood alone, a common characteristic among good leaders. But the prominent leadership quality we see in their solitary stand is a great faith. They simply believed in the glorious God Joshua glimpsed from afar on Sinai. There was no way they could share the "grasshopper" complex of the other spies, for how could they feel thus when they truly believed in such a great God. Without exception, great spiritual leaders have a faith that towers above their contemporaries. The grammar of their lives is "By faith, by faith, by faith . . ." (see Hebrews 11).

Significantly, it was at this time that Moses changed Joshua's original name Hoshea ("salvation") to Joshua ("Jehovah is salvation") (Numbers 13:16). This is a high leadership name, for Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua. "[Y]ou are to give him the name Jesus," said the angel, "because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

HALELUJAH.

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

Parliamentary Public Debt And Privatization Committee Meets Westminister Foundation For Democracy, Discuss Public Debt Oversight

By: PSCU

The Public Debt and Privatization Committee led by Abdi Shurie of Balambala constituency yesterday met with officials from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), to deliberate on how Parliament can effectively undertake public debt oversight.

This comes at a time when 22 African countries are in debt distress or at high risk; with Kenya, Sierra Leone and Gambia being categorized as high risk.

According Mr. James Muraguri, the CEO of the Institute of Public Finance, more than 30 per cent of budget spending and about 60 per cent of revenue goes to debt servicing.

"The high debt levels have raised the risk of default forcing Kenya to shift to multilateral loans that come with painful conditions," noted Muraguri.

Franklin De Vrieze, WFD Head of Practice, took members through the role of Parliament in public debt programming, which include, debt oversight through the budget cycle by deliberating the pre-budget statement in the formulation stage, and the annual state budget in the approval phase; and Parliamentary ratification of loan agreements, which will deter imprudent borrowing without the appropriate Government accountability.

In addition to that, Parliament would need to regularly update the debt management legal framework, to oversight State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), by advocating for a Public Investments Committee to oversee administration of SOEs, to ensure they are functioning properly and not accumulating debt.

Finally, government should submit an annual borrowing plan and annual debt report to Parliament on debt management and debt management strategy, outlining plans for the upcoming fiscal year, and summarizing the previous year's activities and follow-up audit reports on public debt.

Further, Parliament can enhance transparency and accountability by adopting a single integrated management law, which will provide strategic direction to

Parliamentary Public Debt And Privatization Committee Meets Westminister Foundation

borrowing decisions and specify roles of the institutions involved in debt management.

The committee was also oriented on the dimensions and scope of WFDs Public Debt Management Assessment Toolkit (PDMAT).

Kenya Reaps Big From Ruto's Foreign Travels

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

Worth Noting:

- Recently, President Ruto made yet another high profile official visit to China where he stayed for three days. It was the first since he assumed office.
- Just like his previous visits to European countries, he managed to secure lucrative deals worth Sh63 billion.
- Under this arrangement, China will buy our avocados, tea and other farm produce.
- He also convinced Chinese companies to rollout investments worth Sh644 billions in Kenya.
- This trip came at a time when speculations were rife that he had shunned the East in favor of the West, a narrative peddled by those who cited his numerous visits to the Western capitals.

President William Ruto with European Commissioner for the Environment Virginijus Sinkevičius.

I have in the recent past been hearing questions being raised in some quarters on whether Kenyans were reaping any benefits from President William Ruto's frequent foreign travels.

Weega TV, a Kikuyu station, hosted me a few days ago and this is one of the questions that came up.

My response: Kenya is reaping big from these visits and they were within the mandate bestowed on the President by the constitution.

As the CEO of this nation, the President had no option but to honor the invitations from the heads of states of the developed and rich nations.

After the bilateral talks with his host, he would witness members of his delegation append signatures to various agreements and deals worth billions of shillings. The host will witness members of his team do the same?

This will not happen if the Kenyan President opted to skip the visits.

It is worth noting when President Uhuru Kenyatta ascended to power, he also made similar trips.

Those faulting Dr Ruto today did not raise a finger at the time. This is because Uhuru was their buddy.

Recently, President Ruto made yet another high profile official visit to China where he stayed for three days. It was the first since he assumed office.

Just like his previous visits to European countries, he managed to secure lucrative deals worth Sh63 billion.

Under this arrangement, China will buy our avocados, tea and other farm produce.

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This trip came at a time when speculations were rife that he had shunned the East in favor of the West, a narrative peddled by those who cited his numerous visits to the Western capitals.

To me, it is too early to judge him. Dr Ruto is a democrat and a strong believer in the Kenyan constitution and the rule of law. So, he cannot make such a decision without seeking concurrence of the relevant arms of the Kenyan government.

It is worth noting that former President Mwai Kibaki laid the foundation that saw Kenya turning East and sought to strengthen ties with China.

As a result, China was awarded contracts worth billions of shillings.

Thika Superhighway, Lamu Port and Standard Guage Railway (SGR) were among the major projects clinched by the Asian giant.

Kibaki's successor President Uhuru Kenyatta followed the suit.

On SGR, he managed to negotiate for a whopping contractual loan totalling to Sh370 billion.

The monies were used to construct the new modern line from Mombasa to Nairobi and to buy the rolling stocks.

For President Ruto, my considered view is that his wish is to maintain cordial relationship with all development partners.

In this maiden visit, President Ruto joined more than 100 heads of state and government invited by the President of China to attend the Belt and Road Forum.

During his tenure, President Uhuru used to attend this forum.

In one of them, he was accompanied by ODM leader Raila Odinga. This was during the reign of the 'Handshake' government.

Dr Ruto had a busy schedule during this visit. On the sidelines, he held talks with chief executives of the big companies.

Other deals he witnessed being signed covered strategic areas of mutual interest including energy and technology.

One of the firms agreed to help Kenya generate more energy at a lower cost. With this, hustlers in Kenya have a reason to smile as this would lead to lowering of the cost of electricity.

On technology, Ruto's interventions were equally fruitful. The cost of the communication gadgets and internet services was bound to come down.

On SGR, I'm sure many recalls that this was a government to government deal. It follows that some of the key contents of agreement were not made the public.

The content becomes the top secret of Uhuru's administration.

We recall that during this period the relationship between Uhuru his deputy Ruto had begun to worsen. It did not take long before the implosion preceded by the 'handshake' between the President Uhuru and his arch rival Raila Odinga occurred.

From then, Dr Ruto was kept in darkness. Uhuru would not share critical information with him.

This is despite these mega projects having generated a public debate.

As Kenyans, this is a big burden being placed on our shoulders. The big question was. Are we going to get value for our money?

Ruto's visit was therefore long overdue.

It gave him an opportunity to get to know the secrets.

It is worth noting that during the era of President Daniel Arap Moi, the West stood as Kenya's key development partners.

I have been listening to the powerful speeches Dr Ruto had been making when the Presidents of Western countries invited him. He would boldly champion the course of Kenyans and that of Pan Africanism.

Given this scenerio, the President would not shy working with the partners who gave us better deals.

For the contracts, the government would always consider the firms that offer better terms. The cost of the project. But the quality of the work would surpass all the considerations.

President Ruto has been visiting rich countries and he has so far secured goodies worth billions of shillings for all of us, Kenyans. This shows that he means well for Kenya. Let us continue supporting him.

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

Inclusivity And Awareness To Bring Forth Hidden Persons Living With Disability In Trans Nzoia

By: Sefu Sabila
@themtkenyatimes

> **Worth Noting:**
>
> - **According to Wafula, unity among the community will propel them and get their voices heard by both county and national government. Wafula says this will make it easier to access opportunities such as education, registration into the PWDs new system.**
> - **"We fighting for unity amongst ourselves, we need to be united. It's hard fighting for se opportunities among ourselves. Those highly exposed will help others at lower levels of opportunities for PWDs, for instance currently PWDs are being registered into the new system at the Kitale Referral Hospital, this is an opportunity for our people to access medication and benefit from the Natembeya Care which we were granted by the governor." He explained.**

Persons living with disability (PWDs) have called upon the society to stop stigmatization and discrimination against the minority group in the country. The community has been calling for inclusivity and consideration in employment opportunities as well as leadership.

Youthful Dennis Wafula, chairperson of students with different disabilities at the Kitale National Polytechnic living with visually impairedness, says the discrimination and lack of awareness in the society is the major reason many PWDs are missing on opportunities available for the community.

"We still live in a society where there's a lot of stigmatization among PWDs. The discrimination is so loud that many parents have ended up hiding their children from the rest of the society for fear of judgment and exclusion from society action. Which is a very saddening situation, as many of these children miss on many opportunities that are readily available for us PWDs?" Wafula said.

Wafula is currently pursuing Social Work and Community development at Kitale National Polytechnic, is also a Mc known by stage name Mr. D Mkenya, has not let his condition to keep him away from the society and achieving his dreams. He runs a YouTube channel, where he educates people about disability and how visually impaired persons can use technology to improve their lives. According to him his condition could not deter him from achieving his dreams.

"What many people don't understand in our society is that one might be disabled, abled somewhere else. I educate my fellow colleagues on YouTube in how to be at per with the society in terms of technology, I also Mc events, it hurts when the society dubs us beggars when we can achieve and be of help to the society in different capacities. I don't need sympathy; I need opportunities that are why I'm creating my space through YouTube, Mcing and music." He explained.

"If I was not given this opportunity to study, then I would have been a burden to the society. This is why I use my capacity as the chairperson of the Young Voices in Trans Nzoia to encourage parents to come out and be counted." He added.

According to Wafula, unity among the community will propel them and get their voices heard by both county and national government. Wafula says this will make it easier to access opportunities such as education, registration into the PWDs new system.

"We fighting for unity amongst ourselves, we need to be united. It's hard fighting for se opportunities among ourselves. Those highly exposed will help others at lower levels of opportunities for PWDs, for instance currently PWDs are being registered into the new system at the Kitale Referral Hospital, this is an opportunity for our people to access medication and benefit from the Natembeya Care which we were granted by the governor." He explained.

Mr. Wafula further encouraged parents to take their children to school, as it's the gives them a voice at employment opportunities.

"Nowadays many adverts encourage PWDs to apply for jobs. We cannot secure these opportunities if we continue hiding ourselves and shunning from the public. You need to have a bargaining power, even if you're given priority. Let this children get education opportunities like any other normal child." Wafula stated.

Last week Friday, Trans Nzoia PWDs community joined the world in marking World World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, themed accessibility for all, which was aimed at raising and creating awareness on the condition. The event was celebrates at the ACK St. Luke's Cathedral in Hospital Ward in Saboti constituency.

Ensuring accessibility is of very important for the spina bifida and hydrocephalus community. Persons with this condition need access to adequate healthcare, social services, and further opportunities to empower individuals with SBH to fully participate in society, realise their potential, and lead fulfilling lives. Were among issues discussed by the Trans Nzoia Community of PWDs on Friday.

Dennis Wafula chairperson Young Voices Trans Nzoia and Kitale National Polytechnic Student chair of PWDs lives with visually impairedness.

Trans Nzoia PWDs chapter joined person's living with spina bifida in marking the Day on Friday 25th October.

Get To Know Your PS Kaituko

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Kaituko Geoffrey Eyanae is the current Principal Secretary for the State Department of Shipping and Maritime Affairs, in the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs. His objective is to transform and elevate the Maritime Sector, ensuring it sails towards sustainable growth, global competitiveness and enhanced resilience

He is the former Principal Secretary for Labour and Skills Development. Before his nomination in November 2022 and subsequent appointment as PS, by President Dr. William Ruto, he was an Advisor for Social Sector, to then Deputy President.

His prior professional positions include being The First Speaker of the Turkana County Assembly; Project Coordinator at the National Drought Management Authority, District Coordinator at the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission, and Field Coordinator at K-Rep Development Agency. He had a stint as an adjunct faculty for University of Nairobi and Mt. Kenya University. He also consulted for various agencies in the area of governance and development.

He holds a professional membership at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in the United Kingdom and Kenya as well as the Association of Chief Executive Officers (ACEOs) and Turkana Professional Association. He doubles up as the Patron of Turkana Lawyers Association and the Frontier Children Development Organisation, a nonprofit. Apart from sitting in the public sector bodies, he also serves in the Board of Northern Rangelands Trust.

He is a recipient of the WMU Alumni Achievement Award.

An alumnus of the WMU MPA program, Hon. Kaituko holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB, University of South Africa) and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Arabic (University of Nairobi).

He is a distinguished author of the book "Getting Things Done: The Key to Exemplary Leadership "

PS Kaituko Geoffrey Eyanae.

Kiambu Teacher Arrested For Selling Fake Exam Papers Charged

By: Margaret Kalekye

A teacher who was arrested for allegedly selling fake national examination papers for both primary and secondary was on Monday arraigned in court.

23-year-old Nicholas Ngumbau Kalewa alias 'Mr Examiner' had opened over 10 WhatsApp and Telegram accounts where he was selling the papers for Ksh1,500 and Ksh2,000 with a marking scheme.

He was charged before the Milimani law court with publishing false information contrary to Section 23 of the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act No. 5 of 2018.

"It is alleged that on diverse dates between 1st September 2023 and 25th October 2023 at an unknown location within the Republic of Kenya, Nicholus Ngumbau Kalewa posing as an examiner, knowingly published information through electronic applications, specifically the WhatsApp and Telegram platforms, that he was offering Kenya National Examination papers leakage for the year 2023, a fact he knew to be false" the charge sheet read.

He denied the charge and was released on a Ksh 200,000 bond or an alternative cash bail of Ksh 100,000. The case will be mentioned on 13/11/2023.

The Christian Religion Education teacher at an academy in Kimabu County was nabbed last week after DCI detectives reportedly infiltrated his groups posing as students seeking to purchase the examination papers

He further cautioned the group members to be wary of scammers, since he was the only one with legit papers.

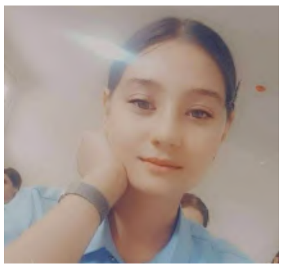
The suspect who had used a stolen identity card to register the SIM cards that he was using had also opened a bank account and provided a till pay-bill number where the money would be sent.

The Ministry of Education, the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations have put up elaborate mechanisms aimed at upholding the integrity of administering the KPSEA and KCPE examination that commenced Monday to avoid cases of irregularities.

The Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination is ongoing.

Nicholas Ngumbau Kalewa

Dear Uzbekistan, Live Forever



Dear Uzbekistan, Live Forever

This article is dedicated to my hometown of Uzbekistan and its fascinating values, historical monuments and achievements. This article covers the creativity of my country after independence, the opportunities given to our youth.

In addition, it embodies respect for the reforms made by the leader of our country and our historical memories. Every person refers to the city and country where he was born and raised as his motherland. Everyone sees the place where he was born and grew up more than his soul and rubs its soil on his eyes.

Uzbekistan, my beloved sunny country, is as dear as my mother and as holy as my father. Today, sunny Uzbekistan stands out in the world with its hospitality and its holy places, ancient customs and historical monuments.

Jonahon is our love for Uzbekistan, a corner that has treated us with warm love and a burning heart deep in our hearts. In it, our yesterday, today and tomorrow are embodied.

For us, to own the natural resources entrusted to our country created by independence, to live a decent life for every person and every family living in Uzbekistan, relying on the power, potential, intelligence of our people, and the future. leaving a free and prosperous Motherland for posterity.

Indeed, because of the independence, the reputation of our nation in the world has increased. We are equal members of the world community. Thanks to independence, Uzbekistan was recognized by more than 170 countries of the world, and we established official diplomatic relations with more than 125 countries.

35 countries have opened their embassies in Tashkent. Today, we have reason to say one truth with great pride and pride: our brave and tenacious people, no matter how difficult and difficult trials they face, show their strong will and are always faithful to the path of independence they have chosen.

If we study, acquire knowledge, and try to introduce it to the world, we will contribute to the development of our country, even if it is a little. Now imagine if everyone in our society acted like this. We will have excellent results. As we young people are on the same path, we promise to follow us and act conscientiously. I am proud of my Uzbekistan.

My name is Gulchehra. My surname is Bobojonova.I was born in Gulabad village, Yangariq district, Khorezm region. I am 19 years old. I am a 2nd year student of primary education at Chirchik State Pedagogical University.

IT WAS JUST A DREAM

I don't know if it was a dream
A sportlight
A sportlight of life
It is a sportlight like a pineapple
How beautiful it is
But no one knows
How it fought to be beautiful

Who called me
Called me in a house full of red
Red that sometimes i tend to see it like a shade of pink
This sounds interesting
Not to us
To me, yes to me
For i am thanking God for my friends
Who can afford to come to my backstage
And see how rough it is
Yet it is beautiful

Hearing the voice
It is like an african black lady with black hair
But different from the make up and dress
But the heart and everything in is real
For real is what keeps me going
I was amazed
Heard to correct

I figured
Just like God
Who is my number one audience
His creation was perfect
That's why
He gives me a standing novation
For He is not a respector of persons
I am real
And my source is direct

It was just a dream
That turned around for me to see
Persisting calling my name
To stand and cling to the fame
Urging me to be me and move forward
And who i am to say no
But it was just a dream

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Weeping Onion

MOTHER

Please don't drag the worlds to him
Don't end the poem with "My dear".
Don't stay in dreams when he's gone
Tell your mother that you are fine.
Please take the blessing
Smile when called "labbay".
Every day, they will kiss their faces
Tell your mother that you are fine.
He is the one who closed the door for you in the morning
You must have missed it when you were on a trip
There is a lot of trouble in your way
Tell your mother that you are fine.
Have you seen the snow on his hair?
Did you know that wrinkles are caused by you?
Did you appreciate it when you grew up?
Tell your mother that you are fine.

Kholmirzayev Azizbek Jabbor was born on September 13, 2006 in Gulabad, Muzrabot district, Surkhandarya region. In 2013, he was admitted to the 1st grade in the 56th general education school of Muzrabot district, Surkhandarya region. Currently, he is a 11th grade student of the 56th general education school, Muzrabot district, Surkhandarya region.

Achievements.

Samples of creations appeared in Smile magazine.

Examples of creativity appeared in the newspaper of the 56th general education school.

His poems appeared in Surkhan Tong newspaper.

He was a member of the Regional Union of Writers.

My Mother

My sweet hearted sun,
This is my confidant in life.
To the suffering of the world without you,
My mother is not enough.

Even if I stumble, you are my support
I am a country of sorrows.
There is no joy in the world,
I don't like you.

Sorrows are alien to you,
Keep smiling, my lucky mother.

Isropilov Aliakbar was born on September 9, 2004 in the village of Peshkurgan, Chortok district, Namangan region. In 2012, he was admitted to the 1st grade at the 25th general secondary school in the district. When he was in the 6th grade, he began to write poems out of love for literature. in press newspapers, in particular, the 1st poem "Book" was published in Chortoq district newspaper "Youth Square". the book was published by Osman Nasir media publishing house. "My contribution to the development of the country" - 2022 competition, winner of the district stage in the field of literature and poetry. Participant of the regional stage.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BUSINESS

BUILDING LOYALTY: THE ART OF PERSONALISED BRAND EXPERIENCES AND ADVOCACY

By: Tushar Vaishnavi, Strategic Planning Director, Canon Central & North Africa

Worth Noting:

- **Conventionally, four core emotions are recognised – happiness, sadness, fear/disgust, and anger/surprise. But psychologist Robert Plutchik's 'wheel of emotion' perspective suggests that our emotional responses are far more nuanced; successful companies recognise this and incorporate it into their marketing efforts.**
- **Consumers usually have mixed emotional responses towards brands, often showing a limited connection. To shift this dynamic, brand marketers need to enhance positive emotions, moving the customer from initial acceptance to building trust and, ultimately, fostering admiration. At the same time, they also need to reduce negative reactions, such as boredom, irritation, and anger, whether consumers engage with the brand at home, on the move, or during the purchasing process.**

The winds of change have swept across the African consumer landscape over the past decade, reshaping shopping habits and behaviours, particularly among our vibrant younger generations. Coupled with technological advancements and a shifting consumer-brand dynamic, this presents unique challenges – and opportunities – for businesses, retailers, and the marketing industry on the African continent.

While businesses find themselves under immense pressure to deliver tangible results and demonstrate a return on investment, the battleground for consumers' attention is fierce. Today's discerning consumers have the power to choose which brands to embrace and which to ignore.

Buyer journeys have also become intricate and nonlinear. Spoilt for choice when it comes to channels, consumers transition seamlessly between the physical and virtual realms to gather information, form impressions, and make purchasing decisions.

So, how can brands cut through the noise and authentically connect with audiences, guiding them from mere awareness to becoming fervent advocates?

New Canon R6 Mark II

Cultivating Emotions

One often overlooked but essential ingredient in this journey is the emotional connection brands establish with their customers. In our data-driven world, we can't lose sight of the critical role of emotions, connections, and experiences in driving purchases and nurturing long-lasting brand-consumer relationships.

We, as humans, don't merely exist in the world; we experience it. And our experiences profoundly influence our thoughts and emotions.

Conventionally, four core emotions are recognised – happiness, sadness, fear/disgust, and anger/surprise. But psychologist Robert Plutchik's 'wheel of emotion' perspective suggests that our emotional responses are far more nuanced; successful companies recognise this and incorporate it into their marketing efforts.

Consumers usually have mixed emotional responses towards brands, often showing a limited connection. To shift this dynamic, brand marketers need to enhance positive emotions, moving the customer from initial acceptance to building trust and, ultimately, fostering admiration. At the same time, they also need to reduce negative reactions, such as boredom, irritation, and anger, whether consumers engage with the brand at home, on the move, or during the purchasing process.

Embracing Humanity

The question is: How can this transformation be achieved? At Canon, we do so by harnessing our knowledge of our customers to deliver personalised experiences at every interaction with the brand. It's all about understanding your customer. Brands possess abundant opportunities to leverage insights and deliver personalised communications and experiences that resonate with customers, making them feel acknowledged and understood.

By investing time and energy in understanding target audiences – embracing their beliefs, behaviours, motivations, and drivers – businesses can craft more compelling value propositions, cultivating enduring brand loyalty. The key is to provide products, content, and experiences that show genuine consideration for customers as unique individuals and offer them something meaningful or valuable.

Today's sophisticated audience insights empower brands to create highly personalised promotional marketing communications that align precisely with customer needs and are delivered at the optimal moment. This is where printed collateral, driven by genuine customer insights, can shine.

Print engages not only sight but also touch and smell, forging deeper connections with consumers than digital channels alone, capturing their attention when they are most receptive.

Creating Memorable Experiences

When brands extend their customer engagement focus to physical spaces like retail or hospitality environments, they can apply the same understanding of their customers to create customised and immersive experiences that emphasise comfort, convenience, and connection. Canon, for instance, uses customised printed décor, signage, thoughtful promotional materials, point-of-sale items, and packaging to all work together to elevate each customer's emotional journey from 'Ok' to 'Amazed.'

In the age of e-commerce, the 'unboxing moment' at home has emerged as another critical touchpoint in the brand-customer interaction. Will the customer receive a poorly wrapped item in a dull, brown box that does little to make them feel valued or encourage further exploration? Or will they receive a personalised parcel that treats them as a cherished customer, surprising and delighting them? This moment is an opportunity to continue the conversation and build a long-lasting relationship.

Reaping the Rewards

Today's African consumers have high expectations of the products they purchase and the brands they support. In this fiercely competitive landscape, marketers must tap into their audiences' emotions to stand out and be remembered for the right reasons. Those who master this art will reap positive reviews and recommendations, propelling their growth.

Whether in the digital or physical realm, through print or online channels, personalisation, customisation, and individualisation elevate the brand, value the customer, and transform ordinary transactions into unforgettable experiences. This, in turn, yields rewards for both consumers and businesses alike, forging enduring connections that transcend Africa's borders and cultures.


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KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

Gov't Hints At Possibility Of Del Monte Ceding More Land

By: KNA

The government has hinted at the possibility of Del Monte Company Ltd ceding more of its unused land to pave way for development projects and resettlement of victims of historical injustices by the company.

Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome said they are exploring avenues of having the Company cede more land if need be, since a lot of programmes in the area are on the pipeline.

Already, Del Monte Ltd has ceded 1,400 and about 650 acres of land in Muranga and Kiambu respectively.

"There is a possibility that the company will have to cede more of their unused land. That is something that we are exploring," she said.

Recently, Del Monte outgoing MD Stergios Gkaliamoutsas while addressing the ceding of land to the government expressed frustration over turning prime agricultural land into real estate saying if not addressed; food security in future will be compromised.

"All the way from Nairobi City along the super highway, prime agricultural land has been turned into real estates, a trend that if not addressed might impact negatively on food security in future," he said.

The CS at the same time said they were working with Murang'a and Kiambu County government and the locals under the umbrella of Kandara Residents Association to resolve the impasse surrounding the ceded land.

Speaking during a development monitoring tour on affordable housing in Ruiru, the CS said once resolved, the victims will be resettled and major development projects will come up in the area.

"So far, we are at a good place because Del Monte Ltd has released land. We have issues with the county governments on how best to use the land because they have their priorities and as the national government, we have ours. What is important is that we have land for public utility and that will not be compromised. We shall use over 500 acres to set EPZ among several other government projects," said Wahome.

Lands Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome

One of the major projects the government intends to set up in the ceded land is the establishment of the Special Economic Zone.

During a tour in the area some months ago, President William Ruto announced that the EPZ will be created in the area to create employment opportunities for residents.

According to recommendations by the National Land Commission (NLC), the victims should get 70 percent of the ceded land and the two county governments 30 percent. The victims however feel that they might be shortchanged.

"As a former Kandara MP I have a better understanding of the issues surrounding the land. We are aware of the demands by the Kandara Residents Association and we shall ensure their issues of historical injustices are resolved," she said.

Government To Include Non-Registered Learners In KCPE 2023 Candidature

By: Christine Muchira

The government has directed all the officers responsible for administering the national exams to ensure that all learners sit the examinations.

The Kenya Certificate of Primary Education and Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) began yesterday, 30th October 2023 and end on Wednesday, November 1.

In a statement the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education Ezekiel Machogu says his ministry has received reports that there are schools/examination centres which, for one reason or the other, did not register some of their candidates for the upcoming Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination.

The CS noted that failing to register learners for examinination was a serious breach which wrongfully disenfranchises them adding that appropriate action will be taken against those responsible, in accordance with the law.

CS Machogu has advised all affected learners to report to their respective schools/designated examination centres for purposes of sitting the examination on the scheduled dates.

"Since this is the last KCPE, learners shall not be disadvantaged by exclusion from the examination, on account of non-registration." Noted CS Machogu.

There are 1,282,574 candidates set to sit the KPSEA assessments.

Candidates set to sit KCPE exams this year are 1,415, 315.

170,982 more candidates registered for KCPE this year compared to last year.

Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Current Technology Should Not Disunite The Society

By: **Joyline Chepkorir**

Innovation of technology has taken a bigger part in day to day life of every human being especially the youths and even the parents.

Most of the youths spend most of their time in the digital gadgets like the phones, laptops and several others. Children are not left behind too.

Children too nowadays can access technology for them to play games. Children no longer play the physical games such as football because the better part of their time is spend in watching, playing those games in the digital gadgets and many more.

It is not surprising to find a situation where in a home you find that there are people in a room and they are very silent to one another just because everybody is drawn into the internet either chatting or playing games in the phone.

I feel that technology has taken over us instead of us taking over it and the results are unity in the family has been tampered with. Technology innovation has both negative and positive impact to the society but there is need for the society to strive for the positive one. Technology should not disunite the society; however, it should bring societal integration, opportunities and many more.

Parents Need To Be Responsible

By: **Joyline Chepkorir**

Schools are closed for the students both in primary and secondary schools leaving room for grade six, class eight and form fours who are going to sit for the Kenya National Examinations which are to start this week and for the primary education they will be done in one week and they will be joining others too for the holiday.

This is the longest holidays for students and parents need to be responsible with their children now that they are in their hands. They need to know their whereabouts every time, guiding them, making sure there wellbeing is good and even the kinds of friends their children have and they should make sure that they are given constructive activities to do so as to avoid idleness.

If all parents becomes responsible they would have taken care of a lot of negative things that this students may be engaged in during holidays.

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Leaders To Be Together And Help Kenyans

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the current differences between President Ruto and Deputy Gachagua. As the utmost leaders of our country, it is crucial that they work together in all decisions and find ways to reconcile their differences for the betterment of Kenya and its people.

It is evident that when leaders are united and work towards a common goal, they can achieve great things for their nation. However, when there are divisions and disagreements at the top, it creates a sense of instability and uncertainty among the citizens. This not only hampers progress but also undermines the trust and confidence that people have in their leaders.

To effectively address the economic challenges facing Kenya, it is imperative that President Ruto and Deputy Gachagua set aside their differences and come together to formulate comprehensive strategies. They should focus on implementing policies that promote economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation. By working hand in hand, they can harness their collective expertise and experience to develop innovative solutions that will benefit all Kenyans.

One of the key areas where their collaboration could make a significant impact is in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). Kenya has immense potential for economic growth, but it requires substantial investments to unlock this potential fully. By presenting a united front, President Ruto and Deputy Gachagua can instill confidence in international investors, showcasing Kenya as an attractive destination for business ventures. This would not only boost the economy but also create employment opportunities for our citizens.

Additionally, they should prioritize infrastructure development as a means to stimulate economic growth. Investments in transportation networks, energy systems, and digital infrastructure can enhance connectivity within the country and improve access to markets. This will facilitate trade and commerce, leading to increased productivity and competitiveness.

Furthermore, President Ruto and Deputy Gachagua should focus on promoting entrepreneurship and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These businesses are the backbone of any economy, and by providing them with the necessary resources, training, and access to finance, they can thrive and contribute significantly to job creation and economic development. By working together, the leaders can design policies that foster an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and remove barriers that hinder SME growth.

Lastly, it is crucial for President Ruto and Deputy Gachagua to communicate their achievements and plans effectively to the Kenyan people. Transparency and accountability are essential in building trust between leaders and citizens. By regularly updating the public on their progress, challenges, and future initiatives, they can ensure that the people are well-informed and engaged in the nation's development. This will also help dispel any misconceptions or rumors that may arise due to differences between the leaders.

In conclusion, I urge President Ruto and Deputy Gachagua to put aside their differences and work together for the betterment of Kenya. By collaborating on decision-making processes and focusing on strategies to address economic challenges, they can help Kenyans cope with the current economic problems and improve their standard of living. It is essential for them to demonstrate unity, leadership, and a shared vision for a prosperous Kenya.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nyakoboke.
Kibabii University.

State To Spur Digital Economy Through Secure Cyberspace

By: Muraya Kamunde

ICT and the Digital Economy Principla Secretary Eng. John Tanui .

Worth Noting:

- The PS further pointed out that the government is building linkages and establishing partnerships with both local and leading global centres with expertise on issues of cyber security in an effort to align with global strategies and enhance capacities and knowledge sharing in this new emerging digital space.
- "We are working with various institutions and partners to ensure that we keep the sector secure. Institutions like the Communications Authority, ICT Authority, and Office of the Data Protection Commission., within the Ministry we have the NC4 and all of them have the experts who are able to scan the space and give us guidance and warnings wherever there are any risks," added Tanui.

ICT and the Digital Economy PS, Eng. John Tanui has reaffirmed the government's commitment to grow the country's digital economy through enacting a safe and secure cyberspace.

Eng. Tanui who spoke in his office while issuing a Cyber Security Observance Brief noted that the digital space presents many opportunities hence the country's ambitious agenda to roll out over 100, 000 Kilometres of digital infrastructure, digitizing its services, digital training and upskilling of its public workforce.

PS Tanui stated that even as the government moves to bring more people to this global digital platform, there is need to secure the digital network.

"One of the issues is of course data privacy and data protection. The month of October is the month of cyber Security Awareness and it is a very good opportunity for us," said Eng. Tanui.

"As a government, we need to ensure that the right digital infrastructure proper ICT policies are in place, legislative frameworks, and even clarity in terms of what we need to do. So we have also put in place the necessary policies to ensure we safeguard this space," said Tanui.

He noted that the country has enacted the Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019, the Kenya National ICT Policy, 2019, Digital Master Plan 2022 -2032 in addition to setting up the National Computer and Cyber Crimes Coordination Committee (NC4) in an effort to secure its digital space.

The PS further pointed out that the government is building linkages and establishing partnerships with both local and leading global centres with expertise on issues of cyber security in an effort to align with global strategies and enhance capacities and knowledge sharing in this new emerging digital space.

"We are working with various institutions and partners to ensure that we keep the sector secure. Institutions like the Communications Authority, ICT Authority, and Office of the Data Protection Commission., within the Ministry we have the NC4 and all of them have the experts who are able to scan the space and give us guidance and warnings wherever there are any risks," added Tanui.

The PS however called for compliance with ICT standards that govern information security and continued capacity building of government cyber security experts.

He appealed to the citizens to remain vigilant and be cautious of the information they share and the people they interact with where he called on all corporate to re-look into their organizational structure and ensure they have a skilled cyber security expert in their workforce.

"The way we are careful when we walk in our street, the same way when we walk in our digital spaces we need to know that there are also risks. It is not every click that appears we should accept, said Tanui.

The PS further noted that the use of the cyber space requires digital skills hence the government is building capabilities within its public institutions and the private sector in an effort to identify cyber threats.

"Finally, I want to encourage us to know this is a great space which presents opportunities to create jobs and wealth. You have seen our young people going to our digital hubs to upskill themselves and earn jobs, it's very impressive to see persons who have just cleared their colleges or even students earn from 200 to even 2, 000 US Dollars a month in this digital platforms,

We have seen Business Process Outsourcing centres settled up here in Kenya and employing thousands of young people to work digitally and we want our young people to go into it and equip themselves with the necessary cyber skills and exploit the potentials in this space," added Tanui.

Cybersecurity continues to be a global concern not only for the governments, but also the private sector, the tech community, academia and other non-governmental actors given its enormous implications for information security, critical infrastructure, economic prosperity, public safety as well as relations between countries.

The latest Hiscox cyber readiness Report 2023 reveals that cyber attracts have been steadily climbing for four consecutive years, with a notable surge in targeting smaller businesses reaching as high as 36pc.

Sports >> *Jurgen Klopp says Liverpool won "for our brother" Luis Diaz after claiming victory over Nottingham Forest "in the most difficult of circumstances" at Anfield.

Liverpool Dedicate Nottingham Victory To Luis Diaz

Diogo Jota holds up Luis Diaz's jersey. PHOTO/LFC/Twitter.

Jurgen Klopp says Liverpool won "for our brother" Luis Diaz after claiming victory over Nottingham Forest "in the most difficult of circumstances" at Anfield.

Diaz missed the match following reports his parents had been kidnapped in Colombia, with officials still searching for the winger's missing father after his mother was rescued.

Diogo Jota, surrounded by his team-mates, held up the Colombia player's number seven shirt after firing the Reds into a 31st-minute lead when Matt Turner turned Darwin Nunez's attempt into the Portuguese forward's path.

"The best thing we could do is win the game for our brother," Klopp told Match of the Day afterwards.

"We played the game in the most difficult circumstances I've ever had. After more than 1,000 games [as a manager] you would think you've experienced everything.

"But it's not about us. We all pray that everything will be fine. The only thing we could do is fight for our brother and that's what they (the players) did. The boys fought for their brother."

Jota said the decision to hold up Diaz's shirt after scoring was "to show we're with him" in an "unimaginable situation".

"Luis was with us in the hotel [before the game] then he went home," he added to MOTD.

"He was going to play. I played instead of him and I showed him his shirt to show we're with him and we hope everything works out."

Liverpool were dominant and, after Jota's opener, Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez doubled the advantage four minutes later with his sixth club goal of the campaign after a cutback by the impressive Dominik Szoboszlai.

Forest's miserable day was complete when Turner and substitute Harry Toffolo got in a tangle, allowing Mohamed Salah to become only the third player in Liverpool's history to score in each of the opening five home league matches of a season.

Klopp's side are fourth is the table, three points behind leaders Tottenham, while Forest, who failed to seriously test Liverpool keeper Alisson, are 16th, five points above the relegation zone.

-By BBC Sports

Sports >> *WBC heavyweight champion Tyson Fury claimed a controversial split decision victory over former UFC fighter Francis Ngannou in Saudi Arabia.

Tyson Fury Claims Controversial Split Decision Win Over Ex-UFC Fighter Ngannou

Tyson Fury vs Francis Ngannou in Saudi Arabia. PHOTO/TalkSport.

WBC heavyweight champion Tyson Fury claimed a controversial split decision victory over former UFC fighter Francis Ngannou in Saudi Arabia.

Ngannou, 37, put Fury on the canvas in round three after connecting with a left hook.

But while one judge scored it 95-94 in favour of Ngannou, two gave it to Fury at 96-93 and 95-94.

Fury's WBC heavyweight belt was not on the line.

"That definitely wasn't in the script," Fury told TNT Sports.

"I got caught round the back of the head [for the knockdown]. I wasn't hurt. I got up and got back to my boxing.

"He's an awkward man and a good puncher and I respect him a lot. He's given me one of my toughest fights of the last 10 years."

Ngannou, making his professional boxing debut, came out tentatively behind the jab in the opening round and Fury seemed content with a slow start as he looked to get a read on his opponent.

Fury got a first taste of Ngannou's power in round two, though, as a cut opened on the forehead of the Gypsy King when he ate a left hook.

Fury looked ill-prepared and sluggish and hit the canvas in round three when he was found behind the right ear with that same punch.

Perhaps still feeling the impact of that shot, he struggled to find his rhythm until the fifth round when he caught Ngannou with a straight one-two combination.

After a brief push back from Fury when he started to box at range and have success with his jab, Ngannou again began to land some heavy punches in the latter rounds.

It seemed the scorecards were against Fury and he appeared desperate when lunging forward in the seventh, missing Ngannou and falling to his knees – deemed a slip rather than a knockdown.

Ngannou boxed very smartly when he was able to close the distance, using his MMA skills to clinch and land shots to the body and head.

Fury's face carried the damage as the final bell rang and Ngannou's corner held his arms up high in the expectation that he was on the verge of pulling off the biggest shock in boxing.

But the scorecards controversially fell in the favour of the seasoned boxer, who won the commemorative 'Riyadh champion' belt and extended his unbeaten record to 35 – winning 34 and drawing one.

"My training camp was only three and a half months and I came into this with an injury," Ngannou said. "But I don't want to give excuses. I will look at what I can do next to improve my game to come back even better.

"Now I know I can do this, get ready. The wolf is in the house."

Fury's victory means a blockbuster bout with fellow heavyweight champion Oleksandr Usyk, who holds the WBA, WBO and IBF titles, which has been signed, remains on the horizon.

An undisputed heavyweight contest, the first in four-belt era, has been mooted for 23 December, however, a cut and bruised Fury might struggle to turnaround so quickly.

-By BBC Sports

SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

The MT. KENYA TIMES

The Sad Reality Of Entrepreneurial Family Owned Businesses

By: **Abigirl Phiri**
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Most of the times, this sad ending is attributed to lack of interest in the business itself on the part of those who will be left governing it. Needless to mention that, starting a business requires passion. Thus, when there is none then the care is less which results in the downfall of the entrepreneurial family owned business regardless of its glorious past. Also, the issue of fighting over the possessions left over by the owner is the one that results in the falling apart of the whole empire.**
- **It baffles the mind that many people are moved by jealousy that they end up fighting over somebody's possessions. At least if you cannot work for yourself, have the decency to be able to uphold somebody's empire.**

The poignant reality about entrepreneurial family owned business is that when the owner kicks the bucket, that is the sorry end of the legacy. Research has tried to get to the root cause of why this continues to go on in different parts of the world without much success. This is because hell must freeze over before people let entrepreneurial family owned businesses meet their end.

Truth be told, this should be the mantra that not for all the tea in China must these family owned entrepreneurial ventures cease to exist. Although many businesses have faced this sorry fate, this should not be the case. Frankly speaking, starting an entrepreneurial venture from the grass root level up until it become a big family owned giant is a major thing.

It requires a lot of zest and unwavering grit amongst other personal positive attributes. One would have sacrificed a lot to attain and realize such a colossal dream. The clarion call of this piece is for the remaining family members to continue with the legacy that would have been started by the founder.

Most of the times, this sad ending is attributed to lack of interest in the business itself on the part of those who will be left governing it. Needless to mention that, starting a business requires passion. Thus, when there is none then the care is less which results in the downfall of the entrepreneurial family owned business regardless of its glorious past. Also, the issue of fighting over the possessions left over by the owner is the one that results in the falling apart of the whole empire.

It baffles the mind that many people are moved by jealousy that they end up fighting over somebody's possessions. At least if you cannot work for yourself, have the decency to be able to uphold somebody's empire.

Keep it afloat as best as you can after all effort does pay off in many instances than throwing in the towel.

However, these bad apples would rather the whole business faces its untimely end than see somebody run it well like its previous owner. For that reason, as a business owner have a plan of what will be of your business when you are long gone.

A succession plan is a must have when you form a family owned business regardless of its size. Study the people around you so that you pick the rightful successor who will continue to head the ship as the captain.

Futuristic plans should be underway rather than deal with hindsight which many people tend to fall victim to. Particularly, too many people involved in an entrepreneurial family owned business are a source of trouble as tempers, rivalry and jealousy will flare high. Instead, as a founder have a game plan of how you will manage your business.

In Africa many businesses have faced their end when the founders leave this face of earth. Sometimes it is not lack of trying on the part of the remaining relatives. Unfortunately, it is about not having enough knowledge on how to go about it. This is because to run a business you have to be systematic in your operations.

You do not just try your luck but you have to have an appreciation of some doctrines such as accounting, marketing and human resources before you seize on an opportunity. Indians are well known for preserving their family owned business.

It is tradition to them and failing to run the operation will be tantamount to having given up on the departed founder somehow. Such belies and culture should be inculcated in all races that we must honor the memory of our loved and departed ones by keeping their entrepreneurial ventures up and running.

It means so much to be able to run a business as an ordinary individual. Starting from scratch and becoming someone of importance in the society. To that effect, train your kids or your kin whom you trust to appreciate your commendable efforts so that you ultimately share the same common vision.

Notably, this is the only way of ascertaining they will continue with your legacy even when you depart from this earth. Remember you will be the pioneers who will ensure that the rest of your generation comes from old money.

A good example of a family owned business is of the Ford Motor company which up until now is up and running successfully. Suffice to say, the ideal entrepreneurial family owned business should have operational years spanning over decades.

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