

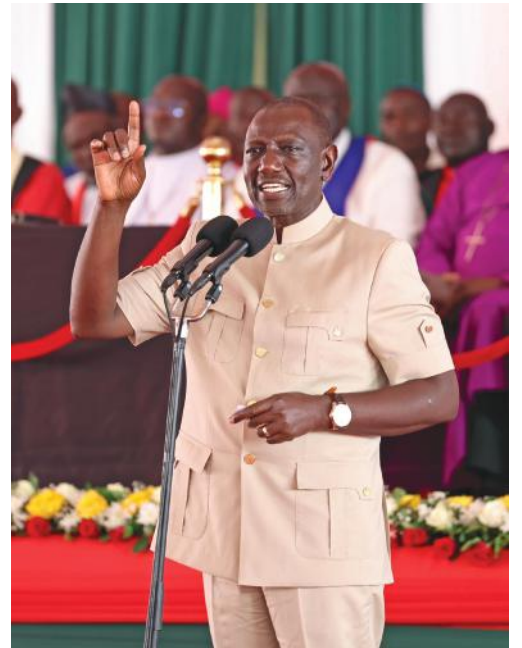
I'm planning to hold talks with Uhuru - Gachagua

I have ordered everyone to respect him and he is also doing good to keep his peace



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Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua



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Gachagua: My relationship with Ruto is top-notch

The DP States That They Are still intact, joined At The Hip And Talk On A Daily Basis

By: LINDWE DANFLOW
@themtkenyatimes



President Dr William Ruto (in kaunda suit) and his deputy Rigathi Gachagua (L) at Bomas.

Worth Noting:

- “The President knew the assignment ahead, and that is the reason he gave me the mandate. The reforms on the coffee are in earnest,” Gachagua said.
- He said coffee reforms will take a little more time than tea and milk reforms because, unlike the two, coffee has so much interest, and the entrenchment of cartels is deep.
- “We are kindly asking our farmers to be patient with us because if we have turned around the tea fortunes of the farmers, we will win the war on coffee,” he said.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has spoken of his relationship with President William Ruto saying they are still intact dispelling speculations pointing to strained relations.

In an interview with Inooro FM yesterday, Gachagua said he speaks with the Head of State on a daily basis and termed their relationship as top-notch.

“President William Ruto and I are joined at the hip. We talk on a daily basis. My relationship with the President is top-notch,” Gachagua said.

Speaking to claims that Ruto was stripping him of his powers by promoting Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, Gachagua said that the President had mandated him with a great responsibility he (Ruto) understands his output.

He asked Kenyans to stop reading too

much into the assignment of government functions.

He added that his mandate is clearly defined in the Constitution.

On the coffee subsector reforms mandated to him, Gachagua said the war on the reforms has not been an easy walk in the park.

“The President knew the assignment ahead, and that is the reason he gave me the mandate. The reforms on the coffee are in earnest,” Gachagua said.

He said coffee reforms will take a little more time than tea and milk reforms because, unlike the two, coffee has so much interest, and the entrenchment of cartels is deep.

“We are kindly asking our farmers to be patient with us because if we have turned around the tea fortunes of the farmers, we

will win the war on coffee,” he said.

Gachagua said it is time to dignify the coffee farmers in the country. He said those who currently buy coffee from farmers have decided to use their monopoly of power to sabotage the farmer.

They have blocked the auction so that we can panic and fall for their tricks. We are not relenting.

Gachagua said he is currently looking for more markets for coffee produced by farmers.

“I will look for more markets until we break even. I am now heading to Germany to look for the coffee market, and I can assure you that we aren’t losing on this one,” he said.

Gachagua’s remarks come a day after President Ruto announced his first Cabinet reshuffle after one year in office.

In the changes affecting eight CSs and PSs, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi was entrusted with an extra mandate of managing Kenya’s Foreign and Diaspora Affairs ministry.

The move to allocate Mudavadi an extra docket of Foreign and Diaspora affairs has been viewed as a show of confidence in the Prime CS.

He will run the ministry in addition to running normal duties as Prime Cabinet Secretary.

The appointment now means Mudavadi becomes one of the most powerful individuals in Ruto’s government owing to the fact that he will now be sitting at the National Security Council.

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NEWS IN BRIEF 6th October 2023



Save the Child organisation is urging communities in Busia to combat child hunger and malnutrition to reduce the 15 per cent stunting rate in the county. They are training nutritionists and healthcare stakeholders to promote proper eating habits among children, focusing on the first 1000 days of growth.



It is early XMas for Nembu village family; Musician John Njagi has gifted a widowed farmer assorted food supplies. Njagi travelled to Mutati area within Kiamwangi Ward in Gatundu South constituency where he surprised the family of Peter Muya Gitau who lost his wife two months ago. Njagi delivered the supplies where he was accompanied by a local administrator who alongside several neighbours thanked him for the kind gesture. The musician said he has been carrying out philanthropic work in various parts of the country where he identifies the needy cases through the help of local leaders.



ISUZU East Africa has commissioned a Sh8.5 Million multi-purpose facility at Embakasi Girls Secondary School in Nairobi, aiming to accommodate 900 students who currently lack a dining hall during meals and a place for extracurricular activities. The facility will provide a conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning and will help students further their skills and improve the school's performance. Nairobi Woman Representative, Esther Passaris, expressed gratitude to ISUZU for the project and called upon the school's leadership to ensure the judicious use and adequate maintenance of the new facility. ISUZU East Africa has launched their foundation, The ISUZU Foundation, aimed at improving societal living conditions, and welcomes any investor who is willing to work with them on these programmes.



Nakuru's county government plans to allocate Sh27 million in the next financial year to revamp the Pyrethrum sub-sector, a public-private partnership involving recruitment of new farmers and seedlings. The partnership aims to restore the county's former pyrethrum production glory and cultivate 30,000 acres of pyrethrum, ensuring increased yields and returns.



Embu farmers have received a second batch of government-subsidized fertilizer at the National and Cereals Produce Board depot. Three trucks carrying 4,660 bags of NPK fertilizer arrived, ready to dispatch to farmers for planting. The Department of Cooperatives Development Chief Officer, Millicent Wanja, has established satellite stores to facilitate delivery. She cautions against selling the fertilizer, as it will earn more returns once used in the farm.



Kenya's Community Groups Registration Act 2022 threatens to deregister over 40,000 community groups, including self-help, youth, women, persons with disability, and Community Based Organizations. The groups had 12 months to comply, with the first law regulating community groups since independence.

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Why I Regret Having Two Kids - Gachagua

....Please Sire More, The Deputy President Urges Mountain Region

By: Capital News and
Our Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Gachagua candidly expressed his feelings of being misled by colonial influences on family size.
- "I was deceived by the white man to only get two children. It's the stupidity of that era because we were still naive and believed everything the white man said," he lamented.
- This shift in mindset is not just about personal reflection but is integral to the preservation of cultural values and the demographic structure of the Mount Kenya region.
- Gachagua's interview also delved into the issue of alcoholism, particularly in the context of the Mount Kenya region.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has urged his Mt Kenya backyard to sire more children, saying he regrets having only two.

Speaking during an interview on the Kikuyu Radio Station, Inooro FM yesterday, Gachagua pleaded with people of his mountain region to embrace larger families, emphasizing that there is no reason to limit family size.

"I am telling my people from Mount Kenya to sire more children, 5, 6, 7, 8 children... God will help you, and you will be able to raise them," he passionately urged, highlighting the practicality and benefits of larger families.

His personal reflections touched upon the influence of Western world mentality on family planning decisions.

He revealed that he grew up in a large family of nine siblings but now finds himself with only two children.

"I regret this decision, and this is all an influence of the Western world mentality," he acknowledged, recognizing the impact of external cultural influences.

Gachagua candidly expressed his feelings of being misled by colonial influences on family size.

"I was deceived by the white man to only get two children. It's the stupidity of that era because we were still naive and believed everything the white man said," he lamented.

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Gachagua's interview also delved into the issue of alcoholism, particularly in the context of the Mount Kenya region.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua .

He framed his spirited fight against alcoholism as a means to safeguard the Central Kenya population.

"All the illicit alcohol was brought to central Kenya, and it was a ploy to put an end to our extensive population," Deputy President Gachagua asserted.

He recognized the negative impact of alcoholism on the region's demographic structure, emphasizing the urgency of addressing the issue.

He painted a stark picture of the challenges posed by alcoholism, noting that young individuals, including married men, would spend nights in dire conditions due to alcohol consumption.

"Our children were spending nights in

dungeons. Young married men would get drunk, and instead of sleeping on the bed, they would sleep under the bed. Where were we to get children? That's why I'm very determined to end this business of illicit brews," he declared.

During the interview, Gachagua raised concerns about Mount Kenya youth who migrate to urban centers in search of economic opportunities but fail to return home during the national census.

This trend results in an inaccurate population count, ultimately impacting the allocation of national resources.

"Those who came to the city to find a

living become Nairobians... The population number is what brings resources... Let us go back home when the Census is happening," he urged, emphasizing the importance of an accurate population count for the region's representation and resource allocation.

His plea for larger families and his commitment to addressing issues that affect population growth in the Mount Kenya region underscore a broader call to preserve cultural heritage and secure a thriving future for the region.

His message is a powerful reminder of the importance of cultural values and community well-being in an era of evolving societal norms and global influences.

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ILAM FAHARI IREIT ANNOUNCES CLOSURE OF REDEMPTION OFFER

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- ILAM is undertaking a strategic move to reposition ILAM Fahari I-REIT for growth as envisioned when it went public in 2015.
- The move has been informed by a strategic review that ILAM undertook in 2021, which sought to understand the challenges the I-REIT faced and develop strategies to improve the returns and market performance.
- “The redemption offer is pivotal to our ongoing operational restructuring plan to ensure the REIT’s sustainability and improve its ability to generate returns for unitholders. It is also an opportunity for unitholders whose unit value is less than KSH 5 million to exit the REIT at a premium to the current market price,” ILAM Fahari I-REIT CEO Raphael Mwito said.



From Left to Right: ILAM Fahari I-REIT CEO Raphael Mwito, Dyer and Blair Investment Bank Director Cynthia Mbaru, and ILAM CEO Einstein Kihanda during a media briefing on the proposed conversion of ILAM Fahari I-REIT from an unrestricted I-REIT into a restricted I-REIT and redemption offer that closed yesterday..

Listed real estate investment trust ILAM Fahari Real Estate Investment Trust redemption offer ended yesterday with a preliminary positive subscription outlook.

Speaking when he confirmed the redemption offer period closure, which paves the way for the conversion process, ICEA LION Asset Management (ILAM) Chief Executive Officer Mr Einstein Kihanda confirmed that the trading of the ILAM Fahari I-REIT will be temporarily suspended from trading at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) from close of trading yesterday up to Wednesday, 25th October in line with the timetable in the Conversion Offering Memorandum and the Public Notice dated 29th August 2023.

The offer, which opened 30 days ago, had targeted the redemption of up to 36.5 million REIT units currently trading at the NSE from Non-Profes-

sional Investors at a redemption offer price of KSH 11 per unit.

The redemption offer price represents a premium of more than 82 per cent above the trading price as of the announcement date.

“We are pleased with the market’s positive response to the conversion and redemption offer so far, and we encourage all Non-Professional Investors who are considering redeeming their units to do so or top up to reach the Professional Investor threshold before the offer closes on Friday 6th October at 5:00 pm,” Mr Kihanda said.

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The move has been informed by a strategic review that ILAM undertook in 2021, which sought to understand the challenges the I-REIT faced

and develop strategies to improve the returns and market performance.

“The redemption offer is pivotal to our ongoing operational restructuring plan to ensure the REIT’s sustainability and improve its ability to generate returns for unitholders. It is also an opportunity for unitholders whose unit value is less than KSH 5 million to exit the REIT at a premium to the current market price,” ILAM Fahari I-REIT CEO Raphael Mwito said.

ILAM received regulatory approval from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to convert its unrestricted ILAM Fahari Income Real Estate Investment Trust into a restricted I-REIT.

As part of the offer, Non-Professional Investors also have the option to top up to the Sh5 million professional investors threshold as prescribed by regulatory provisions or opt to be bundled under a nominee account

holding all non-professional investors.

The REIT Manager has set up the bundled nominee account specifically to cater for Non-Professional Investors who are not able to exit during the transaction period or do not wish to take up the redemption offer, granting them continued participation in the REIT’s growth.

“The REIT Trustee will review all redemption applications, and the unitholders who have successfully redeemed their units will be paid on 24th October 2023, after reconciliation of the transaction,” Mr Mwito added.

ILAM Fahari I-REIT’s portfolio includes four real estate properties: Greenspan Mall, Highway House, a three-storey industrial building off Mombasa Road and 67 Gitanga Place.

I'm planning to hold talks with Uhuru – Gachagua

I have ordered everyone to respect him and he is also doing good to keep his peace

By: JAMES MBAKA
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “It is the media that is trying to portray a rift between the leaders of the mountain. I will lead from the front in ensuring that the leadership of the mountain continues holding together and will bring on board every leader from the region,” he said.
- The DP had after the polls accused Uhuru of imposing Raila on the region yet he had made an agreement to back Ruto.
- He accused the retired President of persecuting him and using the criminal justice system to frustrate him when he decided to support Ruto.
- At some point, Gachagua blamed Uhuru of sending security officers to humiliate and arrest him from his Mathira home ahead of the 2022 polls.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has revealed that he will be reaching out to retired President Uhuru Kenyatta to bury the hatchet for the sake of Mt Kenya unity.

Gachagua is seen as the region's political kingpin given his seniority in government, but a vicious political war is roiling Mt Kenya over who is Uhuru's de facto successor.

The DP, who has previously launched attacks on Uhuru, said he has resolved to work out a plan to unite the community and heal the 2022 elections wounds.

“Kenyatta was fronting Raila Odinga for the presidency and he lost. We have now decided to embrace him as our respectable son and statesman despite everything,” Gachagua said in an interview with Inooro Radio yesterday.

“As Mt Kenya leaders, we have agreed not to be fighting him and I'm planning to hold talks with him. I have ordered everyone to respect him and he is also doing good to keep his peace.”

However, despite indications of turf wars for the region's political baton, Gachagua said the mountain is stable, peaceful and united as before.

“It is the media that is trying to portray a rift between the leaders of the mountain. I will lead from the front in ensuring that the leadership of the mountain continues holding together and will bring on board every leader from the region,” he said.

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Yesterday, Gachagua revealed that he had directed leaders from the Mt Kenya region to respect Uhuru and his family saying that would be the way going forward.

During the campaigns, President Ruto's allies from the region hurled abuses at the former First Family including attacks directed at Mama Ngina.

After the polls, a raid at the Kenyatta family-linked Northlands farm along Southern Bypass was linked to some



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua .

Kenya Kwanza politicians who were blamed for hiring goons.

The DP warned of what he termed as a looming disintegration of the region unless its leaders unite.

“I will be sponsoring a golf tournament in Nyeri on October 21, 2023 bringing together our tycoons to raise substance abuse rehabilitation kitty

for Mt Kenya addicts so that they can be reclaimed to procreate and boost our numbers. It is part of unity talks that I'm holding across the region,” he said.

The DP said he will remain loyal to President William Ruto.

“I will remain loyal to President William Ruto. I will submit myself

to him and we will soldier on these remaining years towards 2027 and God willing, come back together to the voters to together seek a second term,” he said.

The Reporter is Star Newspaper Deputy Political Editor

PWDs HAVE RIGHTS LIKE EVERY OTHER KENYAN - DORCAS RIGATHI

By: Our Reporter
 @themkenyentimes

People Living with Disabilities (PWDs) have a right to access all services, just like any other Kenyan, the Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has said.

Speaking during a feeding program for those living with disabilities in Narok County, Pastor Dorcas also called on parents with children living with disabilities not to hide their children from the community as this will be discriminatory.

“These are citizens of Kenya who deserve to live like any other person. We don’t need to give them sympathy. They have a right to access every facility, to access education on equal basis,” she said.

“Any nation that is true to its calling must take care of these people (PwDs)” she added.

Narok County First Lady Agnes Ntutu lauded the efforts by Pastor Dorcas in lifting the lives of the vulnerable

population. Pastor Dorcas is running a feeding program for PWDs in various counties across the country apart from running a boychild program in her office.

Narok County Deputy Governor who was also present Koech Kiprono lauded the appointment of Isaac Mwaura as the government Spokesman by President William Ruto saying this is a confirmation that the Kenya Kwanza government recognizes people living with disabilities.



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi and other guests applauding presenters..



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Sondu Fiasco, Ruto Working Hard To End Ethnic Skirmishes



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

Worth Noting:

- The other instruction is that the perpetrators must be apprehended and brought to justice to face the full force of law. Their place is in jail.
- The President further reiterated that matters touching on protecting the lives of Kenyans are so dear and close to his heart. We cannot negotiate or compromise about this.
- Losing a single life is a big blow to the whole Nation. I'm determined to end this madness and nonsense once for all.
- The President made these off-the-cuff remarks moment after landing in Kisumu where he was received and welcomed by the area Governor Anyang Nyongo.



Police officers put off fire in one of the houses as tension remains high in Sondu. Photo | Courtesy.

In the past few days, the media has been awash with stories touching on incidents of insecurity on Kericho and Kisumu border at Sondu area.

The skirmishes were being fashioned as ethnic/tribal clashes because members of two communities were roped in.

The political leaders from both sides have so far resorted to a blame game.

This has not gone down well with President William Ruto.

The Sondu fiasco was giving him sleepless nights and he was working hard to end the skirmishes.

President Ruto is currently on a four day working visit in Luo Nyanza.

He kicked off the tour by visiting Kisumu County where Sondu is located.

His anger and disappointment was palpable as he addressed a huge crowd of the locals who turned up to welcome him.

What is happening here is a matter that I'm not taking lightly.

I have since directed the Interior Cabinet Secretary Kithure Kindiki to immediately swing into action.

A special contingent of security personnel had already been deployed to restore peace and normalcy in this area.

The other instruction is that the perpetrators must be apprehended and brought to justice to face the full force of law. Their place is in jail.

The President further reiterated that

matters touching on protecting the lives of Kenyans are so dear and close to his heart. We cannot negotiate or compromise about this.

Losing a single life is a big blow to the whole Nation. I'm determined to end this madness and nonsense once for all.

The President made these off-the-cuff remarks moment after landing in Kisumu where he was received and welcomed by the area Governor Anyang Nyongo.

A day earlier, this governor and his Kericho counterpart Eric Mutai had resorted to a blame game.

They had accused each other of triggering the skirmishes.

But in his remarks, Dr Ruto reiterated that no one will be spared.

Once the investigations are concluded, the entire perpetrators will be brought to justice to face the full force of law.

This seemed to suggest the two governors were among those being pursued.

It is worth noting that this is not the first time we are hearing the stories of ethnic clashes.

In the aftermath of general elections held in 1992 and later in 1997, the country was rocked by deadly tribal clashes.

The same scenarios were replicated during the eras of President Mwai Kibaki and his successor President Uhuru Kenyatta.

For President Ruto, he is a God-fear-

ing, well-schooled and well-meaning leader.

He knows that two wrongs cannot make a right. He has shown in deeds and actions that he is committed to slay the dragon of ethnic skirmishes.

The ongoing tour of Luo Nyanza reaffirms his commitment to build a united and stable country.

This region is traditionally known to be the bedroom of Baba, the Azimio La Umoja One Kenya Coalition leader Raila Amollo Odinga.

In 2022 presidential polls, majority of the residents voted in support of Raila.

In his acceptance speech after being sworn-in, President William Ruto thanked hundreds of thousands of his supporters, who had turned up to witness this auspicious occasion, for electing him to be fifth President of the Republic of Kenya. The crowd cheered him wildly as he talked about the heavy responsibility bestowed on him by the constitution of Kenya. He, however, assured them he was ready to walk the talk.

As the President, I'm required to ensure the national cake is being shared equally in all regions of Kenya so that all Kenyans can benefit.

To achieve this, I will be guided by virtues of equality, equity and nondiscrimination.

In Luo Nyanza, he has launched a num-

ber of new development projects and allocated funds to complete the projects that had been started by his predecessor President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Contrary to the impression created by his critics, the President has not been visiting the Luo region to do politics of 2027 presidential elections.

His message has remained the same as the ones he had made in other regions. I'm here for development. I'm here to fulfill my pre-poll pledges.

But the residents of Nyanza have seen the good work that he is doing.

As such, a huge number of them have assured him that they will support his re-election in 2027.

In apparent reference to Baba Raila, they would aver. Raila has fought a good battle. We rallied behind him for over four decades because we believed in his course.

He is now old. It is time to hang his boot by retiring from active politics. We wish him well.

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

Government Releases Sh67 Billion To The Education Sector

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a

@themkenyatimes



Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu

Worth Noting:

- Machogu added that over the last one month, the government has been receiving and processing applications for loans, bursaries and scholarships from students wishing to be funded by the Government.
- According to the CS, on 4th October, 2023, the government, through the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), released Sh10.5 billion for tuition and upkeep loans to continuing students enrolled in Universities and TVET institutions, under the Old Funding Model.
- He disclosed that the upkeep loans for 206,123 undergraduate and 72,546 TVET continuing students under the Old Higher Education Funding Model have been disbursed to students as per their respective preferred payment channels.

The government has from January 2023 disbursed Sh67 billion to public primary and secondary school learners.

Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu said that for the Free Primary Education Programme, the Ministry has released Sh7.9 billion for the nine million learners in public primary schools.

He explained that under the Junior School, the government has disbursed Sh14.7 billion for the one million learners since January this year while Sh44.4 billion has been spent as capitation for the 3.7 million learners enrolled under the Free Day Secondary Education.

"In the Financial Year 2023/2024, the government has allocated Sh51.1 billion to students enrolled in TVET and Universities. Most of these institutions started their 2023/2024 Academic Year in September, 2023," said the CS.

Machogu added that over the last one month, the government has been receiving and processing applications for loans, bursaries and scholarships from students wishing to be funded by the Government.

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the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), released Sh10.5 billion for tuition and upkeep loans to continuing students enrolled in Universities and TVET institutions, under the Old Funding Model.

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"Each of the benefitting students in university receives a minimum loan of Sh37, 000 and a maximum of Sh60, 000. On the other hand, each successful TVET trainee is awarded an average of Sh40, 000 per annum," said Machogu.

Machogu highlighted that in September 2023, the government released grants worth Sh8.4 billion as capitation to students in public universities and Sh441 million for continuing students in Private Universities. On the other hand, a total of Sh1.3 billion was released as capitation to continuing trainees in various TVET Colleges.

Additionally, the CS said that on July 31, 2023, the government launched the student application process for

the higher education scholarships and loans for the 2022 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination cohort who were placed to universities and TVET institutions for the 2023/2024 Academic Year.

"Although the deadline for application was initially September 7th, 2023, this was extended to October 7th, 2023, to give all eligible applicants the opportunity to submit their documents, in the spirit of leaving no student behind," explained the CS.

Machogu said that as of October 4th, 2023, a total of 238,714 applications had been submitted.

He said some 269,112 students were placed by KUCCPS to Universities and TVET institutions and were eligible for Government funding. This means that 3,608 and 26,790 students placed in universities and TVET institutions respectively are yet to apply.

"This number is expected to rise after the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service validates the data of students who have transferred to different degree programmes or universities," said the CS.

He remarked that the Universities Fund and HELB have commenced

the processing of scholarships and bursaries for all students who have already applied.

"The government wishes to assure students, parents, guardians and the higher education institutions that all efforts are being made to ensure that the loans and scholarships are released to applicants on time to facilitate their learning activities," said Machogu.

In the meantime, Machogu said that, Universities and TVET institutions are under firm instructions to admit and keep students who have reported even in cases where they do not have any fees. "So far, 86.6 per cent (121,367) of the 140,147 students have reported to universities that have commenced studies for the 2023/2024 Academic Year. The number is expected to rise as more universities open. Students' admission to TVET institutions are conducted on a rolling basis," he said.

Machogu urged all the eligible students who are yet to apply to make a formal application for scholarships and loans through the Higher Education Financing portal.

Nyeri International Coffee Expo (NICE) 8th Symposium To Take Place Next Month

By: Our Correspondent

@themkenyatimes



NICE team and governor's pose for a photo after signing of the MoU.

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- He disclosed that the upkeep loans for 206,123 undergraduate and 72,546 TVET continuing students under the Old Higher Education Funding Model have been disbursed to students as per their respective preferred payment channels.

The eighth Nyeri based coffee symposium will be held next month.

The Nyeri International Coffee Expo (NICE) event will take place for a whole week between November 5 and 11 at Dedan Kimathi University grounds.

On Thursday, senior officials from NICE met with Nyeri County governor Mwalimu Mutahi Kahiga for a consultative meeting whose culmination was signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU between the county government and NICE was signed by the governor and the firm's Managing Director Solomon Mburu.

The MoU aims to get the farmers as close as possible to the end consumers through direct coffee trade and intensify the demand for Nyeri's Specialty Arabica Coffee by increasing market access to international buyers.

The collaboration between the two will also enable planning and pilot implementation of the Nyeri Coffee Origin Trip happening from November 5th to 11th, 2023.

Nyeri Coffee farmers will host about 20 coffee buyers from across the globe including Egypt, South Africa, Germany, UAE, Turkey, UK, among others. The events over the 7 days will include coffee cupping, B2B sessions, coffee farm and factory visits, and game drives.

Nyeri is known for producing some of the finest high-altitude Arabica coffee in the world. However, the potential for Nyeri's specialty arabica coffee, which is in high demand,



Nyeri County governor Mutahi Kahiga exchanging documents with NICE Managing Director Solomon Mburu.

remains underutilized.

The county has also faced constraints such as high cost of production and a long chain of intermediaries between the coffee producers and consumers. Consequently, farmers remain poor despite the high prices Nyeri coffee fetches in the consumer market.

NICE, an event organizer, has since 2016 been hosting coffee expos in Nyeri county.

But the forthcoming event will be a

bit unique as the Expo will include a platform for the interaction between the farmers and the buyers.

During the signing of the MoU, it was revealed that to make the event successful, various stakeholders have been roped in.

Among these which include Public and Private organisations are; Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (Kepraba), Kenya Tourism Board (KTB), Coffee Directorate,

New KPCU, Ministry of Cooperatives, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry among others.

NICE Managing Director was accompanied by among others the firm's Patron Wambugu Nyamu while the governor had with him several senior officials.

Ninakupongeza Kimani, Siku Yako Kuhafali



Ninakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Nionapo na furahi, bila kinyongo moyoni
Kwayo yako nimewahi, kukushika mkononi
Nawe wani umewahi, leo sote furahini
Ninakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Imejia siku yako, ukaweza kuhafali
Ujawe nazo chereko, kwayo uliyokabili
Na wazazi furahiko, kwa mengi mema kikweli
Ninakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Nitazidi kukusifu, wasikie duniani
Kwani sitokukashifu, huna ova hata wani
Nitaandika wasifu, wakujue abadani
Ninakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Zidi na uzidi sana, ufikie kileleni
Shahada nyingine tena, ukipatie yakini
Na usipotoke mwana, mazuri uzidisheni
Ninakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Lilito zuri shairi, kiujuzi namaliza
Wakutambue mahari, mwendo umemaliza
Ila ukajue mwari, ndo mwanzo unaangaza
Ninakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Malenga Kitunguu Machoni

Zimepita siku nyingi, hili niliseme wazi
Hakika ni muda mwingi, naliamba waziwazi
Umpita mambo mingi, kufika kwa hini ngazi
Nakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Umepigana na kazi, ulipoingia chuo
Ukasikiza walezi, ufikie chako cheo
Leo wavaa mavazi, chako chetu nacho chao
Nakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Nikuonapo nakiri, naona binti mahiri
Aliyeionja shari, kugeuza kuwa shwari
Leo twaiona heri, hongera kweli nakiri
Nakupongeza Kimani, siku yako kuhafali

Ni mengi ume yaona, ukitimiza maono
Ila yote ni bayana, yako wewe mapambano
Hivyo hongera nasema, zifike kokote kuno

Wings of Knowledge

I'm a Girl, Don't Break My Wings,
Let me soar with the joy learning brings.
In this world of challenges, I face,
Education is my saving grace.

An orphan, I've known hardship's touch,
No shoes on my feet, but a pen I clutch.
Toys don't entice, books are my desire,
With knowledge, my dreams will reach higher.

Don't burden me with adult strife,
Let childhood be a time of life.
Give me the gift of knowledge's sip,
For education, I'll take the leap.

I'll polish shoes, bathe the dogs,
I'll do whatever it takes, no logs.
But don't steal from me the right,
To education's guiding light.

I'm not asking for pizza or pastry,
Just the chance to learn, oh so necessary.
God made me poor, that's true,
But it's in your hands to help me through.

So let me carry a bag filled with books,
Unlocking minds, with curious looks.
Education is my path to rise,
To shape my future, reach the skies.

I'm a girl, with dreams so grand,
Give me knowledge, hand in hand.
Don't break my heart, don't clip my wings,
With education, my spirit sings



Anila Bukhari

My Mother



Wealth, gold, silver,

These things can't be kind as my
mother.

No one in the world, no human being,
Can not compare with my mother.

I should be my parents' mountain of
support,
Inshaallah, I may gladden them always
with happiness.

Let me make the pilgrims to my world
of two lights,

May God bless my parents with
paradise.

Always running for us,
My mother never stops for a moment.
She always hears someone's pain,
But she do not tell anyone about her
pain.

She has been devoted her existence for
us,
My mother is my guiding sun.
Without him, the world is winter, it's
dark for me,
My solitude in the world, my heavenly
mother.

Intizor Samandarova Ikrom's daughter is
the one of young poetesses and writers
from Uzbekistan. She was born on May
3, 2007 in Gurlan District, Khorezm
Region, Republic of Uzbekistan. She
is the author of the books "The best
invitation" and "My grandfather's
memoir". She is the member of
international organizations.

Diplomacy!



If we look at history, the ancient Greek city-states on some occasions dispatched envoys to negotiate specific issues, such as war and peace or commercial relations, but did not have diplomatic representatives regularly posted in each other's territory. In times of peace, diplomacy was even conducted with non-Hellenistic rivals such as the Achaemenid Empire of Persia, through it was ultimately conquered by Alexander the Great of Macedon. Alexander was also adept at diplomacy, realizing that the conquest of foreign cultures would be better achieved by having his Macedonian and Greek subjects intermingle and intermarry with native populations. For instance, Alexander took as his wife a Sogdian woman of Bactria, Roxana, after the siege of the Sogdian Rock, in order to placate the rebelling populace. Although the earliest diplomatic records date back to the 14th century BC, later the term was applied to all official documents, such as those containing agreements between governments, and became associated with international relations. But modern diplomatic methods, practices, and principles originated largely from 17th-century European custom. Beginning in the early 20th century, diplomacy became professionalized. Nowadays Diplomacy comprises spoken or written communication by representatives of states (such as leaders and diplomats) intended to influence events in the international system

and conducted by accredited officials, such as envoys and ambassadors, through a dedicated foreign affairs office. Diplomats operate through diplomatic missions, most commonly consulates and embassies, and rely on a number of support staff; the term diplomat is thus sometimes applied broadly to diplomatic and consular personnel and foreign ministry officials. And the main instrument of foreign policy which represents the broader goals and strategies that guide a state's interactions with the rest of the world. International treaties, agreements, alliances, and other manifestations of international relations are usually the result of diplomatic negotiations and processes. Diplomats may also help to shape a state by advising government officials.

CHAROS TOSHPULATOVA
CHAROS TOSHPULATOVA was born on November 19, 2003 in Sariasia district, Surkhandarya region. She is 19 years old now. During the high-school she took IELTS certificate. After graduated school in 2021, she was admitted to International Soonchunhyang University in South Korea on the basis of International scholarship. Currently, she is studying this University (SCH). Last year at the same time she took two language certificates. First, TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korea) and Arabic language skills certificate. In addition in 2022, she has been selected from United Nations General Assembly as a delegate the Arab Youth International Model United Nations in Dubai, United Arab Emirates for represent DIPLOMAT OF UZBEKISTAN. And this year she has been selected again to join the Best Diplomats United Nations Simulation Conference Crafting Future Leaders in the Post-Pandemic Era, 2023 in Istanbul, Türkiye. She wants to join this Conference that's why she's biggest dream to become the best Diplomat by studying Diplomacy in Master's degree.

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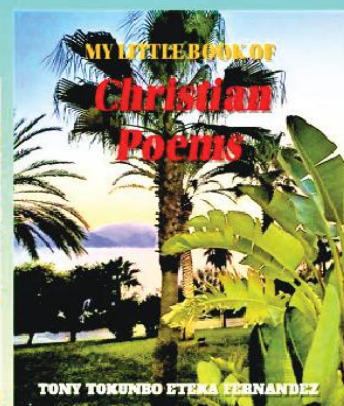
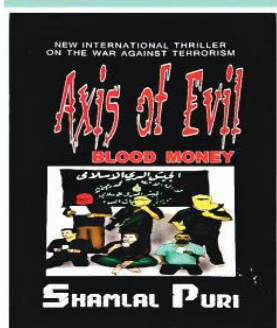
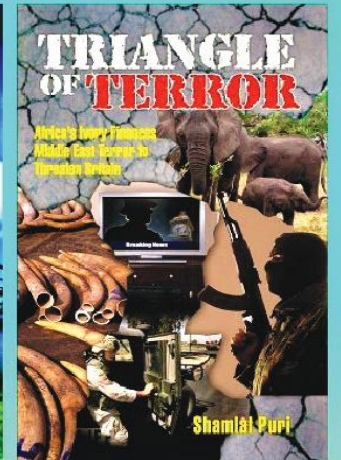
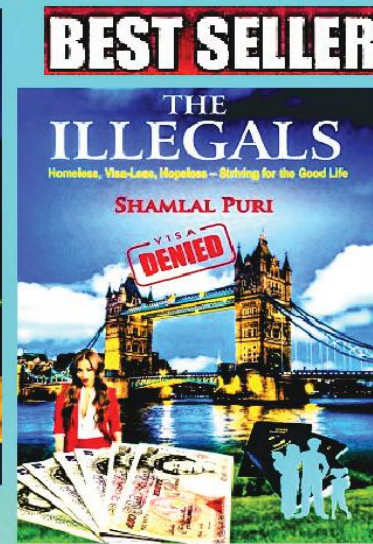
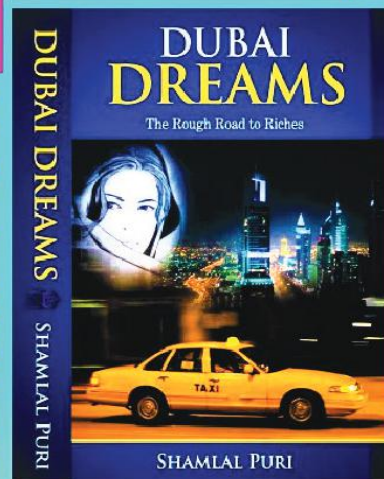
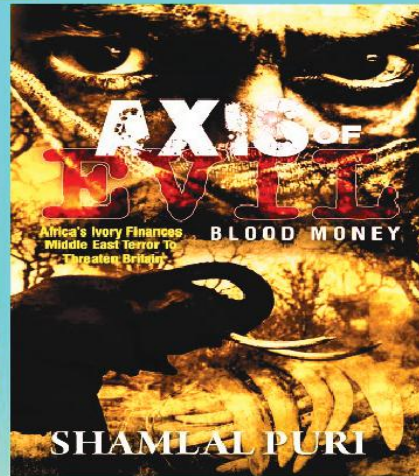
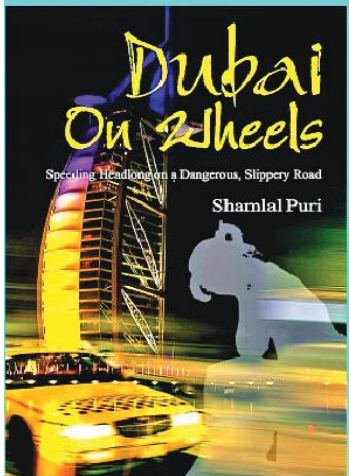
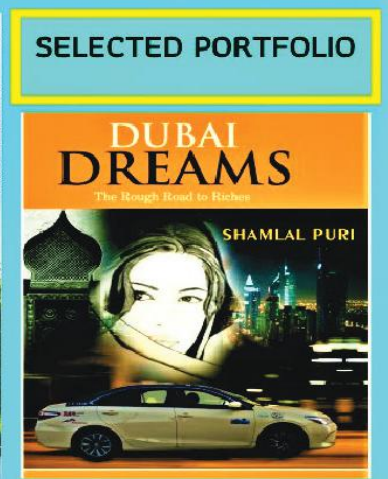
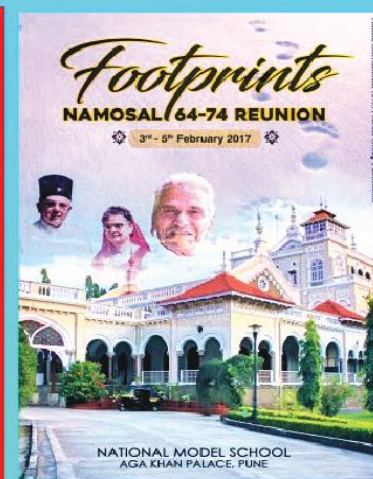
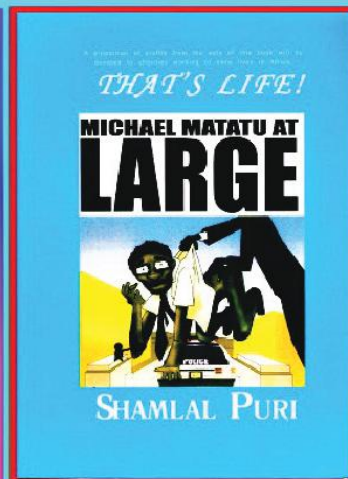
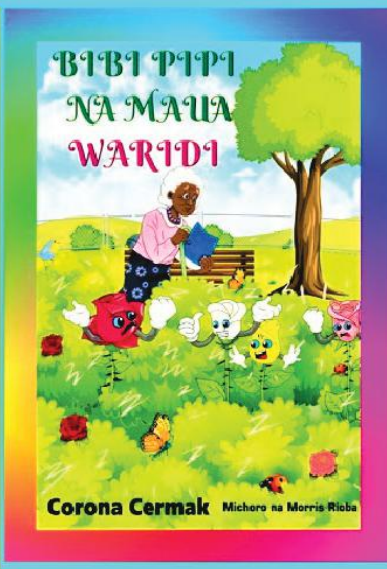
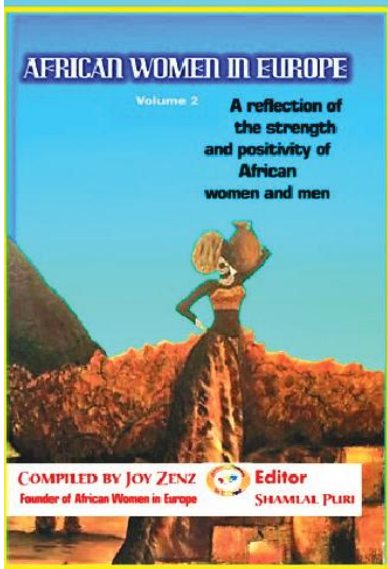
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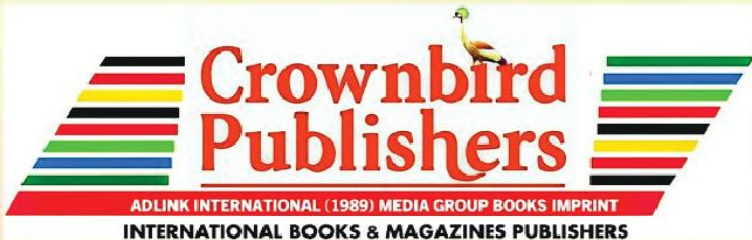
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BILL

Population To Inform NG-CDF Allocation In New Law

By: John Kariuki
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “The Committee may propose other parameters that may be included in the formula for allocating funds to constituencies such as infrastructure, land size and poverty index,” Gathoni shared her views to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.
- The NG-CDF distribution formula has undergone several amendments since inception in 2003 to address perceived imbalances and inclusive growth.
- The fund comprises an annual budgetary allocation of at least 2.5 per cent of the National Government’s share of revenues.



Githunguri Member of Parliament Gathoni wa Muchomba

Githunguri Member of Parliament Gathoni wa Muchomba is seeking to bring the factor of population as the key element that should inform NG-CDF Allocation.

Gathoni Wamuchomba is seeking to amend the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Bill 2023 to factor in the population of a constituency so that the highly populated constituencies may get more funds.

According to the Bill by Wamuchomba, the formula of allocation should rely on population, not the number of wards of a certain constituency.

Gathoni has sponsored the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2023, is ready to prove that densely populated constituencies are disadvantaged by the current formula.

“The Committee may propose other parameters that may be included in the formula for allocating funds to

constituencies such as infrastructure, land size and poverty index,” Gathoni shared her views to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

The NG-CDF distribution formula has undergone several amendments since inception in 2003 to address perceived imbalances and inclusive growth.

The fund comprises an annual budgetary allocation of at least 2.5 per cent of the National Government’s share of revenues.

Currently, 75 per cent of the allocation to NG-CDF is shared equally among all the 290 constituencies.

The remaining 25 per cent is shared based on the number of wards in each constituency.

There are a total of 1,450 wards in the country. Twenty-one constituencies have three wards each, which is the least number of wards in a constituency.

Seven constituencies have eight

wards, which is the highest number of wards in a constituency. The majority of constituencies (a total of 106) have five wards.

Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman who is also the Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro hailed the Bill for considering the population in the distribution of the 25 per cent of NG-CDF allocation.

“We have to give a lot of weight to people. Thirty-five per cent of NG-CDF goes to bursaries and these are people, not projects,” he stated.

He said the current formula short-changes areas that are densely populated.

In the 2023-24 Financial Year, Sh50.85 billion will be allocated to all the 290 constituencies which are inclusive of Sh2.68 billion set aside for a 5 per cent emergency reserve and shareable allocation of Sh48.18 billion.

Seventy-five per cent of the total will

be divided equally (Sh36.13 billion) with each constituency receiving Sh124.6 million.

The remaining 25 per cent (Sh12.04 billion) will be shared by all 1,450 wards, each getting Sh8.31 million.

The main purpose of the Fund is to enhance infrastructural and socio-economic development at the grassroots level.

NG-CDF, formerly Constituencies Development Fund (CDF), was established under the NG-CDF Act 2015, as amended in 2016.

The Act is a successor to the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) Act of 2003 which initiated the Fund and its subsequent amendments/reviews of 2007 and 2013.

NG-CDF board is headed by the Chief Executive Yusuf Mbuno.



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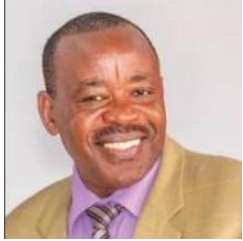
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The Dynamic Leadership of Non-Government Schools in Kenya



By: Dr. Paul K. Wanjohi
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Public Schools:** These institutions are established, owned, or operated by the government, encompassing sponsored schools as well. They represent the bedrock of the government's mission to deliver education to the masses.
- **Private Schools:** Private individuals, visionary entrepreneurs, and institutions of various stripes shepherd these institutions. Private schools wield considerable influence within the education sector, offering diverse educational approaches and curricula.
- **Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training (APBET) Schools:** These unsung heroes, though less celebrated, are no less crucial. APBET schools extend their invaluable support to learners in remote and impoverished areas, including urban slums. Their mission: to deliver quality and affordable education to students in regions where opportunities are often scarce.



Brookhouse School

Introduction: The educational landscape in Kenya is a rich tapestry of diverse institutions, each playing a distinctive role while grappling with its unique set of challenges. At the core of Kenya's education system lies a fundamental distinction between public and private schools, meticulously laid out in Part V, Section 43 of the Education Act of 2013.

Categorizing the Educational Spectrum: In accordance with the Education Act of 2013, Kenya classifies its basic educational institutions into two principal categories. However, the Unified APBET Schools Association of Kenya (UASAK), bolstered by civil society, is actively advocating for the recognition of a third category.

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- **Alternative Provision**

of Basic Education and Training (APBET) Schools: These unsung heroes, though less celebrated, are no less crucial. APBET schools extend their invaluable support to learners in remote and impoverished areas, including urban slums. Their mission: to deliver quality and affordable education to students in regions where opportunities are often scarce.

Guiding Forces: Associations at the Helm: Both private schools and APBET institutions have their own dedicated associations, each with its own distinct mission and objectives. These associations serve as bulwarks, tirelessly advocating for the interests of their member schools and steadfastly working toward the continuous betterment of the education system.

Kenya Private School Association (KPSA): KPSA stands as the registered association that champions the cause of pure private schools across Kenya. With a constitution to guide its operations, KPSA is unwavering in its commitment to promote the highest standards of education in private schools. The association's leadership is democratically elected in accordance with its constitution.

Unified APBET Schools Association of Kenya (UASA-K): UASA-K represents the noble cause of schools that provide alternative provision of

basic education and training. Committed and dedicated individuals lead UASA-K, tirelessly striving to ensure that APBET schools can effectively serve learners in under-served areas.

Leadership Unveiled: The path to leadership within these associations is no stroll in the park, as leaders emerge through democratic processes and spirited campaigns.

At present, KPSA is on the precipice of its upcoming elections, scheduled for Friday, October 6th. The contest promises to be fierce, with two prominent groups vying for the privilege of leadership:

1. **Team "Kazi iendellee":** Under the leadership of Engineer Charles Ochome, the incumbent Chairman of KPSA, this group brings a wealth of experience and a distinguished track record. Engineer Ochome, the Founder and Director of the esteemed Golden Elite Group of Schools, boasts a master's degree in Business Administration with a marketing focus from the University of Salford, UK. His tenure at KPSA has seen remarkable achievements, including the presentation of a memorandum to the PWPER, resulting in the adoption of 40% of their recommendations.

2. **Team Change:** Spearheaded by Solomon Munene, the current

Vice Chairman of KPSA and Director of Kirinyaga Municipality Primary School, this group promises a fresh perspective. Solomon Munene is a dynamic and enterprising leader who has played a pivotal role in shaping the constitution of KPSA yet to be concluded. He led the team which advocated for equality in the education sector in Kenya.

Pioneers of Progress: As Kenya's education sector undergoes a transformative journey, the role of association leaders in private and APBET schools remains pivotal. These leaders shape policies, advocate for quality education, and ensure that the interests of their member schools are skillfully represented. As private school directors make their choices in the upcoming elections, they will decisively impact the future of education in Kenya, fortifying its status as a cornerstone of national development.

About the Author: Dr. Paul K. Wanjohi is a seasoned expert in education. He serves as the Director of Sharp Education Centre and Junior School in Embakasi, Nairobi, where his profound expertise in education matters continues to positively influence the lives

Experience The Sun, Sand And Beach



By: Memory Phiri
@themkenyatimes



Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) 2023.

Zimbabwe has done it again and tourists are in for a treat. We are a world of wonders indeed for there is another tourism hotspot that has taken the nation by storm. As far as tourism goes we are talking about the Mt Hampden Amusement Park which has managed to cast some limelight on a string of attractions that were being taken for granted.

Dear readers we are proud owners of another beach which is eleven miles from the capital, Harare to be precise. Wishes do come true because tourists will no longer fathom the idea of a beach life but can actually live the reality.

Activities on offer include speed boats, Jet Ski, boat cruise, kids' rides and the flying chair among others. Suffice to say, visitors have the ef-

frontery to eat their cake and have it. On the same token, travel agents and tour operators had a window of opportunity to brag about the theme park at the trade fair.

More so, as a marketing platform the onceoff (ZITF) Zimbabwe International Trade Fair ran from the 25th- 29th of April. Coming back to the crux of the matter, Mt Hampden's local authorities are giving their undivided attention to the

amusement park and its other cynosures surroundings the district.

Thereby airing out constructive views that will uphold destination management in the long run. Hordes of tourists are flocking to the promising lucrative beach for braais and parties. Profoundly, it goes without saying that summer as a noteworthy season on our tourism calendar will never go to waste.

It gets even better because the lo-

cals are also hands on and cannot get enough of this tourism galore. Mt Hampden beach is situated in an area that is blossoming and overflowing with tourism operations because we also have Mazvikadei Dam Resort which has always been part and parcel of our tourism and hospitality industry with its exceptional itinerary.

Ostensibly, the resort has a harbor courtesy of the dam where passengers are picked and dropped from a

boat cruise.

Talk about that romantic idyllic sun-down cruise. Clearly one can deduce that our water safaris will gain momentum for boat cruises will be the order of the day.

Making a statement from Biri to Darwendale Dam inclusively. Ambience wise, Resort Mazvikadei has lovely cottages, a pool side, a restaurant, a coffee shop and a bar. Ostentatiously, Mash West Tourism has arrived and its wonders will never end.

Among all our ten provinces in the country the government found it worthy to grace Mt Hampden with its second parliament building.

A state of the art parliament is still underway and will only act as the cherry on top to this delectable tourism destination. The building which is being constructed by the Shanghai Construction Group is surely a sight for sore eyes.

Conclusively, procrastination is a thing of the past so ladies and gentleman grab your bikinis and some shorts. Come away and pump up your adrenalin with some water sport medley.

Kisii County Launches Robust Disaster Management Plan to Protect Residents and Properties Amidst Impending El Nino Rains - Urges Collective Stakeholder Action

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyatimes



Governor Simba Arati launches Robust Disaster Management Plan to Protect Residents and Properties Amidst Impending El Nino Rains.

In an effort to enhance preparedness in anticipation of the potentially destructive El Niño rains, the Kisii County government convened a joint consultative meeting with officials from the National Government and agencies involved in disaster management and relief are in top gear with a plan for a multi-sectorial approach to the anticipated weather phenomenon being worked on.

They are actively working on a multi-sectorial approach to address the impending weather phenomenon.

During this meeting, Kisii County Commissioner, Tom Anjere, issued a warning to residents living in riparian areas, urging them to evacuate in

light of the looming El Niño threat.

Anjere assured the County Disaster Committee that comprehensive safety measures have been put in place.

He stressed that even those who have constructed buildings along

roadsides should evacuate and remove old trees.

"Those residing along riverbanks should vacate immediately," he emphasized.

Anjere also mentioned the estab-

lishment of subcommittees dedicated to various areas such as health and agriculture to address specific concerns.

Anjere highlighted that the national government and Kisii County have jointly unveiled a Comprehensive Disaster Management plan specifically tailored for the El Niño rains.

All stakeholders are called upon to prioritize the safeguarding of lives and properties of residents.

He also underscored the importance of clearing areas susceptible to landslides and urged all stakeholders to fulfill their responsibilities effectively.

Furthermore, Anjere advised farmers to consider planting resilient crops that can withstand El Niño conditions.

Kisii County Governor Simba Arati reported that the El Niño emergency committee has already identified

disaster-prone areas susceptible to floods, mudslides, and lightning.

They are exploring potential preventive and mitigation measures.

Arati urged residents living in flood-prone areas to relocate to safer grounds.

Governor Arati urged all county residents to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to mitigate the impending dangers posed by the prolonged rains, with the aim of preventing the loss of lives.

Henry Sese County Director of Meteorological service has advised farmers to consult department of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and cooperative development for the types of activities to be undertaken.

Sese urged the county government to continue opening up clogged water channels to enhance free flow of water.

Breaking The Stigma of Unmarried, Having No Child, Or Divorced As A Youth



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana

It a beautiful thing to be a nymph at the age of eighteen to twenty four, suddenly agemates start to have kids, and get married, as the career elevates, with no husband, at twenty six years, the parents begins to talk and indicate that one must be outgoing to get married soon.

Once the young damsel reaches the age of thirty, without a kid, the same pep talk of keeping chaste changes, and the most supportive group, begins to accuse the young woman of barrenness.

At the weddings as an unmarried woman, the traditional clothes worn by a married woman denotes where to seat, and be, as married women

meet by the traditional yard to give advice to the one getting married.

The worst feel is when an abused, woman returns home from a failed marriage, or simply returning for whatsoever reason, the stigma is worse, and the people do not say anything but got a way to make one feel inadequate.

Lots of women prefer to endure abuse, Gbv instead of walking away back to their marital homes. It gets painful when stuck in an uncomfortable space called marriage just to please a society of minds that stigmatizes a divorcee instead of celebrating a soldier that bravely walked away from a bad space.

When will we stop the stigma as women, when will love lead, we create a comfortable zone for unmarried individuals, we make a good environment to live for a divorcee? Will we raise daughters that persevere abuse and failed relationships because to be alone is seen as a bad thing?

Times have changed for a woman to just have a child out of pressure, a woman must be financially stable, emotionally and materially ready

for raising a productive child. This shall eradicate poverty in our society and it shall boost the esteem of most

women.

Women are born leaders if well supported and living in peace the world

shall be a better place to live in.

End The Stigma



Let's Make Breastfeeding And Work Work

By: Sheilah Ombongi
@themtkenyatimes

Set every August for the first seven days of the month, World Breastfeeding Week aims to highlight the huge benefits that breastfeeding can bring to both the health and welfare of babies, as well as a wider push for maternal health, focusing on good nutrition, poverty reduction and food security.

This year 2023, the World Breastfeeding Week theme is "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!". The theme emphasises necessary actions by policymakers, employers and colleagues to support continued exclusive breastfeeding in working women to their infants.

Many work-related variables, such as full-time maternal employment, rigid work schedules, and lack of paid maternity leave and lactation rooms, created significant barriers to working mothers' nursing practices.



Breastfeeding Photo | UNICEF

The aim of World Breastfeeding Week 2023 theme is to promote awareness regarding the importance of optimal breastfeeding in infants and measures to support working women in successfully completing exclusive breastfeeding.

As per WHO, every woman, wherever doing any job, ought to have the following:

- Paid maternity leave for at least 126 days (18 weeks) and ideally longer than six months.
- Paid lactation time off to nurse their kids.
- Provision of flexible return-to-work options

Breast milk is the primary source for all their nutritional needs in the initial few months of an infant's

life, as it comprises 87% water, 7% carbohydrate, 4% lipid and 1% protein, vitamins, and other minerals (calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sodium, etc). Appropriate breastfeeding equipped with both maternal and child benefits that include prevention of child from severe diseases (short- and long-term diseases) such as:

- Respiratory problems (such as respiratory distress syndrome, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, etc.)
- Sudden infant death syndrome (unexplained, sudden, and unexpected death of a healthy baby, also called cot death)
- Diarrhoea, leading to quick dehydration
- Necrotising enterocolitis (a serious gastrointestinal issue affecting premature babies)
- Otitis media (infection of the middle ear)
- Obesity (excess fat)
- Type 1 Diabetes (little or no insulin production, resulting in excess blood sugar)

In women, breastfeeding has been shown to decrease the risk of breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

With a different theme each year, World Breastfeeding Week aims to promote the enabling environments that help women to breastfeed – including support in the community and the workplace, with adequate protections in government policies and laws - as well as sharing information on breastfeeding benefits and strategies.

World Breastfeeding Week 2022 theme: Step up for Breastfeeding - Educate and Support.

World Breastfeeding Week 2021 theme: Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility

World Breastfeeding Week 2020 theme: Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet!

World Breastfeeding Week 2019 theme: Empower Parents, Enable breastfeeding

World Breastfeeding Week 2018 theme: Foundation of Life

Academic Literary Genius Muhammad Adnan



By: Abigirl Phiri
@themtkenyatimes

Academic literary genius Muhammad Adnan

Unlike most of the poets and writers, Muhammad Adnan has the backing of education in this field given he is a holder of a M.Phil in English. Not only is he widely read but he is also a prolific poet himself. I have had the pleasure to witness such mastery in the poetry anthologies that I have shared with him. The icing to the cake is that Muhammad Adnan is sharing his wealth of knowledge of this craft with his students. This is because the doctrine sharing is tantamount to caring reigns supreme in poetry. Since yesterday 5/10/2023 was the World teachers day, this coincides with his interview feature how these figures play a pertinent role in shaping the lives of their students be it from elementary education to tertiary institutions. Below is what Muhammad had to say over his colorful journey.

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

I am Mr. Muhammad Adnan. I emerged from nowhere, a remote area in Mandi Bhauddin, Punjab, Pakistan. I did a dual M. Phil in English Language and Literature. My major was literature. While doing my Master's in English literature, I go through classics: Homer, Dante, Virgil, Petrarch, Pindar, Shakespeare, Milton, Spencer, and A. Pope. These poets left a deep influence on my poetic growth. Later on, Romantics: Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats, Coleridge, and Byron also polished my rawness. The impact of these poets is quite evident in poems, I have written until now.

Moreover, my teacher Mentor Usman Ali a renowned dramatist sprinkles newness and freshness in my raw poetic talent. It is his vocabulary, expression, and intent reflected through my poetic language.

In addition, American and African Poets: Chinua Achebe, Derrek Walcott, Richard Wilbur, Adriene Rich, Sylvia Plath, and Emily Dickinson left a magical impression on my poetic journey. I still remember Still Citizen Sparrow and The Last Bulletin.

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

Yes, I am an emerging poet. I have participated in many poetic presentations on International Level and have got top winner positions. I have achieved the top winning rank in many International Poetic Competitions. I reviewed the

national anthology; You Are a Champion. I prearranged an Open House: A literary sitting with Authors arranged by the Department of Languages at the University of Chenab, Gujrat in 2023. I organized an event Circle: A Legacy of Readers arranged by the Department of Languages at the University of Chenab, Gujrat in 2022.

In addition, I have been featured nine times in a German Magazine (Raven Cage Ezine) and served as Co-Compiler and Co-Author in various International Anthologies i.e. All is not Lost, Be My Eyes, and My Whole You.

My poetic pieces are highlighted on Instagram Pages by various international communities.

Who is your inspiration?

My poetic inspiration is my 'Babay' my mother, and My Teacher Usman Ali. Both nurtured my talent and due to them my ordinary poetic works have graced in German Magazine, Indian Anthologies, and Pakistani Anthologies. These Muses choked my poetic Spirit and I designed a poetic gallery of different National and International Anthologies.

Furthermore, some of my friends: Shakhir Shehzad, Antique Rehman, Ahmed Hassan, and Adnan known as my Romeo were fountains of inspiration in my poetic journey. Without them, it could be nowhere.

Last but not least my students are my real asset. They are also a source of poetic inspiration. They lauded and celebrated my each and every achievement with open heart. They knitted poetry and sketched pictures. Rahat Saleem, Ayesha Siddique, Sidra Mehwish, Anila Asghar, Umme Salma, Maria Musarrat, Abi Waqas, and Tajallah Qureshi. Apology, if I forget others. These students are my poetic inspirations.

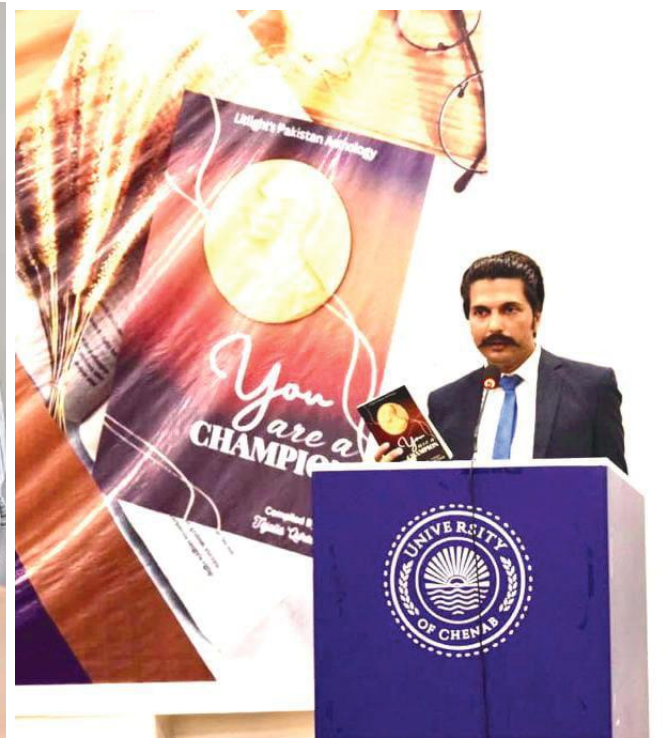
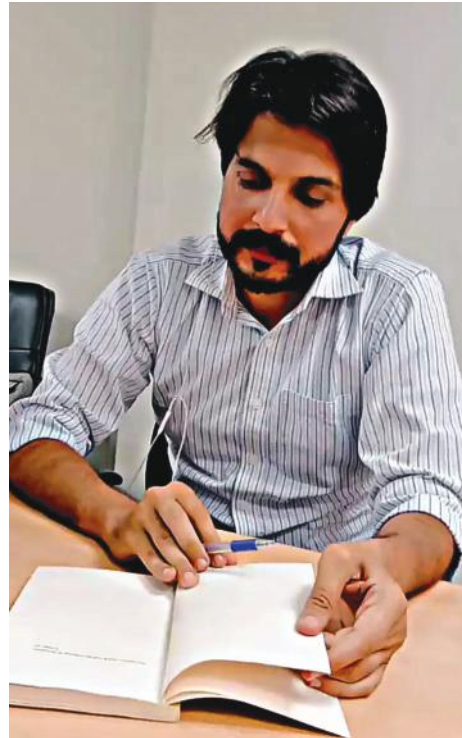
Tajallah an enthusiastic student did a lot in my journey. She sketched and edited most of my poems published in National and International Anthologies. She remained a co-author with me in German Magazine, Indian and Pakistani Anthologies. She is still on song in her poetic journey. She designed it statistically and her contributions to my work are marvelous and plausible.

Where do you see yourself in the near future?

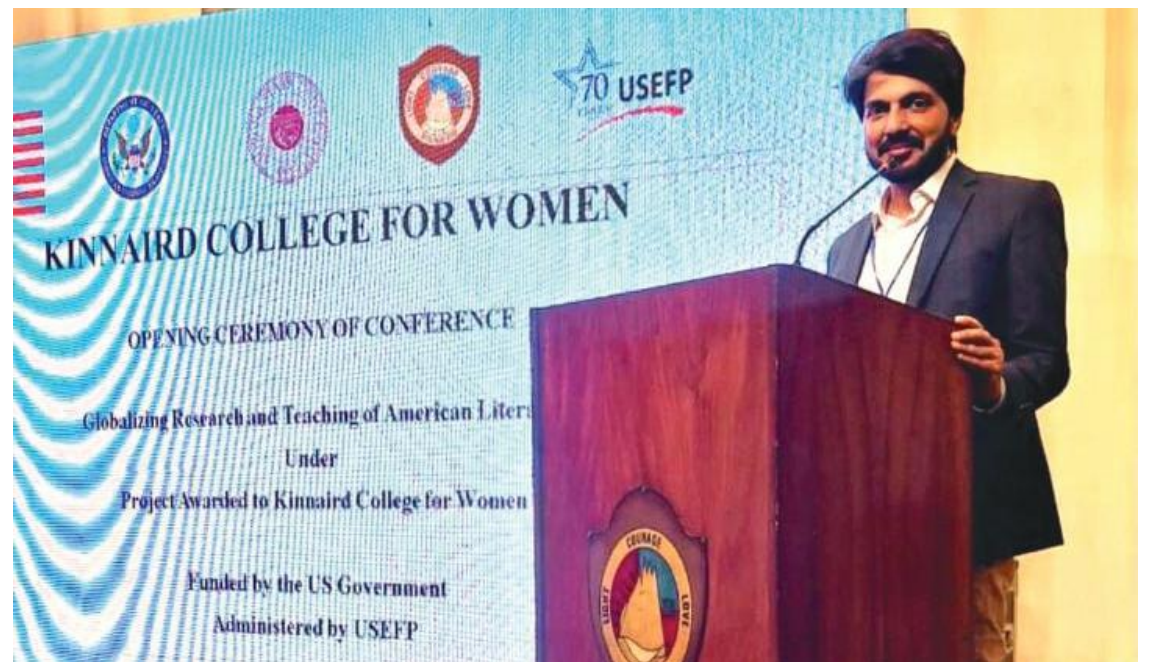
As a student of creative writing. I imagine myself beyond the sea. I wish I could live all the legends mentioned above. I have a dream to recite my lyrics on my poetic inspiration in a well-known English poetic platform. I wish I hold their hands while recitation among African, American, and English poets. I wish I had dedicated my words in radical ways. I have a dream to touch diverse poet laureates in British and American literature. I see myself in renowned institutions of creative arts.

What problems have you faced as a poet?

The issues are numberless. I live in



Muhammad Adnan..



such community where singing poetry and writing poetry is a crime. It's a platonic state where intuitions are prisoned and poets are cornered. They are not valued. Imagine, a person in a remote area portraying emotion in a third language. It is kind of a crime for elite intellectuals who hate poetry, who hate the worth of imagination, and who perceive that the realistic phase is their property. They forget Walcottish phrase 'language is the property of imagination'. I had faced a lot. Early on the tag of second language, secondly, who understands it? Thirdly it's familiarity with natives, who consider it a language of the elite or superiors. As a teacher, still I am facing multiple problems, I have a voice but no ear to share, no room to sing, and nobody to cheer. It's a language of heart although dumb or deaf you can dance to it.

Share with us one of your best poetry pieces

Each poem has a special place in the heart, I am sharing the lyrics of one of my recent poems:

Tangible Trance.

Eyes!
Wondering like Maximus
Entered in the Valley of Romance
Whiteness welcomes to forgetful Oedipus
And the beauty spell them in tangible trance;
Posturing like Athena
She muses Apollo
Odysseus implores her
And remains in furs;
In the Valley of Romance
Peacock dances
Princess of Tartary Furnaces
Destiny drizzles and Joy joys;
Greeks and Romans roam
Clasp and cling in fair foam
Cherishing different rituals
Keats swims and crosses the tunnels;

Kindly share your social media handles

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<https://www.facebook.com/adnan.gujjar.50115?mibextid=ZbWkWL>
https://uchenab.edu.pk/muhammad-adnan/?fbclid=PAAabeH3A7Gt-POEITfsov4cGsH74cqGkR_HNvy-LunmbcpIUBXC67IeW3r7To

Any word of advice to others who would want to venture into poetry

I am also a learner. How can I advise? I just recommend reading. As much as you read, you vomit statistically and artistically. Read! I advise all the poets as one of the renowned Caribbean poet Derek Walcott says "I read, I travel, I become"

I request 'Read as feed until you lead'

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Newly crowned world half marathon silver medalist Daniel Simiu is not about to exchange his spikes for slippers as he eyes more success in the current road running season.

No Rest For World Half Marathon Silver Medalist Simiu As More Road Races, Cross Country Beckon



Daniel Simiu celebrating after clinching silver at the 2023 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Photo/ERICK BARASA.

By: Capital Sport

Newly crowned world half marathon silver medalist Daniel Simiu is not about to exchange his spikes for slippers as he eyes more success in the current road running season.

Simiu said he will not be taking a rest after a grueling and action-packed season but rather will be in contention in road races before turning his attention to cross country.

“I am just saying it is God...and it is always be God (secret to this year’s successes). The season is not yet over. Next week, I will be in India for the New Delhi Half Marathon so for me the season has just started. We are just closing the track season and now

coming to the road races and afterwards, we come for cross country,” the world 10,000m silver medalist said.

He added: “Next year, I want to be in the team for the World Cross Country Championships in Belgrade. That is what I want to prepare for...I also want the big thing, which is the Paris Olympics.”

Simiu was part of a 1-2-3 Kenyan finish in the men’s half marathon at the past weekend’s World Road Running Championships in Riga, Latvia after he clocked 59:14 to finish second.

Sebastian Sawe clinched gold in 59:10 as another Kenyan, Samuel Mailu, timed 59:19 to claim bronze.

The 28-year-old produced one

of the highlights of the inaugural edition of the championships when he beckoned Sawe to take the lead in the race and go all the way for gold.

Introspecting on that moment, Simiu said it was a spontaneous action motivated by the desire to see his fellow countryman win his first title in national colours.

“It’s not that I was not strong...I just wanted to tell the world that it is not always about winning. I wanted Sawe to win because I have been at the world stage. I wanted to send a message to the world that there is humanity. You can come first and then at times, let your competitor win as well,” the African 5000m silver medalist.

Nonetheless, Simiu promises

that it will be a while before the world witnesses a repeat of the same from him, adding that his focus is on graduating to winning gold after a series of second-place finishes.

“I want to get out from winning silver...this was the last. I don’t want to win silver anymore. Many people have been calling me Mr Silver because of that,” he said.

The Samburu born-and-raised athlete will be looking to perform better than this year’s World Cross Country Championships in Bathurst, Australia where he finished sixth in the senior men’s race.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Red Bull driver Max Verstappen finished fastest in practice in Qatar as he closes in on a hat-trick of Formula 1 world championships.

Qatar Grand Prix: Max Verstappen Quickest In Opening Practice Session



Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing. Photo/TEAMTALK MEDIA.

By: TEAMtalk Media

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen finished fastest in practice in Qatar as he closes in on a hat-trick of Formula 1 world championships.

The Dutchman needs to finish only sixth in Saturday's sprint race to clinch the title and he made light work of Friday's sole practice at the Lusail International Circuit.

Verstappen finished three tenths clear of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, with Charles Leclerc third in the other scarlet car.

Fernando Alonso took fourth spot for Aston Martin, one place ahead of Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez.

George Russell and Lewis Hamilton finished only eighth and 13th

for Mercedes.

Verstappen has dominated this season – winning 13 of the 16 races staged – and he will claim his third straight title if he scores three points in the 19-lap sprint race.

First, Verstappen must qualify for Sunday's main event and, on the evidence of the early running, he appears favourite to take pole position.

The Dutch driver soared to the top of the time sheets of the one-hour running in the final minutes with a healthy third-of-a-second advantage to the rest of the field.

Russell was almost a second back in the lead Mercedes, with Hamilton 1.2 sec behind Verstappen.

Qualifying takes place at 8pm local

time (6pm BST).

F1 Times at Qatar:

- 1 Max VERSTAPPEN Red Bull Racing 1:27.428
- 2 Carlos SAINZ Ferrari +0.334
- 3 Charles LECLERC Ferrari +0.481
- 4 Fernando ALONSO Aston Martin +0.491
- 5 Sergio PEREZ Red Bull Racing +0.588
- 6 Yuki TSUNODA AlphaTauri +0.599
- 7 Nico HULKENBERG Haas F1 Team +0.743
- 8 George RUSSELL Mercedes +0.908
- 9 Oscar PIASTRI McLaren +0.952
- 10 Lando NORRIS McLaren +1.013
- 11 Logan SARGEANT Williams

+1.122

- 12 Alexander ALBON Williams +1.162
- 13 Lewis HAMILTON Mercedes +1.251
- 14 Lance STROLL Aston Martin +1.262
- 15 Esteban OCON Alpine +1.304
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- 19 Liam LAWSON AlphaTauri +1.810
- 20 Kevin MAGNUSSEN Haas F1 Team +2.074

SPORTS NEWS



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State Of Birland Unveils, Validates Country Environmental Profile

By: Our Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The document agrees with several of the published reports on State of Birland that the country will remain one of the most developed humanitarian countries in the world. It also explicitly stated that the institutional ability of the country to sustainably manage and develop its natural resources and environmental resources will yield economic strength for the country.
- The CEP will also review and analyse the socioeconomic and natural drivers of environmental change; provide recommendations for addressing climate change impacts and natural hazards; and analyse pressures and policy actions related to agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, water resources, waste management, energy and petroleum, etc.



Amb. Prof. Joseph Legend Mfon
Minister of Environment

The State of Birland has unveiled and validated its Country Environmental Profile (CEP) as part of a move to achieve sustainable natural resource management for peace and self-reliance in the country.

The event, which was held recently, was performed by the Minister of Environment to the State of Birland, Amb. Prof. Joseph Legend Mfon, who had a robust performance engagement.

The elaboration of the Country Environmental Profile was commis-

sioned by the President, HRM King Dr. Emir Haiyawari and the Prime Minister, HRM Prof. Eden Soriano Trinidad, with the aim of identifying and assessing key environmental and climate change issues in the State of Birland.

LEADERSHIP reports that the State of Birland is Africa's newest country and number 55th on the continent of Africa with a geographical location between Sudan and Egypt and a landmass of 2,060 hectares. This humanitarian nation has received

several endorsements and recognition by other countries.

According to Prof. Mfon, the CEP document, when completed and published, will represent a good baseline information for decision-makers and will focus and guide diplomatic dialogue and cooperation between the State of Birland and other countries of the world to specific key areas of environmental baseline survey and concern.

The CEP reviews the State of Birland's national context and acknowledges that the country indeed has an abundance of natural resources, including fertile soils, water including river, oil, forests, wetlands, wildlife, minerals such as gold, copper, etc.

The document agrees with several of the published reports on State of Birland that the country will remain one of the most developed humanitarian countries in the world. It also explicitly stated that the institutional ability of the country to sustainably manage and develop its natural resources and environmental resources

will yield economic strength for the country.

The CEP will also review and analyse the socioeconomic and natural drivers of environmental change; provide recommendations for addressing climate change impacts and natural hazards; and analyse pressures and policy actions related to agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, water resources, waste management, energy and petroleum, etc.

"It will adequately review and high-

lights environmental issues such as droughts, floods, pollution, deforestation and humanitarian support to the livelihoods of the teeming population of Birland people," the Minister stated.

The CEP concluded that the conservation status of the ecosystems and animal and plant species is extremely important, with endangered species adequately conserved under the current system. The document will also provide mitigation measures for pollution from extractive industries, deforestation due to production and construction, inadequately controlled and illegal extraction of natural resources such as timber, ivory and bushmeat.

"In order to improve the country's prospects for peace and stability, the document recommends improving: natural and environmental resource governance and sustainability; accountability; community participation; mechanisms for dispute resolution, reduced competition for resources, and improved transboundary resource management; land tenure issues and land management; and wealth-sharing arrangements to build peace.

"The document also recommends that the State of Birland, should develop the agriculture and fisheries sectors; develop relevant livelihoods sectors to create income-generating activities and employment; attract investments for infrastructure financing and tourism; develop policy and legislative frameworks and strengthen institutional capacity for natural resource development, management and conservation; establish enforcement mechanisms for protecting wetlands, forests and wildlife; and increase climate resilience.

"This CEP is being developed to directly influence and advance a green and resilient economy (including issues such as food security, jobs for youth, diversification of the economy, climate change, and natural resources management) which is one of the three priority sectors for the world cooperation with the State of Birland," he added.