



Financial Inclusion Heralds A New Dawn For African Women As Continent Moves Towards The Africa We Want

In December 2012, Joyce Kemunto, a resident of Nyatieko Ward in Kisii County, one of Kenya's 47 constitutional regional administrations, literally put down her razor blade and picked up a hoe, bringing to a close a quarter century of her female genital mutilation (FGM) enterprise.

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Kenya Inches Closer To A Predictable Tax Regime

⚡ The draft policy which was tabled in the National Assembly in April this year, is set to herald the era of a predictable tax regime, a move that could encourage tax compliance, encourage foreign direct investment, and enhance accuracy in revenue projections.



Finance committee chairman Kimani Kuria during yesterday's session

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Caucus Against Drugs And Substance Abuse Deliberates On Mitigating The Menace In The Country

By: PSCU

The National Assembly Parliamentarians against Drugs and Substance Abuse Caucus has called for a national conversation to address the drug abuse menace in the country, and to explore solutions to help the affected.

The lawmakers led by the chairperson of the Caucus, Antony Kibagendi (Kitutu Chache South) made the call when they met with officials from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Programme Manager, World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday.

While exploring immediate solutions to mitigate the situation, the lawmakers emphasized the need for various agencies mandated to deal with the vice to scale up efforts on the fight against the villainy through advocacy, creation of awareness and setting up rehabilitation centers across the country.

The legislators further underscored the need for the government to build partnerships with different stakeholders for this to work, with a keen focus on control mechanisms for both licit and illicit substances.

“Rehabilitation is very expensive in Kenya and we need to get partners to help us in constructing rehabilitation centers. We also need to build capacity for alternative sources of income for those who do not use drugs, but are conduits of the same, such as the women who



Parliamentary Caucus on Drugs members pose for a photo with representatives from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Programme Manager, World Health Organization (WHO) after a consultative meeting yesterday..

Worth Noting:

- “Rehabilitation is very expensive in Kenya and we need to get partners to help us in constructing rehabilitation centers. We also need to build capacity for alternative sources of income for those who do not use drugs, but are conduits of the same, such as the women who peddle chang’aa. We need to get them off that enterprise, reskill them, and help them establish constructive business ventures,” Kibagendi explained.
- Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge noted that the avenues for access of these drugs are increasing by the day.

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Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge noted that the avenues for access of these drugs

are increasing by the day.

He highlighted the need to decentralize the government chemist services, to ensure that those who are apprehended have their cases expedited.

“Our judicial system relies on laboratories that are centralized in Nairobi and we urgently need support in devolving the government chemist services first into regions and then into counties to speed up testing and analysis,” held Maina.

His Buuri counterpart Rindikiri Mugambi raised concerns over the increase of drug intake especially in areas that are less suspected including schools and churches, and the increase of drug abuse by women.

He expressed optimism that the partnership between the Caucus, UNODC and WHO would yield results and help curb the menace which has imperiled the lives of many young people.

On her part, Esther Passaris (Nairobi County) proposed the establishment of harm reduction programmes; which she

noted has worked in countries like Portugal.

She argued that establishing safe houses for rehabilitation of drug abuse victims for free, and thereafter providing them with training in various technical skills and start-up capital, would encourage the affected to come out of it and live responsibly.

Mr. Neil Walsh, Regional Representative for Eastern Africa, UNODC, noted that funding has been the biggest challenge.

Dr. Joyce Nato, the Programmes Manager in Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases at WHO undertook that through the organization, they would request other partners to collaborate in the cause, in the development of a joint funding concept with the Legislators.



Nyeri Town MP Duncan Maina Mathenge making his contribution as Nairobi County Women Representative Esther Passaris listens

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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
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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Lower Eastern government has assured Lower Eastern residents that Thwake Multi-purpose Dam will be completed as scheduled, despite delays caused by payment processing. The project, now at 86% completion, is on track and will be paid in the next week. The government has also encouraged local leaders to supplement government efforts in ensuring the dam's completion on time, despite potential negative impacts from divisive politics.



Public in Garissa County, particularly along the River Tana, has been urged to move to higher ground and follow flood alerts due to expected El Nino rains. County Commissioner Solomon Chesut emphasized the government's commitment to preventing loss of lives, property destruction, and water-borne diseases. The government has mobilized resources and logistics to respond efficiently in an emergency.



Nandi Governor Stephen Sang has criticized unutilized projects proposed by his departments, stating that they are fully funded but remain unused. Sang has directed departments to investigate if these projects will benefit locals before funding. He has highlighted market stalls and bodaboda shades in some areas as fully completed but unutilized.



The Beyond Zero Initiative is providing free menstrual hygiene kits to 2004 West Pokot County girls. The kits, which include sanitary towels, soap, and petroleum jelly, will be distributed to ten primary schools in Pokot North Sub County. The initiative aims to encourage girls to attend school and improve their sanitation and healthcare, ultimately boosting their attendance.

Residents of the Nyanza region are urged to welcome President Dr. William Ruto on a four-day development tour. The President will tour four Luo Nyanza counties, including Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, and Siaya, where he will commission development projects. The Kabonyo Kanyagwal fish project in Kisumu, a Sh. 3 billion project, aims to revive blue economy activities in Lake Victoria. Ruto will also commission Koru-College Road, Lake Basin Mall, MV Uhuru II, and Kisumu Last Mile water projects. In Homa Bay, Ruto will commission Mfangano Ring Road, Sindo-Magunga Road, Homa Bay Pier, and Oyugis Water Project. Ruto will also commission a last-mile water project in Kuria East, launch affordable housing projects, and meet sugarcane farmers. He will also attend a Thanksgiving ceremony for Gem Member of Parliament Elisha Odhiambo in Siaya County.



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WHO Recommends New Vaccine To Prevent Malaria In Children

By: Alice Gworo

@themkenytimes

Worth Noting:

- Malaria, a mosquito-borne disease, places a particularly high burden on children in the African Region, where nearly half a million children die from the disease each year.
- Demand for malaria vaccines is unprecedented; however, the available supply of RTS and S is limited. The addition of R21 to the list of WHO-recommended malaria vaccines is expected to result in sufficient vaccine supply to benefit all children living in areas where malaria is a public health risk.



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended a new vaccine for the prevention of malaria in children.

The recommendation follows advice from the WHO, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE), and the Malaria Policy Advisory Group (MPAG), and was endorsed by the WHO Director-General following its regular biannual meeting held on September 25–29.

WHO also issued recommendations of the R21/Matrix-M on the advice of SAGE for new vaccines for dengue and meningitis, along with immunisation schedules and product recommendations for COVID-19.

Similarly, WHO issued key immunisation programmatic recommendations on polio, IA2030, and recovering the immunisation programme.

The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine recommended by the

WHO, following the RTS and S/AS01 vaccines, which received a WHO recommendation in 2021. Both vaccines have proven to be safe and effective in preventing malaria in children and, when implemented broadly, are expected to have a high public health impact.

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Demand for malaria vaccines is unprecedented; however, the available supply of RTS and S is limited. The addition of R21 to the list of WHO-recommended malaria vaccines is expected to result in sufficient vaccine supply to benefit all children living in areas where malaria is a public health risk.

“As a malaria researcher, I used to dream of the day we would have a safe

and effective vaccine against malaria. Now we have two,” said Dr. Tedros Adhanom.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, added that the demand for the RTS, S vaccine has exceeded supply, so this second vaccine is a vital additional tool to protect more children faster and to bring us closer to our vision of a malaria-free future.”

Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa, emphasised the importance of this recommendation for the continent.

“This second vaccine holds real potential to close the huge demand and supply gap. Delivered to scale and rolled out widely, the two vaccines can help bolster malaria prevention and control efforts and save hundreds of thousands of young lives in Africa from this deadly disease,” he said.

The updated WHO malaria vaccine

recommendation is informed by evidence from an ongoing R21 vaccine clinical trial and other studies, which showed reduced symptomatic cases of malaria by 75% during the 12 months following a 3-dose series.

A fourth dose, given a year after the third maintained efficacy. This high efficacy is similar to the efficacy demonstrated when RTS, S is given.

At least 28 countries in Africa plan to introduce a WHO-recommended malaria vaccine as part of their national immunisation programs. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has approved providing technical and financial support to roll out malaria vaccines in 18 countries.

The RTS, S vaccine will be rolled out in some African countries in early 2024, and the R21 malaria vaccine is expected to become available.

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PIC Governance And Education Secures Victory For Kenyatta University Students Amidst Tassle On KUTRRH Ownership

By: Our Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The National Assembly, Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education, led by Jack Wamboka (Bumula), has achieved victory for Kenyatta University (KU) students.

The students can now gain access to the Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) for their training purposes.

This milestone was reached during a roundtable meeting organized by the Committee to resolve the ongoing dispute over the ownership of KUTRRH.

The committee had extended invitations to various Cabinet Secretaries, including Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u (National Treasury and Economic Planning), Ms. Nakhumicha Wafula (Ministry of Health) and Prof. Ezekiel Machogu (Ministry of Education), to address various issues related to the ownership of KUTRRH.



Some of the students giving out their proposal.

Also present at the meeting were Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, KUTRRH Chair of the Board, Prof. Olive Muga, and CEO, Ahmed Dagane.

During the discussions, lawmakers engaged with the Cabinet Secretaries to review the hospital's history and development, emphasizing KU's initial concept of KUTRRH to enhance

the training of healthcare students. The team explored the possibility of revoking Legal Notice No. 4 of 25th January 2019, which had designated KUTRRH as a state corporation.

Additionally, members expressed concern regarding reported encroachments on land owned by the University. Prof. Machogu underscored the importance of students having access



Some of the stakeholders who attended yesterday's forum.

to KUTRRH to develop their skills and receive the highest quality training.

He firmly asserted that the hospital should be returned to the University and issued a stern warning to those who had encroached on the University's land. He clarified that only the original squatters would be accommodated and assured the Committee

of the Ministry's support in putting an end to land encroachments.

"This committee has and will continue to ensure the students at Kenyatta University get what they deserve," Wamboka stated while reiterating the directive to have students practice their training at KUTRRH.

Murang'a Assembly Embarks On Proper Waste Management

By: Anita Omwenga and Purity Mugo
 @themkenyatimes

The County Assembly of Murang'a has adopted a report recommending improvements in the management of solid waste at the Karii dumpsite in the Kandundu area near Murang'a town.

This comes after the residents near the facility complained about the poor state of the dumpsite and suspected it had been the breeding ground for botflies, fearing that their health could be at risk.

In a report tabled before the house by the vice chairperson of the assembly's committee for energy, environment, and natural resources, Gladys Wambui, on the status of the Karii dumpsite in Murang'a County, the MCAs expressed concern over the poor management of solid waste being deposited at the dumpsite and the need to improve the condition at the site.

"The committee undertook a site visit to the Karii dumpsite, where we engaged a casual worker who oversees the day-to-day operations of the dumpsite to get an insight into how waste is managed," said Wambui,

adding that they witnessed firsthand the flies, pungent smell, and smoke billowing from the dumpsite, which is a health hazard to the area residents.

Karii dumpsite has an area of 300.7 square kilometres and is located about 4 kilometres from Murang'a town. It serves a population of approximately 109,770 residents. The dumpsite also serves as the major dump site for waste collected in the entire county, while administratively being under the Murang'a municipality.

"The dumpsite is facing a lot of challenges, including lack of a perimeter wall, infestation by botflies posing health risks, and the deplorable state of roads accessing the site, among others," she said, adding that the municipality had however conducted a fumigation exercise to control the issue of botflies and the bad smell emanating from the site.

Wambui observed that the local municipality has embarked on a project to improve the condition of the dumpsite, whose main activities include fencing the site, improving the access roads, building ablution and changing facilities for staff, controlled tipping, and lighting.

"The environment department should be allocated funds to enhance the implementation of pending proj-

ects at the Karii dumpsite for FY 2023-24," she said, adding that the dumpsite should be rehabilitated for proper garbage disposal.

According to the report, the dumpsite handles all types of waste, including agricultural waste, which contributes 45 per cent of the total waste produced, domestic waste (40 per cent), and litter and office waste (15 per cent).

"On a daily basis, approximately 96 tonnes of waste are generated in the county, and the municipality has two tipper trucks that are available twice per week, Mondays and Fridays," averred Wambui.

Kahumbu MCA Isaac Chefman, while supporting the motion, said agricultural waste, which contributes to 45 per cent of the total waste produced, can be turned into useful by-products such as organic fertilisers.

"Agricultural waste, which mainly consists of banana leaves, cabbage, and tomatoes, among others, can be recycled into organic fertiliser useful to our farmers when it comes to providing nutrients to the crops, hence increasing food production," said the chef.

Gaichanjiru Ward, MCA John Kamau Munyua, while adopting the motion, said the committee will work with CECM Environment and



Natural Resources to ensure that the proposed recommendations on how to improve the Karii dumpsite are executed.

"We will work hand in hand with the CECM to ensure that the recommendations made in this report are implemented to enable proper waste management in our dumpsites," said Munyua, a member of the energy, environment, and natural resources committee.

The MCAs recommended that modern technology be embraced; for example, incinerators should be installed to prevent air pollution through the emission of harmful gases into the surroundings.

Further, they recommended a sorting and recycling plant be established at the dumpsite for proper solid waste management.

The report further recommended that CECM Environment and Natural Resources conduct regular fumigation exercises at the dumpsite to mitigate the dilapidating condition posed by the botflies.

Further, the CECM should come up with a legal and policy framework for enhancing the Karii dumpsite into a revenue earner for private investors paying a fee for the disposal of their waste for the maintenance of the facility.

Muranga County has three dumping sites, namely Karii in the Kandundu area, Mukarakara in Kangema, and Gikono sanitary landfill in the Kimorori area, which is still under construction.

Kenya Inches Closer To A Predictable Tax Regime As Finance Committee Commences Consideration Of Proposed National Taxpolicy

By: PSCU



Stakeholders during yesterday's forum.

Worth Noting:

- Speaking on the matter, members led by the committee chairperson, Kimani Kuria encouraged the stakeholders to share their viewpoints frankly on these matters and related others, to help the committee generate a comprehensive document for consideration by the House.

- “We note that the proposed National Tax Policy has left out a number of cross-cutting issues that a policy of such nature must seek to address. We are for instance concerned that the proposed document has not covered issues to do with double taxation, exception of tax through conditional lending- which often results to massive exploitation of our people and minimal skills transfer, as well as mechanisms for determining excise duty rates,” Kimani noted.

Kenya could be inching towards realizing a National Tax Policy, if the proposed draft policy is successfully processed and adopted by the National Assembly.

The move follows the commencement of the consideration of the proposed policy by the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning.

The draft policy which was tabled in the National Assembly in April this year, is set to herald the era of a predictable tax regime, a move that could encourage tax compliance, encourage foreign direct investment, and enhance accuracy in revenue projections.

Notably, if approved, this would be the first tax policy for the country after several unsuccessful attempts.

Yesterday, the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning commenced public participation on the policy.

The committee which is keen to spearhead this historic achievement, started off by engaging a number of stakeholders to get their view points.

The committee is scheduled to receive more views from a number of players in the finance sector, includ-

ing the Kenya Revenue Authority before debate on the policy commences in the House.

Among those who appeared before the Committee today are the Institute for Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), Audit firm Deloitte East Africa, Institute of Economic Affairs and West Minister Consulting.

But even as public participation on the crucial policy kicks off, the Committee has expressed concerns that the policy which emanated from the National Treasury, fails to address a number of cross-cutting issues such as those pertaining double taxation, administration of tax exemptions and the manner in which the implementation of the proposed policy will be administered.

Speaking on the matter, members led by the committee chairperson, Kimani Kuria encouraged the stakeholders to share their viewpoints frankly on these matters and related others, to help the committee generate a comprehensive document for consideration by the House.

“We note that the proposed National Tax Policy has left out a number of cross-cutting issues that a policy

of such nature must seek to address. We are for instance concerned that the proposed document has not covered issues to do with double taxation, exception of tax through conditional lending- which often results to massive exploitation of our people and minimal skills transfer, as well as mechanisms for determining excise duty rates,” Kimani noted.

Stakeholders who appeared before the committee called for a structured change on the taxation system such that when investors especially, Foreign Direct Investors make a decision to invest in a particular sector, they can do so without fearing that the law could drastically change spelling doom on their investment.

They also called for a mechanism to determine excise duty rate to be provided for in the policy, with a rider that the rate be subjected to public participation.

They argued that without an arbitrary excise duty rate, the country would be able to determine its revenue projections accurately. The stakeholders further called for a clear criteria to be established under the policy, for tax exemptions to encourage transparency and account-

ability.

To enhance prompt remittance of refunds, the stakeholders proposed that a certain percentage of KRA collection be retained by the Authority for refunds, to address delays in processing of tax refunds leading to backlogs and cash flows challenges that have been attributed to delayed exchequer releases and approvals.

The proposed policy is set to provide policy guidelines to the country's tax and tax administration reforms in the medium term.

It also articulates broad guidelines for governing tax administration and the tax system in Kenya

At the same time, Kimani has revealed plans of the committee to conduct a post legislative analysis on the Finance Act 2023 before embarking on the consideration of next year's Finance Bill.

He underscored the need for such an initiative to assess the impact of the various tax measures enacted on the economy. He further observed that this would help inform which tax measures are ideal for the growth of the economy.

Discipline Of Perseverance

So the discipline of perseverance confronts us to:

- Divest. We must throw off every



By: Eric Musa
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

besetting sin, those sins whose crimson tipped fingers so easily entangle us. Our besetting sins are unique to us. They may not tempt others, but they slay us as we swill their seeming sweetness. Probing deeper, we must cast off everything that hinders us — even the good things. If we don't, we'll never run as we ought. Are you willing to do some radical divesting? That is the question.

- Run. Then we must run our own race, the race God has marked out for us. Your race is not my race, and my race is not yours. You can finish your race. It is God's will. And He will give you the grit to persevere as you run. So run, my brother, run!

- Focus. We must focus on Jesus. There must be no distracted glances. Jesus must cover the sky. He must be our center. And we must focus on His focus and His joy because it is our joy. His joy set before us will give us the power to endure, even despising the world's disdain.

- Consider. So we are to consider Him. Our life is to be spent considering how He lived. We are to run like Jesus did, completely divested. We are to run with Him. We are to run toward Him. We are to fix our eyes on Him. We are to focus on His focus. He is to be our perpetual consideration. He has a race for us to run. And we can do it as we lean on Him. Food for Thought and you should ask yourself questions like:

What entanglements (besetting sins) and hindrances (legitimate things that are pulling you down) do you need to cast aside and leave behind? Be specific. Why is it so hard to do this?

What is the race that God has mapped out for you like — straight, twisting, flat, hilly? Why or why not are you able to persevere in that race? What has been your greatest victory so far?



Do you think that at the end of your life you will be able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"? Why or why not? What would it take to be able to say that? What can you do today to lead to that result?

What does it really mean to "fix our eyes on Jesus"? Is His joy your joy? Why or why not?

With such kind of genuineness, we

shall FINISH WELL, in Jesus Christ Mighty Name: AMEN.

GOD HELP US, AND DELIVER, LEAD US ALWAYS INTO YOUR WAY EVERLASTING: AMEN.

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 Shake-Up His Cabinet Was Not Influenced By Politics



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandong@yaho.com



Worth Noting:

- He also reminded them that one of their key assignments is to listen to what the people at the grassroots were saying. Once you hear their issues and concerns, the next step is to address them appropriately and expeditiously. My point here is clear. Your job is not to only stay in office or travelling abroad now and then. I'm not holding brief for President Ruto but given this background, I want to say this.

- President Ruto's decision had nothing to do with politics. This matter was already in public domain.

- So, the issue was not whether President Ruto would effect a mini-reshuffle, the question was when. This time, no cabinet secretary and principal secretary was fired.



President William Ruto .

The latest decision by President William Ruto to effect a mini reshuffle of his cabinet has continued to draw mixed reactions.

I totally disagree with those reading politics. Here are my reasons.

First, President Ruto has remained focussed and consistent in terms of keeping a tab on the performance of each Cabinet Secretary (CS) and Principal Secretary (PS).

I vividly remember the statement he made after witnessing their swearing-in at State House Nairobi.

He told them that he expected each to discharge his or her mandate in a professional and precision manner.

Note this. Kenyans are your employer. You are doing this work for them and they are watching you.

Therefore, I will not entertain any excuses. You only have two options: To deliver or ship out.

Turning to those who supported his candidature during campaigns, he gave them a word of advice.

The period of politicking is over. This

is the time of working for our people. So, don't have the mentality that I will spare you if you fail to perform.

President Ruto kept reiterating the same message in various occasions.

When he invited them to sign the performance contracts, he told them.

I have come to learn that some of you were totally clueless about what your jobs entailed.

As the President, I knew a lot more than you on how to run your respective dockets.

Given this scenerio, there was no need of having you as a Cabinet Secretary.

This is because you were not adding any value to the course of public interest.

He also reminded them that one of their key assignments is to listen to what the people at the grassroots were saying.

Once you hear their issues and concerns, the next step is to address them appropriately and expeditiously. My point here is clear. Your job is not to only stay in office or travelling abroad now and then.

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So, the issue was not whether President Ruto would effect a mini-reshuffle, the question was when.

This time, no cabinet secretary and principal secretary was fired.

Instead, the president swapped some and transferred others to reconstituted and renamed ministries.

However, this is how some Kenyans interpreted the move.

There were losers and winners. For those demoted, they had foreseen this coming.

For the sake of starters, allow me to say this.

According to the provisions of Article 154 (2) (a) and Article 155 (3) (a) of the Constitution, the CSs and PSs are nominated by the President and, upon approval by the National Assembly, he appoints them.

This means the power they exercise is donated and delegated to them by the President.

As the head of the executive arm, the President needs a team which would help him to discharge his constitutional mandate.

So, the same provisions allow the President to effect the cabinet shake-up and reshuffles.

So, contrary to the impression created by his critics, Dr Ruto's decision was within the law.

This is not the first time we are seeing this. The history of the successive governments of Kenya is replete with cabinet reshuffles and shakeup.

Some of the changes affected by the four Presidents who had ruled before Dr Ruto were major and earth-shaking.

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

Who is a Poet? A Case Study of Kagayi's "For My Negativity" and "No Speaking Vernacular"



By: Nassur Tab'an El-Tablaz
@themkenyatimes

In this column, our editor, Nassur Tab'an El-Tablaz brings you a weekly review of Ugandan literary works through the lenses of Zziwa Zinabala, an ardent advocate of Ugandan Literature. Zziwa is a well read Ugandan poet and playwright well known for his poetic play, The Muchwezi, the Flower and the Suit-or. This week we delve into the contentious debate of Who a Poet is.

On 15th June, 2023, I met Kagayi at the National Theatre. He sold me his performance poetry collections, For My Negativity and No Speaking Vernacular. Extensively, we had a wonderful talk for about 45 minutes, discussing many issues and the future of poetry in Uganda. One significant rhetoric he poked so hard about was that of Who is a poet? This is an augmented argument that has been around our poetry circles for quite a while. Every single blink, it hiccups again on different social networks as different creatives display their spirited knowledge of who a poet is. Such is our conundrum. I hope we shall have some semblance of an agreement by the end of this write up on who a poet is and what it takes to be a poet. I will elevate my witty annoyance in discussing the "trinity being" of Kagayi: Kagayi, the Publisher; Kagayi, the Artist, and Kagayi, the Writer.

Kagayi, The Publisher

When I purchased Kagayi's two poetry collections, he asked me a peculiar question that set me into soft giggles: "Zziwa, What do you mean, you have never bought any of my books?" To make matters straight and to have an emotional balance of thoughts without offending him, I told him that I had in fact bought his books such as Don't Love me in English, a poetry collection written by Bridget Ankuda but published by Kagayi himself. We then shared our different thoughts about publishing and art juxtaposing our discourse with views on the local climate and the international scene. He raised quite pertinent issues, more significantly:

1. Writing is an elitist job that lets individuals eat, pay bills and have fun without trying so hard with life. His narrative was centered on



Kagayi Ngobi at the launch of 'Sexual Perceptions, Culture and the Law' 2022.

writers in Europe who are thought to almost do nothing but lead better lives. This isn't the case for a country like Uganda where writers suffer and sink into a depression pit if not guided carefully how brittle this job is. They are faced with the ghost of unrealised royalties. It is claimed nothing has changed, we are only dealing with different problems of the "genZ." For instance, most of Kagayi's published content is poetry for himself and other writers under his publishing entity, Kitara Nation, a house presumably founded in the spirit of publishing poets. This brings us back to the question: Who is a poet? Should one be published to be called a poet? When should one identify as a poet? As a matter of fact, one must have published content before identifying as a poet. Kagayi is a published poet and a publisher of books who often refers to himself as a 'bookpreneur' – a person that invests money in books. However, from the reading of his aforementioned collections, should a publisher publish himself or herself? How do you handle the biases in your own books?

2. Published Ugandan content might not benefit the writers. If this be true, when will one ever be recognized internationally or sell millions of copies to enjoy the fruits of their labour? Ugandans often only recognize a Ugandan writer when such a writer gets international mileage and accolades. Such is the case of Jennifer Makumbi Nansubuga who Ugandans recognize not because of her witty penmanship but because the whole of Europe bows for her as the most complete Ugandan writer. Publish your poetry. Let the world judge.

Kagayi, The Artist

I have watched Kagayi perform several times in the theatre and/or at different poetry events and stages. Once again, we ask: Who is a poet? Should a poet be able to perform their content at different venues or stages? How should they perform their content? While reading Kagayi's No Speaking in Vernacular, I noticed something irregular which evoked a nostalgic moment. I recalled back then, in primary school, we would be forced to wear sacks and bones whenever we spoke our mother tongues (vernacular). This collection of performance poetry is a real comic masterpiece. I enjoyed each interval when the Headmaster of "John Speke High School" reminded different students how Dambya said "GWE". It is filled with real vivid imagery of what goes on in most of our schools. That is the exact portrayal of our teachers – we love them anyway! Perhaps, if it were not for them, we would not be writing this colonial language with ease. Nevertheless, why should you punish and suspend a child from school because of speaking their native language?

Therefore, Kagayi as an artist mirrors our society that depresses young children and sets them as examples or trophies of victory and control. This is the best book I have read from Kagayi, so far. No filters, just the bold comical truth. It is a reflection on school jargons reminiscing the glory days of school. How fun it was after classes! I mostly enjoyed his use of Uglish – a fusion of English and Ugandan native lingua blended with direct translation. This is typical mockery of the Master's English, a victory that perhaps children will run away from the fetters of colonial mindset. Pulling all the

strings together, and tailoring the concerns of Kagayi, the Artist, he exhibited a well-coordinated plot. He again asserted in his content that he is an artist – he has reinvented performance poetry for us to enjoy in theatre. This second persona of Kagayi rings yet the throbbing concern; Who is a poet? Kagayi is an artist who performs all his content. Should it be deduced that for one to be recognized as a poet, they should be an artist? The ability to stress out one's emotions on stage? There are other Ugandan poets who perform their pieces on stage such as Sssebo Lule, Jason Ntaro, Wake the Poet, Caroline Afroetry (The Unapologetic), Mich et al. However, does reciting one's poetry on stage make them artists? How should these be categorised? Do they qualify to be called poets because of their beautiful "voice-overs"?

Kagayi, The Writer

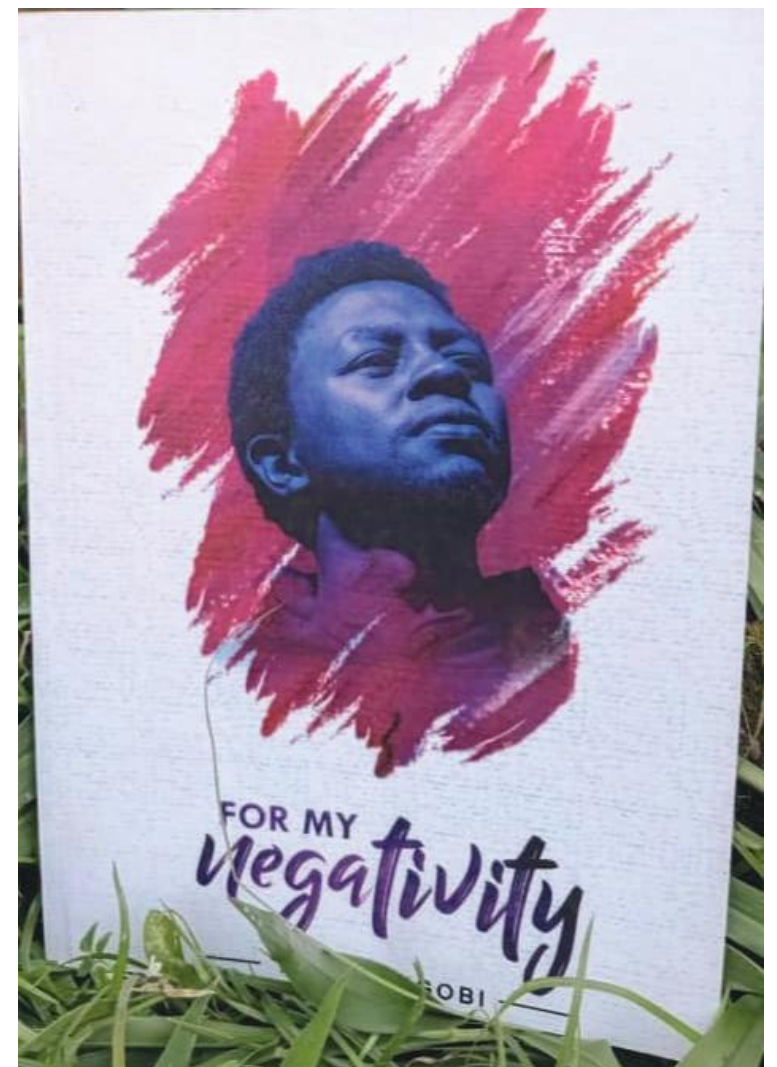
In all aspects of life, Kagayi is a manifestation and lives the talk. He is a writer. There is proof to these kinds of sentiments. A poet should be a writer. You cannot call yourself a poet without adequate proof that you are a writer. But who is a writer?

"I play football. Should I call myself a footballer?" Kagayi asked during our discussion. This is an analogy I wish to throw to you, readers. Is

everyone that can kick a ball a footballer?

It is very difficult to exclude Kagayi from politics. He writes majorly about what hurts him as a Ugandan. Take for instance his maiden book, For my Negativity in which he describes how different things in his country are amiss, and he is bombarded with a lot of negativity; thinking that perhaps his pessimism can be positive one day if things go well. I, therefore, find Kagayi more of a political writer. Political writers are shrewd and a little brave to handle the possible ramification of their content. For instance, Jack Mapanje and his political poetic writings. Kagayi employs his native language and elaborates his pleas, perhaps thinking that, if they can't understand my simple English, perhaps my Lusoga will ring a bell. For my Negativity reminds me of the Kasese children murdered and burned by terrorists. Who is safe in Uganda? While many Ugandans choose to be apolitical, Kagayi chooses speaking truth to power without fear or favour – a real comendable spirit, I must admit.

Concisely, weighing the different persona of Kagayi, do you think you qualify to identify as a poet?



Nakuru County Artistes To Benefit From Capacity-Building Training

By: Veronica Bosibori
@themkenyatimes



The director of Nakuru Player's Theatre, Joseph Maina, alias Babushe.

Players in the creative industry drawn from Nakuru County are set to benefit from a capacity-building programme geared towards unlocking their inherent value and potential in the Creative and Culture Industry (CCIs).

The training programme organised Thursday by the National Government through the State Department of Culture in conjunction with Nakuru County Government and other collaborators focuses on areas such as marketing, adoption of new technology, copyright, and intellectual property.

Tourism and Culture Chief Officer Rosemary Kimani lauded the move, saying the programme will empower players in the creative industry at every

level of their value chains to catapult their contribution to inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development.

County Executive for Sports and Youths Josephine Achieng, who was also present, appreciated the programme, which she said will im-

mensely contribute towards the development of Nakuru's creative economy.

State Department of Culture Deputy Director Julius Manzi said the programme is being rolled out in eight regions, with Nakuru clustered under the Rift Valley region.

Manzi commended the county administration for being at the forefront of jumpstarting a policy process that would help support the culture and creative industry, saying that as a state department, they are ready to collaborate with the county during this process.

Other topics covered include creative strategies and product development, the creative economy, art as a business, and experience sharing, among others. The participants were Nakuru Players Theatre, Nakuru Creative City, and Technical Working Groups, among others.

The director of Nakuru Player's Theatre, Joseph Maina, alias Babushe, said that even though it has taken the country a long time to escalate the importance of investing in and supporting the creative industry, the national government's support and enthusiasm were highly appreciated.

He urged the younger artists to raise the bar of art in the country since it has a lot of potential and scenic scenes that have not been utilised by local and international moviemakers. However, he appealed to all artists to always showcase the country positively.

He gave examples of visual artists who have kept on drawing pictures of African women wearing tattered clothes, carrying babies on their backs, and holding others with their hands and heavy luggage on their heads as a false representation.

Additionally, he said such negative portrayals were meant to give a misconstrued notion of poverty, misery, and belittling of women, noting that despite the problems in Africa, it's a continent that beams with joy and laughter. He wondered why they don't have nurses, teachers, and even executive Kenyan women working in high offices.

More Than 30,000 People Registered For Inua Jamii Programme In Nyeri

By: Samuel Maina
@themkenyatimes



Nyeri County has registered a total of 26,606 new beneficiaries for the Inua Jamii programme that closed last month.

The government rolled out a nationwide mass registration exercise on September 1 and had planned to run it for two weeks. The exercise was, however, extended for another two weeks when it was realised there was a possibility of locking out deserving beneficiaries due to logistics.

A total of 500,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and Persons with Severe Disabilities (PWSDs) had been targeted in the new listing.

Others who were earmarked in the enhanced listing included Older Persons (OP) who had attained the age of 70 years.

In Nyeri, the government targeted a total of 3,952 new beneficiaries for the OVC and PWSDs, but this figure has exceeded the initial projection by 3,280 persons.

Nyeri County Children Officer Mwaniki Kung'u told journalists that the list of the newly registered individuals has been forwarded to Nairobi for verification before they

can be processed as new beneficiaries.

Kung'u has also clarified that payments for those already captured under the programme are ongoing for the month of September, as the government had announced earlier on.

"The process of capturing details of new members for consideration in the Inua Jamii programme came to a close on September 30, and we have already forwarded the data to the headquarters for data cleaning. It is after this process has been concluded that we shall get direction on the way forward," he said.

Last month, Mwaniki stated that those who desired to be enlisted under the Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC) and the Cash Transfer for Persons with Disabilities (CT-PWDs) had to wait until a validation report had been prepared to qualify for the sh2,000 monthly stipend.

In August, the state began disbursing funds for the Inua Jamii cash transfer programme on a monthly basis to help address perennial backlogs that had turned out to be an added pain to the intended beneficiaries. The move came at a time when beneficiaries of the social safety net had been forced to wait for months before receiving the dues.

By early August, the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizens had managed to disburse a total of Sh2.8 billion as payment for the month of July.

The State also released an extra Sh4.3 million for the Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE) programme, which complements the Inua Jamii initiative.

A total of 1,042,864 people were expected to benefit from the disbursement.

In Nyeri, the state was to disburse sh

2,000 to a total of 4,800 households through the CT-OVC and a similar amount to 17,000 elderly persons under the Older Persons programme for the same month.

Mwaniki has lauded the move by the state, terming it a big relief for hundreds of beneficiaries who initially had to wait for months before accessing the money.

"We are happy to announce that all the pending arrears for the Inua Jamii payment since 2021 to date have been paid out. What we are currently doing is clearing payments for the month of July. Towards the end of this month, we expect to pay out money for August and embark on enlisting new beneficiaries for this programme as directed by the Head of State yesterday," said Mwaniki when he spoke to KNA on August 7 this year.

For one to access the monthly stipend, he or she must have been registered through the Consolidated Cash Transfer Programme Management Information System (CCTP-MIS).

In addition, one must be in possession of an Inua Jamii payment card, national Identity Card and a caregiver national identity card every time he or she wants to make a withdrawal.

Beneficiaries have the liberty to choose among six banks as their payment service provider. They in-

clude Equity, Cooperative, National Bank, Kenya Women Microfinance Trust, Kenya Commercial Bank, and Kenya Post Office Savings Bank (Post Bank).

President William Ruto has promised that his administration will be diligent in ensuring timely disbursement of the funds that ensure the most vulnerable in life can enhance their quality of life.

The OPCT, PWSD-CT, and CT-OVC programmes were established in September 2013 to uplift the lives of the most vulnerable members of society in order to enable them to meet their most basic needs.

The National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) covers a total of 1.2 million households in the three cash transfer programmes.

As of the 2018-2019 financial year, the cash transfer for orphans and vulnerable children had enrolled 353,000 households, representing 29 per cent coverage.

The older persons' cash transfer (targeting households with individuals aged over 65 years) and the Inua Jamii programme (targeting individuals aged 70 years and above) had 833,129 beneficiaries, representing a coverage of 78 per cent, while persons with severe disabilities had 47,000 beneficiaries, representing 3 per cent coverage.

Beautiful Mother



I wonder for a moment looking at you,
You shine like the sun, mom.
I know you always like me
Your face is so beautiful mom.

The beauties of the world are not like you.
Tulip's beauty is not beauty at all,
Even springs are not so beautiful,
Your face is so beautiful mom.

Did the rose take its beauty from you?
Or inherited from your mother?
Have all mothers been this beautiful?
Your face is so beautiful mom,

Your love flows like a river,
You always like my sweet words,
The moon looks at you and wonders.
Your face is so beautiful mom.

I always feel happy when I see it.
I am rich in beauty that has no equal in the

world,
Untold treasure in the sky, my dear,
Your face is so beautiful mom.

I need you always
When he sees you, his heart beats quietly,
She may not be as good looking as you.
Your face is so beautiful mom.

Ismailova Nigora Mirzoaliyevna was born on June 7, 2006 in Sariasia district of Surkhandarya region. Currently, she is a student of the 11th grade of the 12th general secondary school in the district. Now she teaches English to the children of her circle in her educational center called "Wisdom educate". Creative works were published in USA, Russia, Kenya, Spain, Germany, Moldova, India magazines.

Member of India's international organization "All India Council for Foreign Development" and ambassador to several world organizations. other: "SPSC-(Sustainable Developers and Organizers),

Global Education Ambassador.
Active member of "JUNTOS POR LAS LETRAS" Songwriters and Artists Working Group.

Young volunteer of "OLTIN KANOT" organization Creatively published in Kazakh, Argentinian and Uzbek anthologies.

Owner of the "Altin Kiran" badge.
Owner of the badge "Innovative Promoter".

Maqsuda Karimova Kadyrovna



Is there no trace of my service?
Excited looks, no words.
Who would I be without this dear word?
Such a lovely word dear:
_Are you a teacher?

I spent my life in the pursuit of this specialty,
Sometimes passed in the system of blind requirements.
How it passed in the body of knowledge,
The field of enlightenment is without feeling:
_Are you a teacher?

El's eyes are as endless as the sky,
If you get through it, you'll be fine.
You are a majestic jewel without property.
In front of this word, I always kneel down:
_Are you a teacher?

On the street, sometimes at a wedding party,
I often encounter strange situations.
Tagmana is embodied in a detailed picture
Berarar is sometimes a hook word:
_Are you a teacher?

I don't know if there is a difference, from the masses?
(Allah did not look away)
Yes, a worthy job, although hired,
Every now and then one word haunts me:
_Are you a teacher?

Maqsuda Karimova Kadyrovna was born on March 20, 1966 in the village of "Uchtut", Navbahar district, Navoi region. After graduating from high school, she studied first at the Tashkent Technical College of Culture, then at the Navoi State Pedagogical Institute. The first poetry collection "Diydar Ghanimat" was published in 2013. She is one of the winners of the contests "Creative teacher" and "Marvarid Olkam". She is the owner of the "Sacrifice of Education" and "Talent" badges

Forgive Uzbekistan!



Abu Rayhan Beruni
To a mature world.

Let's be at the beginning
Our example is humo
Let's serve, friends,
Always for the country.

I MISS YOU TODAY MOM!
My shoulders are burdened with many worries,
You never left me alone.
The world is deceptive
I miss you today mom...

When I go home, I run
You say, my dear, have you come?
Even if you don't smile, come to me
You always make me sad...

When no one is with me,
You were the balm for my pain...
My fist, I remember
Mom, I miss you!

When I come home from class,
"Where is my mother?" is my first question.
I'm sorry if I don't disappear often
Mother, you are my trembling heart.

I have no sense of longing,
I just miss you.
Why is the sky difficult for a person?
I'm sick of homesickness...

The world is less for me without you,
I'm thirsty for your love, mother!
Close the session
Then I will fly to you, mother!!!

Norsafarova, daughter of Nilufar Boybari, was born on April 24, 2004 in Dehkanabad district of Kashkadarya region. At the moment, he is a student of the Uzbek language and literature department of the Shahrizabz State Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of Languages. Norsafarova Nilufar has been an active participant in many international and national competitions. In 2023, he became the owner of the "Innovative Promoter" badge. In addition, he is currently actively involved in volunteer work at the institute. He is the author of such articles as "History of the formation of proverbs", "Palindromes or words of the heart", "Specific features of an epic work", "The role and importance of connected clauses, separated clauses, impulses and introductions in a sentence". These articles were published in foreign publishers and in the prestigious publishing houses of our republic.

My patriotic country,
Your name is an epic in languages.
My free, prosperous country
You are a flower.

Our country is prosperous,
Independent stable.
My country, yours always
Your sky is flawless.

They live in harmony
All the nation in you.
Unmatched in harmony.
Motherland thoughts only.

From your beauty, my country,
I always get inspiration.
To you, my common home,
I dedicated my tune

Kind like my father,
You are dear to us.
We love you from the bottom of our hearts,
Tolerate Uzbekistan!

You are a confidant like my mother,
You are my life companion.
Gulla, yashna, hur Motherland,
You are our common home!

LET'S FOLLOW THE GREATS!
Come on, friends in life
Let's leave a good mark.
Read with excellent grades
Let's get good knowledge.

Homeland in the future
A worthy child
The flag of our country
Let's rise to the sky!

The name of my motherland
If we make it famous to the world.
Let us be followers

Our grandfather Amir Temur
To Great Ibn Sina,

A Love Story



Even if I am like Majnun, my flower,
Can you be like Lily?
When I say I love you, my love
Can you cheer me up?

i loved you so bad
Even if you don't come out, it boils like
a spring,
I did not agree, Amon,
Why didn't you, Zainab?

I wish you were a Bamisol Rana,
I would be Anwar,
Ignoring others
I would only love you.

I wish I was Otabek
My beautiful Silver from Margylan,
Without thinking for a moment,
We would build a marriage together.

If you are my flower Shirin,
I used to write a love story myself,
As if I, like Farhad,
I was really losing my mind.

Why didn't you come Zuhra?
I did not become Tahir,
Even if we are not together,
We would leave it to fate.

The son of Rasulov Jarabek Yakhasboy was born on December 2, 2006 in Andoqsay, Kattakorgan District, Samarkand Region.
He is currently a 10th-grade student of school No. 83. His poems have been published in newspapers and magazines. He is a participant in many competitions.

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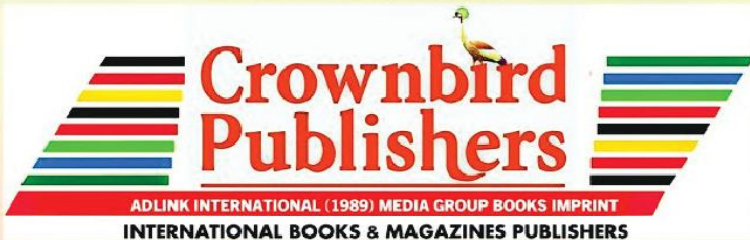
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Quad Bike Rides Bring A Motor Sport Appeal To Tourism



By: **Memory Phiri**
@themkenyatimes

Taking the wheel and stepping on the gas is the only explanation that can best describe one activity that is on offer and gracing the Mazowe flyer lately. Honestly, no one is entitled to pay a blind eye to such a package that is so alluring. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy meaning to say if you want to have a splendid time or to spend your money wisely then try out the quad bikes.

They help visitors to take their mind off work and stress related issues that we face with the rising to the setting of the sun. In actual fact, the bikes have become crucial to an itinerary because they are a form of joy ride that appeal to people of all ages. Dear readers a license is a thing of the past in this instance so it's mandatory to drive like there is

no tomorrow.

When it comes to quad bikes then you better fasten your seat belts because you will be up for a bumpy ride plus a hive of activity. Back and forth you go making a day trip worth while. Not only do tourists want but they need this adrenalin pumping activity.

Quad bikes are the only consolation in this case for they shake things up, left right and center. Although it is on a small scale and the bikes are miniature in making, the combination of sports tourism and formula racing is always daring like the real thing.

Treasured readers, the secret behind having activities on an itinerary is to show tourists that everyone can afford to be happy especially if they let themselves go and focus on bonding with friends and family or on team building trips.

There is no room for sitting ducks at these rides because an active participant has to take control and be adventurous. As a form of motor sport, it's only fair to guess what it feels like to be in Lewis Hamilton's shoes for once in a lifetime.

Indeed, it possibly becomes a field



Quad Bike Rides .

day for all our vehicle fanatics and experienced drivers. In that regard, it does not ostracize the faint hearted since that will be a sin for helmets are present. Inturn get ready, set and go ahead by throwing caution to the wind.

Tourism outdid its activities when it introduced these wonderful and exciting light utility vehicles (LUV) that tickles one's zest for competition. To come clean, quad bike rides are available for you in Mazowe.

Background wise the town is situated in Mash central which is the epicenter of our country. Making it very accessible by road or by air to our visitors. The destination is popularly known for its citrus plantations which produce the delectable Mazoe orange crush which has always graced our homes and shops for eons.

Apparently, most adverts that are flighted concerning this attraction often centers on the dam's water sa-

faris. The reason being that the dam potently compliments the adventure bridge with the boat cruise per se.

It has been a long time coming but Mazowe tourism has diversified and enhanced its package to a clean slate courtesy of quad bike rides. As a matter of fact, it has painted a new picture for the destination as tourists are always in need for speed. Over and above, granting us their audience as they keep on coming back for a spin.

Suspects In NTSA Vehicle Registration Fraud Arrested

By: **The DCI**

Eleven suspects have been arrested by detectives in connection to a high-level motor vehicle registration fraud, at the National Transport and Safety Authority.

This is after detectives conducted a comprehensive system audit of the NTSA Transport Integrated Management System (TIMS) after suspecting that crooked NTSA officials were operating back office accounts to register motor vehicles fraudulently.

In the ongoing probe conducted by Cybercrime sleuths based at the National Forensic Laboratory, the main suspect identified as Jimmy Kibet Wayans, was arrested at a house in Lavington where he operated a suspicious account that had infiltrated the TIMS system to illegally introduce vehicles.

For instance, in the months of March and April alone, 47 vehicles had their chassis changed while 54 were fraudulently added into the system, laying bare the extent of the fraud perpetrated by the criminals.



Further investigations reveal that the suspect who is not an employee of NTSA had major back office roles and was in control of several other fictitious user accounts in the NTSA system.

Detectives are also investigating how a deactivated account belonging to a former ICT officer at NTSA was reactivated and was being used for back office transactions, several months after he had tendered his resignation in July last year.

Following the revelation, three NTSA employees Anthony Waithaka, David Migwi and David Kimaren were also arrested, in the elaborate criminal enterprise that also

involves officials from the Kenya Revenue Authority.

So far, one suspect from KRA identified as Boniface Njoroge has been arrested as detectives burn the midnight candle to bring all the suspects involved in this high level fraud denying the government the much needed revenue to book. Also arrested were Denis Wafula, Anthony Kariuki and Marvin Renisi. Others are Julius Kiprop, Amos Muthaki and Caleb Odiambo.

Previously, a comprehensive expose by FichuakwaDCI, had unmasked how crooked officials at the motor vehicle registration body colluding with rogue staff working in Micro-

finance institutions and street brokers had made the lives of vehicles owners unbearable.

This is after detectives uncovered an elaborate scheme where one motor vehicle registration number and its logbook would be registered to more than one vehicle and the fraudulent logbook used to secure loans from banks and microfinances.

Before the bona fide owner of the logbook realized that his/her logbook had secured a loan, auctioneers from the microfinances involved would be rudely knocking on their doors, to impound and sell the vehicles for not 'servicing' loans that they did not take.

This was followed by the arrest of two men who were busted at a cyber cafe located in Ngara, along Desai road, with 450 genuine motor vehicle logbooks. At the cyber, an application for a logbook would take a few hours before it was delivered from an insider at NTSA while other Kenyans waited for their documents for months.

The mastermind of the syndicate would also illegally develop affidavits and commission them, before sending them to their contacts at NTSA for forced transfer of motor

vehicles. In a matter of minutes, the transfer of a motor vehicle would be finalized exposing the possibility of one's vehicle being transferred without their knowledge.

This among other complains from frustrated Kenyans cast the National Transport and Safety Authority on the spot, prompting the ongoing probe sanctioned by the DCI Director, Mr Mohamed Amin.

Recently the Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary visited NTSA headquarters where he assured Kenyans that sanity would be restored at the agency.

Meanwhile, members of the public are cautioned to be wary of brokers who obtain money from them in the pretext of expediting the processing of motor vehicle logbooks, reflective plates and driving licenses. Instead, they are advised to make use of the TIM portal.

The suspects face several counts including obtaining registration by false pretence contrary to section 320 of the penal code, unauthorised access contrary to section 14(1) of the Computer Misuse Cyber Crime Act, access with intent to commit further offence and unauthorised interference all under the same act.

POETRY

Human Value

By: Eshmurodova Roziya Siddiq

[@themtkenyatimes](#)



Worth Noting:

- I didn't go to school. My mother dropped my brother off at the kindergarten. At noon, a doctor with a white beard, sweaty face and wearing a white coat called my father to his room. My mother constantly prays, wiping the tears from her eyes, "What kind of bride did I become?" he moaned.
- Dad came out of the doctor's office and told us to go and pulled mom aside and said something. Some joy appeared on my mother's face and we went home together. As soon as he arrived, he opened the safe and began to count all the money. He put money, his gold jewelry and bank cards in a bag.



Eshmurodova Roziya Siddiq

"Good morning, mother and daughter!" Did you sleep well? Come on, now you're going to be late for studying, my grandmother patted my head. "Grandma still has time," I said as soon as I managed to open my eyes.

- It will be more than 7 o'clock before my daughter gets ready for school. Rest now.

- Uff. I left the room with a sore throat. While I was having breakfast, my grandmother used to look at my face with a smile, thinking about something else and smiling. On my way to school, despite my grandmother's prayers, I slammed the door and left. I told my mother that I would have lunch with my friends, and after lunch I wandered the streets. We have two children in the family. I thought it was a boring life. I'm still bored, walking around until the evening. On the contrary, my phone had run out of power. I came home after sunset. The house is as quiet as water. When I open the door and go inside, neither

my grandmother nor my brother nor my parents are at home. I was surprised. Even when my parents went to parties and gatherings, my grandmother was eagerly waiting for my arrival. I entered my room and put my phone on the charger. As soon as the phone turned on, SMS messages and phone calls started coming. I said the usual things and lay down on the bed. I fell asleep with that. Early in the morning, my mother entered my room, said something and left. I was only able to say hi. The alarm clock rang at 7, I barely got up. I read yesterday's text messages. My mother said, "We are in the hospital. If you come home late, stay at the neighbor's house. If you come early, come to the hospital. I was surprised to read this message in the morning. Did something happen to my father?" I left. In the hall, my father was walking from side to side on his feet, and my mother was sitting hugging my brother, whose eyes were red. Seeing

me, my mother said, "Why didn't you go to school?" When my father came, he hugged me and stroked my hair. Oh "My mother called her my daughter. I was shocked by this situation. I cried and said, "What did he do to my grandmother? Are they dead?"

"No, no, my girl, what do you mean?" Dad began to reassure me that nothing will happen to your grandmother, I will show her to the best doctors.

I didn't go to school. My mother dropped my brother off at the kindergarten. At noon, a doctor with a white beard, sweaty face and wearing a white coat called my father to his room. My mother constantly prays, wiping the tears from her eyes, "What kind of bride did I become?" he moaned. Dad came out of the doctor's office and told us to go and pulled mom aside and said something. Some joy appeared on my mother's face and we went home together. As soon as he arrived, he opened the safe and began to count all the money. He put money, his gold jewelry and bank cards in a bag. He put my father's and grandmother's clothes separately in a bigger bag. What happened to my mother? what are you doing? He answered my questions that everything was fine. The next morning, my father came and put the things in the car. We all went to the hospital together. My grandmother was tired and sitting in a wheelchair wearing new clothes. We all went to the airport together and watched my grandmother. My father took my grandmother to see qualified doctors in China. I found this out by asking after my month. Two days have passed, three days have passed, there is no sign of either my grandmother or my father. Every day I go to school late, come home early and prepare lunch and dinner for myself. It seemed that the most boring life had just begun. Since 15 years, I have been used to my grandmother stroking my hair in the morning and putting sweets in my bag after school. It seemed to me that there was no love or attention in this house. My mother returns from work and brings my brother with her. He doesn't sleep until midnight. It's been a month. My father calls me every now and then and says that my grandmother is fine and that she can't be worried, but she doesn't talk like her. The house seemed to swallow me.

I get angry when I remember what I

said to him, how I slammed the door in his face. I enter my grandmother's room and smell her clothes and scarves. Looking at his pictures, I cry bitterly, but my heart is still restless. I miss my grandmother very much. Until now, I have never smiled. Even if I came back from school late, he would greet me with a smile, and after breakfast he would reprimand me and tell me to prepare your lesson on the spot. Don't you tell them to cut my hair in two. I probably won't be able to endure all the kindness he has shown me. I cry and I get angry. I was blind. He was so kind that there was no end. I keep praying to God for his return. I learn to make different sweets and dishes so that I can make my grandmother happy when she comes. I get up early in the morning, sweep the yard and prepare breakfast. Then I go to school. I come home from school and do housework. I prepare my lessons on time. My mother is also happy with me, the teachers say, "I hope you can study." Two months have passed like a year. My father and grandmother will return tomorrow. I decorated my grandmother's room beautifully and prepared sweets for her arrival. My biggest fear was that I would have nightmares about my grandmother not coming back, but to my surprise, it didn't happen. My mother left me and my brother at home and went to the airport to meet my grandmother. They came, but my grandmother still did not get out of the wheelchair. He seemed much older than before. His face was wrinkled and his hands were shaking. Seeing him, I couldn't contain my joy and threw myself into his arms. Tears flowed from both of our eyes, we hugged each other tightly, and my grandmother kissed my face and eyes. I have changed a lot in these two months. Now I am grandmother's tableware. They are also happy with me. Human dignity is felt when it is lost. You know how kind he is when he doesn't share his love, and when you are wrong, you know that the right path is shown. Human dignity is a simple word, but it is the most important concept in life.

Eshmurodova Roziya Siddiq qizi
2nd year student of Nukus State Pedagogical Institute

Financial Inclusion Heralds A New Dawn For African Women As Continent Moves Towards The Africa We Want



By: Elizabeth Angira

In December 2012, Joyce Kemunto, a resident of Nyatieko Ward in Kisii County, one of Kenya’s 47 constitutional regional administrations, literally put down her razor blade and picked up a hoe, bringing to a close a quarter century of her female genital mutilation (FGM) enterprise.

“I realised I had been committing a grievous injustice to the young girls even if it had been a good source of income for my family,” ruefully says the 64-year-old.

She was inducted into the practice in 1987, aged just 28, by an older practising relative.

“My husband was not against it because I was making up to Kshs. 20,000 (\$157) per season, especially during the December school holidays,” she confesses.

Joyce, who could conduct her trade in the neighbouring counties of Nyamira, Homa Bay and Migori, experienced a change of heart after attending a seminar where she learnt about the side effects of FGM.

“Even though none of the over 1,000 girls I initiated ever developed any immediate complications, it hit me hard when I learnt that FGM could lead to excessive bleeding, complications during giving birth, breaking of marriages, contamination of diseases and even death,” she says.

In March 2021, the High Court of Kenya ruled that the practice of FGM violates a woman’s right to health, human dignity and in instances when it results in death, the right to life, adding that the practice also undermines international human rights standards. During the trial and ruling of the case by Dr. Tatu Kamau who had challenged the constitutionality of the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, several African Union treaties such as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol on Women’s Rights), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, together with other international instruments including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, were referenced to validate the retrogressive nature of FGM and the need to protect women and girls rights.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in a report released on January 31, 2023, says there are 30 countries where FGM is practised in Africa’s western, eastern, and north-eastern regions and some countries in the Middle East and Asia.

“... more than 200 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to the practice, with more than 3 million girls estimated to be at risk of FGM annually,” the report says.

African Union

Joyce and many other Africans -both men and women who are in position of power and even ordinary ones -have over many generations, driven both by cultural beliefs and a desire to earn a living, engaged in retrogressive practices and activities that hinder women’s advancement in Africa.

“I have nothing to show in terms of investments from my 25 years of circumcising girls,” she confesses.

It is in a quest to end such cultural beliefs, including FGM, early girl child marriages, gender-based violence (GBV), and empower women like Joyce in Africa that the continent’s leaders have made efforts to institute legal, regulatory and policy changes to spur economic and financial inclusion of African women.

For instance, the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) is an undertaking by the leaders to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among Africans, which came into force on May 26, 2001. But the Africans, long struggling with social and economic challenges, desired fast, quality and sustainable development.

They, therefore, came up with Agenda 2063. Agenda 2063, adopted in January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is a 50-year strategy geared towards enabling Africa to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development.

In the words of the African leaders, it is a continuation of the Pan-African drive over centuries for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

Yet, there was a risk that vulnerable sections of Africans, especially women, would be left out of the development. That is why they came up with the Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) for 2018-2028 to facilitate the realization of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063, which calls for “An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.”



Joyce Kemunto, a female genital mutilation (FGM) practitioner turned anti-FGM crusader, has decorated her entire house including the seat covers with messages against the practice Photo /Elizabeth Angira

Worth Noting:

- The World Health Organization (WHO), in a report released on January 31, 2023, says there are 30 countries where FGM is practised in Africa’s western, eastern, and north-eastern regions and some countries in the Middle East and Asia.
- “... more than 200 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to the practice, with more than 3 million girls estimated to be at risk of FGM annually,” the report says.
- Joyce and many other Africans -both men and women who are in position of power and even ordinary ones -have over many generations, driven both by cultural beliefs and a desire to earn a living, engaged in retrogressive practices and activities that hinder women’s advancement in Africa.



Farai Mpfu of the SECZ, says continental development targets are achievable with women as co-designers and informed implementors Photo /Courtesy.



Emma Kaliya of the Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre says one cannot talk about development and leave out women, who are the global economy’s major contributors Photo/Courtesy.

Financial Inclusion Heralds A New Dawn For African Women As Continent Moves Towards The Africa We Want



By: Elizabeth Angira

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According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), this means the African woman will be fully empowered in all spheres, with equal social, political and economic rights, including the rights to own and inherit property, sign contracts, register and manage businesses.

“Rural women will have access to productive assets: land, credit, inputs and financial services,” the Bank says.

Also, according to AfDB, all forms of GBV and discrimination (social, economic, political) against women and girls will be eliminated, and the latter will fully enjoyed all their human rights. All harmful social practices, especially FGM and child marriages, will end and there would be a marked reduction, if not total elimination, of barriers to quality health and education for women and girls.

A case for African women’s economic and financial inclusion

Florence Marcella, 57, from Bobasi Constituency in Kenya’s Kisii County, a vegetable and fruits vendor for

more than 20 years, says financially and economically including women will have a major impact in the country’s rural economy.

“We women are the backbone of the family and if we are facilitated to access financial services and start business we are good and competitive enough to increase rural economic productivity, create wealthy, reduce poverty and invest more in our families health and education thereby improving the social and economic wellbeing of our children and the family at large,” says Florence.

Everlyne Moraa Ndubi, a tomato seller in Kisii Town, one of the fastest-growing metropolitan towns in Western Kenya, says it is important to include women in economic and financial development in the country, as it promotes gender equality, creates more opportunities for a wide section of the family unit, improves overall economic performance, and contributes to sustainable development

“It is a human right enshrined in all international treaties,” says Marisa Carvalho, the President of Cape Verde Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG), a state institution responsible for establishing, implementing and following gender policies.

She notes that since women’s economic and financial inclusion involves about half the population not only in Cape Verde but also on the African continent, “in economic terms, it is inconceivable that half

the population is excluded from economic production.”

Emma Kaliya, the Director of the Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC), says one cannot talk about development and leave out women, who are the global economy’s major contributors.

She says women, especially in Africa, have less access to control over and ownership of land compared to men. They are paid less than men in workplaces and mostly under poor working conditions because of gender inequality in the labour market.

“Women spend more time in unpaid care and domestic work where they spend most of their time,” says Emma.

Farai Mpfu, Head of Investor Education, Securities and Exchange Commission of Zimbabwe (SECZ), says women span from their home management duties to their roles as micro-economic actors in their village fields and small holder agriculture plots, cultural actors, rural and urban informal sector players, the formally employed and entrepreneurs, all the way through to Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of Tanzania, and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

“Women’s innate and overt ability and opportunity to influence and determine outcomes is not fully recognised nor is it appropriately harnessed; continental development targets are achievable with women as co-designers and informed imple-



Bente Krogmann, Chief Executive Officer, mTek Services, Nairobi, says liberalization of the information and communication technology (ICT) is a game changer for women empowerment economically and financially in Kenya Photo /Elizabeth Angira.

mentors,” says Farai.

Germaine AKEZA Nkunuzurwanda, an agro-entrepreneur in Rwanda, says the United Nations (UN) estimates that women comprise 40 per cent of the agricultural workforce worldwide and as much as 60 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, including Rwanda.

“Empowering and mainstreaming women’s workforce in agriculture can bring a paradigm shift towards economic growth in Africa,” she says, “It will enhance food and nutrition security and alleviate poverty and hunger on the continent.”

This is critical because the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says Africa, most of whose people are farmers, cannot feed itself and has been in this situation for many decades.

“The number of chronically undernourished people has risen from 173 million in 1990-92 to some 200 million in 1997-99. Of these, 194 million (34 per cent of the population) are in Sub-Saharan Africa,” FAO says in a report titled Underpinning Investments in African Agriculture and trade-related Capacities for improved Market Access: A Continental Vision.

Success stories

AfDB says much has been done towards achieving these aspirations for African women.

Different African countries have initiated constitutional, legal and policy reforms to empower women socially, politically and economically.

“Our Constitution, which we promulgated in 2010, recognizes the principle of gender equality and prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender,” says Ruth Kemuma, 30, a store owner in Kenya’s Nyanza Region, “It also provides for affirmative action measures to redress gender imbalances in various sectors of society.”

Kenya has also enacted the Matrimonial Property Act (2013), which provides for the equal distribution of matrimonial property between spouses upon dissolution of marriage.

“This law ensures that women have a legal right to property acquired during marriage, which is essential for their economic empowerment,” says Ruth.

Virginia Muwanigwa, Chief Executive Officer of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC), says the South African country has enacted strong constitutional provisions for the advancement of women’s rights and the promotion of gender equality.

“Our Constitution has many pro-women clauses, for example, Section 13 prescribes affirmative action for groups that have been historically marginalised and Section 80 focuses on the rights of women and highlights the provision for equal opportunities, in political, social and economic activities,” she says.

Sierra Leone has just enacted the Gender Equality and Women’s Em-



Ruth Kemuma, 30, a store owner in Kenya, says the East African country’s Constitution, which was promulgated in 2010, recognizes the principle of gender equality and prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender Photo/Elizabeth Angira.

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By: Elizabeth Angira

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powerment (GEWE) Act, which has been described as a “ground-breaking” law. It assures women of 30 per cent of public and private jobs, including senior positions. It also ensures at least 14 weeks of maternity leave and equal access to bank credit and training opportunities for women.

It has harsh consequences for employers who do not implement the new law, especially observing the percentage of jobs reserved for women. These include fines of \$2,500 and jail terms for officials of institutions such as banks if they fail to grant fair access to financial support, which is aimed at enabling more women to venture into entrepreneurship.

Fatoumatta Sanneh Ceesay of the Gambia Radio and Television Services says that training of women is crucial to any efforts to empower them.

“The Gambia Women’s Bureau has been training women on economic activities and how they use the right marketing strategies to promote businesses and have access to the right market,” Fatoumatta says, “The Gambia Women Chamber of Commerce has been providing capacity building for women business owners on how they can maximise profits and expand their businesses.”

Bente Krogmann, Chief Executive Officer, mTek Services, a Kenyan-headquartered digital online insurance platform, says the East African country has initiated legal and policy reforms that have helped women play an increasing role in the financial and economic spheres.

“Liberalization of the information and communication technology (ICT) is a game changer for women empowerment economically and financially in Kenya,” Bente says.

She says advancements in financial technology, such as mobile money, have increased women’s access to digital wallets.

A case in point is the M-Pesa (“M” for mobile, pesa is Swahili for money) service.

Danielle White in a paper titled The Social and Economic Impact of M-Pesa on the Lives of Women in

the Fishing Industry on Lake Victoria, says M-Pesa has had an immense impact and has been hugely beneficial to the lives of women in the fishing industry.

Danielle says that the formal banking sector has long been unavailable to many women in the least Developed Countries (LDCs). This has been a very large impediment to women’s status within society and the development of communities.

“With the introduction of M-Pesa, women now have a safe means of saving their money,” she says, “This has enabled many women to expand their business or create a new business and make a more substantial income.”

In addition to saving, Danielle says the ability to send and receive money through M-Pesa has revolutionized how women trade fish.

“The time and money spent trading has been drastically reduced and this has enabled women to make much more money in much less time,” she says.

Some countries have created funds such as Kenya’s Women Enterprise Fund, a State Agency that provides accessible and affordable credit to support women starting and/or expanding businesses for wealth and employment creation.

Bente says the development of products and services tailored to women, for example, by banks launching women-only accounts and/or products and Chama (merry-go-round groups) accounts to attract women investment groups, is also empowering women.

“Kenya has also formulated policies, which among others, advocate for women to sit on boards of companies and large businesses and be part of decision-making,” she says.

It is the same case in Malawi.

“Women should be at the table where policies and laws are being implemented. Women have been left behind for so long, we should improve the status of women,” says Emma.

Backed by increased skills gain, especially with technological and digital transformation, through training, women are no longer pushovers economically.

It is not, therefore, surprising to see the 2021 FinAccess Household Survey findings indicating reduced disparities in Kenya in the access to financial services by gender, which has narrowed over time, from 8.5 per cent in 2016 to 4.2 per cent in 2021, thus enabling women to participate more meaningfully in formal economic activities.

“Even those without formal education, and those in the lowest wealth quintile, are enjoying the dividends of financial technology,” says the Survey whose financial inclusion measurement cuts across the four dimensions of Access, Usage, Quality and Impact/ Welfare.

The FinAccess Surveys were initiated to enhance financial inclusion measurement, provide a better understanding of the financial inclusion landscape indicators to track financial inclusion dynamics over time, and provide data to various stakeholders.

They are funded and conducted by the Central Bank of Kenya, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and Financial Sector Deepening Kenya (FSD Kenya), an independent trust funded by, among others, the Kenya government, the United Kingdom, Sweden and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Kenya has initiated a number of government-funded financial services, targeting women. The Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) was set up by the country’s third President the Late Mwai Kibaki to provide women with access to affordable credit and business training to start and grow their businesses. The country’s current President, William Ruto, however, relaunched the Fund recently after taking it digital to make it accessible to especially rural women through the mobile phones.

President Ruto said women will borrow at a rate of six per cent a year, a move aimed at enabling more women to access it and accelerate their economic empowerment. Besides, the loans will be accessed instantly unlike in the past when the processing took 45 days.

“We have also eliminated financial intermediaries. This will boost access and check credit costs,” said the President

One of the Kenyan President’s August 2022 Presidential Election key campaign promises was that, if elected, he will set up a Hustler Fund, which will provide affordable loans to Kenyans in the bottom of the pyramid, the mama mbogas (vegetable vendors) and boda bodas (public transport motorcycle riders).

After his election and swearing in as the country’s fifth President, he set up the Hustler Fund, also known as The Financial Inclusion Fund, which allows Kenyan citizens borrow Money through their cell phones.

“Our objective in setting up the Fund to provide affordable credit to



Virginia Muwanigwa, Chief Executive Officer of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC), says the South African country has enacted strong constitutional provisions for the advancement of women’s rights and the promotion of gender equality Photo/ Elizabeth Angira.

sections of the population that have been left behind for far too long,” says a statement on its website, “The Hustlers Fund will lend to businesses at 8 per cent a year, the lowest interest ever charged in Kenya.”

Emma from Malawi says increased employment of women and leadership opportunities in Malawi has seen boosted women’s economic productivity, increased economic diversification and income equality in the country.

African countries, including Malawi and Kenya, have enacted procurement laws that have reserved a certain percentage of state procurement budgets for women and women-owned enterprises, giving them access to the lucrative national supply of goods, services and works business.

“We have made efforts to remove all forms of violence and discrimination against women for them to have equal economic rights and to effectively manage their businesses,” Emma says.

Mpofu says the implementation of the Zimbabwe’s first phase of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS I – 2016-2020) was a transformative shift in the empowerment of the country’s women.

Zimbabwe’s financial market regulators, SECZ, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) and Insurance and Pensions Commission (IPEC), constitute the South African country’s National Steering Committee responsible for the implementation of the Strategy.

In the Foreword of its successor,

the second phase of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy II (NFIS 2022-2026), John Panonetsa Mangudya, the Governor, RBZ, said two studies – the FinScope Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and FinScope Zimbabwe 2022 Consumer Surveys -conducted in 2022 had shown the strides the country had made in financial inclusion.

They showed that 83 per cent of adults are formally served, up from 69 per cent in 2014, and 95 per cent of MSMEs formally served, up from 18 per cent in 2012, despite the disruptive effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Women’s financial inclusion increased from 68 per cent in 2014 to 83 per cent in 2022, while men that are formally served increased from 70 per cent to 85 per cent on the back of increased access to banking products,” he said, “The financial exclusion gap narrowed from 23 per cent in 2014 to 12 per cent in 2022.”

Challenges

While the African countries have made great strides in reforming the social, economic and political sectors to empower women, still there are several challenges women have to grapple with.

“...despite all the above policy and administrative measures put in place by the government, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) notes with concern persistent barriers to women’s meaningful participation in the national economy, including unequal access to credit, markets, financial services, infrastructure, land and opportunities to influence policy,” says Virginia, the Commission’s CEO.

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By: Elizabeth Angira

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Joyce Moraa, a Kenyan 50-year old second hand clothes seller, singles out the patriarchal African family setup as a major impediment to women empowerment.

“Lack of women representation in decision-making positions both in public and private sectors limits our influence in some of the projects and programmes that would have a major impact on our wellbeing and that of the society and country at large,” says Joyce.

She cites her Kisii Community who have never elected a woman Member of Parliament since Kenya attained independence in 1963 or as a Governor in any of the two counties of Kisii and Nyamira they inhabit since the country’s Constitution, which has been widely hailed as one of the most progressive constitutions in Africa with a robust Bill of Rights, was promulgated in 2010.

Emma says women’s right to own and inherit property remains chal-



Marisa Carvalho, the President of Cape Verde Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG) says it is inconceivable that, women, who make half of the population, is excluded from economic production Photo /Courtesy.

lenging in many African countries. Moreover, according to the World Bank, across Sub-Saharan Africa, land ownership is critical for income generation, accessing credit, and transferring wealth to younger generations.

“As such, inequalities in land ownership often go hand in hand with inequalities in economic opportunities,” the bank says.

Virginia says gender-based violence is still prevalent, and it perpetuates

gender disparities and limits women’s participation in economic sectors.

“Violence against women and girls creates “economic costs” which include reduced productivity due to absenteeism, reduced women’s participation in the labour market and losses related to higher demand for health and judicial services,” she says.

Esnahs Nyaramba, a community-based organisation leader, says

patriarchal African family systems are rigged against women.

“Some of the largest business deals are sealed by men in exclusive clubs and often in wee hours of the night when women are deep asleep at home looking after their children and property,” Esnahs says.

Conclusion

It is encouraging that a majority of African countries are reforming their financial and economic sectors and, backed by improvements their educational systems that, according to AfDB’s report titled Trends and Achievements in Girls’ Education (1970-2010) and Best Practices for Promotion of Girls’ Education in Africa, has seen female enrollment significantly improving over the years, women are increasingly starting to play their rightful role in the continent’s financial and economic development.

This is not surprising given that Gladys Mosioma, 68, who hails from Nyamira County in Kenya, says that during her childhood days parents pulled the girls out of school and married them out for dowry to educate their boys.

She says now women are accessing education like men, gaining qualifications that enables them to compete favourably in the job market.

“Women have risen to positions of decision making in both in public and private sectors, including in the three arms of government -the executive, judiciary and legislature, which has enabled them to come up and implement policies that affect women directly,” she says.

This is an African renaissance.

“Overall, countries across Africa have made commendable strides, we should not lose the momentum,” says Bente.

Indeed, many countries have made great strides in empowering the African women. It is, however, not time to celebrate. Instead, now it is time for the African countries to act without stopping or slowing down the pace of the constitutional, legal and policy reforms. For, still a lot needs to be done to enable women to effectively contribute to the continent’s financial and economic development. Then, and only then, will the continent achieve full and sustainable development.

Ms. Angira was able to research, develop and write this article with the valuable support of the African Union through the African Union Agenda 2063 Pitch Zone Awards, a partnership with the African Women in Media

Nyamira County Government Health Sector Receive KSh 31 Million Procurement of Vital Health Products from KEMSA

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyentimes

The health sector in Nyamira received a significant boost as the county government procured essential health products worth Sh 31 million from KEMSA.

This move aims to address shortages that have hindered the provision of quality healthcare to residents.

Governor Amos Nyaribo survived an impeachment motion this week, which was partly based on these healthcare challenges, thanks to intense lobbying efforts.

During the flagging of the drugs at the County headquarters, Governor Nyaribo stated that these commodities would benefit 113 health facilities across its five sub-counties.

He emphasized the importance of

rational and transparent use of these resources and mentioned plans to develop an online app for improved transparency in commodity management.

Furthermore, the County Chief revealed plans to establish a Health Products and Technologies Unit to coordinate the management of essential drugs, ensuring rational drug use at all care levels.

Governor Nyaribo also acknowledged the collaboration with KEMSA but urged them to improve their capacity to supply medical commodities, as the current underservice negatively impacts universal healthcare goals.

On El Niño preparedness, the Department of Health Services is procuring drugs for vector-borne diseases, emergency medication, and chemicals for water disinfection.

County Assembly Speaker Enock



Nyamira Governor Amos Nyaribo Flagging off drugs. Photo /Elizabeth Angira.

Okero and several MCAs attended the event.

Mr. Okero encouraged the MCAs

to remain focused on their legislative roles, indicating that the impeachment motion was now in the

past.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Getafe have dropped the name of former Spain striker Alfonso Perez from their stadium after he made disparaging remarks about female footballers.

Getafe: La Liga Club Drop Alfonso Perez From Stadium Name After Sexist Comments



Getafe have dropped the name of former Spain striker Alfonso Perez from their stadium after he made disparaging remarks about female footballers. It comes as Spain deals with the sexism scandal which overshadowed the nation's historic Women's World Cup victory. Getafe's council owns the stadium and instigated the name change. "The municipal facility is an example to transmit positive values

of sport such as equality, solidarity and respect," said the local government. The decision comes weeks after the La Liga club were criticised for signing Manchester United's English forward Mason Greenwood on a season-long loan. Criminal charges against 22-year-old Greenwood, including attempted rape and assault of a women, were dropped in February. In an interview with El Mundo

newspaper last weekend, Perez said female soccer players should not be paid as much as men because they do not generate as much income and media coverage. "Female football has evolved, but they have to keep their feet on the ground and know that in no sense can they be equated to a man footballer," he said. Getafe and the council released a joint statement on Wednesday announcing the decision to re-

move his name from the stadium. Former Real Madrid and Barcelona striker Perez was born in Getafe but never played for the club. The stadium was named Coliseum Alfonso Perez when it was built in 1998, and will now be known simply as Coliseum.

KBC

Sports >>> *Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp wants the Premier League game against Tottenham to be replayed after Luis Diaz's goal was wrongly disallowed by the video assistant referee.

Jurgen Klopp Wants Tottenham-Liverpool Replay After VAR Error



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp .

By: BBC News

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp wants the Premier League game against Tottenham to be replayed after Luis Diaz's goal was wrongly disallowed by the video assistant referee.

VAR Darren England and assistant Dan Cook did not overrule when Diaz was flagged offside at 0-0 on Saturday.

Liverpool lost 2-1 thanks to a 96th-minute own goal from Joel Matip.

"Something like this never happened, so that is why I think a re-

play is the right thing to do," said Klopp.

Referees' body PGMOL released the audio discussions between the match officials over the offside on Tuesday.

In the audio, England says the check is "perfect" before swearing when he realises a mistake has been made.

Klopp said: "The audio didn't change it at all. It is an obvious mistake. There should be solutions for that. The outcome should be a replay. But it probably won't happen.

"The argument against that would

be it opens the gates. It is unprecedented. I'm used to wrong and difficult decisions, but something like this never happened."

After releasing the audio, PGMOL said the error was a result of a "lapse of concentration and loss of focus".

The controversy has prompted a debate about the use and efficacy of VAR.

There is no precedent in the UK for a result to be changed or a game to be replayed because of a refereeing error.

A 1999 FA Cup third-round tie was played again after Arsenal

manager Arsene Wenger offered Sheffield United a replay following a controversial winning goal in the first game.

The officials involved in the match at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium have not been selected for this weekend's Premier League games, with England and Cook stood down for the rest of last weekend.

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Germany Based Magazine Raven Cage Zine Making Waves In The Poetry Circles



By: Abigail Phiri
@themkenyatimes

Raven cage zine has become a buzz word in the poetry circles. This is because it is elevating the status of its contributors who come in different forms be it poets or writers. This is all thanks to Jerry Langdon the man behind the vision. He is giving a chance to many poets to share their work and have it read far and wide. For that reason, I personally saw it fit to interview such an inspirational being. We need more people like Jerry Langdon to keep literature alive. Suffice to say, the cover pages of the raven cage zine are captivating at the level of artistry showcased. I am testament to all this because I have contributed in this literary dish and have come to know Jerry Langdon as a down to earth individual who is on a mission to ensure poetry continues to breathe life wherever you are in the world. Here is what he had to say in greater detail.

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

Hello my name is Jerry Langdon. I started writing in 1984 as an extension to my painting and drawing. I had loved poetry since my 6th grade English teacher introduced us to Robert Frost and Edgar Allan Poe. Later I would add Henry Wadsworth Longfellow to my favorites and to my inspirations. I officially started writing when I was 17 and on my own and needed a vent to release and ease the stress of standing on my own feet. I was still going to school and doing my best to keep getting good grades and trying to find a job. I finally did get one a year later and so I worked, went to school, dated and everything a normal teenager did, plus my art and writing. I went to the Army in 1986

and that is when my writing started to grow.

How did the Raven cage zine publication come to be?

I started my magazine Raven Cage poetry and prose zine in 1999 while and after submitting my own poetry to various other journals. I found that many were far too picky as to what they accepted or wanted. Many I found too one-sided. To me poetry was always multidimensional and that everyone deserves their chance. So I created Raven Cage with Sections to separate the genre and still give submitters the feeling of a good place to publish. I ran it for 5 years in just pdf format until I was requested to begin offering in print.

Have you won any major accolades for yourself as a published poet/writer?

No. I have won only my personal accolades. After starting Raven Cage I have slacked on submitting to other journals. I have self-published 5 books and been in at least as many anthologies, but I have not won any awards.

Who is your inspiration?

My major inspiration is Edgar Allan Poe, followed by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Robert Frost. I am constantly inspired by various Rock Bands, and last but definitely not least I am continuously inspired by the many poets I have met online and those that submit to my zine. Inspiration is everywhere.

Where do you see yourself in the near future as well as that of your publication?

They say old dogs don't learn new tricks so I pretty much see myself a day older and a dollar shorter, but none the less the same. I am currently putting together a collection of poems but am unsure when I will finish it. As far as my zines, I will continue publishing. Next too and basically born through Raven Cage

I also publish a monthly poetry and prose zine for Dark Poetry Society group, for members only, and I have started a zine for articles I called Articlass.

What problems have you been facing with regards to publishing the magazine?

The submissions have been growing in number. I have started to get submissions of articles that don't fit the sense of poetry and prose, hence I started a zine extra for articles. I work alone on the zines so lately I have run into publishing late. I have also received a few submissions that I had to decline for various reasons.

Share with us one of your best raven cage zine publication and what made the edition special?

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wIKcbhpJtvZ1IRrNRaEQS-jdJ6H4uGAP/view?usp=drive_link

Issue 64 was the first issue to be in print. To me every issue is special but issue 64 was the first print.

Kindly share all your social media handles

<https://www.facebook.com/jerry.langdon.7>

<https://www.facebook.com/Raven-CageZine>

<https://www.facebook.com/raven-cageezine>

<https://www.deviantart.com/jerry-langdon>

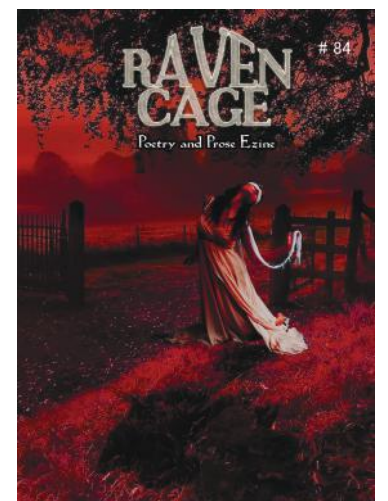
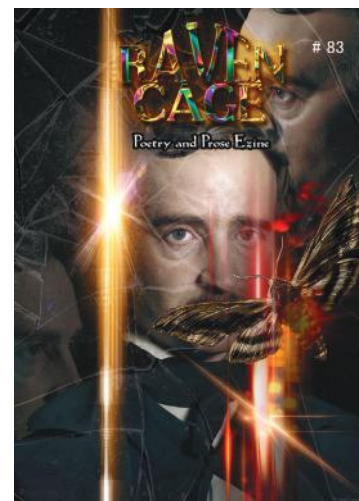
Any word of advice to other individuals who would want to venture into poetry and contribute in your publication

My word of advice is to keep writing, or as I often call it bleeding ink. Never think your writing isn't worthy. If it reaches and touches one person it has done what it was meant to do. Don't let yourself be your worst critic. One that I often have to remind myself of.

If you want to submit to Raven Cage I personally prefer writes with titles. I know not every writer gives



Jerry Langdon



The latest edition of Raven Cage

their poems titles, but it makes it easier to include in the table of contents. If writing under a pseudonym be sure to specify. Send either in the body of the email or as document preferably not as pdf. Please do not place submissions in the subject that

causes extra work and any format is lost. If possible include a copyright. © copyrighted by, written by, author. I do not own the copyright the authors do so it is important. I add a copyright regardless.