



State To Fast-Track Transitioning Of Ranches To Community Land - PS Korir

The government will provide communities with title deeds through the titling programme to enable them to benefit from development projects in their areas.

Page 18

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News>>House Committee Puts Auditor General To Task On Employment Diversity

P. 8. In a session chaired by Yusuf Adan, committee members scrutinized documents submitted by the OAG's office led by the Auditor General, CPA, Nancy Gathugu.



News>>Female Lawmakers Push For Increased Support For Women Leaders At The Grassroots

P. 12. Female lawmakers are urging development partners to step up their support for women leaders in the country.

Engage New Strategies To Combat Transnational Organised Crimes: Koome



Chief Justice Martha

Koome has advocated for robust enforcement of laws and adoption of new strategies to combat the fast evolving Transnational Organised Crimes and Illicit Financial Flows.

While addressing Judiciary Training Institutes, Judges and Judicial Officers from 21 African countries in Mombasa, CJ Koome noted that Transnational Organised Crimes and Illicit Financial Flows are not just legal issues but also pose deep-seated threat to the social fabric, economies, and governance structures which threaten the shared vision of a prosperous, secure and peaceful Africa.



Chief Justice Martha Koome

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Construction Of A Murang'a Hospital At Limbo Over Differences

By: Bernard Munyao
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Kandara Residents Association has been agitating to get part of the Delmonte land saying their forefathers were pushed out of the land by colonizers.
- Kibiru who led the association members to Murang'a Police Station vowed not to back off from the demand to have people of Kandara be factored as some beneficiaries of the land ceded by Delmonte.
- The fruit processing company before renewal of its lease, ceded some 1,400 acres of land to Murang'a county government, a land earmarked for construction of a Level 5 hospital and an industrial park among other developments.



Patron of Kandara Association Kibiru PMG Junior accompanied by members of the association addresses members of the press after he was summoned to record a statement in connection with destruction of county government's construction materials.

Construction of a Level -5 hospital by Murang'a county Government on land ceded by Delmonte Company hangs in balance after members of Kandara Residents Association invaded and destroyed materials that were delivered at the construction site.

The last week's incident prompted the patron of the association, Kibiru Junior, to be summoned by Murang'a police to record a statement on Monday.

Members of the association have accused the county government of Murang'a of going against court which barred any construction to be done on a 1,400 acre piece of land until the pending cases are solved.

Kandara Residents Association has been agitating to get part of the Delmonte land saying their forefathers were pushed out of the land by colonizers.

Kibiru who led the association members to Murang'a Police Station vowed not to back off from the demand to have people

of Kandara be factored as some beneficiaries of the land ceded by Delmonte.

The fruit processing company before renewal of its lease, ceded some 1,400 acres of land to Murang'a county government, a land earmarked for construction of a Level 5 hospital and an industrial park among other developments.

"In 2019, the association together with the National Lands Commission agreed 70 per cent of ceded land will go to members of Kandara association and the remaining will be utilized by the county government of Murang'a. It's unfortunate the county government has opted to go against the court order barring use of the land and commenced construction of the hospital," he stated.

Kibiru distanced himself on allegations that he incited members of the association to destroy the construction materials.

"No construction materials were destroyed, members of the association only visited the area and were shocked to see

materials being delivered even without clear information on who was delivering since there was no construction sign board," he added.

At Murang'a police station, the patron of the association was directed to go and record his statement at Ithanga sub county police station which covers the area of the crime.

"Have been directed to go and record a statement at Ithanga Police station since the said crime was committed by the local sub county and I will honour the summons," vowed Kibiru.

The association's lawyer, Jackson Ikua observed that they will proceed to court and institute an application for contempt against the county government for ignoring the court order issued in November last year on utilization of the ceded Delmonte land.

"Members of the association visited the land after the contractor moved into the site which is against the court order,"

said the lawyer who accompanied Kibiru at the Murang'a County Police headquarters.

A member of the association Mzee Nguigi Karanja aged 101 years blamed Murang'a leadership over failing to ensure justice was done to the victims of historical injustice.

"Am one of the people who were thrown out of the Delmonte land by the whites, and I seek justice, and return to my ancestral land," said Karanja.

Nyambura Guchu in her 90's says her life has been full of pain and Kandara residents seek to return to the rightful lands.

"I was young and watched as the white meted violence on the community evicting them from parcels of land now under ownership of the pineapple growing company," reflected Nyambura.

The association has 4,600 members, 3,600 from Murang'a and the other 1,000 from Kiambu county.

Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital will receive a significant boost in healthcare services with the completion of a new ultra-modern outpatient facility, funded by USAID, worth Sh 2.35 billion. The standalone complex, constructed at Shs 600 million, will be part of a Shs 1 billion facelift to accommodate an increased number of patients.



Experts in Africa are advocating for the integration of climate change information into higher education curricula to prepare young people for a future shaped by climate change. The initiative aims to enhance access to educational resources, prepare citizens for disasters, reduce risks, and manage disasters, given the severe impacts of climate change.



Kajiado County youths are set to benefit from the 'Plug-in Mtaani Vijana 2 Invest' initiative, which connects business ideas to opportunities. The program provides soft skills and business plan development training, aiming to nurture and sustain young entrepreneurs, offering capacity development, funding opportunities, and networking opportunities.



The County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Meru County is expected to boost agricultural and trading activities, addressing poverty and youth unemployment. The park will also add value to agricultural products and increase farmers' incomes by eliminating brokers. The event was presided over by Investment, Trade, and Industry Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria.



Narok County Commissioner Isaac Masinde has warned state officers who ask for bribes before serving the public that they risk losing their jobs and facing legal prosecution. He urged the public to report corrupt officials to authorities, who will investigate and bring them to justice.



The Eezer initiative and Kajiado County Government are introducing bicycle ambulances to provide transport services for expectant mothers during childbirth. The ambulances will be stationed at rural facilities in Kajiado, aiming to reduce maternal and neonatal mortalities due to delayed medical emergency responses. The initiative aims to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.

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Beba Beba Drive To Assist Porters In Embu County Get IDs

By: Samuel Waititu
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “The biggest problem for these people has been lack of IDs that has locked them from enjoying government services,” the MCA said.
- He added that once they are issued IDs, they will be able to organise them into registered self-help groups that, among other benefits, will give them financial inclusion towards self-reliance.
- “We want them to form smaller groups where, as leaders, we could assist them with seed capital to start income-generating projects to keep them busy and eradicate alcoholism, drugs, and crime,” he said.



A Ward Rep in Embu County in collaboration with the office of the County Commissioner and Registrar of Persons, has initiated a programme of issuing porters, commonly known as “Beba Beba”, with national identification cards.

This is after it emerged that a good number of them lacked the crucial security and citizenship documents and thus were subjected to many challenges, including the inability to get government services, employment, and harassment by security personnel.

Out of over 600 porters who turned out at Talent Academy Grounds in Embu Town for the exercise organised by area (Kirimari) MCA Ibrahim Swaleh, close to 200 did not have IDs,

while another lot had lost them.

“The biggest problem for these people has been lack of IDs that has locked them from enjoying government services,” the MCA said.

He added that once they are issued IDs, they will be able to organise them into registered self-help groups that, among other benefits, will give them financial inclusion towards self-reliance.

“We want them to form smaller groups where, as leaders, we could assist them with seed capital to start income-generating projects to keep them busy and eradicate alcoholism, drugs, and crime,” he said.

Embu West Sub-County Registration Officer Margaret Muthoni said the ex-

ercise aimed at establishing their status with regard to IDs, as there were those who have never applied; others have lost them and need replacement; and others have not been successful for lack of supporting documents.

She said they would sieve the collected data and group it according to their needs so that they could be assisted in securing their IDs.

The Beba Beba fraternity expressed joy with the initiative, saying it would give them a sense of belonging and also enable them to form their own organisation.

The group leader, Benjamin Mwangi, said it has been a tall order for them to register a welfare group since they were turned away for lacking identi-

fication documents for some of their members.

Porters Samuel Mugambi and Daniel Mutugi said the development would help remove the notion that the group is composed of criminals for lack of proof of identity.

Mutugi said another challenge they faced in their line of duty was the inability to transact business electronically as they could not register for mobile money payments for lack of the crucial document.

The MCA also said he would soon organise a medical camp for the porters, as many were suffering from respiratory illnesses as a result of working in adverse weather conditions.

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Safaricom Foundation Donates Medical Equipment To Limuru Health Centre

By: Grace Naishoo
 @themkenyatimes

In a display of Corporate Social Responsibility, the Safaricom Foundation donated equipment worth Sh2.2 million to Limuru Health Centre in Kiambu County.

The donation included a standby generator, laundry machines, a water tank, nebulizers, and various other medical equipment.

Kiambu Health CEC Dr. Elias Maina said the items would offer a much-needed boost to the facility and significantly improve the quality of healthcare services offered at the centre.

“On behalf of the County Government of Kiambu, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the support and goodwill of the Safaricom Foundation, as the county can now offer better medical services to the community following the donations of this essential hospital equipment,” said Maina.

He added that the donation would also promote demand and access to better health services since the Foundation has ensured the health centre is well-equipped to handle medical emergencies.

“With the health facility now having a standby generator, which will ensure there is enough power to run the facility at all times, this will go a long way in supporting the hospital to provide quality healthcare for the people in this area,” said Kiambu Health CECM.

Safaricom Representative Lindah Kasinah stated that the foundation’s CSR is aimed at improving the quality of healthcare services offered, mostly in vulnerable communities.

“Twenty years ago, Safaricom Foundation was born, and we began our journey of partnering with Kenyan communities to contribute towards improved livelihoods. Since then, we have invested over Sh7 billion in more than 4000 community projects, impacting millions of Kenyans across all 47 counties,” said Kasinah. She further added that the initiative aims to uplift healthcare standards,



Safaricom Foundation Donates Medical Equipment To Limuru Health Centre.

ensuring a healthier future for the community.

“Driven by our purpose of transforming lives, our focus has evolved over the years to three thematic pillars where we can make the biggest

impact for Kenyans; the pillars include education, health, and economic empowerment,” she added.

The Foundation’s commitment aligns with the country’s Vision 2030 plan on health care, which strives to

promote equitable access to quality healthcare.

House Committee Puts Auditor General To Task On Employment Diversity

By: PSCU

The Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity met with the Office of the Auditor General regarding the status of employment diversity and 30 per cent Procurement Reservation for Special Interest Groups.

In a session chaired by Yusuf Adan, committee members scrutinized documents submitted by the OAG’s office led by the Auditor General, CPA, Nancy Gathugu.

The Office of the Auditor General has 1,662 staff of which 52.05 per cent are from two communities. It has also employed only 25 out of the 46 ethnic communities in the country.

The committee queried the skewed representation with Legislators asking why there was overrepresentation of some of the communities and the



Auditor General Nancy Gathugu (left) when she appeared before the Parliamentary committee yesterday.

measures put in place to ensure there is a representation of the other 21 communities.

Regarding Persons Living with Disabilities, it has employed only 34 of them which is to 2.05 per cent contrary to the Constitutional require-

ment of 5 per cent.

Lawmakers also queried how OAG verifies and authenticates the status of the companies owned by the disadvantaged groups to ensure fairness and transparency like AGPO certificates, companies’ licenses, tax com-



Yusuf Adan who chaired the committee yesterday.

pliance certificates, etc.

Members of the committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunities expressed dissatisfaction with the presentation by the Office of the Auditor General.

The committee directed the Office

of the Auditor General to provide supporting documents on samples of tender advertisements, evaluation committee reports, and payment status of the companies whose goods and services have been procured.

CJ Koome: Engage New Strategies To Combat Transnational Organised Crimes

By: Christine Muchira
 @themkenyatimes



Chief Justice Martha Koome .

Worth Noting:

- Justice Koome said according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), transnational organized crime generates an estimated 2.7 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with an annual value of approximately U.S. \$ 1.6 trillion.
- “These illicit profits fuel corruption, undermine governance, erode the rule of law and threaten the stability of states and regions,” noted Judge Koome.
- The CJ was concerned that the most vulnerable in the societies bear the brunt of these crimes. From children ensnared in human trafficking rings to communities wrecked by drug epidemics. She called on judiciaries to play a more pronounced role in punishing and deterring Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Financial Flows.

Chief Justice Martha Koome has advocated for robust enforcement of laws and adoption of new strategies to combat the fast evolving Transnational Organised Crimes and Illicit Financial Flows.

While addressing Judiciary Training Institutes, Judges and Judicial Officers from 21 African countries in Mombasa, CJ Koome noted that Transnational Organised Crimes and Illicit Financial Flows are not just legal issues but also pose deep-seated threat to the social fabric, economies, and governance structures which threaten the shared vision of a prosperous, secure and peaceful Africa.

“From Cape Town to Cairo, Dakar to Mogadishu, we have all witnessed how transnational crimes disrupt our societies. Human trafficking, narcotics trade, illegal arms dealing, cybercrime, wildlife poaching, counterfeiting, and the alarming growth of illicit financial flows have cast a shadow over our developmental aspirations,” said CJ Koome

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Crime (UNODC), transnational organized crime generates an estimated 2.7 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with an annual value of approximately U.S. \$ 1.6 trillion.

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“Given the transnational nature of these crimes, the courts have a duty to facilitate international cooperation through mechanisms like extradition and mutual legal assistance,” urged the CJ.

The CJ highlighted the need to continually evolve, learn, and train judiciaries to address the changing face

of crime.

“I am a believer that as criminals adapt to the modern world, so must we in law enforcement and administration of justice also adapt to the contemporary world. As they evolve, so must our strategies and tactics,” said the CJ

She called on Judiciary Training Institutes (JTIs) to become paramount in shaping a regional response, enhancing judicial capacities, and pioneering jurisprudence on Transnational Organised Crimes and Illicit Financial Flows.

Speaking during the same event, Chief Justice of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia, Tewodros Kebede, underscored the need to develop indigenous jurisprudence on transnational organized crime and illicit financial flows.

“It is my strong belief that we need to learn and in particular learn from a neighbor with whom we share a lot. For centuries, we have been borrowing and importing laws and institutions which could not solve the problems we face in real life.”

He observed that there is need to

lead regional and continental cooperation of judiciaries with a view to ensuring that the rule of law and justice prevail throughout Africa.

The Director of the Kenya Judiciary Academy Justice Dr. Smokin Wanjala noted that as countries strengthen their individual systems, the region must also collaborate and cooperate in dealing with this menace.

“Judicial Training Institutes must be the driving force in tackling the continent’s challenges by integrating training on transnational organized crime and illicit financial flows into their judicial education strategies, curricula, programmes and plans,” said Justice Wanjala.

Judiciary Training Institutes, Judges and Judicial Officers are gathered in Mombasa for a three-day Judicial Dialogue to discuss experiences, challenges and potential solutions in the adjudication of different forms of Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Financial Flows.

Focus On His Focus



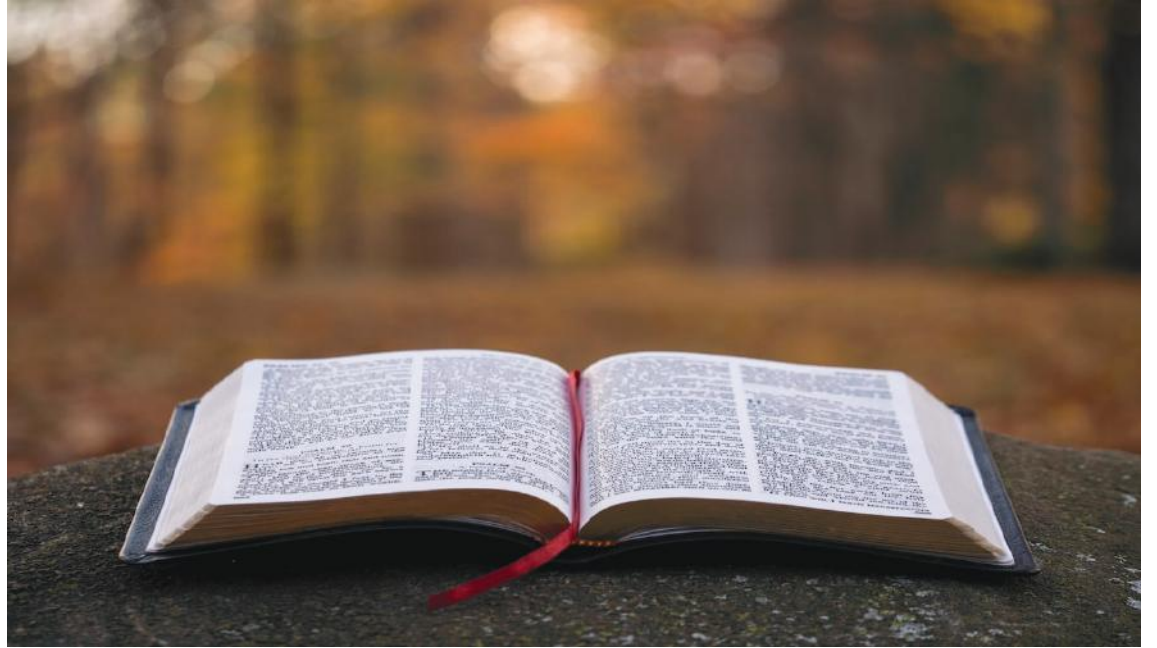
By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

In Kenya, we are a country of Athletes, especially marathoners, and there is this one thing we've learned, NEVER TO LOOSE FOCUS! We are keenly aware of the famous moment as at the last stride before the home stretch the crowds roar. The two front runners can not hear each other footfall and never do the mistake of looking back — a fatal lapse of concentration. The one behind launches his attack and wins the "miracle lap". THOSE WHO LOOK AWAY FROM CHRIST — THE END AND GOAL OF OUR RACE — WILL NOT FINISH WELL. And this was exactly what was happening to some treading the stormy waters mounting around the early church. They had begun to take their eyes off Christ and to fix them instead on the hardships challenging them. Some had begun to look elsewhere for answers. Please, Focus on His

Focus. Along with focusing on Jesus, we must focus on His focus — "who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame" (v. 2b, emphasis added).

Jesus' focus on the coming joy of his resurrection, ascension, and enthronement at God's right hand, plus the joys of redeeming a people for Himself, strengthened Him to do two things: First, to endure the terrible agony of the cross with an "intensity, and with a unity of perception, which none of us can possibly fathom . . . because His soul was so absolutely in His power . . . so utterly surrendered, so simply subjected to the suffering" (John Henry Newman). The agony that Jesus endured on the cross was worse for Him precisely because He was God. Second, He scorned the shame of the cross. That is, He thought nothing of the shame — He dismissed it with contempt as nothing. Jesus did all this because He fully knew the bounding, dancing, endless joy that awaited Him.

Now here's the wonder: Jesus' joy is our joy! His joy is the joy set before us! How can this be? The answer is that we are one with Him. Christ is in us, and we are in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). Where Christ is, we are! God has already seated us in Christ in the



heavenly places, so "that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7). We are "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory" (Romans 8:17). His boundless, dancing, endless joy will be ours! To doubt this is to doubt God's holy Word. If we will focus on the joy that Christ has set before us, we will endure the

sufferings of this world and will dismiss any shame incurred in His name as nothing. And we will run the race to His glory.

HALELUJAH! WHAT A WONDERFUL GOD WE SERVE. IT IS ALL WORTH IT, FOCUS ON HIM. SELAH!

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



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Ruto's Decision To Roll Out Austerity Measures Timely, Well Thought Out



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@gmail.com



President William Ruto .

Worth Noting:

- In default, Kenya would be blacklisted and isolated by the international development partners and lenders. This explains why President Ruto did not take the matter lightly.
- He has so far lived up to his word. This is in terms of ensuring the repayments were being done on time.
- This, however, does not mean that we are out of wood yet. It is worth noting that six in 10 shillings collected as taxes goes towards servicing the foreign loans. President reiterated this recently when he attended a church service in Meru.
- We are left with a paltry Sh4 shillings and this is what we spend for development and recurrent expenditures.

President William Ruto assumed office at a time when the country was facing five main challenges: Dilapidated economy, hefty foreign debts, drought rated to be the worst in 40 years, Russian-Ukraine war and in early stages of recovery from Covid-19 pandemic.

Noting that he was now behind the steering wheel, Dr Ruto immediately started to pull up his socks as he did not want to let Kenyans down.

He embarked on an ambitious process of laying out a strong foundation and to build on it.

His main goal was to ensure that his administration has made great and enormous progress in addressing these challenges within the shortest time possible. But as it turned out, the going ahead was tough than he had anticipated.

The 'handshake' government led by President Uhuru Kenyatta and his partner Raila Odinga had left the economy in a very bad shape.

The Uhuru regime had borrowed more than Sh9 trillion from the foreign lenders. Dr Ruto had no option but to start repaying the loans which started maturing immediately after he took over.

He knew the consequences of failing

to abide by the terms of the repayment agreements were dire.

In default, Kenya would be blacklisted and isolated by the international development partners and lenders.

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He has so far lived up to his word. This is in terms of ensuring the repayments were being done on time.

This, however, does not mean that we are out of wood yet. It is worth noting that six in 10 shillings collected as taxes goes towards servicing the foreign loans. President reiterated this recently when he attended a church service in Meru.

We are left with a paltry Sh4 shillings and this is what we spend for development and recurrent expenditures.

This is showed our economy is still not doing well.

But President Ruto has been leaving nothing to chance. He is working day and night in order to ensure our economy is back on track.

He took a drastic move a few days ago when he unveiled a raft of austerity measures.

In a circular released by the Head of

Public Service Felix Koskei, the head of state banned the senior government officials from making unnecessary travels abroad.

The travels banned include those meant for benchmarking, training symposium and exhibitions.

The travels which are necessary will be approved by his office, he stated. He also reduced the number of the staff accompanying the officer on travel.

For cabinet secretary, one or two persons. For the others, one or travel alone.

The President issued this directive after it came to his attention that these travels were consuming a huge chunk of tax payers' monies.

During his tenure, former President Uhuru Kenyatta had rolled out some austerity measures. I'm sure Dr Ruto, who at the time was the deputy President, learn some big lessons.

Unlike Kenyatta, we know Dr Ruto is a hand-on President.

Given this scenario, I have no reason to doubt Ruto's commitment to ensure a strict adherence to the austerity measures.

For the officers who will make luxurious travels, there will be no reimburse-

ments and per diems. They will have to cater for all the expenses from their own pockets.

As for the necessary and approved travels, the officers will not enjoy the luxury and comfort as it used to be.

The budgets for air tickets, accommodations and allowances have been drastically cut.

They will no longer use the Aero-plane's First Class.

While in the host countries, they will stay in less expensive hotels.

President Ruto is setting a good example. He has been avoiding attending unnecessary foreign travels.

He would only make trips that he knew would bore the fruits for Kenya. Kenyans would reap big and become the biggest beneficiary. When Dr Ruto visited the US recently, he came back with goodies amounting to billions of shillings.

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

Female Lawmakers Push For Increased Support For Women Leaders At The Grassroots

By: PSCU

Female lawmakers are urging development partners to step up their support for women leaders in the country.

The call was made during a breakfast meeting convened by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and attended by members of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) and their counterparts from the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA).

Expressing gratitude for ongoing efforts to enhance the capacity of women leaders, the lawmakers emphasized the need for more targeted support at the grassroots level.

“We appreciate the help that has been given to the special interest groups so far, but I think it is time the support transits from capacity building and training to actual material support at the grassroots,” emphasized Rahab



Parliamentarians during yesterday's forum

Mukami (Nyeri), the chairperson of the County Woman Representatives. Caroline Ng'elechei (Elgeyo Marakwet), the KEWOPA Treasurer, noted, “We have sat in the boardrooms for years. It is high time that we rethink the training models and also reconsider the kind of support programs that are offered.” Nominated Senator Veronica Maina

and Jane Kihara (Naivasha) highlighted the necessity of tailor-made support for women leaders and groups, considering the diverse challenges faced across different counties. KYPA officials Robert Basil (Vice Chair) and David Kimaiyo (Keiyo South), among other leaders were present.



Nyeri County Woman Representative Rahab Mukami who is also the chairperson of the County Woman Representatives making a point during the forum.

NIMD, a global organization committed to enhancing inclusive political systems, revealed the launch of the Kenya Democracy Academy. The academy is designed to provide a multi-year adult education program specifically crafted for Members of Parliament, youth, individuals with disabilities, and other minority groups.

The 6-month program aims to empower Members of Parliament as agents of change, strengthening democratic practices within and outside parliament for the benefit of their constituents. The program will be implemented in partnership with Mzalendo Trust, with support from NIMD.

Senate Committee Holds Meeting On Isiolo Water Company's Financial Statement

By: PSCU

The Senate Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds (CPIISFC), led by Senator Godfrey Osotsi, convened a meeting with the Governor of Isiolo County, Abdi Guyo. The urgent matter on the agenda was an in-depth discussion on the Auditor-General's Reports concerning the financial statements of the Isiolo Water and Sewerage Company Limited for the Financial Years 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21.

The committee unanimously expressed concern over the responses provided by the water company, deeming them inadequate and inadmissible.

This conclusion was drawn following substantial advisory from the Office of the Auditor-General, which deemed the company's previous re-



Isiolo County governor Abdi Guyo (left) when he appeared the committee on Monday.

sponses unacceptable.

In a firm directive to the Governor of Isiolo County, the committee mandated the prompt submission of

detailed responses regarding the audit issues highlighted in the reports under examination. The need for these enhanced submissions was un-

derscored by Senator Osotsi's direct address to the Governor: “Ensure close collaboration with the Office of the Auditor-General. We anticipate

a comprehensive response when we reconvene next year to consider the 2021/2022 report alongside the current ones.”

Moreover, the committee deemed it necessary to reschedule the meeting with the County Executive of Isiolo to rigorously scrutinize the aforementioned reports. Additionally, the Committee stressed the need for the water company's management to actively engage with the Office of the Auditor-General. This engagement is expected to culminate in a mutual agreement on the expectations directed towards the water company, fortifying accountability and ensuring compliance with financial and operational standards.

In attendance alongside Senator Osotsi were Senators Eddy Oketch, Tabitha Mutinda, Fatuma Dullo and Mohamed Chute, although not official members of the Committee, contributing their significant insights as friends of the committee.

Senator Cherargei: Kenya Needs A Seven Years Presidential Term Limit

By: Eric Wanjala
 @themkenyentimes

Amid Inflation rate on the Kenyan economy, outspoken Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei has shown self-aggrandizement by tabling a four points proposal to the National dialogue committee that if approved will make Kenyans use more than Kes 14 Billion on Referendum polls.

On a letter that Senator Cherargei sought to be heard and recommended, it states the need for Institutionalizing of office on official opposition leader, Reintroduction of prime minister office that requires both to be appearing at the floor of National Assembly, Constitution backing of CDF kitty and Ward Development fund also on Veto powers to the Senate.

“This is my personal opinion and the constitution is clear on freedom of speech, Why am calling for this extension is because immediately elections are over in Kenya, one year is usual-

ly lost by trying to settle those who didn't win the elections then another year on unnecessary politics, now the president is left with 2 years to work since the final year people are on campaign mode,” Lamented Senator Cherargei.

However the ruling party UDA, which senator is a member has distance itself from the sentiments of term limit extension despite critics and analyst saying that it's a strategy for the regime testing the waters towards removal of a term limit.

While talking to several UDA legislators from both the Rift valley region and Mt Kenya whom are on the contrary opinion that the current five years term is enough for a performing president who has delivered his or her promises and maintained efficiency in management.

“How is extending the term limit serving the common mwananchi at the pyramid and if we think about perpetuity how these will be effective” Lamented Kirinyaga Woman Rep Njeri Maina



Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei

“We as young legislators especially from the rift region we are not part and parcel of the amendments which have financial and budget implications to common mwananchi, it's simple if someone who is elected performs automatically he or she will be elected,” says Lemengit Mp Emgwen Nandi County.

DIG-KPS Opens Gambogi Police Station In Vihiga County

By: Steve Sabai
 @themkenyentimes

The Deputy Inspector General Kenya Police Service, Mr. Douglas Kanja has Tuesday opened Gambogi Police Station in Hamisi Constituency in Vihiga County. The Police station building houses the offices of the OCS, Deputy OCS, Crime Offices and Stores. In addition to regular police cells, the new Police Station has Mental cell and VIP cells. The station was built under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) by the efforts of Area Member of Parliament, Hon. Charles Gimose of HAMISI CONSTITUENCY in order to bring down criminal activities within the area and also to bring police service nears the public.

While addressing police officers and members of public, Mr. Kanja

lauded the police-public partnership, particularly the effort made by the area MP and the CDF committee to construct the station. The DIG indicated that his core responsibility is to ensure that the Service maintains good relationship with the public. He added that members of the public should visit the station freely and report criminal activities going on in the area in the spirit of community policing.

After listening to the many requests put to him, the DIG assured all local leaders that the concerns would be addressed, and that the first step would be to improve infrastructure at the newly opened station. Additionally, a police dog will be deployed, as requested by leaders through the Regional Police Commander



Deputy Inspector General Kenya Police Service, Mr. Douglas Kanja has Tuesday opened Gambogi Police Station in Hamisi Constituency in Vihiga County.

ELOHIM THE CREATOR



will tell you a story today,
A story about the creation of things
And Him how he did it
Elohim the creator
How he made everything to be

It was empty at time
Did Moses in Genesis tell us that
He himself spoke
"Let there be."
And surely it was

Different things were made
My the sound of his voice
His power is seen everywhere
In the beginning of everything

In the creation of time
He created the sky
Yet he never left day and night
He made the heavenly bodies
Yet he didn't make the earth without
vegetations
Only by the power of his word

The sea creatures
Wait! Even the sun and the moon
The birds of the sea
And us, me writing this
Were the works of his hands
Elohim the creator

In the begining there was the word
John wrote about Him
And this word was Him alone
For if we seek Him first
All the other things will we have
And enjoy the heavenly blessings
With Elohim the Creator

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Weeping Onion

About My Life!

Normamatova Mohichekhra Takhirovna was born on April 27, 1990 in the city of Termiz in an intellectual family. In 1996, I was admitted to the 1st grade of general secondary education school No. 13 named after Jaloliddin Kurbanov in the city of Termiz, and I graduated from this school in the 11th grade in 2006. . 2011, Termiz State University, philology and language teaching; I was admitted to the Faculty of English and graduated in 2014. After graduating from the university, I started my career as an English teacher at general secondary school No. 32 of Termzi district. Since 2020, I have been working as the deputy director of this school for spiritual and educational affairs. I have been working.

Author:
Deputy Director of Spiritual and Educational Affairs of General Education School No. 32 of Termiz District



Go away

By: Umida Abdullaeva

Do not torment me with excessive sorrows,
Leave me alone, go to the destinations.
Listen to what I have to say to you:
You just leave my heart and soul.

Maybe I'll be lonely and lonely
Sometimes I think: "Do you have a page?"

I don't care now, no matter what
You just leave my heart and soul.

Don't explain to me, don't even try!
After all, you've seen me cheer up,
Don't make my precious time cheap
You just leave my heart and soul.

I can't fit in the world right now,
My body is shaking, it's a pain.
My only and last request is from you:
You just leave my heart and soul.



MOTHERLAND



My navel blood, spilled dirt,
Basil is fragrant, mint is full of smallpox.
In the lamp, the light illuminates,
Self-esteem.
Homeland.

The value of every breath
Mother's love, Father's prayer.
Priceless, priceless jewel,
Erk's echo in the mountain.
Homeland.

The air is an example.
Dear as bread, dignified as water.
A gift from the creator,
A thousand good news in one memory.
Homeland.

And the dear, noble place,

If you love, you will be happy with love.
If you catch one, you win ten.
Soaring vulture on your chest.
Homeland.

The Alps are blue and lightning is proud,
The first look from birth.
The feeling of having found its place,
A dog who fell in love and enjoyed it.
Homeland.

Peace be upon you, corner of hearts,
The soul of every nation.
Heaven is the land, I was born,
The Uzbek people are Uzbekistan.
Homeland.

O'tkir Mullikboyev Kochkor oglu, Koshrabot district, Samarkand region, Republic of Uzbekistan
The son of Mullikboyev O'tkir Kochkor was born on August 11, 1990.
Currently, he is a student of the "Primary Education" department of Tashkent ISFT Institute Teacher of "Primary Education" at School 75, Koshrabot District, Samarkand Region
His creative works are "Bakht khuniragi" Tashkent, "Buta 5" Azerbaijan, "Turan writers" Turkey, "Anthology of Kazakh and Uzbek artists" Uzbekistan, "Uzbek writers anthology" Canada, "Young Pencilers 2" " Published in Moldovan, republican and international collections.
His poems were translated into Turkish, Azerbaijani, English, Russian and published in more than ten countries.
Hundreds of poems have appeared in the press. Awarded with the "Initiative Reformer" badge of the international level.

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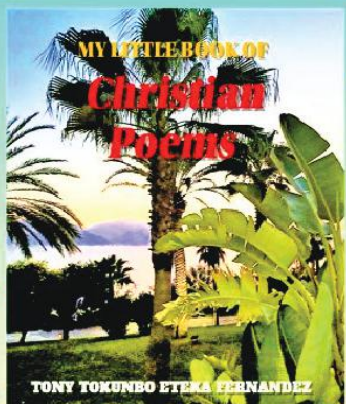
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Lewis Mwaura: How ALX And The Room Changed My Life

By: Tech Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Lewis Mwaura .

Worth Noting:

- I was one of those kids that when you give them a computer, they will find their way around it without needing a manual or guidance. I came across coding back in High School but I did not fully understand what it was about.
- In High School, I was the chairman of a group called Junior Achievers and some of our members were enrolled in ALU.
- I joined in early 2021 and back then the application process was very technical. We had to create a small website within a week as part of the selection process and you equally needed to have substantial prior tech knowledge.

1. Hi Lewis, tell us a little about yourself

My name is Lewis Mwaura and I am a Software Engineer currently working as a Full Stack Developer at Serenity. The role is back-end heavy and I got it all thanks to The Room who helped negotiate and secure it for me. My personal and career ambition is to create African solutions to African problems.

2. Did you always know that you were destined for a career in tech or you stumbled into it?

I was one of those kids that when you give them a computer, they will find their way around it without needing a manual or guidance. I came across coding back in High School but I did not fully understand what it was about. I went to a Kenyan High School hence I chose computer studies and during my final year project that is when I interacted with code for the first time. However, at that time teachers were giving us the code and then we would do some little bit of interfaces here and there hence there was no writing code from scratch. When I joined campus, I knew I wanted to do something in computing due to my love for computers and I equally did not know anything about Software Engineering since it was a fairly new concept. At University, I undertook an undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in information

technology.

3. How did you hear about the ALX software engineering course and what piqued your interest?

In High School, I was the chairman of a group called Junior Achievers and some of our members were enrolled in ALU. For those of us who did not make it into ALU, we stayed back in Kenya and continued with our lives and studies. One day as I was scrolling Instagram, I saw ALX but I ignored it because I was thinking it was just one of the many tech bootcamps out there. The second time I saw it, it was about how ALX is offering a software engineering course in partnership with ALU and that prompted me to click and read further. I went through the first page and I was very excited to read the mission of ALX i.e. upskilling African youths who will be the largest human resource in the next decade. Now remember my ambition is to create African solutions to African problems because currently we import our solutions. So here is ALX doing that so why not be part of such a community? That was my path into ALX and as they say, the rest is history.

4. You were in cohort 4 hence amongst the pioneers of the #ALX_SE program, take us through the application process back then

I joined in early 2021 and back then the application process was very technical. We had to create a small website within a week as part of the selection process and you equally needed to have substantial prior tech knowledge. For me, it was not difficult because at that point I had 2 years of experience because I started doing software and coding back in 2017 and I was already working at a company called Onfon Media. There was a technical interview back then and once you pass that, you go straight into orientation and coding.

5. You got a job through The Room, tell us about that process?

On Slack back then, we had a jobs channel where a pathfinder would either post jobs there or we would be asked to drop our CVs in a particular folder. The pathfinders will then advise you on how to improve your CV and then they will match your CV to a job that suits your experiences and skills. So apart from the day to day grind i.e. battling with C and python or fighting with your sandbox or Betty is on your case, we would get emails of certain open jobs. These job alerts started coming in at the end of sprint 1 and I personally got three interviews and I really regret how I fumbled an Amazon Web Services opportunity. I did not take the opportunities seriously at that point hence I failed to prepare adequately and I failed the codility test for the AWS opportunity. However, The Room team reached out to me again when they had 2 opportunities available at Serenity and another company I cannot quite remember.

What helped me stand out is that I had some prior working experience because this was about 6-8 months into the program. At this point, I was already done with C, I had quite mastered python and I was doing aspects such as react to solidify my full stack skills. When Talent from The Room reached out to me with the 2 opportunities, I quickly settled on Serenity because they were doing something that closely mirrors my personal and career ambition of building African solutions for African problems. Serenity is passionate about providing quality but affordable healthcare to Africans because in Africa, you are always one illness away from poverty. I interviewed, I got the job and that is where I am till date.

6. When Talent from The Room reached out to you, did you ever believe that something would come out of the whole process?

One thing is that I came from the

ALU mindset and I intimately understood what they were all about. So I told myself that if ALX is a child or brother of ALU, then they must hold the same values. However, when jobs were being posted in hundreds in the jobs channel and CVs being requested at random, I literally did not think much about it. I used to apply for almost everything and send out an almost generic CV. However, when I fumbled on the AWS Amazon opportunity that is when I knew there is really something serious going on with the jobs channel. I, therefore, started filtering through the hundreds of opportunities that were being posted and picking those that best suit my skills and experience. I would say what helped me is that I responded to the call that was made e.g. when they asked for people to share CVs, I sent mine and also made an effort to apply. The jobs will not fall on your laps, ALX will not spoon feed you a job, they only create an enabling environment and provide you with access to networks and platforms and it is you to then take full advantage of the opportunities.

7. What does the interview process for a Software Engineering role look like? What are the dos and don'ts?

I got the job through The Room hence my interview process was a little longer with 5 stages. I first had a call with Talent and she sought to understand my mindset, skills and which role would be a great fit for me. After that, I got onto a call with the Serenity hiring team for a technical interview where you are given a bunch of questions and you are expected to solve them live on the call. The technical questions revolved around python, DevOps, version control using tools like GitHub as well as frontend questions because the role was for a full stack engineer. There were also questions on data structures which we had learnt at ALX while doing C but since C is hectic, I did it with python.

8. What advice would you give Software Engineers in the program to pass a Technical Interview?

The most important thing is not to get all the technical questions correct but to demonstrate to the interviewer your thought process and your ability to do hard things. During my interview there were some areas that I would have optimized to provide a better solution but I avoided

Lewis Mwaura: How ALX And The Room Changed My Life

Contd from Page 16.

getting sucked into the temptation of doing everything perfectly. Aim to solve the problem first and then you can optimize later if you still have enough time left on your hands because most of the interviews are short and timed. There will be a review session where you take them through the solutions you have come up with and in case you do not know something, it is better to just admit that you either do not know or you need time to go back and look at your submissions and see areas where you can improve.

The next call was on culture fit for them to see if I fit into their ways of working and it was basically gauging my soft skills. I think for many people in the tech world, they often overlook this part and fail to prepare adequately thinking they can either shoot the answers on the spot or that it will not have much bearing on where they get selected or not. The

easiest way to help you prepare and practice adequately for this phase is to use the star method.

9. Many software engineers, especially at entry level struggle with salary negotiation, what would be your advice?

For me in this recent role I was lucky that The Room team (Talent and Fiona) did all the negotiation for me. I just told them what my expectations were and then I left everything else to them and they did an amazing job. However, if you have to negotiate by yourself, first of all just look at what both your local and global market compensations rates are for the role you are applying for and be realistic with your ask from there. However, if you have to start with a lower compensation, seek to have an agreement on your contract such as after 3 months and having seen what you can do, there is a provision for increase in pay. There are other ways of pushing for better pay for example, asking about other benefits such as medical cover and remote working stipend if it is a remote role. Factor in other costs such as if the job

requires you to commute, does the role require you to work overtime or on weekends and when you point out factors like these, it is then easier for you to push for higher pay. Do not be fixated on just throwing up a figure, break it down and justify why that is what is fair to you by including some of these factors to help drive that price. Most importantly, do not get comfortable if you feel you are not being compensated enough, keep working on yourself and keep applying because they say the easiest way to get a salary increment is to switch roles and/or employer.

10. Based on your role at serenity, what would you say is the day to day work that a Software Engineer does...

First of all, I did the hardest part of ALX which is C while in full time employment. However, after 8 months in the program and when I got the role at Serenity, I dropped out. I dropped with good reason because Serenity is a startup and you get to work more hours than you would in bigger companies where you have several people taking on a

project. I love working in a startup because there is an opportunity to keep learning a lot and keep polishing your skills because you do a lot of overlapping roles. I currently do backend, frontend and devops and it may seem like a lot but seeing that I dropped out to focus on this role, I have been enjoying everything because it helped keep me going from where I had stopped with ALX. My official title is a Full Stack Developer and the role is backend heavy hence there are a lot of databases, APIs and deployments. I, therefore, dropped out because of working more hours, learning more things than I thought I could in a very short period of time. I have really enjoyed working at Serenity and that is why I am still here today because I enjoyed building solutions and seeing the software being used by real people, real patients and real doctors making quality healthcare affordable and accessible to all.

11. Looking back at your ALX journey, what would you say are some of the most important skills you gained that are really

helping you in your role?

First of all is grit, every aspect of the program has been designed to help you build your grit even Betty and her checkers. The intensity has really helped me be able to deliver on very tight deadlines. On technical skills, I came to realize that basics are what really matter. From the for loops, the if statements, memory allocation works, it all goes back to the basics and understanding them makes you a better software. It makes you write efficient software. So it's all the basics. That is what I felt that is a technical perspective that I gained from AXL. At the time I didn't see it as much but today when I look back at the journey, if it were not ALX, some of these things I could have just gone to Stack Overflow copied without understanding a thing as long as it works.

12. Are you team VI or team emacs?

I personally prefer a different one called Nano but if I was to pick between VI and emacs, I will definitely pick VI.

Anti-Poaching In The Wildlife And Tourism Sector



By: Memory Phiri
@themkenyatimes



Wildlife And Tourism Sector in Zimbabwe.

Although it has been a long time coming we are still giving poachers a run for their money. Tourism is overtly becoming a culpable eye opener for all and sundry as it continues to promote our wildlife.

From Zambezi to Limpopo tourism will never be better than this because through edification a lot of people are now eco-friendly. Going down memory lane the immediate community were in the blind especially of tourism hotspots like Rutenga, Kazungula and Mlibizi. As far as comeback is concerned the hospitality industry took it upon itself to civic educate the locals about the importance of safari and wildlife.

Therefore it became a norm to be up in arms with the incorrigible poach-

ers and to snitch on them without contrition. Unsavoury characters in the vicinity of a destination were reported to the rightful authorities thus a lot of poachers were vanquished and brought to book.

That is the upperhand of tourism dear readers for instead of killing our rhinos, the locals were trained to be belligerent sustainable activists and potent rangers who up to now stand firm in our war against poach-

ers. It's short of a miracle that with anti-poaching came a lot of tourism jobs that gainfully employed the masses across the country. Tour guide and ranger training finally registered in the community zeroing to a common ground which exterminated extinction in its wake. We are proud as a nation to say that we rely on these lions and cheetahs for the intriguing game watches, game drives and a bit of tracking.

From Gonarezhou up to Chizari-ra we have designs on our game reserves to withstand the hands of time, by conservation through thriving nurseries so nothing will come between us and our wildlife. Tourism and wildlife coincide thus the animals had us at hello. To jog your memories treasured readers we boast of the white rhino as part of the big five and hordes of elephants to last us a lifetime.

The tourism industry went on to partner with the government plus hefty protectorates which are very hard penalties were put in place. There is no going around these laws and we won't give an inch because we need these species. Let's curtail extinction before our zoos, aquariums and transfrontier parks capriciously go down the drain.

Lately a bonafide poacher has to think twice about the repercussions of their actions before venturing into the wild. Say no to poaching, preserve, conserve and sustain these wild animals for our future generation. In simpler terms our children don't have to rely on documentaries but we want them to experience the real thing. Save Valley Conservancy is our pride and joy for it lives up to expectation time and again as we have a bountiful abundance in giraffes, antelopes, kudus, zebras, buffalos and so forth. Leaving any stones unturned is unheard of in this battle for what is right. To wrap up this article, it will always be my guilty pleasure as a tourism activist to keep these poachers on their toes.

State To Fast-Track Transitioning Of Ranches To Community Land - PS Korir

By: Bernadette Khaduli

@themkenyatimes



Principal Secretary for the State Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Mr. Nixon Korir launching the Report on 'Monitoring the Transition of Group Ranches to Community Land in Kenya' yesterday at Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, a document that will help relevant authorities in the transition process. Photos/ Bernadette Khaduli

Worth Noting:

- “To date, 46 such ranches have transitioned to communities and have been issued with fresh title deeds under the Land Registration Act, 2012,” he said, adding that the transitioned land includes 21 in Samburu, 13 in Laikipia, 5 in West Pokot, 5 in Taita Taveta, and 2 in Kajiado, respectively.

- A case study conducted by NLC in collaboration with NAMATI Kenya has revealed that the progress on transitioning group ranches across Kenya to community land is slow, indicating that by May 2023, only 46 out of 315 group ranches nationally had fully transitioned in a survey that began in 2017.

The government will provide communities with title deeds through the titling programme to enable them to benefit from development projects in their areas.

The Principal Secretary for the State Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Nixon Korir, said communities have been losing benefits and, at times, compensation from development projects due to lack of title deeds.

Korir said the Department of Lands and Physical Planning, in collaboration with the National Lands Commission (NLC), has prioritised the issuance of titles and the transition of group ranches to community land to enable communities to register their parcels of land and georeference them for development purposes.

He said the Community Land Act of 2016 was passed to give effect to the provisions of Article 63(5) of the Constitution 2010 that undissolved group ranches transition to communities, saying that to date, a total of 309 inventory and undissolved group ranches have been submitted to the Chief Land Registrar by the land adjudication and settlement office.

“To date, 46 such ranches have transitioned to communities and have been issued with fresh title deeds under the Land Registration Act, 2012,” he said, adding that the transitioned land includes 21 in Samburu, 13 in Laikipia, 5 in West Pokot, 5 in Taita Taveta, and 2 in Kajiado, respectively.

A case study conducted by NLC in collaboration with NAMATI Kenya has revealed that the progress on transitioning group ranches across Kenya to community land is slow, indicating that by May 2023, only 46 out of 315 group ranches nationally had fully transitioned in a survey that began in 2017.

The research that was carried out in the four counties of Laikipia, Samburu, Kajiado, and West Pokot has established that the slow rate of progress is due to conflicts and disputes within and amongst the group members, financial constraints, inadequate information on the processes and procedures, and challenges related to the registration processes.

The PS, who was speaking yesterday during the launch of the Report on ‘Monitoring the Transition of Group Ranches to Community Land in Kenya’ at a Nairobi hotel, said the number of transitions from group ranches to community land was low, a need that calls for all stakeholders to work closely to alleviate the challenges hindering the transition.

Mr. Korir, who announced that his department will continue to engage NLC in the finalisation of the transition of the remaining undissolved group ranches to communities, cited the issues of boundaries, inventory, registers of members, court cases, logistical challenges, survey requirements, competing interests, and negative ethnicity, among others, as some of

the challenges creating disputes and thereby slowing down the transition process.

“The inventory process is a challenge as some counties take too long to confirm the names to be used while other constituencies are big when it comes to decision-making,” said Korir.

“We still have a lot of work to do if we have to succeed in this process. There has been a lot of engagement in sensitization for a long time. Now we have to move out and channel resources to implementation and registration,” he urged.

He said the current constitution has brought everyone on board, saying that the previous Group Representative Act Cap 287, which was repealed, was discriminatory to some segments of the community as it locked women from leadership positions and made children ineligible for membership, while minorities and people with disabilities were not given the requisite recognition.

“Group ranch officials took positions to be permanent as there were no provisions for retirement. Communal security of tenure was not tenable as influential members could orchestrate dissolution and subdivision of the ranches for selfish gains,” he stated.

The PS said for the transition process to be successful, all undissolved group ranches should be fast-tracked and timelines given; there should also be enhanced inter-governmental synergy at all levels at the national, coun-

ty, and grassroots levels; enhanced budgetary allocations to overcome logistical challenges; and prioritising registration of community land hosting strategic national projects and the removal of implementation bottlenecks.

“There is also a need to build partnerships, collaboration, and synergies between the executive, legislatures, Council of Governors, and corporations for resource mobilisation and advocacy in the implementation of the Act,” he added.

The PS commended NLC and NAMATI Kenya for coming up with the ‘Monitoring the Transition of Group Ranches to Community Land in Kenya’ report, which he said will help in improving livelihoods by empowering the citizenry through land tenure security.

In his remarks, the NLC Chairman, Mr. Gershom Otachi, said the report offers valuable insights into the current state of implementation, highlights common challenges, and imparts crucial lessons for stakeholders involved in ensuring that the spirit of the current progressive law is not lost in its implementation.

“NLC is committed to the continuous monitoring of the registration of all rights and interests in land and remains optimistic that the findings and recommendations of this report will enhance the security of land tenure and sustainable management of land resources in Kenya,” said Otachi.

Speaking at the event, the Director of Land and Environmental Justice and Namati Kenya, Eileen Wakesho, said the enactment of the Community Land Act 2016 and the Constitution 2010 has helped to secure land tenure rights for indigenous and local communities, as well as addressed women’s exclusion in land ownership and governance.

“Loss of communal and family lands deprives Kenya’s most vulnerable citizens, especially women, of the source of their livelihoods, heritage, identity, and political power,” she stressed.

Authorities In Nyandarua County Ready To Tackle El Nino

By: Antony Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

The government has asked residents of Nyandarua County to clear leaning and overgrown trees near their homesteads and in school compounds to avert the dangers of El Nino rains and heavy winds.

Stakeholders have also been asked to harmonise their efforts so as to minimise the adverse effects of the upcoming El Nino rains in the area.

Speaking during a strategic and consultation meeting on El Nino preparedness in Ol Kalou town, the team drawn from the national and county governments urged residents to be aware of the looming danger posed by overgrown trees.

The County Forests Conservator, John Njoroge, however, said residents should take advantage of the heavy rains to plant more trees.

“On a positive note, the El Nino

phenomenon gives an opportunity to grow trees. We have an obligation to plant 15 billion trees within the next ten years, and right now Nyandarua is at 27.56 per cent in tree cover, and every county has a target.

“As a county, we are expected to have moved our tree cover up to 36.69 per cent, and it can only be achieved through the expected rains,” said Njoroge.

On his part, Peter Wambugu, the meteorology director in the county, said that the rains are expected to be felt in the first or second week of October.

He urged the residents to be vigilant and ensure that they avoid low areas during the rainy seasons.

“I have given the seasonal weather forecast, and we are anticipating the El Nino rains, and we expect the rain to be above average and can be used for agricultural purposes. We are expecting the rains to go up to late January 2024,” said Wambugu.

On budget preparedness, the team



led by County Secretary Kanja Muchina said that they are heavily relying on the county emergency kitty but said that they are expecting more appropriations from the county and national government to mitigate the effects expected to arise from El Nino rains.

The team noted that proper planning

and a coordinated response will also improve the post-disaster recovery process.

At the same time, it also proposed standby evacuation alternatives to national exam delivery during the El Nino period.

The meeting follows a warning by the Kenya Meteorological Depart-

ment about Nyandarua being affected by the heavy rains expected from October 2023 to January 2024.

The team later formed critical groups that shall be used for the day-to-day reports and updates with regard to the El Nino rains.

Hope For Coast Farmers As Agriculture And Livestock Committee Considers Bill That Seeks Revive Coconut And Cashew Nut Sectors

By: Eric Wanjala
@themkenyatimes

The National Assembly Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, chaired by Konoin MP, Hon. Brighton Yegon, yesterday reviewed the Proposed Coconut and Cashew Nut Bill 2023.

The Parliamentary Committee reviewed the proposed bill that strikes to revive the production and processing of coconut and cashew nut sectors.

Proposed Coconut and Cashew Nut Bill, 2023 sponsored by Deputy Majority Leader and Kilifi North MP, Hon. Owen Yaa Baya, will provide regulations for the production, processing, marketing, grading, storage, collection, transportation and warehousing of coconut and cashew nut.

“The Crop is almost dying and we need this crop. We should be able to revive this industry on the coast region,” Kwanza Constituency MP, Hon. Ferdinand Wanyonyi.



Left Hon Justice Kimei Mp Sigowet Vice-chair Hon Yengon Mp Konoin.

While these draft legislation is undergoing pre publication scrutiny its also captures to establish the Coconut and Cashew Nut Board of Kenya, to oversee the regulation, production, grading, storage, auctioning, marketing, research, and development of coconut and cashew nut.

On her part, Lamu Countu MP, Hon. Monica Marubu highlighted the decline of coconut and cashew nut production in the Coast region

citing long maturing coconuts and lack of incentives for farmers. “We should appreciate these two cash-crops. They are on decline. If we get an body that can focus on coconuts and cashew nuts, we can revive the sector. The Climate on the coastal region is conducive for these crops. I urge my colleagues to give this bill the attention it deserves,” she added.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in their submissions opposed the legislative

proposal highlighting that the Agriculture and Food Authority is mandated to oversight and develop the sector adding that the purpose of the proposed Coconut and Cashew Nut Bill, 2023 is adequately addressed by the Crops Act, 2013, AFA Act, 2013 and the Crops (Nuts and Oil Crops) Regulations, 2020. While the Kenya Law Reform Commission supports the draft Bill.

Regarding cashew nuts, production has been declining since the late 1970s. The Kenya Cashew Nut Factory, a subsidiary of Kenya Cashew Nut Limited (KCL), with the capacity to process 15,000 MT annually, collapsed in 1997 after the mismanagement of its parent company (KCL).

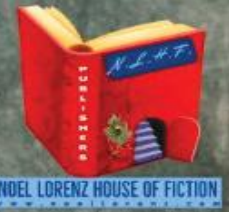
In 2009, the Minister for Agriculture gazetted “The Agriculture (Prohibition of Exportation of Raw Nuts) Order, 2009” banning the export of raw cashew and macadamia nuts. While in June 2022, the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock considered a public petition on the revival of the Kenya

Cashew Nuts Factory.

Cashew nut producing counties include Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Tana River, and Tharaka Nithi, with expansion into emerging areas in Taita Taveta, Makueni, Embu and Meru while coconut is mainly grown in Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu, Mombasa, Tana River and Taita-Taveta Counties. Other upcoming counties with promising potential are Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Busia and Siaya.

Despite its historical significance, the global coconut industry has experienced a downward trend over the past two decades. A notable factor contributing to this decline is the reduced productivity of aging coconut palms, which can drop to as low as 40% when they reach 60 years of age. Additionally, Kenyan coconut farmers grapple with various challenges, including pests and diseases affecting both trees and nuts, suboptimal agricultural practices, and the use of poor-quality planting materials.

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The Best Of Best In Poetry Tajalla Qureshi



By: Abigirl Phiri
@themkenyatimes

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

I am Tajalla Qureshi, an emblem of grace and creative cognizance that ravishingly revives the ordinary things. The journey of poetic joys and jumbles is truly miraculous and mesmerizing. It's like walking on Marshmallow Road, the sweetness of love and embrace, the color of coziness and cure envelops the whole journey.

Well! The journey of embracing poetry started in 2020 when the stream of melodies appealingly invited the young spirit to catch the fireflies in a purple jar. The baby steps towards the mountain of delights, relishing the miracle.

It's like a fairytale, where a divine angel evokes and chokes the inner delights, sheds my soul with loveliness and eagerness, airs my dreams and fires my emotions, and stands firm in thick and thin notions. Poetry is a magical breath that heats the fingers and quenches the trust of holy spirits and as I catch the fireflies, they glitter in my heart too.

My journey is a heartfelt illusion of rhythm and replays. The elements of love, grace, and holiness are emblems of my poems. Being a poet, I capture the reminiscences and sensational dips in my poems. I used to spotlight the heavenly stream of emotions packed pleasantly. I always try to collect the universality and musicality.

Belief and a sense of realization are the secrets of moving toward my dreamland. And a believer is an achiever, I gracefully step into the stream and swing like a swan. I believe that purity, authenticity, and transparency are the monuments of a beautiful pure soul. All that I have today, is the grace of the Almighty.

My journey is incomplete without naming the one who acts like heavenly hands when I write, works like an intellectual brain when I used to think, feels like a pumping heart when I used to beat, glances like the ravishing eyes when I used to perceive, passages like warm breaths when I breathe. My Respected Mentor, is the emblem of grace and



Tajalla Qureshi

embrace in my life. My Belongings belong to him. He is a roadmap to my dreams. He squeezes me like a newborn and sprinkles the holy fragrance on every step. He is a muse of my poetry. Every poem reflects a soulful reflection of that visage.

And how can I forget the one who taught me unknowingly, how to speak and how to stand? My speaking expression is highly impressed by Respected Najwa Zebian (Author of Welcome Home).

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

Well! Yes, I am a Published poet. My Lustrous art has been published in a renowned German magazine "Raven Cage Zine" more than 6 times. I have served as a co-author

in many International and National Anthologies. The very first International Anthology I participated in is "Patches of Reality" by Rosewood Publication and the recent National anthology is named 'Eternal Veil of Shadows'. I have participated in different Poetic presentations and competitions and won top positions while creating an aura with a splendid and soulful style of recitation.

Moreover, I was awarded as "Miss 20th Century Poetry" at the University of Chenab, Gujrat. "My Phoenix" one of my published poems was given in the final exams of English Literature, 7th semester. I have been awarded the Best Emerging Writer at a literary event.

In addition, I have presented my paper at a National Conference detained at Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore.

Who is your inspiration?

My heartfelt Inspiration throughout my poetic journey is My Respected Poetry Teacher: Mr. Muhammad Adnan and secondly My Respected Miss Najwa Zebian. Both are the emblems of musical magnificence.

Mr. Adnan was always there to hold, mold, and fold the blinky brightness and innocent expressions. He taught me how to swim in the ocean of poeticality and musicality, how to catch the coziness from the holy water, how to grab the sun rays speaking to my eyes, and how to cling with eager delights.

Moreover, he is my muse. A lush image in each poetic expression. His soulful lyrics are the beats and breaths, I take. They choke the eagerness. His heartwarming dedications are the necklace I wear. He embraces every step, I take. He commits an overwhelming collection of poems. Some heartfelt poems are "Mirth", "Telemachus", "You Deserve More", "My Greek Warrior", "Black Bustles You", and "I Know Her" in English language and "Woo Khayam Krn", "Pur Umeed Rahaay" and "Soocta hn" in Urdu language.

Miss Najwa is possessed with an expressive and soulful way of expressing. She admires me since I stepped into the stream of poeticality. A motivation, who taught me the way of uttering and expressing the style with beautiful pauses. I have dedicated a poem to her, "Najwa Zebian" that fully describes her enchanting collection.

Where do you see yourself in the near future?

Well! I always imagine myself among stars in the huge sky and as that star which blinks differently. I desire to be the one who has numerous delights and lights in a single sight. So, I see myself furnishing my dreamland, the world of holy souls on the top of a huge mountain, roaring and soaring the heavenly delights. I see myself among the colorful fishes swinging in the poetic ocean and being a fruitful tree that sheds and shares the sweet fruits of love and embrace.

What problems have you faced as a poet?

Being a poet is a sensitive and splendid expression. It is pleasant to be a person who senses minutely and

mystically. A poet is like a spring air that rushes through sensible minds and gazes the sensitive kinds. So, I haven't experienced a harsh hurdle throughout my journey. But yeah! Sometimes, it happens to the poet as the whole process takes a little pause to prepare something more energetic and eager. I have seen that the writers are quite sensitive and sensible and possess by highly intellectual mindset. So, It's being blessed to be a poet.

Share with us one of your best poetry pieces

Well! Well! Each poetic verse is quite close to my heart. And it's a great pleasure to share some verses of my most heartfelt poem:

Overwhelming evokes the holy tune
Gazes the impulsive engrossed
And unknowingly coziness embraced

**Prints are the impressions of praise
Desire to hold the warmth em-blaze
Seems like an ointment in a hectic phase**

Compassion clicks and affection enlance
Tinny peeps into the heart and spark
The realm of rosy rolls over the magical Mark.

These are some soulful expressions from The Magical Mark (published in a German Magazine), Hope you people enjoy it and desire to read the whole poem.

Kindly share your social media handles

@the_poetessage
@tajalla_qureshi_

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

Writing teaches you a beautiful lesson that nothing remains forever but the pen and paper, they are always ready to console you. Read artistically and knit creatively. You will feel lightness and delightness. So, be a swan that swings in the ocean and sings like a nightingale for so long. Bright wishes to the emerging buds.

Sports >> *National women's rugby 7s team coach Dennis 'Ironman' Mwanja says it will be a touching moment for him to lead the side to next year's Paris Olympics in France.

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Why Paris Olympics Would Be Dream Come True For Lionesses Coach Dennis Mwanja



Lionesses coach Dennis Mwanja in a past action. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA.

National women's rugby 7s team coach Dennis 'Ironman' Mwanja says it will be a touching moment for him to lead the side to next year's Paris Olympics in France.

The former national team player admitted gracing the quadrennial event will be enough compensation for the many opportunities he missed to feature in it during his playing career.

"Of course it is a great honour to play in the Olympics. Some of us when we had stopped playing, it's when Kenya managed to make it to the Olympics. We always wanted to be part of it so it is an honour to compete in it not only as a player but as a coach," Mwanja said.

First things first, Mwanja will have to steer the Lionesses through a tricky Rugby Africa 7s Olympics qualifiers in Tunis, Tunisia on October 14-15.

The coach noted that the team

will be keen on emulating the exploits of their male counterparts who won the Rugby Africa 7s last month in Harare, Zimbabwe to confirm their third appearance at the Olympics.

"I would say Shujaa ran their race...each and every one of us has their job to do. The girls were motivated and were cheering them on but now the ball is in our court. We are equal to the task and the girls have proved themselves. This time, a year ago, we were in Chile for the Challenger Series and we made it to the semi-final, beating South Africa along the way. We are quietly confident of what we are capable of doing," Mwanja said.

Part of the approach that the team have adopted for their campaign up-north is a no-nonsense attitude in all their matches.

Mwanja admitted that no team are worth underrating although he pinpointed the hosts and

Madagascar as red flags for the Lionesses.

"We always look at Madagascar as being a threat because they play free flowing rugby, are unpredictable and have quite good runners. We are also looking at Tunisia, being the hosts. All in all, we are a respecter of no team...we respect teams but don't fear what they pose a threat," he said.

Mwanja added: "It has been a long journey preparing for these qualifiers and we have our work cut out. We have previously qualified by virtue of South Africa not being allowed by their union from competing at the Olympics. We are raring to go for the competition...no favours but by just fighting our way through."

The coach named a 12-woman squad on Tuesday, which will be skippered by Grace Adhiambo.

Also included in the team is Japan-based Janet Okello whose

experience Mwanja believes will be pivotal to their qualification ambitions.

"Janet has been a key part of the team...through the Lionesses, she was called into the professional ranks. We have to bring our best resources for this tournament and we know her qualities. Also, just by showing up, she really motivates the team so it is an inclusion that cannot be overlooked at this time," he said. Lionesses squad for Rugby Africa 7s Olympics qualifiers: Grace Adhiambo (Captain), Sharon Auma, Stella Wafula, Phoebe Akinyi, Judith Okumu, Janet Okello, Diana Awino, Terry Ayesa, Naomi Amuguni, Maureen Muritu, Dorcas Nyachio and Christabel Lindo.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Lewis Hamilton shed light on his contract negotiations with Mercedes and revealed that he had "casual conversations" with Ferrari about a potential move to the Italian team.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton Reveals 'Casual Conversations' With Ferrari



Lewis Hamilton. Photo/TEAMTALK MEDIA.

By: **TEAMtalk Media**

Lewis Hamilton shed light on his contract negotiations with Mercedes and revealed that he had "casual conversations" with Ferrari about a potential move to the Italian team.

However, seven-time Formula 1 World Champion, Hamilton, ultimately decided to stay with Mercedes, signing a multi-year extension.

The future of Hamilton's Formula 1 career had been a topic of speculation throughout 2023 due to delays in contract negotiations with Mercedes. Amidst the uncertainty, rumours emerged that Hamilton might make the switch to Ferrari.

However, those rumours were put to rest when Mercedes and Hamilton officially announced their continued partnership at the Italian Grand Prix.

When asked about the possibility of joining Ferrari, Hamilton clarified, "Never. Okay, I'm sure we've had a few casual conversations. I know a lot of good people there. But I never felt ready to move to Italy."

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff provided some insight into the complexities of the contract negotiations.

Hamilton and Wolff have a history of detailed discussions regarding contract clauses. Hamilton explained, "This is not the first time that the two of us discussed for

hours and haggled over details." "Always under the motto: From Thursday to Sunday, I belong exclusively to Formula 1.

There are so many details about my promotional activities. I'm in a happy position with Toto. He is respected and admired by everyone. It's easy to negotiate with him. And that makes him a great leader."

When asked if he personally reads the contract details, Hamilton admitted, "Of course, I want to know exactly what's in there. But now it's over 200 pages, or a f**king book. And that takes you days!"

With the contract negotiations settled, Hamilton is set to continue his Formula 1 journey with

Mercedes. The next race on the Formula 1 calendar is the Qatar Grand Prix, scheduled for the weekend of 6-8 October.

This race will be the 17th of the season and will take place at the Losail International Circuit, a permanent venue located just outside of Lusail, north of Doha.

Formula 1 fans can look forward to seeing Hamilton in action as he aims to secure further victories and add to his impressive list of achievements in the sport.

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BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Bettie Atemo
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- “The Ring of The Moon” is a poetry guide and revision book for learners of all levels of education: secondary schools, colleges, and universities. The book offers a basic foundation for learning poetry and the poems address various thematic concerns such as Pan-Africanism, misogyny, child abuse, health, development, corruption, leadership, love, pain, disillusionment and suffering among the endless list of themes. His poem; “I RISE”, dominated Mount Kenya Times Magazine in 2022.

- This collection employs a variety of styles such as lyrical, free verse, narrative, sonnet, haiku, and pattern poetry; blended well with a wide range of voices and sound patterns. It offers basic tips to students on how to study and excel in the field of poetry.

Author: Simiyu S. Stanford
Publisher: Elong’o Publishers
Year: 2023
Title: The Ring of The Moon
Genre: Poetry
Pages: 156
Cost: Ksh.800
Title: Robai Nabisino Makokha
Genre: Biography
Pages: 89
Cost: Ksh.1,000
Contact: stanfordsiboe@gmail.com/+254726651428
Facebook page: Simiyu S. Stanford, The legendary Poet

East African Literature has always been showered and highly painted beautifully by great literary scholars such as Ngugi wa Thing, Francis Imbuga, David Rubadiri, and John Ruganda among other great authors and poets.

Trans-Nzoia, a county in Kenya has not been left out after losing Ken Walibora; a new author pulsating with new blood in the world of literature has sprung out. Little is known about SIMIYU S. STANFORD who is a prolific author with works including “The Ring of The Moon” (a poetry analysis book), “Robai Nabisino Makokha” (A biography), “Dust” and “The Web” (plays), and “I Lost Them” (a short story anthology). The other books are unpublished while these two (The Ring of The Moon and Robai Nabisino Makokha) were published by Elong’o Publishers on 8th July 2023 and 8th September 2023 respectively.

“The Ring of The Moon” is a poetry guide and revision book for learners of all levels of education: secondary schools, colleges, and universities. The book offers a basic foundation for learning poetry and the poems address various thematic concerns such as Pan-Africanism, misogyny, child abuse, health, development, corruption, leadership, love, pain, disillusionment and suffering among the endless list of themes. His poem; “I RISE”, dominated Mount Kenya Times Magazine in 2022.

This collection employs a variety of styles such as lyrical, free verse, narrative, sonnet, haiku, and pattern poetry; blended well with a wide range

of voices and sound patterns. It offers basic tips to students on how to study and excel in the field of poetry. I highly recommend it to both students and facilitators of poetry. However, high school students will benefit greatly from this text.

“Robai Nabisino Makokha” is a biography book about a woman who was born in Chesikaki village, Bungoma county, Kenya in 1914. This memoir tells of her woes, tales, and how she managed to outrun the archaic culture and traditions that saw her into a forced marriage at the age of 16 years. Although she was married to her teacher who stole her virginity and made her a mother of eight, she stuck to her dreams. She fought bravely many obstacles and emerged a victor who lived for 106 years.

This is an inspirational book, a motivational factor, and a hope to many individuals who are despaired, depressed and disappointed. It has the satisfaction of the heart and soul. It’s mind and wound healing.

People have their says and beliefs about Robai Nabisino Makokha. This book looks at her from a different angle and a unique way.

Reviewed by Bettie Atemo
Marketing Consultant, Mt Kenya Times

